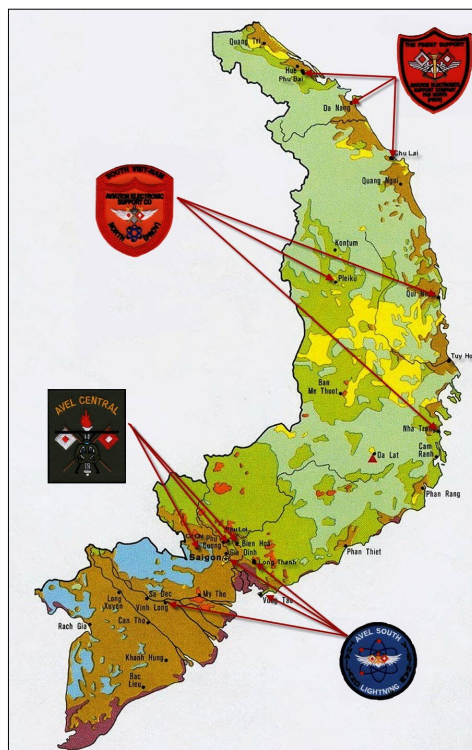


Celebrity Vietnam Vets

Richard Lawson

He was born as Rickey Lee Lawson in Loma Linda, California on March 7, 1947. He graduated from Hayward High in 1965 and went to Riverside City College for a year and a half before he was drafted. Actually, he was drafted because, in his words “I was trying to be clever and create a little commerce for myself. I had saved a little money, so I decided to drop out of college for about six months to a year and start a furniture moving business with my cousin, Nelson. The plan was to get my business going, hire somebody to take my place, and get back in the school without the government finding out...wrong! Within three months of dropping out of school, I got drafted.”

He was trained as a combat medic and served a tour in Vietnam in 1968/1969. He returned from Vietnam in January 1969 and was assigned to Ft. Huachuca in Arizona. While there he discovered that he could get a 3 month early out to attend college so he enrolled because in his words “After all, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, where I was stationed at the time, wasn’t the most exciting place in the world being 70 miles from everywhere.”



He enrolled at Chabot College in Hayward, California where he began his acting career. His first feature film role (uncredited) was that of a gay man targeted for murder in the classic 1971 movie *Dirty Harry*. In 1973, he played Willis in *Scream Blacula Scream*. His other well known roles include the 1979 movie *The Main Event*, and the 1984 drama *Streets of Fire*, where he played Officer Ed Price.

Lawson's first ongoing starring role in a television series was in Australian drama *Hotel Story* in 1977. That series was cancelled before the first episode had gone to air. He later starred in the 1980s series *Chicago Story*; he took the ongoing role of Nick Kimball in night time soap opera *Dynasty* from 1986–1987, appeared in *The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd* as Detective Nathaniel Hawthorne from 1989–1991, and was in the day time soap opera *All My Children* as Lucas Barnes from 1992-1994. Lawson has made many guest appearances on TV, including roles on *Kojak*, *Get Christie Love!*, *Sister, Sister*, *Soul Food*, *The Bernie Mac Show*, *The Division* and *Strong Medicine*.

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On March 22, 1992, he was on US Air's flight 405, which crashed during takeoff from New York's LaGuardia Airport. 27 people died and 24 people survived. An event of this magnitude had an indelible effect on his psyche and spirit. It taught him that there are no guarantees in life. You have to live every day as if it's your last. Events surrounding the plane crash inspired him to write a yet unpublished novel, which he is now adapting into a screenplay.

On April 12, 2015, Lawson married his longtime girlfriend, stylist Tina Knowles. Knowles is the mother of Beyoncé and Solange Knowles. Lawson has one child, actress Bianca Lawson with actress Denise Gordy.

Welcome Home Richard!

Freedom Bird Exhibit at SFO *Can you contribute?*

San Francisco International Airport is preparing an exhibit on Freedom Bird flights. We all took one, some two or more.

They are looking to interview veterans who travel through SFO coming and going to Vietnam. They are also looking for artifacts such as MAC Boarding Passes, orders, photos, etc. relating to traveling on that beautiful Freedom Bird.

If you have anything you think they could use please contact them. This is a good chance for us to tell our stories especially in San Francisco where many of us were met by protesters.

You can contact Sam Scott by phone or email:

650-821-6759

samuel.scott@flysfo.com

REQUEST FOR EXHIBITION LOANS

SFO Museum

FREEDOM BIRD: AIRLINES AND THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE

Scheduled for November 2018 – May 2019
San Francisco International Airport

SFO Museum is conducting research for an exhibition on the experiences of the air crews that flew the airline charter service into Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict. This exhibition will focus on the compelling human dimension experienced by crew members involved in flying thousands of young service men into and out of the war zone. We are reaching out to the airline retiree community hoping to gather stories and borrow objects and images that will bring this chapter of aviation history to life.

The types of objects and materials we are seeking for loan include:

- First person accounts and personal experiences
- Letters and correspondence
- Journals and log books
- Photographs
- News clippings and media publications
- Airline publications and communiques
- Transit documents, tickets, luggage labels, etc.
- Souvenirs
- Other materials with special connections to the subject



Siglon 1960s
Courtesy of the Pan Am Historical Foundation



Discharge countdown card 1970
Courtesy of Jeffrey Rudolph

As part of the Airport Commission, City and County of San Francisco, SFO Museum has produced public exhibition programs since 1980. We are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and staffed by museum professionals. Please visit sfomuseum.org for additional information.

Our Registration Department coordinates all Loan Agreements documents, incoming receipts, and outgoing return receipts, and oversees fine arts care and handling. The Airport will assume all shipping and insurance costs.

If you have personal collections or stories you would be willing to make available for the exhibition, please contact:



Flight attendant's Vietnam souvenir beret 1960s
SFO Museum Collection
Gift of Ann Ogle and Pamela B. Taylor
2011.06102

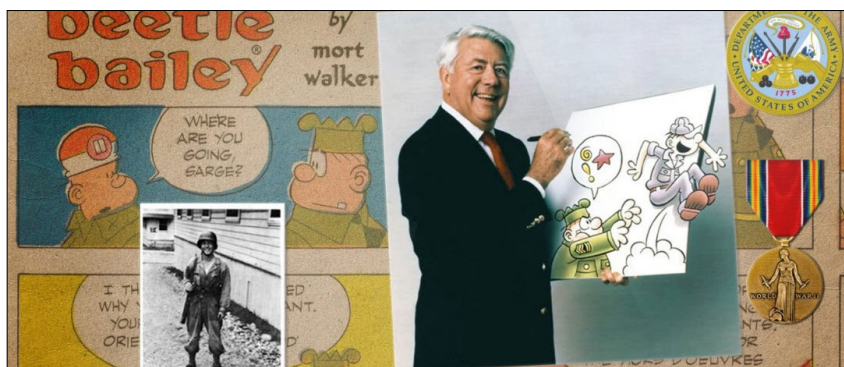
Sam Scott
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SFO Museum
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(650) 821-6759



Pan Am Boeing 727 under guard 1967
Courtesy of the Pan Am Historical Foundation

Addison "Mort" Walker

Addison "Mort" Walker passed away Jan. 27, 2017, at the age of 94 at his home in Stamford, Connecticut. We salute his service during World War II and that of his characters who have made us laugh for more than 65 years.



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From a very young age, Mort knew exactly what he wanted to be when he grew up – a cartoonist. But unlike most people, he did not wait to grow up. By the age of 12, his work was appearing regularly in publications such as *Flying Aces* and *Inside Detective* magazines. And at 15, he would have his own comic strip in the *Kansas City Star* newspaper.

Three years later, in 1941, he landed an interview with the greeting card company Hall Brothers, now known as Hallmark. When asked what he thought about the cards, Mort simply replied, “they are lousy.” The company apparently respected his frankness and hired him on as the chief editorial designer where he designed a line of cards based on humorous single-panel cartoons that would appeal to troops serving in World War II.

Mort would join the war effort two years later after being drafted in 1943. He served as an intelligence officer and is said to have helped supervise a prison camp for German POWs. After the war, Mort remained in Italy where he oversaw the destruction of military equipment until his discharge as a first lieutenant.

He returned to the states and enrolled at the University of Missouri where he would graduate the following year.



He moved to New York to reignite his career as a cartoonist. One of his cartoons featured a college student named Beetle. The 1950 strip was not an immediate success and was on the chopping block.

With the Korean War ramping up, Mort decided that it was time for Beetle to enlist in the Army. The cartoon gained some popularity, but it would be the Tokyo edition of *Stars and Stripes* that would make it famous. Not for carrying the cartoon, but for banning it, as the paper feared the lazy private who constantly bucked authority set a bad example for real-life soldiers. The popularity of Beetle Bailey soared. At its height, Beetle Bailey was seen by more than 200 million people daily.

In 1954, Beetle went home on furlough to visit his sister Lois and her husband Hi – creating the spin-off comic strip “Hi and Lois.”

Beetle Bailey would remain relevant in the coming decades tackling serious issues with humor. In 1970, Mort introduced Lt. Jack Flap the first black character. Some southern newspapers along with *Stars and Stripes* canceled the strip citing racial tension, but a 100 more publications picked it up. In 1997, he sent Gen. Halftrack to sensitivity training for his improper behavior toward the lovely Miss Buxley. From there on out, the general behaved in a professional manner.

On June 16, 2013, Beetle Bailey began experiencing symptoms of PTSD — reminding everyone that “post traumatic stress can affect any soldier,” helping launch a public awareness campaign during National PTSD Awareness Month.

Among the scores of awards bestowed upon Mort for his art and contributions to the military was an Army Certificate of Appreciation for Patriotic Civilian Service award in 1990 and in 2000 he received the Decoration for Distinguished Civilian Service, the highest award the secretary of the Army can bestow on a civilian. Mort was happy that the Army “finally found a sense of humor.”



NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

None Submitted

TAPS

None Submitted

PHOTOS

None Submitted

CHANGE OF ADDRESS/EMAIL

None Submitted



AVEL VIETNAM



February 2018 Newsletter
