

## From the Galley

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work with. Would also like to also thank Chaplain Jim Johnson for the excellent memorial services as well as Charlie Taylor for his assistance with the services.

Now it time to move on to 2002 and San Diego, you west coast members are always asking when are you heading west, well we're on our way. But you folks on the west coast have to realize we need your support as well.

In 1998 the majority of the reunion attendees were from east of the Mississippi which was great; but we have many members on the west coast, Army & Navy, from the San Diego area who chose not to attend. To have a successful reunion we need your support. So, plan on attending the reunion, it's something you won't forget.

In closing again thanks to each and every one of you for your continuing support. To those of you on the west coast who have never met the Association's Thelma and Louise, this will be your chance! They'll be in San Diego. Thelma and Louise rated the Saturday night dance with D.J. Hughes a huge success and are looking forward to boogying down and having more raffles in San Diego. Albert

## A Message From the Vice President

Like so many of you, I have just returned from our sixth major reunion that was held at the Drawbridge Estates in Ft. Mitchell, KY. The reunions seem to get better and better. This one was no exception. A great time was had by the approximately 1400 plus members, and their spouses, children, and grandchildren and friends that attended. For those of you that have not been able to make one of our reunions I ask that you just give it a try. It will be one of the experiences of your life. There is no other place in the world where we can enjoy the companionship and friendship of so many former Vietnam shipmates, boatmates and Ninth Division soldiers.

I would like to thank the many people that gave me such a warm welcome as your new Vice President. I promise to do everything possible to continue making the Mobile Riverine Force Association one of the best, if not the best, Vietnam Veterans association in existence.

Thirty some years ago all of us had to endure the heat, the mud, the leaches, red ants, mortar attacks, and the deplorable living conditions of the Mekong Delta. We had to watch as our buddies were wounded or killed. While at home many of our high school and neighborhood friends were enjoying the good life and were continuing their careers and education. I guess we were a little envious of them then, but today we have something that these people don't have. We have a bond and friendship with each other that these people will never understand and will never have. I stepped into several of the hospitality rooms, both Army and Navy, and was warmly welcomed in each and every one of them.

I know we just got back from Ft. Mitchell, KY. but I'm already looking forward to San Diego in June 2002. I hope to see all of you there.

Roy Moseman  
180 Riverview Rd.,  
Athens, GA 30606  
706-549-0749  
rmoseman@aol.com



"The Big Chitlin"

## The MRFA Thanks You For Your Help With CCB-18

In addition to the names previously posted in *River Currents*, we'd like to thank the following people for their donations to the CCB-18 Restoration Project:

### New CCB-18 Contributors

Bruce Johnson C/CO4tf/47<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>/Inf/Div  
James L. Noyes LTC Retired 3<sup>rd</sup>/34<sup>th</sup> FA 9<sup>th</sup>/Inf/Div  
Hugh (Murk) Alexander CO-RAD-132 TF-117  
Donald Brath C/CO/3<sup>rd</sup>/47<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>/Inf/Div  
Robert Pawlicki T-111-1 TF-117  
Victor & Penny Unruh T-151-1 TF-117  
Tom & Barb Slater LST-819

Charles Ganster TF-117

Tim Hollar SSG-Inf 3<sup>rd</sup>/60<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>/Inf/Div  
John Bauler C-1 4<sup>th</sup>/47<sup>th</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>/Inf/Div  
Barbara & Dana Cooper  
David Raybell Monitor 111-3 TF-117  
Mike Holcomb Tango-91-5 TF-117  
William A. Harman Tango-132-2 TF-11  
Jon Witt, USS Whitfield Cty., LST-1169, TF-117

If you would like to be a CCB-18 Contributor please send a check or money to MRFA 1857 County Rd. A-14, Decorah, IA. 52101. Please make check or money order payable to the MRFA c/o CCB-18 Fund.

## CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

If you live in the San Diego area and would like to assist in the restoration of CCB-18 by being an MRFA Volunteer (member of the working party), Army or Navy member, please contact Don Blankenship, 12715 Fairbrook Rd., San Diego, CA 92131; phone 858-271-5477; email don@bcres.com.

## Army-Navy Links in the Navy Log

In addition to serving as a comprehensive data base for all United States sea service veterans, the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation's Navy Log includes a special category for U.S. Army veterans who served with the Army Riverine Infantry and supporting units of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, in joint operations with the Navy Mobile Riverine Forces in the Vietnam War.

In 1998, the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation's Board of Directors voted to establish the special Navy Log category for eligible Army veterans. The late Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, Jr., USN (Ret.), who then chaired the Board of Directors, announced this decision in a letter to the Mobile Riverine Forces Association.

While the U.S. Navy Memorial receives a constant influx of letters and donations from sea services veterans, the following statement accompanied a recent donation: I'm the U.S. Army Advisor from Thanh Phu Dist., Kien Hoa Prov., IV CTZ 68-69. With special thanks to the crew of PCF-56, night action 2-3 Feb, at An Hoa Op.

—David Marion CPT Infantry

We are grateful to Capt. Marion and all other U.S. Army veterans who served so bravely with their sea service counterparts in Vietnam. If you're interested in becoming a part of the U.S. Navy Log contact: Navy Log, Box 96570, Washington, DC 20077-7685, call 202-737-2300, or email [ahoy@lonesailor.org](mailto:ahoy@lonesailor.org). You can also visit the website at [www.lonesailor.org](http://www.lonesailor.org).

## WREATH LAYING: Veterans Day in DC

The Association will not have a hotel or hospitality room this year in Washington, DC. There will be wreaths for both the MRF and the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division placed at the Wall. The wreath laying is being handled by Board member Bob (Doc) Pries. Doc would like all who're interested in the wreath laying to assemble it front of the Lincoln Memorial as we always do at 9:00 am on Veterans Day. For more information, contact Doc at 9205 Friartuck Dr, West Chester, OH 45069; phone 513-755-1223, email: [bpries@cinci.rr.com](mailto:bpries@cinci.rr.com).

**DON'T FORGET!!!** Your **MEMBERSHIP EXPIRATION DATE** is now printed on the cover of each issue of *River Currents*.

## National Archives

The Association would like to thank member BMC Ron Stout, USN (Ret.) for taking the time to visit the National Archives in Washington, DC where he found lots of information regarding the MRF for the 1969-70 time frame that we had been looking for.

He found not only Navy information, but 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as well. Rosters, unit histories etc. both for the Army and Navy. If you would like more info on how you can visit the National Archives and check on your unit, contact Ron Stout at 6215 Richmond Way Alexandria, VA 22303; phone 703-718-0784, or email [tango32@boo.net](mailto:tango32@boo.net).

Ron served in RivRon-15 on Tango-32, the first *douche boat* of the MRF. Ron has always been very supportive of the MRF and the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division as well as all Vietnam Veterans associations. He can usually be found around the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall he has a booth there, one of the only few allowed. *Thanks Boats.*

## 2<sup>ND</sup>-60<sup>TH</sup> Uncovers Red Launchers

LONG THANH —

A unit of the 9<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division uncovered 11 new Russian made rocket launchers buried near the Vam Co River in Long An Province Friday Dec. 1.

Company A-2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 60<sup>th</sup> infantry discovered the weapons buried in what appeared to be freshly dug graves near the waterway east of highway 5 in Tan Tru District.

Retrieved from the cache were nine B-40 launchers, two RPG-2 launchers and 17 antitank rockets. According to Captain William Cunningham of New York City, these were brand new weapons, "I doubt they had ever been fired," the 3<sup>rd</sup> brigade intelligence officer added.

Information furnished by Dennis Vally HQ/CO/3<sup>rd</sup>/47<sup>th</sup> from the Old Reliable June 1967 Issue.

## 47th Infantry Assoc.

Ron Fillingham was recently appointed Command Sergeant Major of the 47th Infantry Association by the Department of the Army and the Fort Benning Commanding General. Ron served in B Co., 2nd/47th in 1968-69. You may Contact Ron c/o 4316 Iwo Jima Dr., N. Mobile, AL 36609; phone 334-660-9648, or email [ron1932@earthlink.net](mailto:ron1932@earthlink.net).