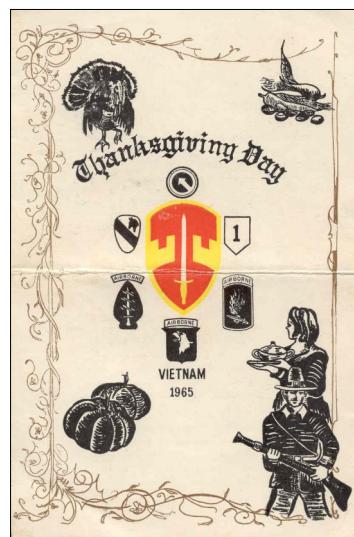
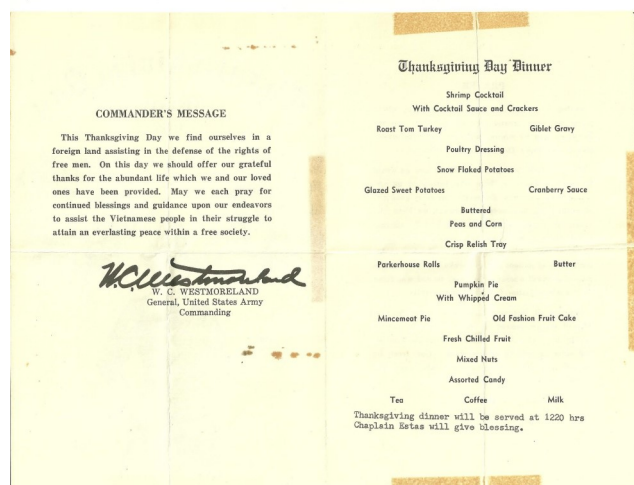
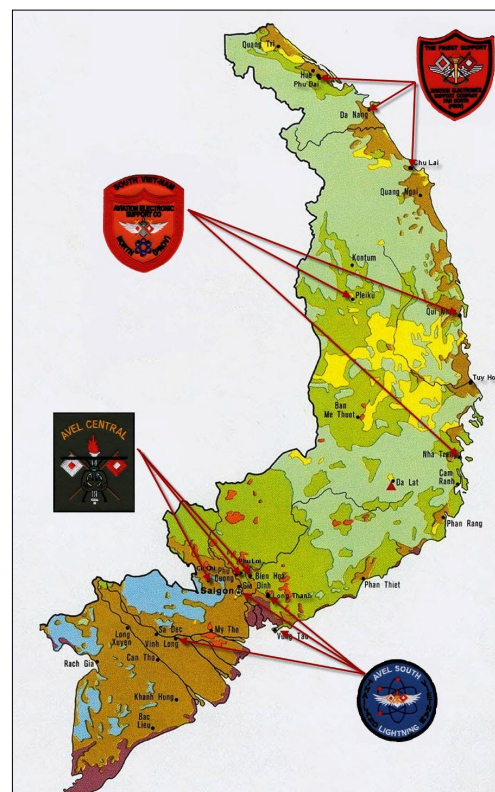
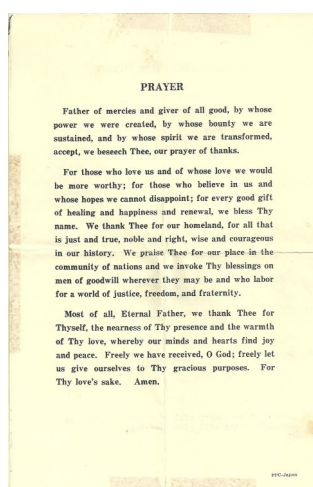


Newsletter - October/November 2018

I want to wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you can enjoy this holiday with family and friends, surrounded by warmth, friendship and love. We all remember spending Thanksgivings far from home in Vietnam. It was a time filled with thoughts of home and reflection. Now, give thanks that we are all here but remember those we have lost over the years.



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



2018 All Avel Gathering - Charlotte/Huntersville NC

The Charlotte Gathering was a great success! There were 58 people in attendance, 33 vets and 25 guests.

2019 All Avel Reunion—Tucson, Arizona!

AVEL Veterans
Welcome to North Carolina



We would like to thank those who have contributed to the success of the reunion. Your financial gifts and hard work are greatly appreciated by everyone.

No Political Discussions are allowed at any of the group functions or in the hospitality room.

Headquarters
Fort Jackson Graduation

Thursday Group Dinner
Port City Club

Friday Golf
Verdict Ridge Golf Club

Friday Ladies Lunch
Red Rocks Cafe

Saturday Wine Tasting

2018 Reunion Itinerary

Early Bird, Tuesday, 16 October 2018
Explore Charlotte on your own

Early Bird, Wednesday, 17 October 2018
Explore Charlotte on your own
17:30 Form up in the lobby for car pooling to Jack McCabe's House for barbeque.
2120 Augusta National Dr.
Denver, NC 28037
Make sure no one is left behind!

Thursday, 18 October 2018
06:00 Form up in the lobby to carpool to Ft. Jackson
09:00 Graduation: 3rd Bn, 60th Infantry
12:00 Registration begins in the Hospitality Room
Hospitality Room open 12:00-23:00
Explore Charlotte on your own
17:30 Form up in the lobby for car pool to group dinner at:
Port City Club
18665 Harborside Dr.
Cornelius, NC 28031
(limited menu)

Friday, 19 October 2018
Hospitality Room open 15:30-23:00
10:00 Golfers form up for carpool to Verdict Ridge Golf Club
7332 Kidville Rd.
Denver, NC 28037
11:00 John Veers Martini Golf Outing
11:45 Ladies board vans for Birkdale Village (Paid by Avel)
12:00 Ladies lunch at Red Rocks Cafe (Paid by Avel)
8712 Lindholm Dr.
Huntersville, NC 28078
15:00 Ladies transport back to hotel (Paid by Avel)
Ladies you can stay and shop or watch a movie but then you will have to call it back to the hotel!
Explore Charlotte and dinner on your own

Saturday, 20 October 2018
09:30 Form up in the lobby
10:00 Bus leaves for wine tasting in the Yadkin Valley (Paid by Avel)
11:00 Shadow Springs Winery
Tasting 7 different wines (Paid by Avel)
Lunch - sandwiches (ham, turkey and roast beef) from the Amish Bakery (Paid by Avel)
13:00 Board the bus
13:30 Piccione Winery
We will have 5 different wines for you to enjoy a glass or two
Entertainment at 14:00 and a food truck (Paid by Avel)
15:00 Bus back to hotel!

Hospitality Room will be closed until 17:30 to prepare for dinner

17:30 Hospitality Room open for cocktails
18:00 Hors d'oeuvres
18:30 Invocation by Bill Fesus
Pledge of Allegiance
Dinner, proceed to the buffet by tables please
Folding the flag: Jerry Mahoney & Jack McCabe
Presentation of the flag
Announcements
Remain in the Hospitality Room after dinner for a group photo
Hospitality Room Open

2019 Reunion/Gathering
Tucson, AZ
Late Sept./Early Oct.
WELCOME HOME!

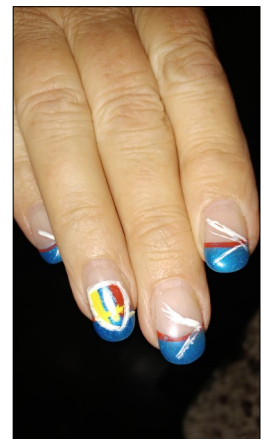


Early Bird dinner at the McCabe's



Ft Jackson Basic Training Graduation

Group Dinner and Fellowship in the Hospitality Room



John Veers Martini Golf Outing and Ladies Luncheon



Wine Tasting



Saturday Banquet

Go to the website (www.avelvietnam.com) to view all the photos of the Gathering

TEN NAMES ADDED TO THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL



The names of ten American servicemen have been added to the black granite walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. The unveiling ceremony was held on May 13, 2012.

The Department of Defense sets the criteria for and makes decisions about whose names are eligible for inscription on The Wall. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund pays for the name additions and status changes, and works with the National Park Service to ensure long-term preservation and maintenance of The Wall.

The ten names added this year met the DoD's criteria. These changes will bring the total number of names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to 58,282 men and women who were killed or remain missing in action.

Continued on Page 4

PFC Larry Morgan Kelly, U.S. Army Akron, Ohio May 22, 1949 – June 14, 2010 Date of Casualty: Aug. 22, 1969 Pfc. Kelly died as a result of his wounds (combat or hostile related) sustained in the combat zone during the Vietnam War.

SP4 David Lawrence Deckard, U.S. Army Louisville, Ky. Jan. 30, 1948 – Jan. 6, 2006 Date of Casualty: March 24, 1969 Spec. Deckard was diagnosed with chronic respiratory failure and the Army determined that his death was directly connected to his wounds received in Vietnam.

ATC Joseph William Aubin, U.S. Navy Bridgeport, Conn. Dec. 14, 1929 – May 26, 1966 Date of Casualty: May 26, 1966 Navy records document that ATC Aubin and three other Sailors died while participating in a combat mission en route to a target within the defined combat zone.

ATR3 Richard Carl Hunt, U.S. Navy Guys Mills, Penn. July 2, 1942 – May 26, 1966 Date of Casualty: May 26, 1966 Navy records document that ATR3 Hunt and three other Sailors died while participating in a combat mission en route to a target within the defined combat zone.

LT Walter Allan Linzy, U.S. Navy Nashville, Ark. June 11, 1926 – May 26, 1966 Date of Casualty: May 26, 1966 Navy records document that Lt. Linzy and three other Sailors died while participating in a combat mission en route to a target within the defined combat zone.

ATR3 Richard Dwaine Stocker, U.S. Navy Jacksonville, Ark. April 17, 1945 – May 26, 1966 Date of Casualty: May 26, 1966 Navy records document that ATR3 Stocker and three other Sailors died while participating in a combat mission en route to a target within the defined combat zone.

LTJG David McLean Desilets, U.S. Navy Palm Desert, Calif. Oct. 16, 1940 – Sept. 4, 1966 Date of Casualty: Sept. 4, 1966 The Navy reviewed casualty and other relevant documents pertaining to the death of LTJG Desilets aboard the USS Pyro while steaming on 'Yankee Station' in the Gulf of Tonkin. The information confirmed that Desilets' death occurred within the defined combat zone.

AN Albert Kalahana Kuewa, U.S. Navy Honolulu, Hawaii Nov. 14, 1941 – Sept. 18, 1964 Date of Casualty: Sept. 18, 1964 The Navy reviewed records and determined that Airman Kuewa died while supporting combat missions against targets in North Vietnam.

CPL Frank A. Neary, U.S. USMC Ocean, N.J. April 24, 1948 – Nov. 22, 2006 Date of Casualty: Feb. 24, 1967 Cpl. Neary died of a stroke due to an intracranial bleed, chronic thromolytic therapy and occluded bypass graft of his left leg. The Marine Corps reviewed the records and determined that he died of the wounds he sustained in combat in Vietnam.

FIRST WOMAN PURPLE RECIPIENT

Major Nurse Annie G. Fox served in the Army in World War I from 1918 to 1945. She joined the United States Army Nurse Corps near the end of World War I. Throughout her career she was stationed in New York, Fort Sam Houston in Texas, Fort Mason in San Diego, California, Camp John Hay in Benguet and Manila in the Philippines. During that time she rose through the ranks of the Nurse Corps. On Aug. 1, 1941 she became the Chief Nurse. Then, in November of that same year she was promoted to First Lieutenant and transferred to Hickam Field, the newly opened hospital near Pearl Harbor.

On Dec. 7, 1941, one month into her new assignment, the Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Fox assembled the nurses and volunteers to help care for the wounded. She assisted doctors with surgical procedures while the battle outside continued. When the wounded began to arrive at an overwhelming rate, she administered pain medicine and prepped patients for transfer to other hospitals.

In October of 1942, Fox was the first woman to be awarded the Purple Heart Medal for her service during the attack on Pearl Harbor. For that reason, many people think she was wounded during the attack, but she wasn't.

In 1942, a person didn't have to be wounded in order to receive the Purple Heart medal; the award could be given for any singularly meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity or essential service.



Continued from Page 4

The same year as her award, the criteria changed to those who are injured in enemy action. In 1944, Fox's Purple Heart was rescinded and replaced with a Bronze Star Medal with the citation as the Purple Heart originally awarded to her. She retired from active duty on December 15, 1945. Annie passed away on January 20, 1987.

DOES YOUR UNIFORM STILL FIT?

Ed Ardell (*Avel Central*) tried his on and it is close!
Send a photo of you trying on the old uniform to my email and I will publish them in the next Newsletter!
[Send them to jmccabe51@gmail.com.](mailto:jmccabe51@gmail.com)



NEW AVEL, AVIONICS AND VIETNAM VETERANS REGISTERED

Edwards, Bob (SP4)
4005 S Spring
Independence, MO 64055
614th Light Equipment Maintenance Co. (LEM), Pleiku: Sept. 1970-May 1971
be.retired@hotmail.com
Also served with: 1/10th Cav 4th Infantry's Div.
AGENT ORANGE

TAPS



John George Burbules, COL Ret.
COL Burbules was the Commanding Officer of Avel North in 1968. He passed away peacefully on Dec. 17, 2017. He was 84 years old. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

PHOTOS

Reunion photos were posted on the website. Look for the "*Past Reunion*" button.

Ed Sitar submitted his photos from Avel North. Photos of Nha Trang, Pleiku and Qui Nhon have been posted on the website.

www.avelvietnam.com

CHANGES OF ADDRESS AND EMAIL

None Submitted

VA Cutting Disability?

My VSO in Gaston County, NC has been seeing more and more veterans who have received notices concerning proposed – or actual – reductions in their disability compensation ratings.

Some of these cases have involved a veteran who sought an increase in a rating, and VA has decided that the veteran's condition has actually improved. In other cases, VA has "spontaneously" reviewed a veteran's case, and then decided that the evidence indicates improvement that supports the reduction of a rating. Bottom line: VA is – evidently – aggressively pursuing the reduction of disability compensation ratings in cases where veterans have – supposedly – "gotten better."



In some cases, VA claims that the veteran failed to appear for a scheduled C & P exam. In those situations, the VSO can usually "fix" the problem by (quickly) advising VA that the veteran (fill in the blank here – didn't receive notice, was sick that day, was out of state, etc...) but is ready, willing and able to attend a rescheduled exam. The key, of course, is a timely response anytime the veteran gets a "you didn't show up for the exam" letter.

More troubling: A number of veterans are now receiving letters indicating that the VA is proposing to reduce (or is going ahead and reducing) a rating percentage because an examination of their records indicates that the veteran is now "better," and there has been no exam involved. These cases include some veterans with PTSD ratings. In some instances, VA has said that the veteran must be "better" because there has been no mental health treatment history since the original rating was issued. In other cases, VA has said that the veteran's mental health treatment history indicates that he/she has "gotten better." (So, it is pretty much "damned if you do, damned if you don't.") Likewise, several veterans who had disability compensation ratings for cancer have had those ratings reduced to 0% after treatment, with VA claiming that "no active cancer" means that there is no longer a compensable disability (even when there have been residual problems resulting from treatment, e.g., following surgery for prostate cancer).

Short version: Veterans should be "on the lookout" for correspondence from VA concerning proposed or actual reductions in their disability compensation ratings. VA appears to be aggressively working to reduce ratings whenever they can (in their view) justify doing so, and veterans need to respond – promptly – to any communications from VA that indicate that VA is contemplating the reduction of a rating.

As always: Any veterans who receive communications from VA re: the possible reduction of their disability compensation ratings should see a Veteran Service Officer ASAP.....

IN-COUNTRY



CURIOUS MINDS WANT TO KNOW.



IN-COUNTRY

