

AVEL VIETNAM

Newsletter - July/August 2017

Celebrity Vietnam Vets

Michael Winkelman

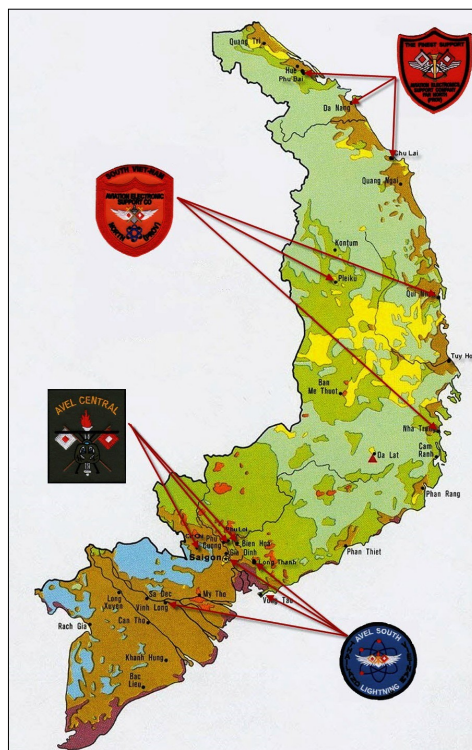
Michael Lew Winkelman was born on June 27, 1946. He was an American child actor best known for his role as Little Luke McCoy from 1957 to 1963 in 136 episodes of the situation comedy television series, *The Real McCoys*, starring Walter Brennan in the title role of Grandpa Amos McCoy, with Richard Crenna as Luke McCoy, older brother of Winkelman's character.

After its five-year run on ABC, *The Real McCoys* switched to CBS for its final season in 1962-1963.

Winkelman did not appear on *The Real McCoys*, after the February 1, 1962 episode, "The Law and Mr. McCoy."

Winkelman found few acting jobs and joined the United States Navy on 28 March 1965. He served in Vietnam or the waters off the coast but details of his service are not presently known. He was discharged on 16 May 1968. He was later a groundskeeper at Universal Studios in Los Angeles, California.

He died on 27 July 1999 and is buried in Riverside National Cemetery.



Alaska Veteran's Memorial

Pat and I had the pleasure of taking an Alaskan cruise in July and we visited this site. It is a beautiful monument in a quiet, reflective environment.

The Alaska Veteran's Memorial is located within the Denali State Park at mile 147.1 between Anchorage and Fairbanks.

The memorial consists of five 20-foot tall concrete panels, one each to represent the Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard, arranged in a semi-circle. A statue of two Alaska Territorial Guards, carved by Canadian sculptor George Pratt, greet you at the entrance. On each panel is a short history of that branch's contribution to Alaska.

Don't forget to join us on Facebook. Search for the group: AVEL Vietnam.





IN-COUNTRY



IN-COUNTRY



Jerry Mahanay's Long Lost Slides

Jerry Mahanay has been telling everyone that he served in Avel Central in 1971-1972 but could never show photographic proof that he was there. It seems that every photo of Jerry only showed the back of his head. Hmm

Well, things have changed. Jerry finally cleaned out a closet and found a small box of old dusty 35mm slides. And, what do you know? There of photos of Jerry where you can actually see his face! As you can see, he has on his "War Face" in all of these photos illustrating our poor living conditions at Avel Central!

There are even a couple pictures of Jerry in Vung Tau discussing the weather with a fine young lady but unfortunately once again, you can only see the back of his head!



Is that a John Veer's Martini? Where did you get the olives??? Where did that shirt come from?

AVEL “Gathering” Update 2017

Hospitality Room: We will be providing beverages and snacks in the Hospitality Room. Beer wine, spirits and soft drinks. Orbin will bring his projector so we can watch the slide show of each company during the course of the Gathering.

Bring any personal items you would like to display. The room will be secured at night.

Banquet: We will NOT be having a formal banquet this year. However, on Wednesday, October 12th we will have a group dinner at the hotel for those that want to attend. The hotel is setting up a buffet for us which will include a the salad bar, a choice of two entrees, two starches, two vegetables, soup, rolls and desert. The cost will be \$32.00 per person including gratuity! I will need an approximate head count. A separate email will follow in September.

Following the group dinner we will adjourn to the Hospitality Room for the playing of the In Memoriam video, closing comments, slide show and final cocktails.

The Reunion Fund will pick up the cost of the refreshments in the Hospitality Room.

PLEASE REGISTER on the website if you would like to go.

Dates: 9 October - 12 October 2017

Room Rates: \$101.00/night. We have a rate for the weekend before and after the Gathering at \$139.00/night.

Location: Town & Country Inn and Suites
2008 Savannah Highway
Charleston, SC 29407

Reservations: Call the hotel at 800-334-6660. Tell them you are with the **AVEL Group** and quote the rate. If you have any problems call Stephen Clarke at 843-329-3304

I hope you can make it! Looking forward to seeing you in October!

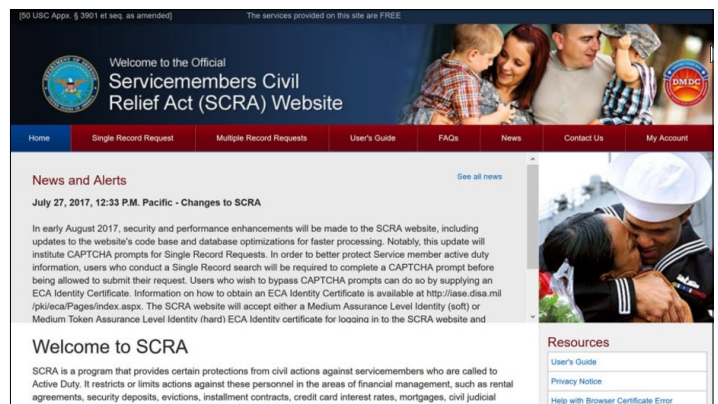
VVA Files Lawsuit Against DOD

The Vietnam Veterans of America went to court filing a lawsuit against the Defense Department. The group alleged that the website had information related to veterans’ and service members’ records which is a violation of the privacy rights. This makes the veterans and the service members susceptible to fraud.

The site, scra.dmdc.osd.mil, happens to be a searchable database of service members’ active-duty status, it was made initially to be used by financial institutions, and other institutions when determining if a service member who is on active duty is entitled to certain protections under the Service members Civil Relief Act.

These protection benefits are like protection from eviction. However the Vietnam Veterans of America disputed that the website has very low security and anyone can easily access the data. In the statement they said that anybody with other intentions can anonymously access the data which violates the Privacy Act.

The data on the website can be accessed by searching the veteran’s or service member’s surname/ last name and birthday or social security number. Apart from that data related to troops’ dates of active-duty service, future dates of active duty and other service information can also be found on the website.



The lawsuit quoted a recent scenario in which an Air Force veteran, named Thomas Barden, was a victim of scammers who collected information of Barden from the Defense Department website. The scammers got details of Barden's history in the military service from the site, used it to gain trust from the veteran and conned him into making purchase of a computer software that was fraudulent. Later, they took control of Barden's computer, locking him out of his files until he paid a ransom. Barden refused to pay. The complaint stated that the situation of Barden was no aberration.

Vietnam Veterans of America wants the court to order the Defense Department to put in place security restrictions on the concerned website they also want Barden to be awarded at least \$1,000 in damages.

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERAN REGISTEREES

Taylor, Frank (SP/5)

P.O. Box 609
Iva, SC 29655
114th Assault Helicopter Company, Vinh Long: July 1970 - August 1971
ivaf100@msn.com
MOS: 35L20

AGENT ORANGE

Mullin, James (SP/5)

202 Berkley Road
Indianapolis, IN
317-283-6082
611th Transportation ADS, Vinh Long Airfield: January 14.,1968 to January 8.1969
samjammull@aol.com
MOS: 76P20. 76Q20. 71B20 71H20

Also assigned to: 259th S&S Detachment, Vung Tau

AGENT ORANGE

Payne, Richard (SP/4)

E. Castle Harbour Dr.
Friendswood, TX 77546
Co. E, 701st Maint. Bn., 1st Inf. Div., Phu Loi: Oct. 1965 / Sept. 1966
rpflyboy@sbcglobal.net
MOS: 67R

Smith, William H. (SP/5)

5582 Newberry Point Dr.
Flowery Branch, GA 30542
770-965-6444
Avel Central, Phu Loi: 1967
williamhsmith@att.net
MOS: 26D20

Also served in the 59th Signal Company

AGENT ORANGE

Jackman, Dean (SP/4)

2504 Fly Creek Rd
Pompeys Pillar, MT 59064
614th Maintenance Co. (LEM), 604th Transportation Bn., Tuy Hoa, Pleiku, Nha Trang: 1971-1972
avel@tgrsolution.net
MOS: 35L20

AGENT ORANGE

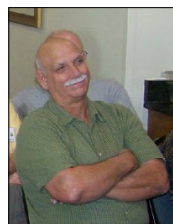
Type II diabetes, prostate cancer (mestastised), Parkinson's. Disease
Army Retired: E8

TAPS

Leon Graffeo

Leon Graffeo served in Avel Central at Cu Chi from April 1968 to April 1969.

Leon passed away on June 30th, 2017. He was 72 years old.



Robert (Bob) Crutchfield

Bob served in Avel North, Pleiku from 1968 to 1969. He also served with the 362nd Signal Co. in Cam Ranh Bay from 1970 to 1971. He retired as a Sergeant First Class.

Bob died suddenly but peacefully on August 9th, 2017. He was 79 years old.



PHOTOS

Frank Taylor submitted a photo of his 35L20 class dated 22 August 1969

John Peacock sent in his slides and I converted them to digital format. They are in the Avel North section.

Jerry Mahanay found some of his slides and they are posted in the Avel Central 1971 section.

All photos are posted on the website: www.avelvietnam.com

READING OF THE NAMES



VVMF is hosting the Reading of the Names of the 58,318 service members inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. as part of the special activities planned this November to commemorate The Wall's 35th Anniversary. The Reading of the Names will take place at The Wall for 65 hours over a four-day period beginning with an opening ceremony on Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. Volunteers will read names for approximately eight hours from 4 p.m. on November 7 to 12 a.m. on November 8. Participants will then read the names for 19 hours daily from 5 a.m. until 12 a.m. on November 8, 9, and 10.

Registration is now open at www.vvmf.org/rotn

If you want to read a certain name or at a certain time go to the registration site and click on "name" or "time" and it will allow you to register to read a specific name or during a specific time period. If you're unsure of the exact name, use the advanced "casualty search" button.

Volunteers can sign up for as many time slots as they wish. Early morning and late evening are times that are especially in need of readers, but volunteers can sign up for whatever days and times are possible for them.

Each reader will read one page containing 30 names in approximately two minute intervals.

*Have any stories you would like to see in the Newsletter?
Any photos of veteran activities or memorials to submit?
Send them to me!*

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Denver, NC 28037
jmccabe51@gmail.com



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