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MONTHLY  
**CHPA**  
NEWSLETTER

**Combat Helicopter Pilots Association, Inc.**

800-832-5144 [hq@chpa-us.org](mailto:hq@chpa-us.org) PO Box 2585, Peachtree City, GA 30269

**SEP 2017**

## From the President

Notice to rotary wing – crew and pilots - combat vets of the Gulf War, Iraq, Afghanistan and other post-Vietnam conflicts: we want more of you as members. We would like to involve you in leadership, and we want your stories for this newsletter. We'll even help with the writing if you will call us. Help us preserve your legacy and ours.



**Jack Bailey**

[president@chpa-us.org](mailto:president@chpa-us.org)

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It is an honor to have been elected President of the Combat Helicopter Pilot Association (CHPA). I'm very proud of this organization, what it stands for and what it provides its members and the community at large. I look forward to these next 2 years in my attempt to advance the organization and "leave it better than I found it" for the next President.

When I accepted the position at the 2017 Annual Conference and Business Meeting in Plano, Texas, I made it a point in my remarks to talk about you, our members and your service to the United States. You, who collectively logged more than 440,000 flying hours in combat and sacrificed so much in your life for this nation, are who I serve in this role. Thank you for the opportunity to do so.

My priorities are threefold for 2018: new membership and retention; advancing our use of technology, the web and social media; and building a stable, permanent cadence that best supports the myriad of activities and events our organization manages in the course of a year

(Board meetings, scholarships, organizational filings, awards, annual conference and trade shows). I believe this mix of priorities best utilizes the volunteer resources available, focuses the organization on "what is important" and enables us to be more dynamic with our communication and marketing. As I orient the Board on this new path, I'm asking for your understanding as change sometimes creates challenges.

I welcome feedback and encourage all members to contact me as you feel necessary. This is your organization and again, I serve you in this role.

Lastly, I'd be remiss if I didn't take the opportunity in this first President's Message to thank Rich Miller for his many years of service to this organization and for the very hard work he has done as the former President. He left "big shoes to fill", but in his new role as Board Chairman, I'm grateful I can still draw on him for guidance and advice.

My very best to all of you.



**Combat Helicopter Pilots Association**



**CHAIRMAN'S CORNER** - I heard this axiom somewhere, thought it humorous, and occasionally appropriate for a leadership role. *"Being President of anything is like running a cemetery. You've got lots of people under you but nobody is listening."*

But that is not true for my two year tenure as your President. I want to give credit where it is very much deserved. I was extremely fortunate to have at my side the best people to provide solid suggestions and advise, help develop plans and policy, and work hard to carry them out with the goal of continuing CHPA's legacy. A strong Thank You to all of those in the leadership positions, the dedicated volunteers, and the membership of our organization for helping with the progress that has been made with respect to that goal.

At the annual business meeting, I turned the gavel over to Jack; an individual who understands that progress does not happen if one is marching in place. I have no doubt that he will be successful. His success will be CHPA's success.

Being in a leadership position is hard work, but it also rewarding. I was indeed rewarded. CHPA members it has been an honor to serve you. **Rich Miller**

## Do you have Patches?



Several of you have graciously donated patches or pictures of them to CHPA. Please dig through your old patches and consider donating or taking a picture of it and sending to us for inclusion in the newsletter.

Email to [hq@chpa-us.org](mailto:hq@chpa-us.org)

Mail to CHPA, PO Box 2585, Peachtree, GA 30269

## Reunions and Gatherings



### 57th Assault Helicopter Company

2017 Reunion in Las Vegas October 16th through 20th.

Contact Joe Sottile  
[jsottilejr@gmail.com](mailto:jsottilejr@gmail.com)  
(602) 284-6404 or  
Stanley Steenbock  
[ssteamer27@aol.com](mailto:ssteamer27@aol.com)  
(985) 373-3948



### 179th Assault Helicopter Company

2017 Reunion in Nashville October 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup>. 5 - 8 Brentwood, TN

Contact Tom Messenger  
[tomlvslovesgolf@hotmail.com](mailto:tomlvslovesgolf@hotmail.com)  
708-203-6096

# Where Was I on 9-11-01? At Fort Rucker, of Course!

By Patricia G. Baker, LTC (Ed.D)



Although it seems uncanny for an aviator to be at 'Mother Rucker' on such an awful and auspicious day, there I was about to graduate from AVCCC on 9-11. I was a recently promoted Captain just finishing Aviation Captains' Career Course and was slated to be in a 10 a.m. ceremony at the Rucker Museum.

Driving from the BOQs in my Class A uniform toward the front gate of post I was listening to NPR. The 1997 Cadillac SLS radio had great reception despite the hilly portion of post, but I could not believe my ears. The NPR announcer broke in to the regularly scheduled programming to announce that the twin towers had been hit. The world had just taken a turn for the surreal.

Upon arriving to the Museum, there were only four of us that showed up for the ceremony and were staring at each other in the museum parking lot. The museum was locked up, none of the 1-145th Avn Rgmt cadre were there, and the four of us just stood shrugging our shoulders in our Class A uniforms wondering what this meant. Would we simply get our 1059 forms and shuffle on to CASSS at Leavenworth? Would we all be redirected immediately to our next duty assignments and skip schooling in lieu of a declaration of war? All the four of us Captains knew standing in the Fort Rucker Museum parking lot was that the metal pylons had gone up blocking the front gate that we could see from the Museum. We knew we were sequestered on post, but beyond that, we were dumbstruck as to what would happen next.

Having just completed my first aviation assignment at 5-101st Avn Rgt, 159th Cbt Avn Bde, 101st AASLT, I knew this would impact my future, but on 9-11-01 I simply did not grasp that it would change the course of my entire career. I had left a four month old baby at Fort Campbell, KY with my ex-husband at our house in Clarksville, TN to attend the AVCCC. When I returned after CASSS in October, 2011, I knew I was bound for Fort Hood with Air Assault wings on my chest, 500 hours of UH-60 time and a PCS to a new duty assignment in 4ID.

While assigned to 4th Cbt Avn Bde, 4ID (Mech) my Brigade Commander, informed me that he needed a company commander to do a quick transition and take over B/2-4 Avn Rgmt. I was ecstatic, Bravo Company

was the C2 (Command & Control Company in the Assault Helicopter Battalion) unit for the division and exactly the sort of Blackhawk unit I wanted for command. The part he did not tell me was that he needed to set the command slate across his brigade to begin the preparations to deploy to a new second front in the coming war with Iraq.

I took command the first week of November 2002, flew GEN Shinseki and MG Odierno a week later as they conferred on war plans for 4ID entering the Arabian peninsula, then readied my unit for war. We frantically logged flight time trying to season more junior UH-60L aviators with additional flight under NVGs, doing several multi-ship training missions to improve our formation flying, and prepping all the B Co personnel with the equipment, vaccinations and other deployment checklist items for an on-call departure. In late January 2003 we flew the eight Bravo aircraft to the port of Beaumont, TX and returned to Fort Hood for final preparations. On 19 March I sat in my on-post house and watched the war begin on TV, I packed my duffle bags, flight suits, and left from Gray Army Airfield for Kuwait on 29 March 2003.

I took 42 Banshee aviators and crew chiefs and left behind a two-year old son and a husband that worked as a paramedic at the base hospital. When I returned in March of 2004, I came home with more than an Air Medal and bags full of filthy flight suits. The first few nights when I returned I could not sleep in my bed, it was too soft after sleeping on a discarded Iraqi bedframe on Tikrit Airfield for the last year. I left a fresh faced, 28 year old Captain and returned a 29 yr old combat commander with deep lines in my forehead and stoicism in my demeanor.

My sense of aviation as an adventure leaving the 101st AASLT was replaced with the reality that aviation is high risk in a warzone and I was glad to be home alive with my 504 hours of combat time. Just a year prior I was hemming and hawing over a vehicle purchase, after OIFI the decision-making was in a different league having spent a year choosing which mechanical defects to still fly airframes with on high risk infiltrations and when to go weapons free three clicks RP inbound to the LZ. To put it mildly, 9-11 changed everything. And this aviator was never the same wide-eyed farm girl that saw the military as an adventurous career, but was steeled a combat tour that cemented the rest of her military career and perspective on the world.



CHPA members:

The following opinion column by CHPA Life Member Terry Garlock is scheduled to be published in his local Fayette County, GA newspaper in a couple of days, October 4, 2017. It has been contributed as an article to our newsletter and I've accepted it for publication. The article is being published in accordance with CHPA General Counsel advice and strict adherence to our 501c(19) charter as a tax-exempt veterans organization.

While my war experience came along after Vietnam and is different in many regards, I believe this article is important to all of us. The article is about *accountability* and *honesty*.

Dr. Jack Bailey  
President, CHPA

## Documentary on the Vietnam War: a beautifully wrapped great lie

by Terry Garlock



As the Vietnam War documentary produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick came to a close at the end of the 10<sup>th</sup> episode, over 18 hours of film, aging anti-war protestors with grey hair must be celebrating since the film thoroughly vindicated their arguments, a manipulation many of us predicted before the opening of

the first episode. When film-makers set out to make a pre-determined point, they can cherry-pick from the vast well of material to achieve their goal, and they did.

Great lies have an element of truth, and while Burns/Novick tell a great story in film, that does not make the stories true. I have heard the objection of many Vietnam vets, I am just one.

The documentary misleads viewers from the beginning with two false premises, first that Ho Chi Minh and his North Vietnamese were nationalists dedicated to expel foreigners (French, then Americans) and reunify North and South Vietnam. In fact, the North was determined to impose Communist rule by force on South Vietnam. We were there to stop the spread of Communism in southeast Asia. The difference is vast.

Ho Chi Minh was chased out of Vietnam as a young man and did not return for over 30 years. Meanwhile he was indoctrinated in Moscow and Mao's China, founded the French Communist Party and helped form other Communist movements in Asia. Ho Chi Minh was a Communist devoted to world domination, not a nationalist at all. He followed the classic Communist tactics of purging (murdering) his competitors, in North Vietnam they were the Trotskyites, which were moderates among Communists. He also ordered the murder of well over 50,000 fellow citizens in "land reforms," wherein his goon squads went from village to village conducting public executions for the crime of owning property, thereby using another classic

Communist tactic of cementing power by terrorizing the people.

America's part in the war was certainly not immoral or misguided as Burns/Novick portrayed, and the war was not unwinnable from the getgo, the second false premise the film pushed repeatedly from different angles. Americans were depicted in the film as dubious, confused, incompetent and fully expecting to fail, while our enemy was presented as united, energetic, enthusiastic, pitching together as a well-oiled machine, fueled apparently by the virtue of their mission. The irony is comical, even if lost on most viewers who won't notice the film used old Communist propaganda footage to depict happy North Vietnamese working eagerly as a team.

Statistics on enemy desertion during the war would put the lie to the film's selective virtue and villain, but that would require viewers to think instead of being swept along by feelings. The dry truth, which does not make good film, is America's purpose was not a war of conquest at all, but to block the invading Communists and defend South Vietnam against their attacks. That meant finding and killing the invading enemy whenever their concealed positions were revealed.

Our soldiers' lament that they fought hard to take a hill, took heavy losses then abandoned the hill, leaves an appearance of absurdity on the surface. But among combat vets, who know more than couch critics, it should raise questions far different than a feeling we should have stayed to defend the top of that hill in the middle of nowhere. Maybe the tactic of ordering an attack on a dug in enemy holding the high ground advantage was a lousy command decision, a poor way to spend American lives, but the flip side is America was not in a real estate war. Securing and guarding every patch of ground we took away from the enemy by force would have required millions more troops and would have made little sense, but I understand the sense of futility. We were in a different kind of fight, to stop an

invading enemy by attacking and killing them wherever their positions were revealed.

Like naïve children, the film crew shows horrific scenes from Vietnam, disturbing to any viewer with a shred of humanity. Burns/Novick should know better.

As I tell students, during the Vietnam War we had three TV channels, ABC, CBS and NBC, and news came on one hour a day, at dinner time, delivering scenes from Vietnam of blood-spattered wounded and dead, enemy and allies and American, adults and children. And so, to the viewing public back then, just as to the Burns film crew now, the Vietnam War seemed like a foul and nasty business in which Americans should not be involved.

What the children don't realize is every war is an ugly, foul, unfair, unforgiving killing contest full of chaos, imperfection and collateral damage. It has always been so. If you want to find glory in war, the only place you will find it is in a Hollywood movie.

Burns/Novick might be surprised to know that Gen. Eisenhower in WWII, the good war, openly wept as he walked through a European battlefield, requiring great care to avoid stepping on body parts. War is a bitch, like a different planet, and reporting in WWII was heavily censored to prevent panic at home.

This might be a good place to pause to tell you a few lessons America should have learned from the war, but did not.

Lesson 1: Don't get involved in a war unless committed to the overwhelming force to win.

Lesson 2: Once the politicians order hostilities, stay out of the way and let the military do their job. At least we did that in the first Gulf War.

Lesson 3: Combat should not be a voyeur sport viewed through the lens of home life, because it is a different world, with unfamiliar values and mores requiring tough standards and lethal measures. The public at home knows nothing about life in that world and has no business watching idiotic talking heads on TV and second-guessing combat from the comfort and safety of their living room. We should stay out of wars until we can't, and when forced to fight we should squash our enemy like a bug then tell the public about it when the awful task is done.

That is why, if I were king, we would apply Lesson 4: In my kingdom journalists in a war zone could write anything they wish, but no photos and no videos until after the war is done. Citizens with sufficient brains and motivation could read and be informed, but the masses would have to wait until after the conflict closed to have their feelings manipulated by powerful images.

There certainly were villains in the Vietnam War, but not quite as the film portrays. The chief villains were Communist invaders intent on conquest, feeding to

naïve anti-war types like Burns/Novick and their predecessors the cover story of being nationalists, like a Vietnamese version of George Washington and other patriots. Without Communist aggression there would have been no war. Ho Chi Minh's mission of conquest made America's stand to defend South Vietnam a noble cause, even though our own villains screwed it up badly as we fought to stop the Commies.



South Vietnamese panic and flee after America abandoned them and the North Vietnamese attacked in force

The Communists were the chief villains also for systematically committing countless atrocities against non-combatants, ignored by the US media. Sig Bloom lives in Jonesboro, GA. As a helicopter pilot he flew a news crew to a place near the Ho Chi Minh Trail during the Cambodian incursion in 1970; they said they were eager to see the atrocity he vaguely mentioned. When they arrived, they saw American medics treating Cambodians in leg irons, starved to skin and bones on the brink of death, having been slaves driven by the North Vietnamese humping ammo on the trail. The reporters were not interested since it was not an American atrocity, so Sig took off, leaving them behind to fend for themselves.

LBJ and McNamara, among others, were breathtakingly stupid in how they micromanaged the war with insane rules that withheld overwhelming force and prevented victory when we could have won the war at a number of points with strategic bombing. They are fully to blame for prolonging the war, turning it into a meat grinder that ate American and other casualties. US Generals polished their next star instead of resigning in protest about how the stupidity from the White House was spending American lives as if they were cheap.

The American anti-war movement gave aid and comfort to an enemy engaged in killing America's sons. The news media twisted the truth, like showing their outrage at the execution in the streets of Saigon during Tet of

1968, but never seemed to care the man executed had just been caught murdering a Saigon police officer, his wife and 6 children. After so much focus on that one execution, the media seemed uninterested in the Communists' execution of thousands of civilians in one battle: doctors, nurses, teachers, business owners, government officials and other "enemies of the people," hidden in mass graves in the battle of Hue in 1968. The media also didn't raise too much fuss about genocide next door in Cambodia, I suppose because America had finally disentangled from Vietnam, a goal far more important to the media than truthful reporting. Can you say "hypocrisy?"

But Burns/Novick, squinting ever so tightly to keep their eye on the anti-war narrative, either didn't know or care about that. Here's something else they don't know, and can never truly appreciate.

We did our job faithfully in Vietnam even amidst the stupidity, and like every other war, as we came home from combat we had no idea how much we had been changed. We didn't know it would be hard to reconnect, even with those we loved, and we didn't anticipate the isolation many of us would learn to feel from a public that was and remains oblivious to the brutalities of life we had learned.

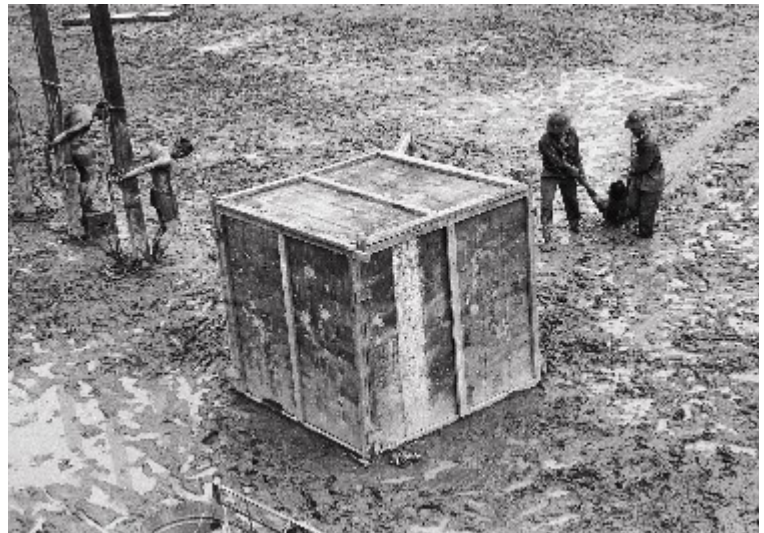
Every one of us who were in combat carries with us memories hidden in our secret box deep down inside. When bad things happened, like a buddy whose guts were suddenly scattered in the bushes when a booby trap detonated and he screamed for his Mom while he died, or a fellow helicopter pilot who burned alive in the wreckage of his crashed aircraft, a soldier pushed that anguish down deep into his secret box and closed the lid tight so he could go on to do what he must do. For the rest of his or her life, that secret box is carried deep inside, and no matter how many years pass, when we open that box the heartbreak felt at the time is still there, fresh as yesterday when unwrapped.

When asked about things that only we know are hidden away deep inside, some of us will open our box to answer, many won't, because they can't find the right words, they know others will never understand, and they don't want to cry in front of people, as often happens when we raise the lid to our box.

Congress cut off funding to South Vietnam in 1974, breaking the promise America made to our allies, our friends, when we withdrew in 1973, and Congress refused to intervene when North Vietnam took South Vietnam by force in 1975, thereby violating America's pledge to come to their aid if the Communists violated their pledge not to attack. It broke our heart that America did not keep its word, and that our country abandoned our friends to a horrible fate of executions, re-education camps, being driven from their homes and jobs, and becoming permanent 2<sup>nd</sup> class citizens in their own country, living under the thumb of Communist control. In this matter of honor, we were better than that, our country was better than that, so we still carry that heartbreak and shame in our secret box.

Now comes the Burns/Novick film story, as if told by naïve children, wrapping reality around omissions, half truths, complete falsehoods and carefully selected interviewees to leave the impression our North Vietnamese enemies were the good guys, justifiably committed to their cause while America bumbled and stumbled in a well-intended but completely misguided horrible mistake.

Those of us who answered our country's call to do our duty in a tough place like Vietnam had to become accustomed to the overt and covert insults from fellow citizens who organized their protests and convinced themselves we had done dishonorable things when, in fact, we were doing the hardest things we have ever done while serving a purpose larger than ourselves. Not even Burns/Novick and their masterful film skills can take from us pride in our service.



In a re-education camp in Communist Vietnam, South Vietnamese are taught to think the Communist way

Since the public doesn't have the knowledge to recognize the film's omissions and distortions, viewers will be swept along by powerful scenes, mood music and interviewees they won't know were cherry-picked as tormented victims of the war. For hordes of viewers who have no idea they are being fed the big lie, the Burns film will become the standard by which the Vietnam War will be judged. Most viewers won't know, and won't see in the film, that the vast majority of us who fought in Vietnam are not victims at all but still proud of our service and would do it again. They won't know their trust in Burns' film is one more disappointment we will cram into our box and close the lid tight.

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Terry Garlock lives in Peachtree City, GA. He was a Cobra helicopter gunship pilot in the Vietnam War, 334<sup>th</sup> AHC Dragon platoon 1969, based at Bien Hoa. He serves as Treasurer for CHPA [tlg.opinion@gmail.com](mailto:tlg.opinion@gmail.com)



# CHPA 2017 REUNION

The 2017 Annual CHPA reunion was held last month at the Marriott Legacy Tower in Plano, Texas. Thanks to Terry Mills for being the “official” photographer. Thanks to Board Director Dan McClinton for coordinating and making the gathering one where everyone in attendance had a great time. The atmosphere, the accommodations, and the tours were exceptional.

Special “thanks” to our guest speaker COL Cain Baker, 1<sup>st</sup> Air Cavalry Brigade Commander. We wish him and his soldiers our best as they deploy forward.



More reunion photos can be seen at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4zw4vhe8o3peg7q/AAB1WQWHJ7E8eEsQGjS6l3AKa?dl=0>

# NEXT YEAR - CHPA 2018 REUNION

	<p><b>COME JOIN US</b></p> <p><b>IN THE HIGH COUNTRY COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO</b></p> <p><b>Annual Reunion 2018</b></p>	 <p>by Jay Brown</p>
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Allow me to be among the first to invite you all to join us in Colorado Springs next year for the 2018 Annual Convention and Business Meeting. The specific dates for the event will be solidified soon and will be published along with future updates in preparation for the event.

This year I'll be working to make this a memorable experience for you all. If you have questions or requests, or suggestions about things you'd like to see included on the schedule of events drop me an email at [JBrown@chpa-us.org](mailto:JBrown@chpa-us.org) and let me know. I can't promise it'll be included, but all feedback will be given consideration.

Colorado Springs has a rich history and there are many things to do and see. Before it was founded, the site of modern-day Colorado Springs, Colorado was part of the American frontier. Old Colorado City, built in 1858 during the Pike's Peak Gold Rush was the Colorado Territory capital. The town of Colorado Springs was founded by General William Jackson Palmer as a resort town. Beginning in 1942, then Camp Carson was established to train soldiers and airmen for service in World War II. Since, it has grown exponentially and is a military hub for the United States with approximately 35,000 active duty military personnel in the area. The area is home to several US Air Force bases, a US Army installation, the USAF Academy, USAF Space Command, US Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Strategic Command, NORAD and US NORTHCOM. Few cities in the United States can claim such a significant military presence.

I've lived in the area for more than a few years now and I can promise you spectacular vistas and a wonderful experience.

Garden of the Gods



Air Force Academy Chapel



Pike's Peak



Royal Gorge Railroad



## VETERAN'S CORNER

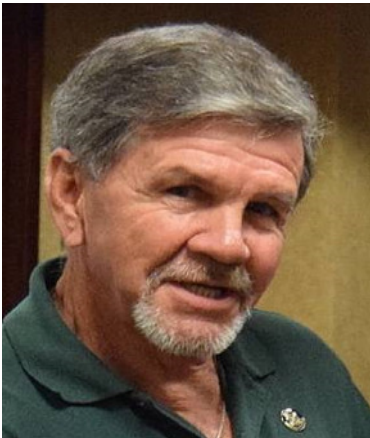
All veterans / retirees that had active duty service during the period of January 1957 to December 31, 2001 are eligible to receive a higher social security payment due to military service. This benefit can make substantial difference in monthly payments. For more info <https://www.ssa.gov/pubs/EN-05-10017.pdf>

If a service-connected disability worsens, the VA will reconsider and provide an exam if necessary. If the Veteran lives outside a prescribed distance from a VA healthcare facility, they may pay for outpatient treatment received from a private doctor for any service connected condition. Here is additional guidance: <http://www.va.gov/opa/choiceact/>

Many states have special programs and benefits for veterans with service connected disabilities. Here is a website that will provide some of that guidance: <http://www.military.com/benefits/veteran-state-benefits/state-veterans-benefits-directory.html>

Public Law 104 includes a series of authorities that allow DoD to work with the private sector to build, renovate and sustain military housing. All services except the Coast Guard participate. Retired Military and Civil Service Employees, Department of Defense Contractors, Gold Star Spouses, Guard/Reservists and Single/Unaccompanied Service Members are eligible to apply for on-post/base housing at select installations. Check your local military installation's house office for more information.

## CHPA 2017 Tredway Award



The 2017 Robert Tredway Award honoree was Alex Horony. He was unable to attend the reunion to personally accept the award. Jay Brown did so on his behalf. Jay read these words from Alex:

*Ladies and Gentlemen of CHPA: It is with much regret that I am not able to attend the reunion in Texas this year, because of a family emergency. Edna and I wish we could have shared in the Association's gathering of friends and members.*

*Mr. Tredway's life during and after the military was dedicated to serving his country and her military citizenry along with family members. This same dedication of continued service to your country was instilled in me by my father who is my hero and a true Veteran in my eyes. He served 26 years in the military during WWII, Korea and Vietnam. He enlisted on horseback and retired flying helicopters, a true "cavalry soldier".*

*The ethic "Soldiers First" that Col. Tredway and my father lived by is a noble way of life for anyone to follow; I am, therefore, truly honored to be the 2017 recipient of the "Robert N. Tredway Award" from CHPA. It will hold a special place in the memories of service to my fellow military comrades and their families. Thank you, Alex Horony*

# Just Another Dustoff Mission

During the Vietnam War, CBS News correspondent Morton Dean and cameraman Greg Cooke flew on a Dustoff mission to pick up three wounded infantrymen from an enemy infested rice paddy. Dean long wondered what had become of the medevac crew and the bloodied men who were airlifted to safety on that day in 1971. American Medevac tells the story of their reunion, more than 40 years later. A video of the mission, and the journey to reunite, can be seen here:



<http://www.wliw.org/programs/american-medevac/>

Here are some comments from CHPA members who have watched this video.

*Thru my tears, I thank you for this.....what a video!!! Everyone, I think, in my outfit, did a few "Dust Offs"... if you were there,, you just did them; but these guys, every day, sometimes 12-16 hours a day.....man....*

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*Thanks for passing this along. It brought back many feelings. The second guy wounded "Short Round" was a kid that I grew up with in Baltimore.*

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*The video you sent to me is the best film about Dustoff I have ever seen. It was very personally moving for me, and it has helped with the suffering I have been feeling since flying Dustoff over 50 years ago. My Medevac flying defined my future flying and career philosophy.*

*Thanks for sharing this. So much of what happened 49 years ago still seems like this morning. I flew slicks & Charlie model guns for the 57th AHC in Kontum. After it's all said & done we have to believe that our history will show that helicopter crews significantly shortened the Wall.*

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*Thank you so much Brother for sending this video. I have the deepest respect and hold in awe those Dustoff Crews that came before me. I sat and watched the entire video, stopping at times to get my own emotions under control. I sent the video to my Commander and we are going to show it at our next Drill. Thanks again for the video, I owe you more than I can ever repay.*

## Finding Lost Friends

Hi from Australia. I was hoping someone in your organization may be able to help me with a bit of an unusual inquiry.

My father was an engineer in the Australian Army, and served in Vietnam in 1967/68. On 15 March 1968, whilst on patrol, he was ambushed and badly wounded, and another sapper was killed. There wasn't an Australian helicopter available to get to my dad, and he was losing a lot of blood. Luckily, an American helicopter pilot overheard his distressed radio calls for assistance, and despite his location being in a risky area with North Vietnamese troops around, he came in and rescued my dad.

This was obviously a very brave act, and he risked own life to save my dad's. We have no idea what his name is, and it's always thought about what I can to find him and thank him. Thanks to him, my dad went on to have a wonderful life with a wife of 44 years, two kids and two grandchildren (who he adores).

I know this email could be a bit of a stretch, but my understanding is that there could possibly records somewhere of pilot activities in Vietnam. I have some more details of the rescue, which could help.

Look forward to hearing from you. Kind regards,

Katie Bell +61 417 251 908  
katiemacbell@outlook.com

# 2017 CHRISTMAS BOX PROJECT FOR THE TROOPS OFF AND RUNNING

by Jay Brown



Don't you hate it when you walk into a store in August and the Halloween decorations and candy are already on display? How about when you are just getting prepared to be visited by ghosts and goblins, princesses and pirates, you see stores with Thanksgiving displays abounding? Well,

while it may seem like Christmas is a long way off and there's plenty of time to think about decorations, and taking care of more immediate concerns like Halloween and Thanksgiving, CHPA must get a jump start on the Christmas holiday festivities to pull things together; purchase box stuffing and boxes, get the boxes packed with volunteer help, print out the address labels and customs forms for all boxes and get them to the post office in time to arrive for Christmas.

This is one of the most important projects that CHPA does to show deployed and injured servicemen and women who can't be home for Christmas that we are thinking of them and appreciate what they've done and continue to do. Remember those "goody boxes" you received while deployed? Remember how they stirred the memories of home and Christmases past? That's what CHPA does with this annual project. We bring a little bit of home to those who can't be there.

I've been in contact with Terry Garlock and I can tell you the process will be quick and easy. To sponsor a box or more, simply sign into [www.chpa-us.org](http://www.chpa-us.org) and click on the link to sponsor the Christmas Boxes for The Troops. Or you can click the link right here: [https://chpa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com\\_mc&view=mc&mcid=form\\_35957](https://chpa.memberclicks.net/index.php?option=com_mc&view=mc&mcid=form_35957)

If you are a member and log in, the form should automatically populate your information and all you have to do is select how many boxes you want to sponsor at \$30 each and enter your payment information, either a credit card or pay by check. If you select to pay by check please remember to drop your check in the mail as there is always a deadline to get to the Post Office. If you're not a current member of CHPA please take this opportunity to update your membership. If you're not eligible for CHPA

membership, you can still donate online using the same form; you'll just have to enter your name and contact information. You may be required to set up a password but that's a quick and easy process as well.

If you prefer not to donate online, you can also mail your check to:

CHPA  
Attn: Christmas Boxes for the Troops  
PO Box 2585  
Peachtree City, GA 30269

Any of the above processes will allow you to support this very worthwhile project. Last year we really stressed Pat Glass out by sending 344 boxes to service members who would be away from home over the holidays. Let's see if we can do at least as much this year. We at CHPA appreciate your continuing support and I know the deployed service members do as well.





## Share this Swash Plate newsletter

Note the member app and renewal forms below - send to those qualified to be members  
CHPA – 800-832-5144 [hq@chpa-us.org](mailto:hq@chpa-us.org) PO Box 2585, Peachtree City, GA 30269





## Combat Helicopter Pilots Association

### Membership Application & Renewal

Mail or eMail application with supporting documents

www.chpa-us.org  
800-832-5144  
hq@chpa-us.org  
PO Box 2585  
Peachtree City, GA 30269

#### Profile:

Name (Rank/Mr./Ms.) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
Name you prefer to go by \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary eMail \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phn \_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary eMail \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phn \_\_\_\_\_

#### Membership Type and Dues:

<b>Annual:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Flight Crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend of CHPA	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 yr - \$40	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 yr - \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 yr - \$120
	<input type="checkbox"/> Corporate Friend of CHPA			<input type="checkbox"/> 1 yr - \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 yr - \$120	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 yr - \$180
<b>Lifetime:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Pilot	<input type="checkbox"/> Flight Crew	<input type="checkbox"/> Under 50-\$585	<input type="checkbox"/> 50-59-\$475	<input type="checkbox"/> 60-69-\$350	<input type="checkbox"/> 70 & over-\$175
	If you wish to pay \$100 now and the balance of Lifetime dues in equal installments over 3 months, initial here _____					
<b>Legacy:</b> Complimentary membership for immediate family member of deceased who would have qualified. Deceased Name _____ Relationship _____ Service _____ Aircraft _____						

#### Payment Method:

☐ Cash ☐ Check (Payable to CHPA, mail to address above)  
Credit Card: ☐ AMEX ☐ MC ☐ VISA ☐ Discover  
To avoid expiration, I hereby authorize CHPA to renew my annual membership with this credit card - Initials: \_\_\_\_\_  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_  
If this is a gift membership, or paid by business credit card, you must provide billing name and address tied to your credit card or the credit card payment authorization will fail.

Taken by: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership renewals not required to complete below, already on file**

#### Military Aviation Information:

Branch of Service \_\_\_\_\_ Flight School Class/# \_\_\_\_\_ Total Flight Hrs \_\_\_\_\_ Combat Flight Hrs \_\_\_\_\_  
Combat Tour Date(s) With Units \_\_\_\_\_  
Location or Theater \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
Combat Acft (List All) \_\_\_\_\_ Combat Medals/Awards \_\_\_\_\_

New member applicants: Please attach documentation of qualifications such as DD214, unit orders, award orders, combat flight records, etc showing combat helicopter experience. If the documents you need are inaccessible, please call us to discuss.

#### Optional Information:

Hobbies \_\_\_\_\_ Current Employer/Position \_\_\_\_\_  
Related Associations to Which You Belong \_\_\_\_\_  
How Did You Learn About CHPA? \_\_\_\_\_  
Name/eMail of others you would recommend as qualified for CHPA Membership \_\_\_\_\_