

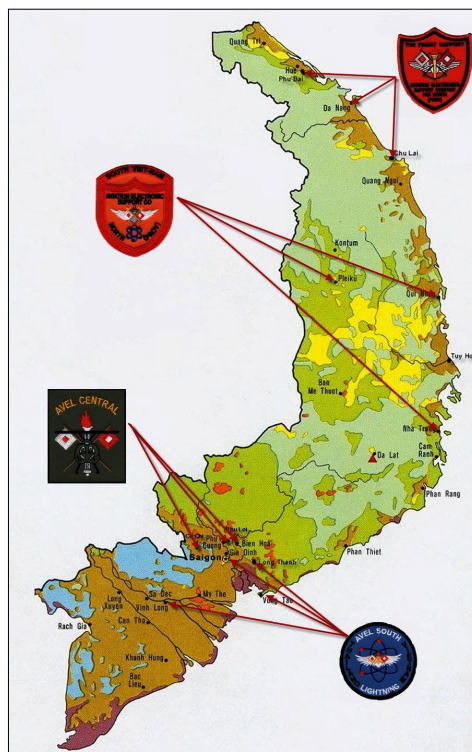
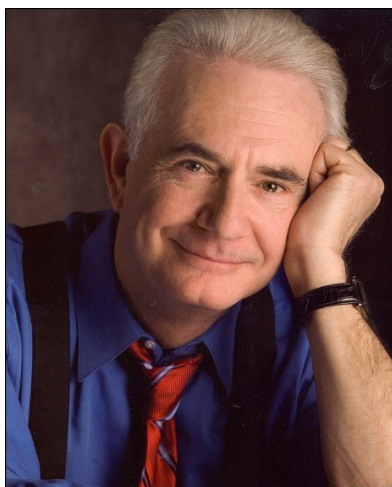
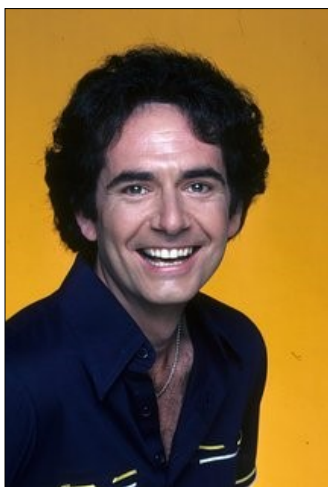
AVEL VIETNAM

Newsletter - May 2017

Celebrity Vietnam Vets

Richard Kline

Richard was in graduate school and was hoping that the war would be over by the time he was drafted, of course it wasn't. He decided to make the best of it if he was drafted and did his duty.



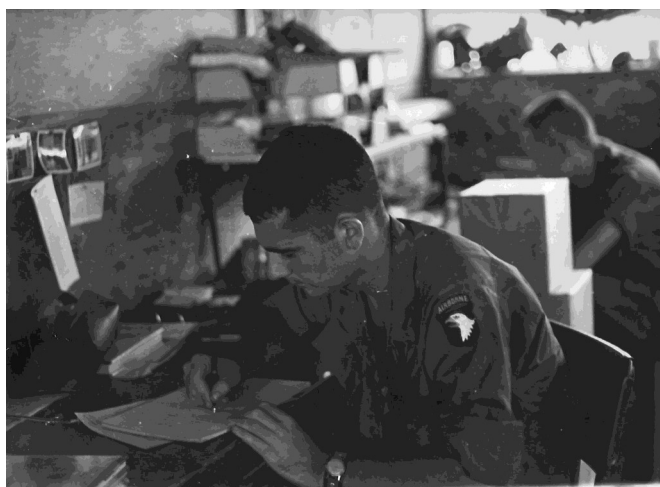
He was drafted into the Army during the height of the Tet Offensive in 1968. He went through basic at Ft. Jackson, South Carolina and then was trained as a combat engineer at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. He signed on for another year to attend Officer Candidate School at Ft. Belvoir, Virginia and graduated 6th in his class in March 1969. He received his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant, MOS 1339 Combat Engineers.

He was assigned to Ft. Ord, California where he became Special Services Officer. He was serving in this capacity when he received his orders for Vietnam. When he arrived in Vietnam he was assigned to the 77th Engineers, 101st Airborne Division. After several weeks he was assigned as Special Services Officer for the 101st.

After his discharge he continued his acting career and had a prominent role as Larry in the sitcom *Three's Company*. While on a game show during that time he donated his winnings to the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Richard is still active acting in plays and TV shows.

WELCOME HOME, RICHARD KLINE!



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



AVEL “Gathering”, Charleston 2017

We are having a Gathering of AVEL Vietnam vets in Charleston this October. We are not having a formal Reunion this year but will have a much more relaxed, informal get together. We will have a Hospitality Room as a meeting place to talk, share a cocktail and look at the slide show to bring back all those fond (for the most part) memories.

There will be NO Reunion cost. There will be no banquet or guest speaker. Just enjoy each others company and the beautiful city of Charleston. You will pay for your own room, meals and libations. We will most likely have a group dinner for those interested.

PLEASE REGISTER ON THE WEBSITE! There is no obligation but if you think you are coming **PLEASE REGISTER** so we have an idea of the size of the crowd.

Go to www.avelvietnam.com website to register.

RESERVE YOUR ROOM! We have a room block which can be increased so **PLEASE RESERVE YOUR ROOM IF YOU THINK YOU ARE COMING!** You can cancel your room until a week before the Gathering so..... If you even **THINK** you are coming please reserve your room!!

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!



Helicopter Crewmember Memorial

It's been three years in the making, but helicopter crews who flew during the Vietnam War will have their own monument at Arlington National Cemetery.

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association and Arlington National Cemetery worked together on a compromise, and Congress introduced the Vietnam Helicopter Crew Monument Act to support the mission. The 2 1/2-foot by 2 1/2-foot monument will be placed in Section 35 along Memorial Drive, not far from the Tomb of the Unknowns, in the Virginia cemetery.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Bob Hesselbein, who flew AH-1 Cobra gunships in Vietnam, helped spearhead the campaign for the memorial.

In April 2014, Hesselbein, legacy committee chairman of the pilots association, and other members went to Arlington Cemetery to discuss donating a tree. Instead, one of the historians suggested donating a monument.

“We discovered that the greatest concentration of combat casualties who operated helicopters in the Vietnam War are in Arlington,” he told Military Times.

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



Saigon 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 berea 1960s
SFO Museum Collection
Gift of Ann Ogle and Pamela B. Taylor
2018.001

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

Freedom Bird

I recently had the pleasure speaking with a former flight attendant of Flying Tiger Airlines. I can't tell you how much fun it was speaking with her about my experiences and hers. I flew Flying Tiger to Vietnam out of Ft. Lewis in October 1970. I came home on Flying Tiger in November 1971 into Travis/San Francisco. I flew back to Vietnam in January 1972 on Flying Tiger out of Ft Dix (go figure that one out).

Andee Reingold-Wright flew with Flying Tiger from 1966 until 1975. She put me in touch with Sam Scott who is working on an exhibition about flights to and from Vietnam. It will be displayed in the San Francisco Airport from November 2018 to May 2019.

If you would like to share any stories with him, he would love to hear from you. If you have any artifacts you would like to loan I am sure they would be happy to have them.

Welcome Home!



Memorial Day

We who have served in one capacity or another know the meaning of Memorial Day and it isn't just hot dogs and beer. Memorial Day deserves more than just a barbecue in your backyard. It's a day where those who dedicated their last breath in the line of duty deserve to be celebrated and commemorated. Becoming knowledgeable on its importance and how to properly observe it, is something that more people should strive to do.

President Ronald Reagan is credited with reviving the practice of honoring Memorial Day and its meaning. One of his famous speeches was given at Arlington National Cemetery on Memorial Day in 1986.

“Today is the day we put aside to remember fallen heroes and to pray that no heroes will ever have to die for us again. It's a day of thanks for the valor of others, a day to remember the splendor of America and those of her children who rest in this cemetery and others. It's a day to be with the family and remember.”

“I was thinking this morning that across the country children and their parents will be going to the town parade and the young ones will sit on the sidewalks and wave their flags as the band goes by. Later, maybe,

they'll have a cookout or a day at the beach. And that's good, because today is a day to be with the family and to remember.”

“Arlington, this place of so many memories, is a fitting place for some remembering. So many wonderful men and women rest here, men and women who led colorful, vivid, and passionate lives. There are the greats of the military: Bull Halsey and the Admirals Leahy, father and son; Black Jack Pershing; and the GI's general, Omar Bradley. Great men all, military men. But there are others here known for other things.”



“I know that many veterans of Vietnam will gather today, some of them perhaps by the wall. And they're still helping each other on. They were quite a group, the boys of Vietnam—boys who fought a terrible and vicious war without enough support from home, boys who were dodging bullets while we debated the efficacy of the battle. It was often our poor who fought in that war; it was the unpampered boys of the working class who picked up the rifles and went on the march. They learned not to rely on us; they learned to rely on each other. And they were special in another way: They chose to be faithful. They chose to reject the fashionable skepticism of their time. They chose to believe and answer the call of duty. They had the wild, wild courage of youth. They seized certainty from the heart of an ambivalent age; they stood for something.”

“And we owe them something, those boys. We owe them first a promise: That just as they did not forget their missing comrades, neither, ever, will we. And there are other promises. We must always remember that peace is a fragile thing that needs constant vigilance. We owe them a promise to look at the world with a steady gaze and, perhaps, a resigned toughness, knowing that we have adversaries in the world and challenges and the only way to meet them and maintain the peace is by staying strong.”

“That, of course, is the lesson of this century, a lesson learned in the Sudetenland, in Poland, in Hungary, in Czechoslovakia, in Cambodia. If we really care about peace, we must stay strong. If we really care about peace, we must, through our strength, demonstrate our unwillingness to accept an ending of the peace. We must be strong enough to create peace where it does not exist and strong enough to protect it where it does. That's the lesson of this century and, I think, of this day. And that's all I wanted to say. The rest of my contribution is to leave this great place to its peace, a peace it has earned.”

“Thank all of you, and God bless you, and have a day full of memories.”

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTER

No New Registers

TAPS

None Reported

PHOTOS

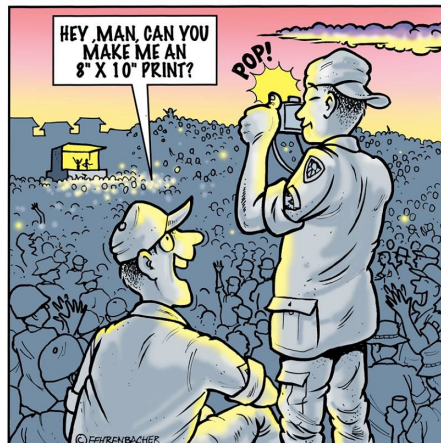
None Submitted

IN-COUNTRY



THE TRANSITION INTO THE MONSOON SEASON.

IN-COUNTRY



"UP CLOSE" AT THE BOB HOPE SHOW.



Have any stories you would like to submit?

Any photos of veteran activities or memorials to submit?

Send them to me!

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