

Celebrity Vietnam Vets

Silas “Uncle Si” Robertson

Silas Merritt Robertson was born on April 27, 1948. He is known as Si Robertson and often referred to as "Uncle Si". He is an American television personality, preacher, hunter, outdoorsman, retired U.S. Army soldier, and duck-call maker at Duck Commander. He is best known for his role on A&E's Duck Dynasty, on which he has emerged as the breakout character. He has also appeared on other shows such as the Outdoor Channel's Buck Commander and The Duckmen of Louisiana.

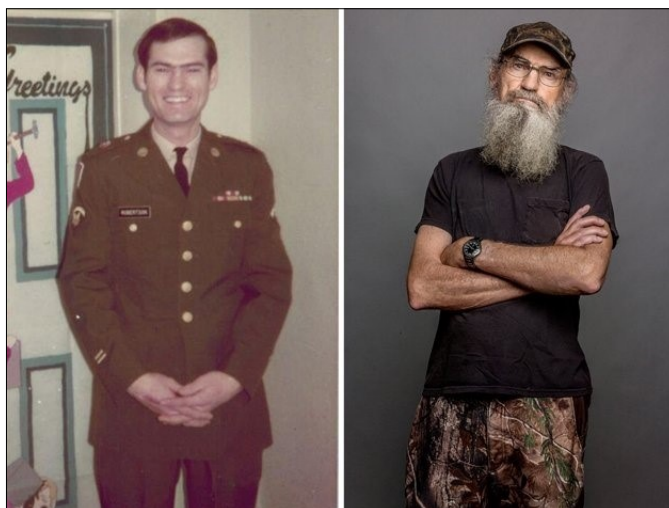
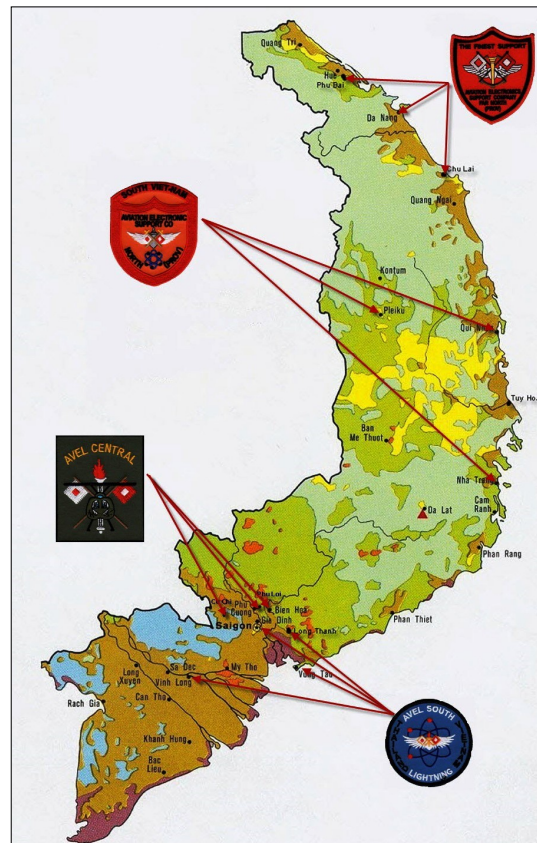
After dropping out of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston in 1968 after three quarters, he was drafted into the United States Army. He was sent to Vietnam and served with USARV in Can Tho. During the war, his mother sent him a set of Tupperware cups, two boots, and two jars of jalapeño peppers in each boot, and beans and rice, because he loves jalapeño peppers. He is rarely seen without one of his plastic cups drinking iced tea, which he treats with equal importance.

While serving in Vietnam, Si turned to alcohol. “Although I was there for only one year, it was a really difficult time in my life,” Si wrote. “Believe me, it was easy to find a drink in Can Tho if you wanted one. The stress of military life in Vietnam drove Si to drink, he said. “It was the only time in my life when I drank heavily... I was largely drinking to forget where I was.

When you’re in a place like Vietnam, you get to a point where you don’t care anymore. You’re in a place that’s foreign to you, and you know for a fact that many people there hate you and will kill you if they get the chance. It really does something to your mind to know that many of the people living around you don’t like you and want you to die.”

When he returned from service, Si stopped drinking. “I drank so much beer and whiskey in Vietnam that I decided I would quit drinking alcohol altogether once I returned home,” Si said. “I saw what alcohol was doing to me in Vietnam and realized I needed to stop for good.” Now, the eccentric, story-telling uncle is known for drinking two gallons of tea per day, a habit that his doctor endorses: “He said I’ve probably got the cleanest kidneys in the world!”

Si served in the U.S. Army for nearly 25 years, from 1968-1993 and retired with the rank of Sergeant First Class (E7). “The military will always have a special place in my heart,” he said. “I pray that not one soldier is ever forgotten.” **WELCOME HOME SI!**





Japanese “Knee Mortar” in Vietnam

In this rare photo from World War 2, troops of the 81st Security Battalion, Special Naval Landing Forces, perform a drill landing on the beach at Cam Ranh Bay, French Indochina. The seaman 1st class in the left foreground demonstrates the correct way to handle and fire a Type 89 grenade discharger (knee mortar). September 22, 1941.

The Japanese occupied French Indochina (Vietnam) and fought the Viet Minh under Ho Chi Minh for the entire war.

General Patrick Brady, Dust Off Pilot, Medal of Honor Recipient

Shortly before the 50th anniversary of the Tet Offensive General Brady recently spoke to the Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association. The following excerpts are from his speech, in his own words.

“You know, America has no kings or queens, no dukes or duchesses, but we do have a nobility. They are simply called veterans. From a private to a sergeant to a general to just a G.I., but the premier title is KIA, WIA, or POW. Unlike other nobility, the titles were not inherited but earned through their blood, sweat and tears, which is the holy trinity that secures our freedom.”

“America’s nobility has been for all the values of this nation. They didn’t take an oath to defend a person, a party, a king, or a dictator, they took an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States, which is a set of values. That is what veterans would like for us to honor, not just them, some of us have been honored to death, but the values for which they gave so much of body and soul, values like courage, sacrifice and patriotism.”



“Today we remember the noble veteran of Vietnam, and what they did was incredible. As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of Vietnam and the Tet Offensive, it’s a good time to look upon that warrior and set the record straight for future generations, especially young people, to be sure they are not misinformed.”

“They need to know of the sacrifices of their grandparents and parents and relatives who served in Vietnam. I wonder if there was ever a war where after 50 years we’re still saying, ‘Welcome home’. I dare say the rest of our warriors were welcomed home when they came home. The reason of course is when the Vietnam vet came home he was treated like a war criminal.”

“Yet that soldier was never defeated on any battlefield in Vietnam. Our defeat was at the hands of the elite in the courtroom, the classroom, the cloakrooms and newsrooms. Cowardly media-phobic politicians, irresponsible dishonest media, and other cowards and spoiled brats and professors from Berkley to Harvard.”

“Living with the scars of war is difficult, for some unbearable, but all veterans suffer. The Vietnam veteran suffered physically as much, perhaps more than any veteran of the past century, but no veteran has suffered the mental agony of that veteran. The thing that makes Vietnam so intolerable, is what the elite tried to do to dishonor the source of those scars, to intensify the pain of the Vietnam veteran, and to destroy their honorable and unselfish legacy. They opened the gash in their psyche and rubbed salt in it.”

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“There was nothing in it for us in Vietnam in a material sense, we were simply trying to help a helpless people be free from the scourges of communism. The Vietnam veteran fixed as he fought, he cured, educated, and built in the middle of battle, hospitals, orphanages, he vaccinated thousands, adopted children, educated them, we cared for and cared about those people. No barrier, no political system, will erase what the Vietnam veteran gave to those people. Vietnam may be the only war that was ever fought in which the American soldier added to their heroism a humanitarianism unmatched in the annals of warfare.”

“As a tribute to the Vietnam veteran’s patriotism, despite his shoddy treatment, 90 percent said they are glad they served.”

The Fallen Heroes Who Went to Vietnam in John Bolton’s Place



They all had the same birthday and same draft number. But while the now-hawkish national security adviser rode out the war in safety, these brave young soldiers never came home.

Our new national security adviser, John Bolton, was born on the same day in 1948 as drafted soldiers Weyman Cook, Jerry Miller and Richard Lassiter whose own chances for future achievements ended when they were killed in Vietnam.

Their common birthday was Nov. 20, number 185 in the 1969 draft lottery, which was based on date of birth and ended student deferments—such as the one Bolton had until then enjoyed at Yale. He might well have been called up, as the draft went up to 195, but he managed to get a spot in the Maryland National Guard and then a local Army reserve unit. The Guard and the Reserves had long waiting lists, as they offered a way to avoid being sent to Vietnam but Bolton’s family influence circumvented the waiting list.

“I confess I had no desire to die in a Southeast Asian rice paddy,” Bolton wrote in his Yale 25th reunion class book. “I considered the war in Vietnam already lost.”

Instead, Bolton went to Yale Law School, interning in the summer for the stridently pro-war Vice President Spiro Agnew, who told everybody that the fight in Vietnam was progressing far better than the effete media suggested. Bolton later served at no peril in the Justice Department and the State Department, all the while being quick to recommend the use of military force. He was an ardent supporter of the Iraq War and has gained a reputation for being ever ready, almost eager to send others into combat. We will never know what Cook, Miller, and Lassiter might have accomplished.

And John Bolton lives on to become our new super-hawk national security adviser. Neither he nor his office responded to a request for a comment about a time when he faced actually being in a war.

Maybe he was too busy in the first official days of his latest achievement in a future such as was violently denied those other young men born on Nov. 20, 1948. Maybe if he had served in Vietnam he wouldn’t be so anxious to send your men and women into harms way.

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

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317th Maintenance Co. (LEM), Vung Tau: March
1970 - March 1971
MOS: 35L20

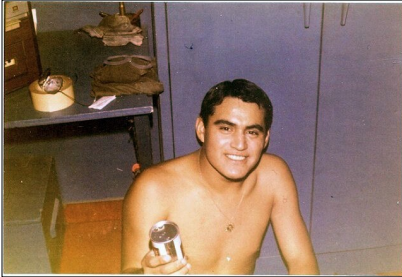
Kelly, James (SP4)
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713-301-8159

jwkelly49@gmail.com

263rd Maint. Co. (LEM), Chu Lai 1969 – 1970
MOS: 35M20

Also served in the 335th Maintenance
Served for 10 years - SP6 at discharge

TAPS



Phu Loi, 1971



Las Vegas Avel Reunion 2012

Manny Coronel

Avel Central, Phu Loi

February 1970—August 1971

We received word that Manny passed away on Thursday, 10 May 2018. Manny had many illnesses from his exposure to Agent Orange.. No other details are known at present.

PHOTOS

None Submitted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL

None Submitted



DOES YOUR UNIFORM STILL FIT?

My dad could fit in his WW2 uniform his entire life! He loved bringing it out and showing everyone how after all those years it still fit. As is obvious from the photo below mine doesn't fit and probably didn't a year after discharge.

Try yours on and take a picture. Send it to me and I will publish them all in the June Newsletter.

[Send them to jmccabe51@gmail.com.](mailto:jmccabe51@gmail.com)



AVEL VIETNAM



April/May 2018 Newsletter
