

Issue 28

Jan, 2020



ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. (ASA)®

walking Point

The newsletter for D Co. 2/8 Vietnam 1965-1972

2019 Irving, TX Reunion After Action Report by Robin Woo



Our hosts for our 2019 reunion was Jim (Range, 70-71) and his lovely wife Susan Garvin. Their efforts were truly an act of Love for members of D 2/8th Cav. LTC (ret) Don McConnaughay (Skull 6, 71-72) arranged a tour of Ft. Hood. When they arrived at the front gate of Ft. Hood, the 2/8th Cav took good care of them. Jim Garvin arranged for Huey rides for our members at Cavanaugh Flight Museum. I spoke to a few grunts, who informed me that the Huey's flew with 4 passengers on each side of the Huey. A few were holding on tight with white knuckles during the flight. Our Banquet center pieces for all 17 tables were provided by Susan Garvin. I'd walk into the Banquet room to take a Sitrep during preparations and I found Susan, her daughter Ashley (who was also our Photographer) and Susan's mother all working on the tables. They were having fun. It was truly a labor of love! The plants at the edges represent the jungle and the flower in the center of the arrangement represent life. The ammo can base was a surprise and I loved the little Guidon. I took one of those Guidon's home. Our Speaker was BG (ret) Burt Tackaberry (Cat 6, 1970). Thank you Sir for speaking to us. A US Flag was flown above the State Capitol in our Honor.



A Councilman from the City of Irving, TX presented the Proclamation and the Flag to our Host, Jim Garvin.

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Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Board of Governors

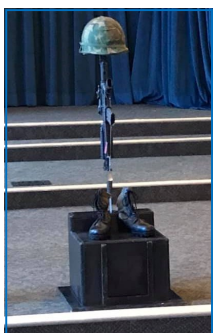
- President: Tom Clark (Skull, 70-71) tmctool@juno.com (deceased)
- President: John Dullahan (FO, 71-72) johndullahan@comcast.net
- Treasurer: Ed Regan (Range, 68-69) egbar4747@gmail.com
- Secretary: Robin Woo (Skull, 71-72) rwoo@surewest.net

2019 ASA Reunion, Irving, TX Group Pictures

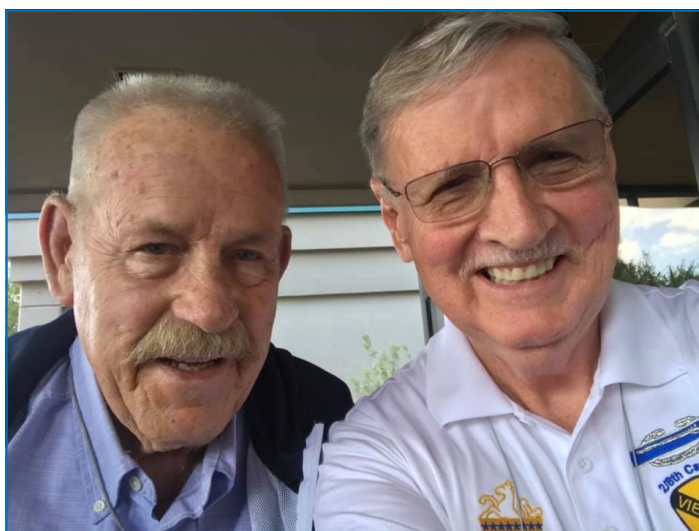


Tour of Ft. Hood by Dale Tincher (Cat 6, 70-71)

We are having a very nice 1st Cav, 2/8th D Co. reunion. Yesterday (16May) we toured the massive Ft. Hood, Texas base. We toured the 1st Cav Museum which displayed current fighting equipment, met several 1st Cav staff and more. We were treated like royalty (as we usually are on Army bases). We truly appreciate it. From Wikipedia, "As originally constructed, Fort Hood had an area of 158,706 acres, with billeting for 6,007 officers and 82,610 enlisted personnel. The main containment of Fort Hood had a total population of 53,416 as of the 2010 U.S. Census."



I will always remember one part of the tour, the Memorial Service at the 1st Cavalry Memorial Chapel. The names of 1st Cavalry members who gave their lives in wars (15,000 died, 200,000 were wounded) are memorialized on metal plaques on the walls. Vietnam on the left wall and the other wars on the right wall. (Note: 58,220 total military lost their lives in Vietnam). A lieutenant platoon leader in Vietnam, who later became a Chaplain and retired as an LTC, Don McConnaughay (Skull 6, 71-72), led the Memorial service. A highlight was remarks by Battalion Commander, COL (ret) Thomas Blagg (Stone Mountain, 71-72) now 85 years old. Many of us served under his superb command in Vietnam. The present base commander of the 2/8th



*COL (ret) Thomas Blagg (Stone Mountain, 71-72)
and Dale Tincher (Cat 6, 70-71)*



Cav, LTC Timothy J. Ferguson, also spoke. Don McConnaughay (now a pastor) delivered a wonderful message and prayer. He then had us bow our heads, and had audience members say the names, one after another, of their unit members who died in Vietnam. After this, we had a silent tribute and Taps was played. We then went to the walls and looked at the names. It was a solemn, but fitting memorial (especially with Memorial Day coming soon) to these brothers who loved and gave all.

Thank you LTC (ret) Don McConnaughay for making this tour happen!

2020 Reunion Info

Our reunion will be held at the **Wyndham Garden, Phoenix Midtown (3600 N 2nd Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona, 85013)** from **May 13th thru May 16, 2020**. (<https://www.wyndhamhotels.com/wyndham-garden/phoenix-arizona/wyndham-garden-phoenix-midtown/overview>) You must call the Hotel and make your own reservations at **602.604-4900**, use group code “ASA.” Or, click here for [Online Hotel Reservation](#). The hotel will honor the discounted group rates for 3 days prior to May 13th and 3 days after May 16th, for those early arrivals and stay-overs, based on availability. **If you want to reserve a room during the 3 days before and/or after our reunion dates, then you need to call reservations and give them our group code, “ASA.”** If you are arriving early, please make your reservation early. These **rates are good until April 13, 2020**, so please register before April 13th. Hotel room rates will revert to market after that date. The hotel rates are as follows:

Run of the House: \$ 91.00 plus tax

Breakdown of our block of rooms:

41 Kings, 25 Queens (2 beds) and 12 Cabana Suites.

The price of the hotel room, includes full hot breakfast buffet.

You must tell the Hotel you are with the Angry Skipper Association for these preferred rates. They will not change the rate if you forget to tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group. The hyperlink for online hotel room reservation can also be found on our home page at angriskyipperassociation.org.

Transportation from Airport to Hotel: The Hotel is approximately 5 miles from the airport. Suggest you use Uber or a Taxi for transportation.

Banquet meal description:

- 1: Fresh Mixed Green Salad; Chicken Chardonnay (7 Oz. Grilled Chicken Breast with Chardonnay Cream Sauce);
- 2: Fresh Mixed Green Salad, Roast Halibut (Artichoke, olive and tomato Ragout or Caponata, which is a vegetable stew of eggplant, olive oil, celery, onion, parsley, capers and raisins);
- 3: Fresh Mixed Green Salad, Grilled vegetables stuffed inside a roasted portobello with rice.

Our hospitality suites will be located in the Cabana Suites (2), located on the 5th floor, opening to deck overlooking the city. The hours for the Hospitality suite is from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. The Hospitality suite will open Wednesday, May 13th at 8:00a.m. and close at 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 17th. When you arrive, please pick up your welcome package in the Hospitality Suite. The package will include your meal tickets, name tags, agenda, shirts & caps, etc. **Registration table will be open on Wed, May 13 and Thur, May 14th from 9am to 8pm.** Make sure you pick up your stuff by then.

Our tour will consist of a trip to the Goldfield Ghost Town on Friday from 9am to 2pm. We will have lunch there, too. You choose and pay for your own meal. Visit their website here: <http://goldfieldghosttown.com/> It is about a 45 minute trip from the hotel. You can check out the cost of each event/attraction.

The registration process will be handled by **Register with Ease**. We met Stacey in Orlando, 2006. She has taken amazing care of us since! VISA and MasterCard will be accepted, as well. Register With Ease has set-up a website for online registrations. Go to <http://www.angriskyipperassociation.org> for a direct link, or you can mail the registration, with check or credit card information, to the address in the registration form. You may also fax the form with credit card info directly to the Stacey. Or, register on-line, then send the check, payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc., to Stacey.

A good website to find D 2/8th, 65-72 members for \$20/month. <http://www.Persopo.com>
Recommended by Rich O'Brien.

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.™

May, 13th thru 16th, 2020 Reunion Registration Form Phoenix, Arizona

Name: _____ Platoon: _____ Yr(s): _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____
 Mobile Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____
 How many will be in your group? _____ E-mail: _____
 Emergency contact Name: _____ Food Allergies: _____
 Emergency contact ph number: _____ Arrival Date: _____ Approx. Arrival Time: _____
 List First and Last names of all in your group: _____

<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Activity</u>	<u>Cost/Person</u>	<u>No. of</u>	<u>Total</u>
May 13, 2020:	Wednesday Golf at Verrado Golf Club-Founders Course Register by 4/13/20 Green Fees & Cart \$65.00 Club Rentals available call 623-388-3000. Depart Hotel at 8:15	\$ 65.00	_____	_____
May 14:	Thursday Golf at Talking Stick Golf Club-O'odham Course Register by 4/13/20 Green Fees & Cart \$76.00 Club Rentals. Call 480-860-2221. Depart Hotel at 8:15	\$ 76.00	_____	_____
May 15:	Friday. 9:00AM—3:00PM Goldfield Ghost Town Transportation	\$ 20.00	_____	_____
May 16:	Saturday			
4:30pm	Group Photograph (Members Only & Everyone)		_____	_____
5:30pm-10:00pm	Reunion Banquet (check meal selection below) # Chicken Chardonnay: _____ # Roast Halibut: _____ # of Stuffed Portobello _____ <i>*see meal description on previous page.</i>	\$45.00	_____	_____
Shirts & Caps	Number of Reunion Shirts: (Dark Green. Order by March 31st) Sizes: Small: _____ Medium: _____ Large: _____ XL: _____ XXL: _____ XXXL: _____	\$30.00	_____	_____
	Number of ASA Caps (OD Green)	\$20.00	_____	_____
TOTAL EVENTS REGISTRATION			\$	_____

Registration Fee: 35.00
 Contribution/donation: .00
 Total Events Registration from above: _____ .00
TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ _____ .00

_____ Check here if you are not attending and want shirts & caps mailed to you. Add \$13.00 for postage and handling.

Please register by May 6, 2020. Please complete form and mail with check (payable to Angry Skipper Association, Inc.) or with credit card info to:

Stacey Smith Wall
 Register with Ease
 3037 Golfview Drive
 Vero Beach, FL 32960
 Ph: 863.325-0077
 Fax: 863.325-0051

PAYMENT METHOD: _____ Check Charge to (check one): _____ MasterCard _____ VISA
 Card Number: _____ Expiration: _____
 Month/Year
 Security Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____
 Signature: _____

Do not send this form if you registered online at : <http://www.angrystickipperassociation.org>

Hotel Reservations, Phone 602.604-4900
Tell them you are with the Angry Skipper Association group. Group Code "ASA"

You must arrange your own Hotel room. It is not included in this registration.
Your Welcome Package will be available in the Hospitality Suite. Please pick up your package when you arrive.

We've Got a Bug for That...

By Chuck Hustedt

White Skull Class of 1969

Remember the cute Centipedes that curled up in those neat circles? And those Scorpions which hissed? As well as those Red Ants that ate more human flesh than Zombies & Vampires combined and were even harder to kill. Any bug that flew was also one that could sting, bite, or both. And all of the bugs drank bug juice which is why they called it that. Well the bugs and other creepy crawlies helped me have an interesting tour w/out the gun fights and other not so fun stuff.

In all of the prior wars, artillery was used to soften up an area before the infantry went in. And even when 'not effective' the enemy would keep his head down. However, in a guerrilla war, there is no front line to soften up, but they did it anyway. This way the NVA would know where we were and where we were going.

They gave us a break after an arty prep. I had settled in under a large tree when there was a loud crack scattering everybody except me. The crack was a 10" (dia) limb right above me which came crashing down on my helmet, knocking it off, as well as a chunk of skin off of my shoulder. The good news was it didn't seriously injure me because the limb had been eaten nearly hollow by termites. 'Nam termites have two sharp, pointed, nail like protrusions coming out of their faces which they stick into the wood and then eat into the wood this way. The bad news is that about 20 of them were sticking in my arm and really pissed off. So on the whole, this was a break even bug experience.

Not so with the mosquito that gave me Falcip. The bug situation was so bad I did not know I'd been bitten until they told me in Long Bin. (You cannot get Falcip from a toilet seat.) I was sure I got something from the putrid water we'd been drinking. Not. I learned what delirious really was (way worse than moonshine). You hear and comprehend well. It's when you try to talk it all comes down. Just put all the words in a sentence, lose one or two, and leave the rest hopelessly out of context and you've got it. That bug also cost me about 20lbs. (down to 122). Enuff of the bug stuff. Now on to the reptiles!

For Goodness Snakes...

Of course, there were lizards, some of which, did not think well of us. Since this is a G rated spiel, we'll go with f/u lizards. Some guys managed get one out of a hollow in a tree. It was about 2 1/2 feet long with claws that'd make a tiger jealous. I do not know what they did with it as I found something else to do.

Skinny Willie and I were on drag; Willie had the duper and I had a 16. And Willie taps me on the shoulder while pointing to the canopy above my head. I looked up and came face to face with a large, green, python flicking its tongue at me. Willie & I made a strategic retreat; we ran to beat hell as the snake went back into the canopy. Of course, we broke off from our column, but we found our way back. We were admonished for going out to take a dump w/o telling some (always w/a guard in that A/O) and let it go at that.

Then there were the nameless night lizards that would park on your leg to get warm. Kind of a cold hand wake up shock with a reactive fling back into the bush.

My 1st wife had cold hands and put one on my leg while I was asleep. It felt just like a lizard. I was short one jungle, so she wound up flying across the bed and off of the wall. Later, I mistook a loose curler for a hand grenade. Twin beds resulted. No one knew what PTSD was @ that time but I had/have a bad case of it. (continued on next page)

We've Got a Bug For That...

By Chuck Hustedt
White Skull Class of 1969

(Continued from page 6)

It was when I was being treated For PTSD that I shared the above 'snake story' with my counselor Liz. She allowed that she had heard hundreds of combat stories but none with a snake. I felt bad because she was helping me with a lot. She was also getting really pale. Shortly thereafter, she married and moved to a non counseling VA job 120 miles east of here. Not my fault. Really.

Flights of Fancy

We were the 4th bird of 6 in a line flying at about 2,500 feet to god knows where when some idiot NVAs w/a 51 opened up on us. Thunk, thunk, thunk, thunk right up the center of our bird. It was then that I learned a bunch of things: 1) under the floor is where the jet fuel goes; 2) the tank is self-sealing; 3) the floor is armored ; 4) only idiots shoot @ a bird that high—especially when it has a Cobra on each side of it; and (5) Cobras can roll out like a WWII fighter. Which they did— right down that 51's barrel with bou coup ordinance preceding them. This left a bare spot where the 51 & crew used to be. The door gunners were so excited, that a couple of our guys had to help hold them in.

Our bird was the only one hit so we went off to the nearest LZ. Pete and I figured I'd take a week for the army to find us again so we went on an ' if it's not nailed down it's ours run'. Two problems. 1) The LZ was Ike, one of the worst mud holes in 'Nam and 2) the replacement bird showed up in 15 minutes. The Arty there felt so sorry for us they gave us a quart of chocolate Milk which may have been a little spoiled. We drank it anyway.

A Personal Note

Jan had some problems w/diabetic comas early last year. (DB I is her 4th autoimmune problem.) She now has an insulin pump and hasn't been to the ER since Thanksgiving, 2018. Other than being ornery and difficult to live with, she's just fine. I had my R Shoulder R Cuff screwed down again in May (#27 since I was wounded). I get #28 on Sept 9 to fix a nerve in my L knee (near the exit wound) . Hey, you gotta get someone to hold your ground around here.

Love & miss you all,
Chuck

The Not So Angry Sisters

To the women of ASA, we have formed an on-line group to help keep each other informed. We are posting any helpful ideas for each other, such as what has worked for our guys, help with the Champ VA insurance, and just staying in touch with each other through the year. We are having fun with it. If you would like to join us please email Susan Garvin or myself at the emails below. I hope you join us! We have so much to offer each other! *Barb Hilts*

Email's are:

Susan Garvin: waldropsb@gmail.com

Barb Hilts: hiltsdm@yahoo.com

Editor's note: *Susan Garvin is the wife of James Garvin and Barb Hilts is the wife of Doug Hilts. Both Jim and Doug were Range Platoon, 70-71.*



Welcome Home 2019 By Susan Waldrop Garvin

“Welcome Home 2019” - It was Jim Garvin’s and my great honor and privilege to host 158 Angry Skipper Vietnam veterans and their families here in Dallas Fort Worth May 15-19. They are a joy and delight to be with each time but this year was extra special because Texas welcomed them home! Many of you followed our search for their buddy “Louisiana” last year and learned of his passing in 2015. This year, his 4 sisters attended the reunion in his honor, receiving his “Welcome Home” quilt, and riding in his place on the Huey helicopter ride. Lots of tears

and hugs. 77 of us took a day trip to Fort Hood in Killeen, home of the First Cav, 2/8th and were honored by young soldiers in their unit who have taken over the watch. They thanked our guys and assured them that they “stand on your shoulders” every day, as they receive frequent gratitude from a nation who vows to never mistreat their soldiers again. Fallen brothers were remembered in the ceremony held in the First Cav chapel. We returned to an authentic hill-country style BBQ dinner and were greeted by yellow ribbons outside and inside the restaurant. Thank you to my lifelong friend, Diane Weaver, who decorated the restaurant before our arrival and used the opportunity to teach her grandchildren (who helped her tie the yellow ribbons) the importance of expressing gratitude to soldiers, young and old. Because of all those ribbons flying in the night breeze, many restaurant patrons & staff recognized old soldiers and overwhelmed our guys with countless handshakes, Thank You’s, and numerous “Welcome Homes.” It was a very special night. The next day, many took the flight of a lifetime on a



Picture taken by 2-8 CAV, 1ABCT, ICD Photographer

Vietnam era Huey helicopter one more time. Our adrenaline is still pumping! For one vet, it was his 74th flight on a Huey - and maybe his favorite. Later that night, one group dined in Grapevine and when the bill came, learned that the party at the next table had quietly paid their bill before they departed. Thank you, Grapevine! At the closing banquet, missing brothers were honored as everyone gathered to celebrate the brotherhood one more time. The City of Irving arranged for a flag to be flown over the Texas state capital in their honor and a city councilman presented it, along with a proclamation declaring May 12-18, 2019 as Angry Skipper Week in Irving. And throughout it all, we all wore matching bracelets, welcoming our soldiers home.



Pic from Juliette Guidara at the Cavanaugh Flight Museum.

Words are inadequate to express the emotion of such an event. To experience it all through the emotion deep within the heart of your husband is beyond description. This is an extraordinary brotherhood of men who, at a very young age, answered their nation’s call to duty 50 years ago. Though most were mistreated when they returned home, they are all great patriots still and all say they would do it all again, and even still today. And to all who fought alongside and protected one another, thank you for bringing my husband home. Love you all - Welcome Home.

“There is no greater love than this—that a man should lay down his life for his friends.” John 15:13



LTC (ret) Don McConnaughay (Skull 6/XO) give a Memorial Prayer, at the banquet, in memory of members who have passed.

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.® Treasurers Report

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Profit & Loss (unaudited)
 January 1 through December 31, 2019

Angry Skipper Association, Inc.®
 Balance Sheet (unaudited)
 December 31, 2019

Ordinary Income & Expense	
Income	
Banquet/s	\$ 6,615.00
Donations	4,092.62
Registration Fees	3,004.00
Tours	3,220.00
Misc Income	1,510.00 (1)
Shirts, Hats, Patches	<u>4,525.00</u>
Total Income	\$ 22,966.62

Expenses:

Banquet	6,320.00
Entertainment	500.00
Insurance	344.00
Merchant Account	740.92
Postage & Delivery	491.13
Printing & Reproduction	880.00
Professional Services	3,837.55
Transportation; Tours	3,530.00
Shirts, Hats & Patches	<u>3,489.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$ 20,133.10

Net Income (Loss) **\$ 2,833.52**

- (1) \$5/room night from City of Irving.
 (2) Deposit to Transportation Company for Phoenix Tour

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Checking	\$ 5,830.54
Deposits	189.00 (2)
Accounts Receivable	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 6,019.54</u>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Liabilities

Current Liabilities:

Accounts Payable	<u>00.00</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>\$ 00.00</u>

Equity

Opening Bal Equity	\$ 3,316.97
Retained Earnings	(130.95)
Net Income	<u>2,833.52</u>

Total Equity **\$ 6,019.54**

TOTAL LIAB. & EQUITY \$ 6,019.54

Thank you Robert Burke, CPA (Skull, 70-71) for preparing the Association Tax returns since 2006.

Business Meeting, 5/18/19

Double Tree by Hilton DFW North, Irving, TX

1) Invocation by Don McConnaughay (Skull 6, 71-72); 2) Treasurer's report by Ed Regan given and accepted by members; 3) Secretary read minutes from last year, which were accepted by members; 4) Tom Clark elected President for Life and John Dullahan elected VP for 2nd term; 5) 2021 will be in D.C. and we agreed to use Tulcy to handle our Hotel search; 6) Inquire into camo shirts for 2020 in Phoenix, AZ; 7) Doug Hilts brought up for discussion a system of notification to members when one of our members pass. No resolution, but open for further discussion; 8) Jim Garvin opened discussion to pay tribute to those who have passed. Resolved. (Don McConnaughay gave Memorial Prayer, including tribute to those who have passed and Invocation and Blessing for our meal at the banquet); 9) Meeting adjourned.

New Members

Joseph Decker, Skull, 69-70

Deceased Member/s: (Date of Death)

David Garceau Sr. Wild Cat, 65-66 (Jan, 2019)	James Taylor, Cat, 66-67 (16June19)
Chester Kuczaj, Skull, 71-72 (Jan, 2019)	Richard Duke Washo, Cat, 70-71 (2005)
Jim O'Brien, Range, 1970 (Feb, 2019)	George Mock, III (Skull, 70-71)
Gary Jones, Wild Cat, 67-68 (2019)	John Malpass, Range, 68-69
Dan Beese, Skull, 71-72 (May, 2019)	Tom Clark, Skull, 70-71 (4Oct19)
George Bosley, Range, 67-68 (May, 2019)	Martin "Marty" Rue, Cat 66-67 (9Oct19)
James Gaitor, Range, 70-71 (17Oct11)	Jerry Winnie, Skull, 72 (10Nov19)



ANGRY SKIPPER ASSOCIATION, INC. ®
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



*“Remember the bad times once,
Remember the good times forever”*

We're on the web:
www.angryskipperassociation.org

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*Join us at the Wyndham Garden Hotel in Phoenix
May 13—16th, 2020*

