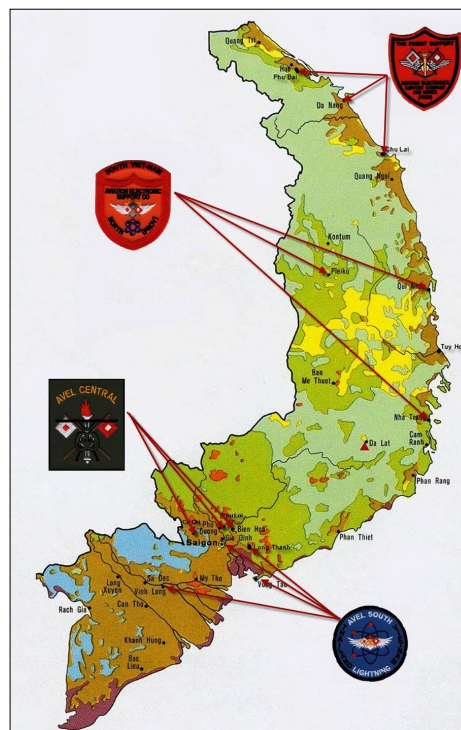
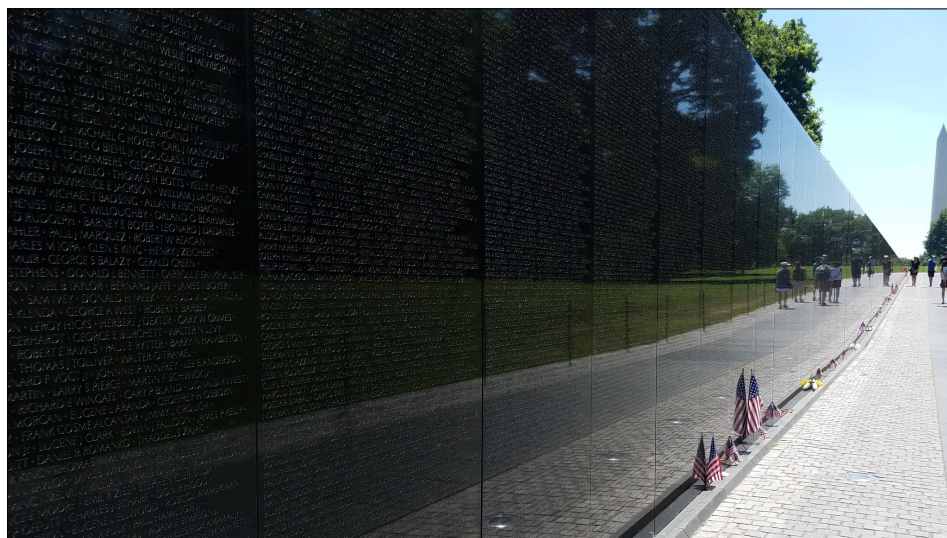


### NAME ADDITIONS ON THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL BRING TOTAL NUMBER INSCRIBED ON THE WALL TO 58,279



Each spring, VVMF works with the Department of Defense to make updates to The Wall. If the Department of Defense determines that a service member has met the criteria for addition to The Wall, the National Park Service directs VVMF that a name should be added. Service members repatriated in the previous year have their status symbols changed.

This year, there were three additions to The Wall, bringing the total number of names on The Wall to 58,279. There were also three service members who were repatriated in 2019 and those service members had their status symbols changed on The Wall. The number of Americans still listed as missing and unaccounted for from the Vietnam War stands at 1,586.

Name additions and status changes are usually done annually in May followed by a Reading of the Names during the Memorial Day ceremony. However, the engraving was postponed this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These service members will be officially welcomed home at the next in-person ceremony at The Wall.



#### *Name Additions*

When names are added, a highly technical process is required. Precise measurements must be made to ensure letters are lined up, have the right width, and are etched into the granite to a depth that matches the etchings already on the memorial. The letters are etched into The Wall as a sand blasting apparatus is passed over it. The physical work of adding the names and changing statuses has been performed by James Lee of the Colorado-based company, Engrave Write, since 1986.

*These three service members had their names added to The Wall:*

Continued on Page 2

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### Continued from Page 1

**U.S. Army CPT Lawrence R. Oliveira** – CPT Oliveira deployed with the Army’s 21st Infantry in February 1969 and was severely wounded on May 13, 1969. Oliveira’s name is inscribed on Panel W24, Line 108.

**U.S. Army PFC Michael C. Quire** – PFC Quire deployed with the Army’s 16th Infantry in February 1967. He was severely wounded on April 22, 1967. Quire’s name is inscribed on Panel 18E, Line 66.

**U.S. Marine Corps LCPL Frederick M. Ziomek** – LCPL Ziomek deployed with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines Division in February 1970. On September 30, 1970, he was medically evacuated to Okinawa and died there days later. Ziomek’s name is inscribed on Panel W11, Line 69.

### *Status Symbols changed for three service members whose remains were repatriated in 2019*

Every name inscribed on The Wall has a symbol next to their name. The diamond symbol denotes that a service member is known dead or presumed dead. A “cross” or “plus” symbol denotes that a service members’ status is unknown, and they remain unaccounted for today. When the remains of a service member are repatriated, the diamond symbol is superimposed over the cross symbol.

### *These three service members were repatriated in 2019:*

**U.S. Navy SN Raul A. Guerra** – On October 8, 1967, Guerra was a passenger on board a Navy E-1B that crashed while flying from Vietnam to the USS Oriskany. Guerra’s remains were finally identified conclusively in February 2019. His name is inscribed on Panel 27E, Line 21.

**U.S. Air Force COL Roy A. Knight** – On May 19, 1967, Knight was piloting an Air Force A-1E on a strike mission in Northern Laos when hit by anti-aircraft fire. Knight’s remains were identified in June 2019. His name is inscribed on Panel 20E, Line 45.

**U.S. Air Force Maj. Neal C. Ward** – On June 13, 1969, Ward was piloting an Air Force A-1H on a strike mission in northern Laos when hit by ground fire. Ward’s remains were identified in July 2019. His name is inscribed on W22, Line 39.

The Department of Defense sets the criteria for, and makes decisions about, whose names are eligible for inscription on The Wall and directs the National Park Service that names should be added. VVMF pays for the name additions and status changes and partners with the National Park Service to ensure the long-term care and preservation of The Wall.

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## Vietnam repatriates American soldier’s remains in Hanoi

By Hoang Thuy July 17, 2020



The remains of an American soldier lost during the Vietnam War was ceremonially repatriated Thursday at the US MIA (missing-in-action) Office in Hanoi.

Representatives from the Board of Directors of Vietnamese Office for Seeking Missing Personnel (VNOSMP) handed over to the U.S. the remains recovered during a joint field activity from May 5 to June 23 this year, the U.S. Embassy in Hanoi stated.

Vietnamese forensic specialists initially concluded the remains to be associated with a U.S. serviceman gone missing during the Vietnam War.

The remains were then transferred to the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's laboratory in Hawaii for further tests.

U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam Daniel Kritenbrink, who attended the ceremony, vowed to continue supporting Vietnam in searching and gathering the remains of Vietnamese soldiers missing in actions in addressing the consequences of war.

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### Continued on Page 3



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## Continued from Page 2

The search for the remains of U.S. servicemen lost during the Vietnam War involves humanitarian cooperation between the Vietnamese and American governments. This is the 153rd handover of American remains since 1973.

Vietnam and the U.S. mark 25 years of normalization of diplomatic relationships this year. The countries have worked together on MIA soldiers for over 30 years, serving as one of the major pillars in bilateral ties.

So far, American and Vietnamese investigators, excavators and scientists have participated in over 130 joint operations, locating the remains of 770 American soldiers.

There are an estimated 1,200 Americans still unaccounted for in Vietnam since the war.

Last week, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) announced it would fund and assist Vietnam in improving its technical ability to identify the remains of soldiers found in its soil under an agreement signed with VNOSMP.

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## American Legion Post 109: The 3 Amigos

Three veterans, age 73, started a Facebook page called "The 3 Amigos." They have known each other since junior high school.

The 3 Amigos are officers with American Legion Post 109 in Cherokee County, S.C..

**Larry Sossamon** served three years in the U.S. Army. He was stationed in Cu Chi, Vietnam, in 1968-1969. He flew in UH1D helicopters with 20th Transportation and 159th Medivac.

**Mike Honeycutt** served from 1968-1972 in the U. S. Navy. He flew in Navy EKA-3B jets serving in Squadron VAH-10, on USS Forrestal in the Mediterranean Sea, and Squadron VAQ-134 on USS Ranger on a West Pac cruise.



**Bill Blanton** served on USS Saratoga from 1965-1968 as an aviation ordnance man.

The Facebook page has grown to over 650 members and is by invitation only.

Here are some of the things they have done for their post:

- They have orchestrated putting out American flags on veterans' graves and cleaning up the headstones with volunteers from the local ROTC;
- They donated to the Veterans Day book, listing all servicemembers from Cherokee County by getting pictures submitted and buying full-page ads;
- They purchased a banner that is on display at the American Legion baseball field; and,
- They made donations to get equipment for the Cherokee County Veterans Museum, one of the best veterans' museums in South Carolina.

In 2019, "The 3 Amigos" were contacted by the Spartanburg and Cherokee County Cancer Association. They needed volunteers to raise money by rappelling down a 10-story building. The association person felt "The 3 Amigos" were crazy enough to attempt this, and had a following from their Facebook page to raise a minimum of \$3,000.

They volunteered and raised over \$10,000 from members of the page. Because their posts are outrageous, it took "The 3 Amigos" weeks to convince its members they were serious. Once they completed the fundraising event, they bought a full-page ad in a local newspaper, thanking each donor by listing their names.

In 2020 they knew of a 5-year-old boy, Samuel, who was suffering from leukemia. Samuel had problems with his bone marrow and blood and had his first chemo treatment. All over our county, people know of Samuel with signs all over stating STAY STRONG SAMUEL. Submitted by: Mike Honeycutt

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## **'They belong on that wall': Bill to honor 'Lost 74' on Vietnam Memorial keeps running aground**

WASHINGTON (Tribune News Service) — The people who want to add the names of those killed on the USS Frank E. Evans to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial wall in Washington keep running into a different kind of wall: Congress.

Backers took to the Senate floor this week as part of a long-running effort to honor the 74 sailors killed in 1969 when the U.S. Navy destroyer collided with an Australian aircraft carrier.

The cause has been backed over the years by members of both chambers, and this week, Sen. Kevin Cramer of North Dakota tried to get the measure passed by unanimous consent, only to see it rejected.



Fellow Republican Sen. Lisa Murkowski of Alaska objected. Murkowski said she is committed to addressing the matter but pointed to long-standing criteria and logistical issues that have prevented the addition of their names and others.

"We will find a way to honor these sailors, but at this juncture, there remain practical, legal and technical considerations that we have to resolve," she said.

Murkowski chairs the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which oversees the National Park Service that maintains the memorial. But the agency doesn't have a say over who is eligible to have their name on the wall — that falls to the Department of Defense.

In the early morning hours of June 3, 1969, the Evans, a Navy destroyer that had served in conflicts since World War II, was ripped in half during a collision in the South China Sea with the HMAS Melbourne of the Royal Australian Navy. Seventy-four American sailors were killed.

Steve Kraus, now 73, was a 21-year-old signalman of the watch on the Evans the night it was hit during an exercise.

"When I first looked to find (the Melbourne), they weren't exactly where I thought they were going to be," he said. "I figured they're going to be behind us, and they weren't."

When he finally spotted the ship, he realized the two would soon collide, so he ran back to the small "signal shack," alerting the other man on watch and mashing the communications button to let the bridge know a collision was imminent.

"And then we got hit," Kraus said.

The other man on watch with Kraus was on the shack's roof at the time of the collision and was thrown from the Evans and onto the deck of the Melbourne, Kraus recalled. He was so gravely injured he spent nearly a year in the hospital.

Kraus, who has lived in California his whole life, said he was left with only minor injuries. But with a pregnant wife at home when the incident happened, he said he still wonders about what his family's life would have been like if he hadn't survived.

Over the years, Kraus has heard stories from the families of Evans' crew members who were killed that looked for their relatives' names on the Vietnam War Memorial's wall. Some sent letters to their legislators asking whether they could be added, and in 2003, the USS Frank E. Evans Association was formed to seek recognition for all the sailors who died. Kraus is the president and chairman.

Before the Evans headed to the South China Sea, it operated in Vietnamese waters and was scheduled to return to the war zone afterward.

**Continued on Page 5**

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### Continued from Page 4

But because the crash took place outside the geographical limit for the combat zone, the sailors who lost their lives were not eligible under Defense Department guidelines for inclusion on the memorial, said Tim Tetz, director of outreach for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

The fund does not take a position for or against the inclusion of names on the memorial. Under an agreement with the Park Service, the fund is responsible to add names or change status symbols on the wall when directed.

But besides the DOD regulations, carving a new name onto the wall wouldn't be a simple, Tetz said. The names are carefully arranged by date, and a new panel can't just be added or extended. Existing space limitations only allow for two long names, a few more medium-size names and "several hundred shorter names," he said.

Currently, there are 58,276 names on the wall.

"Even with modifications, it's uncertain. To truly include these in the dignified way that they would deserve, one would have to replace the entire Wall," Tetz said.

Wherever the line gets drawn, some names will still get left off the wall. Adding the names from the Evans may bring up requests from other other groups, whose members lost loved ones in similar circumstances.

"The last DOD estimate I heard of mentioned approximately 500 individuals were in somewhat similar circumstances as the Evans crew," Tetz said.

Cramer expressed disbelief that Congress can't add names to the wall.

"I am yet to hear any opposition to this legislation voiced except by the bureaucrats and special interests who would be charged with making it happen," he said on the floor Thursday. "The idea that we should continue to turn a blind eye to forgotten veterans because the work would be 'substantial' is ludicrous. The country which landed a man on the Moon the same year these sailors died can't figure out how to fix a wall honoring them?"

Since the wall's completion in 1982, there have been only a few times where many names were added at once. One notable example occurred in 1983 when President Ronald Reagan secured the addition of more than 50 names of service members who died on a 1965 plane crash departing from Hong Kong back to the war zone.

Kraus pointed to that crash as an example of why the names of those lost on the Evans should also be included on the memorial.

"They deserve to be on that wall, so anything else other than that is just a slap in the face," he said. "It's a fact. They belong on that wall."

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### Who Can Be Buried in Arlington?



It is no surprise that Arlington Cemetery is running out of room. Arlington now is the final resting place for more than 420,000 service-members. There are about 7,000 more added each year. At this rate, officials estimate that it will run out of space by 2055.

Officials obtained about 37 acres as part of a southern expansion, which will give them about 60,000 more spaces.

The army has proposed new criteria for burials in Arlington in the hopes that they will have enough room for future generations.

#### *Proposed changes for below ground internments:*

- Servicemembers killed in action
- Medal of Honor recipients
- World War II Veterans
- Award recipients of the Silver Star or higher who served in combat

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Continued on Page 6

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## Continued from Page 4

- Purple Heart recipients
- Combat related deaths
- Former POWs
- Presidents and Vice-Presidents
- Veterans with combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official who made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service.

Above ground internments would be authorized for:

- World War II era veterans to include legislated active-duty desinees.
- Retirees from the armed forces
- Veterans who served a minimum 2 years on active duty and served in combat
- Veterans without combat service who also served out of uniform as a government official and made significant contributions to the nation's security at the highest levels of public service.

Spouses will no longer be buried side by side but on top of their spouse.

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## NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

### Pearson, Ron (SP5)

3301 Fulton Rd  
Fulton, CA 95439  
707-235-0304  
263rd Maint. Co. (LEM) 2nd Platoon, Chu Lai: Jan '70 to July '71  
[ronepix@aol.com](mailto:ronepix@aol.com)  
MOS: 35M20  
Assigned to 335th Trans., but worked for Avel

### Abbott, Richard (SP5)

52 Bartletts Reach  
Amesbury, MA 01913  
978-500-0690  
614th Maintenance Co. (LEM), Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, Pleiku: 11/69-7/71  
[richard@rjabbott.com](mailto:richard@rjabbott.com)  
MOS: 35L20

### Pacheco, John (SP5)

2103 Haven Circle  
Lenoir, NC, 28645  
828-726-3342  
Avel North, 3rd platoon, Pleiku: Jun 69' - Feb 71'  
[Firedrac88@gmail.com](mailto:Firedrac88@gmail.com)  
MOS: 35L20  
Highest Rank Held: E-6

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## TAPS

### Keith Landgren

263rd Maint. Co. (LEM) (AVEL Far North)  
Keith died on 20 Dec. 2004  
He was 56 years old



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## PHOTOS

I have scanned and added the photos from the 317<sup>th</sup> Yearbook, 1971-1972. They are on the Avel South photo page on the website.

Continued on Page 7

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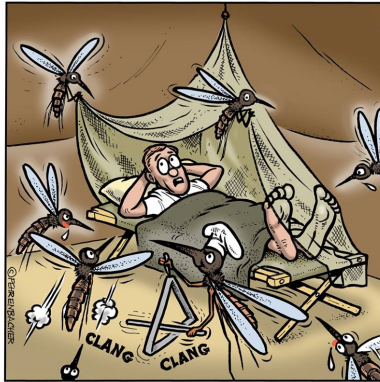


## CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL/PHONE

**Paul Hanson** (Avel South) has a new email: [paulhanson1424@att.net](mailto:paulhanson1424@att.net)

**John Veers** (Avel Central) has a new phone: 815-263-9170

***Send your change of address and email to [jmccabe51@gmail.com](mailto:jmccabe51@gmail.com)***



## ACHIEVING "SUCK-CESS" THROUGH TEAMWORK!



## WHEN UNCLE SAM REALLY WANTS YOU!



## THE "FLASHBACK" TIME MACHINE!

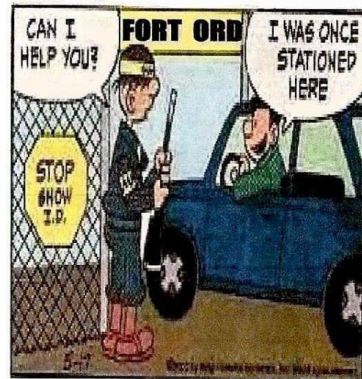


# AVEL VIETNAM



## August/September 2020

Beetle Bailey



MORT WALKER

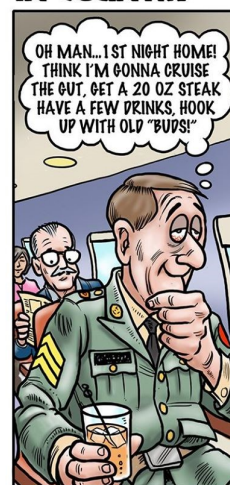


IN-COUNTRY



THE LAST NIGHT IN-COUNTRY JITTERS!"

IN-COUNTRY



WELL...THERE'S BEEN A CHANGE OF PLANS...



# AVEL VIETNAM



## August/September 2020 Newsletter