

SEEKING VETERANS OF NAM

Editor's Note: If you would like to see a reunion notice posted in *River Currents*, forward your written request to: Albert Moore, 106 Belleview Dr., Conover, NC 28613. Deadlines are: Feb. 1st, May 1st, Aug. 1st, and Nov. 1st.

OTTO PAUL MEYER III

Anyone who remembers serving with Otto Paul Meyer III who served in A Co., 3rd/47th and was KIA May 2, 1967 in Tay Ninh Province. Please contact Juli Thurston 43811 Calle Las Brisas W. Palm Desert, CA. 92211; phone 760-345-7551, or email julzrui@earthlink.net.

LEO A. AUBREY

Anyone who remembers serving with Leo A. Aubrey in B Co., 9th Med 12-66 to 12-67. Contact Eric A. Aubrey 1908 San Jose Ct., Bettendorf, IA 52722; phone 309-782-7082, or email eric.a.aubrey@usace.army.mil.

NOTICES

UDT-SEAL ASSOCIATION MUSEUM

Located State Rd. A1A, Ft. Pierce, FL. POC: Jim Barnes 3216 Yale St North. St Petem FL. 33713. Or call 1-727-894-2848.

USS MONTROSE (APA-212)

Seeking past crew members for all time periods, excellent group of White Hats. Contact Russ McDonald at 10072 Bonser Ave., Garden Grove, CA 92840; phone 714-636-6267, or email gatornavy1@prodigy.net.

Combat Chaplain Ron Miriello

I served in the MRF as a 50 Cal. machine gunner in 1968-69, first on ATC-91-13 and later I manned a twin 50 Cal. on ASPB-92-4. I can easily recall many moments of fear, terror, anger, etc. I recently ordered the new book by Dr. James Johnson "COMBAT CHAPLAIN: A 30 Year Vietnam Battle". Jim was kind enough to sign my book and I already cherish his kind words.

I just want to offer the following comments on this book and the author: Dr. Jim Johnson served right alongside his troops and experienced all the hardship and pain of combat in the harsh and unforgiving jungles of Vietnam. He loved his fellow soldiers. He laughed

Tony Chandler Comes Home...

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wonders why he was spared that night, believes he has another piece of Chandler imbedded above his left eye, that the force of the explosion drove it into his skull.

I'd say 'That's Chandler, and I carry him around with me everyday.' If they ever have to operate on me, I'll go blind before I'll let them take that.

There was quiet for awhile, then Lail asked Jack Young a question about his son—stepson, really, though Jack Young never thought of him that way. He asked the father how he deals with his broken heart. "I always dream about the boy," Jack Young answered. "But I always dream about him being alive."

Since the end of the Vietnam War, the remains of 612 American servicemen have made it home. "That's 612 American flags, just like the one draped over Tony Chandlers coffin Saturday. This is hard," Davis said, placing his hand atop the blue field of stars. "But I miss

The following notices have been posted to assist veterans who served in Vietnam. For more information about any of the notices, please call or write to the point of contact listed for that particular event.

REUNIONS

4TH BN, 39TH INF, 9TH INF DIVISION

Korean Units also. Radisson Opryland Hotel in Nashville, TN. from November 1-4. Contact: Jim Silva phone: 831-757-2344 or jsilvaftm@gateway.net.

POLAR BEARS 31ST INFANTRY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

And supporting units, especially redlegs. From Sept-20-23, 2001 in Ft. Drum, NY. POC: LTC Noah Halfacre 63 Hayfield Square, Manchester, TN 37355; phone 931-728-7782.

ATTACK BOAT SAILORS ASSOCIATION

WW-II-Korea-Vietnam, POC: Ed Brisbosi at P.O. Box 3328, Ft. Pierce, FL. 34948.

VETERANS OF THE VIETNAM WAR INC.

(New Address) 805 So. Township Blvd. Pittston, PA. 18640; phone 570-603-9740, or email vvwnatl@epix.net. You can visit them online at <http://www.vvwn.org>. If you have any questions, just call 1-800-Vietnam, and ask for Mike or Nancy.

with them, cried with them, and often held their hand as they drew their last breath some 12,000 miles from home. Now, 30+ years later, with much work and compiling of notes, he has been able to put into words what very few people can.

This authors descriptive abilities, compassion for others, and love for his soldiers is unmatched. Dr. Jim Johnson's words bring out all the emotions one can possibly experience in reading a book. This book should be classified as a "must read" for teens and adults, civilians and military, and for all combat veterans. Take it from an ole "River Rat" (68-69) this book is accurate, its true.

You may contact Ron Miriello at 3322 Green Valley Dr., Sanford, NC 27330; phone 919-776-3322, or email rmiriello@aol.com. Dr. Jim Johnson is Chaplain Jim Johnson, LTC, USA (Ret.), HQ/CO 3rd/60th, 1967-68.

you Chandler. God bless you. And I love you and always will." Davis turned back to Chandler's family, then smiled and patted Chandler's coffin one last time. "This is my man," he said "I'm glad he's finally home." The crowd sang *Amazing Grace*, old soldiers in the chorus. A 21-gun salute cracked the hot and heavy air, and *Taps* rolled out across the cemetery. Veterans saluted while Chandler's flag was folded tight and handed to his mother, who held it in her lap and cried.

The funeral was over, but not the story of PCF-19. "Not till we get the other boy," Lail said. "We get the other boy, it'll be over. And we'll get."

Frank Bowman, quartermaster second class,
Walterborough, SC.

I would like to thank the Young family and Larry Lail for honoring us with the above article. For more info on the sinking of PCF-19 you may contact association member Larry Lail C/O 1475 Welsh Tract Rd., Charlotte Court House, VA 23923. 804-542-4369.

MRFA History Book

Interested in purchasing the MRFA or 9th Division history book? Contact Turner Publishing at 800-788-3350.

Both books contain a full histories of the 9th Infantry and the MRF from its formation to its deactivation. It includes personal experience stories, veteran's biographies, statistics and dramatic photographs.

This beautiful hardbound edition is printed on acid-free glossy paper, providing superior photo reproduction and longevity.

Visit the MRFA web site for a link with an order form.

MILITARY PATCHES

Don "Boats" McGrogan has patches for all units of the MRF and the 9th Infantry Division and other units that served in Vietnam; excellent patches. Contact Boats at P.O. Box 502, Orfino, ID 83544. You may also email him at macpatch@clearwater.net; phone 208-476-7751.

INTERESTING IN GOING BACK???

Contact Courtney and Trang Frobenius at Vietnam Indochina Tours, 207 Decatur St. NW, Olympia, WA 98502. You can also phone 1-360-570-2096, fax 360-570-2097, or email indochinatours@olywa.net.

You may also contact them through the MRFA home page: www.mrfa.org. Vietnam Tours is owned by River Rat Frobenius 3rd/60th Inf. and his wife Trang.

Chapel Dedicated Dong Tam - August 1967

Ceremonies dedicating the first permanent chapel built in Vietnam by the 9th Division was conducted at Dong Tam in August of 1967.

The key to the chapel was, symbolic of the official opening, was presented to Chaplain (Lt./Col.) Charles Meek, division chaplain, by Maj./Gen. George O'Connor, division commander, following the first service in the mekong Delta structure.

The 49 by 100-foot tropical, built by the 69th engineer Battalion, is the first permanent division chapel to be completed. A second permanent chapel is being readied at the Bear Cat base camp.

Post Chaplains, Major Merwin Hughes, Captain Herman Brinkman and Captain James D. Johnson will conduct services in the new facility. This information taken from "The Old Reliable".

USS James E. Williams (DDG-95)

On May 26, 2001 in Darlington, SC the United States Navy formally named the 45th Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer in honor of BMI James E. Williams. Williams was the recipient of the Medal of Honor, Navy Cross, two silver stars and numerous other awards in Vietnam, 1966-1967. He was the highest decorated sailor in the history of the United States Navy. Keel laying for the ship will take place in July 2002 at the Ingalls shipbuilding facility in Pascagoula, MS. The following July (2003) will be the christening for the USS James E. Williams. *River Currents* will keep you posted about the date for the Commissioning ceremony. This information was received from Robert Gray Secretary PBR-FVA. For more information you may contact Robert at 1600 Township Rd. #395, Jeromesville, OH 44846. You may also phone 419-281-4711, or email secretary@pbr-fva.org.