

Newsletter - November 2016

Thanksgiving Day

VIETNAM
1966

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This Thanksgiving Day we find ourselves in a foreign land assisting in the defense of the rights of free men. On this day we should offer our grateful thanks for the abundant life which we and our loved ones have been provided. May we each pray for continued blessings and guidance upon our endeavors to assist the Vietnamese people in their struggle to attain an everlasting peace within a free society.

W. C. Westmoreland
 W. C. WESTMORELAND
 General, United States Army
 Commanding

Thanksgiving Day Dinner

	Shrimp Cocktail	
	With Cocktail Sauce and Crackers	
Roast Tom Turkey		Giblet Gravy
	Poultry Dressing	
	Snow Flaked Potatoes	
Glazed Sweet Potatoes		Cranberry Sauce
	Buttered	
	Pears and Corn	
	Crisp Relish Tray	
Parkerhouse Rolls		Butter
	Pumpkin Pie	
	With Whipped Cream	
Mincemeat Pie		Old Fashion Fruit Cake
	Fresh Chilled Fruit	
	Mixed Nuts	
	Assorted Candy	
Tea	Coffee	Milk

Thanksgiving dinner will be served at 1220 hrs
 Chaplain Estes will give blessing.

PRAYER

Father of mercies and giver of all good, by whose power we were created, by whose bounty we are sustained, and by whose spirit we are transformed, accept, we beseech Thee, our prayer of thanks.

For those who love us and of whose love we would be more worthy; for those who believe in us and whose hopes we cannot disappoint; for every good gift of healing and happiness and renewal, we bless Thy name. We thank Thee for our homeland, for all that is just and true, noble and right, wise and courageous in our history. We praise Thee for our place in the community of nations and we invoke Thy blessings on men of goodwill wherever they may be and who labor for a world of justice, freedom, and fraternity.

Most of all, Eternal Father, we thank Thee for Thyself, the nearness of Thy presence and the warmth of Thy love, whereby our minds and hearts find joy and peace. Freely we have received, O God; freely let us give ourselves to Thy gracious purposes. For Thy love's sake. Amen.

PFC-Japan

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



2016 Avel Reunion - LZ Chicago

The Chicago Reunion was a great success despite the occasional rain and cool temperatures!

The reunion was held at the Chicago Marriott O'Hare which was conveniently located close to the airport with easy transportation options into the city.

The reunion was attended by 30 veterans and 23 guests. Despite a few glitches from the hotel I think everyone had a great time.

We want to thank everyone who donated their time, money and photography for their contributions. These reunions are a big success because of you. A big thank you to everyone who attended! Political discussions were not allowed and everyone followed that rule.



Tuesday, 27 September 2016

Early Bird arrivals were able to explore Chicago on their own and join other early arrivals for dinner.

Wednesday, 28 September 2016

This was also an Early Bird day. Attendees explored Chicago on their own and then we all carpooled to Jack McCabe's house for hamburgers libations. All attendees were driven back to the hotel where they finished the evening.

Thursday, 29 September 2016

Open Registration began at 12:00 and the Hospitality Room opened. It was a great time for everyone to meet new and old friends over a drink or two.

Many of the ladies carpooled to the Rosemont Fashion Mall for an afternoon of shopping.

The group carpooled to the Hofbrauhaus for Oktoberfest celebrations. We enjoyed German food and wonderful beer! The Hospitality Room was open after the event until midnight.

Friday, 30 September 2016

All attendees formed up in the hotel lobby for to board the bus for downtown Chicago. The weather was gray and rainy. The busses arrived about 10:30 and the rain slowed. We boarded the Wendella for a boat tour of the Chicago River and the Lake Michigan shores of Chicago. The bar opened before the boat left the dock and I am proud to report that almost all Avel personnel were first in line for Bloody Mary's! And, the rain stopped!

After the boat tour everyone had a few hours to have lunch and explore downtown Chicago before boarding the bus back to the hotel.

Upon return the Hospitality Room was opened and Chicago pizza's were brought in for the group dinner.

Saturday, 1 October 2016

The John Veers Martini Golf Outing was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Hospitality Room remained open for the day.

The Reunion Banquet began at 17:00 with the opening of a cash bar and social hour. The program began at 18:00.

Pete Poirier gave the opening remarks.

Jack McCabe introduced our guest speaker Major General (Retired) James Mukoyama. Jim spoke to us about veteran issues specifically PTSD and Moral Injury. He was well received by all.

Jack McCabe and Jerry Mahanay led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance and then folded the reunion flag.

The reunion flag was presented to Roger Shiley who was unable to attend due to health issues.

Jim Mukoyama led us in prayer before dinner.

Jim Mukoyama led us in prayer before dinner.
Dinner was served followed by a group photo.
The Hospitality Room remained open until we all fell asleep!

Sunday, 2 October 2016

Final goodbyes were said and everyone returned home.



IN-COUNTRY



WELCOME TO SAIGON, "PEARL OF THE ORIENT!"

IN-COUNTRY



WELL OK.....AS LONG AS I REALLY NEED THEM!

NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

Garcia, Frank L. (SGT)

974 Orange St
Yuba City, CA 95991
530-434-1385
611th Trans Co (DS), Vung Tau: Feb. 1964 – Feb. 1965
spiritwarrior46@yahoo.com
MOS: 36K/76Y
Also served in: 12th Evac Hospital (8/66-8/67)
Cu Chi, RVN
Retired US Army: SFC

Kirk, James B. (SP/5)

1007 Kirk Air Base Rd
Lancaster, SC 29720
AVEL South, 3rd Platoon Vinh Long: Nov 1968 - Nov 1969
kirkairbase@comporium.net
MOS: 35K20
Military Retired: 3 active USA/3 Inactive - 18 USAF

Whalen, Thomas J. III (SP/4)

5 Herrick Rd.
Peabody MA, 01960
978-535-0103
Cell: 978-317-3404
B Co. 1st Aviation Battalion. 1st Inf. Division, Phu Loi: 29 August 1966 – 28 August 1967
tjwhalen3@gmail.com
MOS: 31Q30/35L20
AGENT ORANGE

Argenziano, Charles (SP/5)

7 Lamington Drive
Succasunna, NJ 07876
Avel Far North, Dung Ba Tinh (2month) Chu Lai (10month): June 1967 – June 1968
cargen7@gmail.com
MOS: 35N20 (Flight Line Avionics Chief)
Other units you were assigned to in Vietnam: 608th Transportation
AGENT ORANGE

Foote, Robert L. (SP/4)

337 Laneil Lane
Davenport, N.Y. 13750
607-434-3564
1st Aviation Battalion, Phu Loi: July 1966 – July 1967
lsfoote53@gmail.com
MOS: 35L20
AGENT ORANGE

Weier, Bob (SP/5)

N84 W18223 Menomonee Ave
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051
414-520-3993
Avel Central, Phu Loi: Dec. 1969 – Oct. 1971
transformerbob@aol.com
MOS: 35L20
AGENT ORANGE

Ramirez, Hector Jr. (SP/5)

P.O. Box 163
Nobleton, FL 34661
813-220-9020
Avel Central, Phu Loi: 1967-1968
Hndc4ever@aol.com

Rabon, Robert (SP/5)

37 Sasser Rd
Monticello, FL 32344
850-524-4911
Avel Central, Phu Loi: March 1969-March 1970
Rgrabon@gmail.com
MOS: 35L20

Martin, Richard S. (SP/4)

3258 SW Crumpacker St.
Port Saint Lucie FL 34953
816-377-3092
317th Maintenance Co. (LEM), June 1971-June 1972
martin.richard47@yahoo.com
AGENT ORANGE

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 assigned to the 59th Signal Company
AGENT ORANGE

PHOTOS

Reunion photos were submitted by John Veers, Mike Blatt, Jack McCabe, Dave DaLonzo and Jerry Mahanay. They will be posted to the website shortly.

TAPS

None reported (Thank God)

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND EMAIL

Walt Loving: New email: wloving101247@gmail.com

Jack McCabe: I have moved out of Chicago and to North Carolina! I am not retired yet (1 more year) but am ready to get back in the Avel saddle! My email and cell phone are the same. My new address is:
2120 Augusta National Dr.
Denver, NC 28037

Avel Member Russ Lauriat sent this entry:

On July 2, 2016, New Hampshire Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 41 celebrated the 12th annual dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH.

Every year -- rain or shine -- on the first Saturday in July, a group of veterans & their families gather to read the names on the monument to remember & honor our Vietnam Veterans of NH.

Pictured left to right: Member Russ Lauriat, Chapter 41 President Ray Goulet, Vice President Bob Williams, NH Governor Maggie Hassan, Associate Member Arthur Atkison, Member Richard Gilbert and Past President Alan Grant & his grandson.

Here are two photos of Russ' 1967 M151A2 Jeep. He bought it 4 years ago and enjoys taking it to parades and other military events & fundraisers.



Celebrity Vietnam Vets

This is a new batch of articles I will be posting every Newsletter about celebrity Vietnam Vets. Please read all the articles and pass them on. Not all celebrities trashed the military and Vietnam vets during the war. WE salute each on and welcome them home.

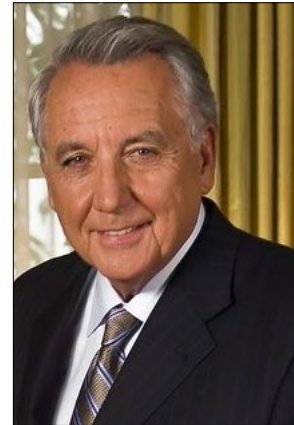
Bob Gunton

Bob was born as Robert Patrick Gunton, Jr. and was born in Santa Monica, California in 1945. At one point he planned on becoming a priest.

Bob was drafted into the Army in 1969 and was trained as an infantryman 11B20 MOS. He was sent to Vietnam in 1969 and assigned to the 101st Airborne Division in I Corps. While serving there he was awarded a Bronze Star for Valor. He was discharged in 1971 and took up acting as a career.

He started his career as a Broadway actor and singer in 1971 and continued until 1991 when he became active in film and TV. He is known for playing strict, authoritarian characters, with his best known roles as Warden Samuel Norton in the 1994 prison film *The Shawshank Redemption*, Chief George Earle in 1993's *Demolition Man*, Dr. Walcott, the domineering dean of Virginia Medical School in *Patch Adams*, and President Juan Peron in the original Broadway production of *Evita*, for which he received a Tony Award nomination. He also appeared in the *Daredevil* TV series as Leland Owlsley.

Welcome Home Bob



When We Came Home

The story of Vietnam veterans return from war

By Jack McCabe

This is a book I have written and it has been selected to be published. There is a lot of work to be done so it won't be in print until the middle of next year.

Some of our Avel veterans are interviewed in the book as well as veterans of all branches, Donut Dollies and Australian veterans.



**AVEL
VIETNAM**

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