

MEKONG EXPRESS MAIL



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WWW.TLC-Brotherhood.com

It's time to "Return to the Wall"

by Gerry Frazier, D.C. Reunion Local Chairman

The 2016 TLC Brotherhood Reunion: Sept. 15-18, 2016

Holiday Inn Oldtown, 625 First Street, Alexandria VA.

The theme of the 2016 TLC Brotherhood Reunion is "Return to the Wall." In the reasonably short history of this Brotherhood, this will be our sixth reunion held in the Washington area, and our sixth trip to the Wall. Each time, the visit has been a special experience. Some people, and some Vietnam vets, have avoided visiting the Wall because of deep feelings or bad memories. Undoubtedly these feelings are real; there are emotional moments, especially for those of us with personal experiences there. But the Wall has proven to be a place where you can share a sense of camaraderie and fellowship with other vets and other Americans. It has become a place to begin healing those old wounds. In past visits, when our group assembled outside our bus and lined up for the procession down the walk toward the panels bearing names we want to honor, tourists and other visitors would move quickly and respectfully to the side, and make way. After our short ceremony, we place our floral wreath at a chosen panel, spend time exploring for names, chatting among ourselves, or simply remain silent. If you have not yet been to the Wall, you should attend the 2016 reunion. It will be better than you expect.

The Vietnam Wall is the single most important reason to hold our reunions in the D.C. area, especially in the summertime in an election year. The D.C. summer heat and humidity are legendary, but, contrary to tourist seasons elsewhere, hotel rooms tend to be a bit cheaper. This year we found a hotel whose rates are due to increase the week after we stay there, but we were able to slip our reunion dates into mid-September in hopes the weather will have begun to moderate. Although the election season will be fully under way, many politicians will be campaigning in their home districts, so with luck, the

political process will not intrude on us.

The reunion will include all the normal events, including social time in the "Nipa Hut," the Assistance auction of great stuff you never knew you needed, a chance to see the custom quilt by Rosie Wheatley, and the drawing at our annual banquet. (Ticket proceeds go to the Assistance Fund). The TLC Brotherhood annual business meeting, including the election of new officers, will also take place. This meeting is the best chance for Brotherhood members not privy to the detailed activities of the Board of Directors to be informed of the major activities of the past year, plans for the coming year, and a time to ask questions of those directly involved.

The tours to key sites that have been a feature of past D.C. reunions have been relaxed this year. There are fewer scheduled destinations, but the George Washington estate at Mount

Reunion is continued on page 14.

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Editor's Notebook: The "Members' Magazine"

Of course, every issue of the *Mekong Express Mail (MEM)* is a product of the members of the Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood (TLCB), but I don't think any one since I began editing it four years ago has been so totally a "Members" issue as this, the June 2016 edition. Nearly all of the feature articles, all noteworthy, were submitted without solicitation, a fact that is an emphatic demonstration of the vitality of the TLCB membership.

Start off with "What is USATFAN?," a fascinating account by new member Dave Harrington, which is both poignant and humorous, about a little known episode of the war. (Sort of Full Disclosure: Dave Harrington is not a relation, although I do have a much younger brother named Dave, which has resulted in several miss-sent emails).

Also notable is a very honest and admirable contribution to the *MEM's* "Why I Joined the TLCB" series by Gary Dooley. Gary's contribution is proof that we all have stories to tell and the membership is eager to read them.

Two other new TLCB members, Gordon "Alex" Graham and Kerwin Stone, are using *MEM's* pages to introduce themselves to their brothers and sisters. Not coincidentally, the TLCB membership continues to grow and has reached an all-time high (see the list of new members since our last issue on page 8).

John Lorenzen, TLCB's History chairman, should be congratulated for making the Brotherhood part of the groundbreaking, last March 19, for the Welcome Home Memorial in Gilbert, Arizona.

In this issue we also note the passing of two members, Davis "Doc" Ball and Robert Wiehr. I am sure that, sadly, many other members have made the final transition without it being noted in the *MEM*. We would appreciate the members' help in being kept informed.

A number of items in this issue are related to our TLCB's 2016 Reunion, which will be held in Alexandria, Virginia, September 15 to 18. It is worth noting that D.C. area Reunions are usually the best-attended gatherings. I hope to see many of you there.

John Harrington
Editor, *MEM*
jharrington@nscopy.com

Thoughts of the TLCB Reunion

....at The Wall



At The Wall in 2011—left to right, then Vice President John Sweet, and Board Members Les Thompson and Bob Wheatley, placing a TLCB wreath. Photo provided by Membership Chairman Gerry Frazier.

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What is USATFAN?

(Answer at the end of the article)

By Dave Harrington, new TLCB member

Random recollections of my six months in Moung Soui, Laos (LS-108) during 1966.

It's probably more detailed than it should be, but to paraphrase a Tom Lehrer quote, "If anyone disputes anything I say, I am quite prepared not only to retract it, but also to deny under oath that I ever said it." And there was a time when the statement "If I told you any of this, I'd have to kill you" applied.

Back in December 1965, while on assignment to an Air Defense Artillery Battalion in Korea, I was selected for/volunteered for a six months assignment to Southeast Asia, not Vietnam. I met the other members of the team at Eighth Army Headquarters, Yongsan, and we left about January 4, 1966 for Bangkok, via Japan.

The team consisted of five of us:

Darrel Voss, an Artillery Major

David Harrington (me), an Artillery Captain

John Patton, an Infantry Lieutenant

SFC Romero, a Field Artillery Gun Chief*

SSG Dixon, a Field Artillery Gun Chief*

(* I just don't remember their first names.)

Leaving Korea, with its sub-zero weather was something to look forward to. I remember walking around in Tokyo in shirtsleeves in 55 degree weather, with all the locals thinking we were crazy, but we were quite comfortable. Playing the tourist in Tokyo is a pleasant experience. We spent three days in Japan, waiting for a connection to Thailand. We flew by C-130 from Yokuska to Bangkok, via someplace in Vietnam. Bangkok was a major temperature shock. We spent two or three days there, getting acclimatized and having briefings on what we were to be doing. We then flew on to Vientiane, in civilian clothes. When we got there, we were settled into quarters in Vientiane. We were introduced to the Army Attache (ARMA), the Air Attache (AIRA), and several of the assistant attaches and were shown around the embassy compound. One of the interesting sites was the operations room for the AIRA. This was a busy place. It has since come out that there was a major war effort going on in Laos at the time, primarily interdiction of the Ho Chi Minh trail. This is where it all was controlled. I didn't count the number of people working in the room. There were several, all in civilian clothes. It was a 24 hour operation. I never again met any of the folks working there.

Back Story of Laos

We were going up-country to a place called Moung Soui, to work with the artillery battalion of the Neutralist Army. We were given a brief history of Laos, Southeast Asia, and the Geneva Accords. In 1960, a Captain Kong Le (pronounced Lee), the commander of the 2nd Battalion Parachutiste (2nd BP), got sick of the whole political thing in Laos and took over the



DH AC47: An AC 47, Puff the Magic Dragon, at L-108. Maybe "USATFAN" was the powerplant? Read on to find out. Photos provided by the author.

country in a coup. He was joined by several other units from the Force Armee Royale (FAR), the Laotian army loyal to the government in Vientiane and Luang Prabang. He declared Laos as Neutral (think Switzerland). He was subsequently overthrown by the Royalists, and his army (the Force Armee Neutraliste [FAN]) was split in two, with most going north to the Plaine de Jars (PDJ), and some south to the panhandle near Pakse and Savannahket. Now a General, Kong Le aligned himself briefly with the Pathet Lao (PL), who were in turn supported by the Viet Minh (Communist government of North Vietnam). He was in turn rejected by the PL some years later, and pushed off the PDJ to the mountains to the west where his northern units were then located. He was thereafter aligned somewhat with the Royalists. He and his units were not trusted by the Laotian government, U.S. government, and (far more personally) by the folks at the U.S. Embassy in Vientiane. And this was where we were going! (There is a pretty good summary

USATFAN continues on page 4

USATFAN *continued from page 3.*

of some very confusing history at <http://www.countryreports.org/history/laoshist.htm>.)

In 1955, based on accords reached in Geneva, the U.S. agreed that there would no longer be any foreign military based in what had been French Indo-China. This was to be enforced by an organization called the International Control Commission (ICC). The ICC was comprised of representatives from Poland, Canada, and India. Their task, among others, was to enforce the no-foreign military presence restriction. Our status was governed by the Geneva Accords of 1962. The ICC was in Vietnam, of course, making sure that there was no foreign involvement!

One of the things discussed was our status in Laos. We weren't there. In Vientiane, we were to wear civilian clothing. Up country, we would wear uniforms. We were referred to as "Black," absolutely no legality. There were some people in country referred to as "Grey," these were some of the assistant attaches. And then there were the "Whites," perfectly legal military folks, such as the full attaches, with diplomatic passports et al.

Work Up-Country

We were replacing a team similar to ours. If we met them, they were going out the door as we were going in, so we never had any time to swap information. There were two American soldiers in Moung Soui. One was Jack Frye, an Infantry LTC, and the other was Keith Painter, an Army Captain, who was the advisor to a Thai Artillery Battalion (105/155mm Howitzer). The whole Thai unit thing was black. (What was a Thai Army



D Harrington and crew: Pi Mai, at SR-III, the RTA Battalion HQ. As you can see, everyone got to the spirit of soaking everyone else in sight. In the front, left to right, Jack Coussens, USA advisor to SR-III; Major Kachain, Commander, SR-III; Lt Col Robinson, the assistant attaché; and me. Photos from the author.

unit doing there, you ask? Why, fighting a war of course. They weren't there either, of course.) I had known Keith Painter as we had attended the same officers' classes at Ft. Sill earlier. There were also two USAID people. Bob French ("Frenchy"), who was an old retired Army supply sergeant, and the other guy I'll call Paul O'Leary. I am not sure of his name. The more I think about his actions, the more I think he worked for some other company (Company?). So I'm not sure if the name he gave us was really his anyway. As an aside, I ran into Paul later in '68 when I was in Vietnam. We met accidentally in the U.S. Embassy in Saigon about four weeks after I got into country. He was still working with USAID, and was scheduled to leave back to the world to join his wife in Maui.

Jack Frye was a legitimate assistant attaché. He advised the region headquarters, dealing directly with the commander of the 2nd BP. In addition to the 2nd BP (which was in reserve), there were:

1st Battalion Infanterie (1st BI)

2nd BI

8th BI

1st Battalion Commando Speciale (1st BCS)

An engineer battalion

A FAN artillery battalion (2 firing batteries of 4 105mm howitzers each)

A tank company (2 PT-76 tanks)

Other support troops

The Thai Artillery Battalion was in general support. Darrell Voss worked with the Artillery Battalion headquarters staff. The NCOs were going to train the FAN gun chiefs and help with equipment maintenance. These guys were good enough at what they did that they performed some depot level maintenance on one of the Neut's 105 Howitzers. Another of the 105s was barrel #12. If you knew how many 105s were built since before WWII, you'd be impressed. We were told that the French had lost that gun at Dien Bien Phu, and the Viet Minh had in turn given it to the Neuts when the Neuts were aligned with the PL.

John Patton had been a 4.2" mortar platoon leader in Korea. He was there to teach Forward Observers (FOs) their business, and to assist the Neuts with their 4.2" mortars. The job of a FO is to adjust the fires of an artillery/mortar unit to bring the ammunition on a desired target. It requires that the FO frequently works as a part of an Infantry unit.

My task was to work with the Battery and Battalion Fire Direction Centers (FDC). The job of the FDC is to convert fire adjustment instructions from the FOs into commands for the gun crews to aim their guns. Some of the basic skills are a knowledge of map reading, mathematics, and geometry. I wound up spending about four months, every morning, teaching artillery gunnery to several Lao soldiers, who had perhaps a fourth grade education. It was doubly interesting in that I started out with no ability in Lao, and they spoke no English. I was given a Neut Lieutenant to help me with the classes. This young man was conversant in Lao, Thai (very similar languages), French, Russian, Chinese, and, of course English. This gives you some idea of the interesting political history of the FAN. The classroom was a tin-roofed shanty. The desks and

Continued next page.

chairs were made from old ammunition crates and logs stuck in the ground. Gunnery involves a lot of numbers. My first day, every word I said needed to be translated. I made a point of learning the Lao number system that night, and I wowed the class when I started spouting at them in their language the next day. Of course we all got a good laugh when I said “gau”(9) while I wrote “6.” Over time, I picked up enough (almost) of their language to teach the class without my translator. One student asked me a question once, and I had to stop the class while I spent 30 minutes trying to find him an answer.

One of the interesting other jobs we had was acting as aerial observers for USAF and USN flights sent our way by the targeters in Vientiane. We three officers wound up being aerial observers for the Artillery and any air strikes sent our way.

Let me digress here a little. The air war in Laos was a major effort. Its purpose was to block the infamous Ho Chi Minh trail which ran through Eastern Laos, all the way from north of the NVN/SVN border, (the Mu Gia Pass area) and extended all the way down into Eastern Cambodia. More bombs were dropped in Laos than in all of WWII on Germany. The Trail started out as a footpath. Over the years of the war, it became a multi-pathed roadway, several miles wide. Several books have been written about it, mostly from the point of view of U.S. pilots during the war, but I am sure there are many written with details of its structure by analyses made after the war. It's a fascinating study.



DH T28: A Royal Lao Air Force (RLAF) T-28 fighter-bomber that slid off the runway at L-108. This is a trainer aircraft, modified with guns and bomb/rocket mount points.

The Ravens:

I mention it, as there was a large group of USAF pilots, called the Ravens, who were Aerial observers guiding strikes onto the Trail. You can read about them in a book “The Ravens” by Christopher Robbins. I also refer you to a web site for them, <http://www.ravens.org/>. FACs are rated fighter pilots who direct air strikes, either from ground locations or from their own aircraft. The Ravens were/are a brave bunch of guys. I got to meet and work with a couple of them in later assignments. I mention them as we three officers got to be quite busy flying as back-seater FACs, guiding in the air strikes using our artillery units as markers. Ravens used a radio call sign, for example Raven42. We were assigned an area limited to the area around a mountain (Phou Kout pronounced Pu koot), to the northeast of Moug Soui. We were assigned a radio call sign, either Butterfly88 or Butterfly66, while we were working from the aircraft.

I said we were back-seaters. Our pilots were assigned to the Thai artillery battalion. These two had many hours of flight time, and were well qualified. We had two aircraft, an O-1 Birddog, and a Cessna 170, both with Laotian AF markings. The Birddog was fitted with mount points for rockets, and we used them once, but not successfully. The 170 was basically a civilian aircraft with no internal military radios, so when we used it for spotting, we had to bring along a backpack UHF radio to direct the fighter-bombers.

One afternoon, Dixon asked if he could go up for a flight, just to see what it was like. It was a very overcast



Above, me, leaning against the AC-47. I went up that night and flew over the Plaines de Jarres, and behind Phou Kout, the hill the Pathet Lao owned. I must admit flying it at night was very disorienting. It was almost impossible to find a landmark to get a fix. The aircrew had a Starlight scope (very new technology then), but this happened during the dry season, and there were literally hundreds of lights on the ground. Campfires or something else? It was impossible to tell. It was doubly frustrating, as the AC-47 was a new, scarce resource, and it was unlikely that we would get another chance at it. We didn't.

USATFAN continues on page 6

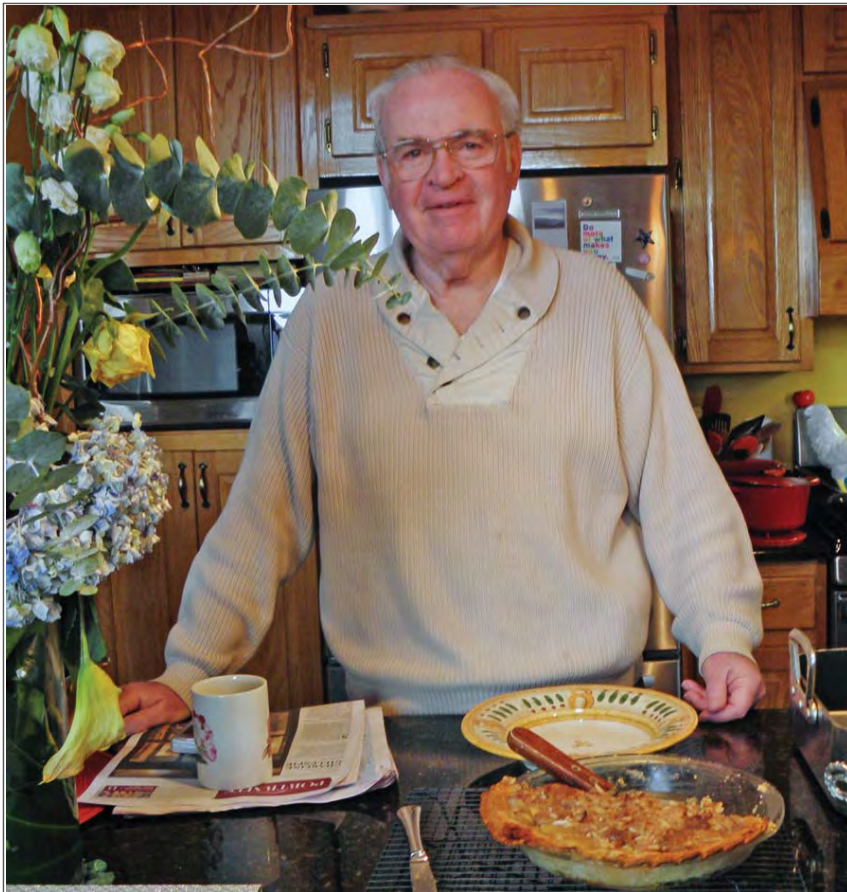
USATFAN *continued from page 5*

day, ceiling about 2000' AGL. We went up in the Cessna 170, with Dixon in the dual tandem seat up front, with the Thai Capt pilot. I was in the back seat with the UHF radio. We flew maybe 1000' below the clouds, north of Phou Kout, in an area that was dense woods. We had a flight of USN aircraft due in, but I cancelled the flight as there just wasn't any way to bring them down thru the clouds. I thought to just look around to see what was on the ground, but we couldn't see much of anything. We were about to return to the airstrip, when somebody who was apparently annoyed by our presence, opened up with an AK-47. One round struck the aircraft in the window beside the pilot and went up thru the speaker in the ceiling. The pilot was cut with some Plexiglas from the window, but otherwise OK. For the bad guy's trouble, I had the 155mm artillery drop a few rounds in his general area. When we got back to the airstrip, Dixon said, "Thanks for the flight. That was exciting."

Life Up-country

Our "quarters" were a mud hut, a thatched roof building about a mile east of the airstrip. Facilities were: A two-holer latrine, a heated (immersion heater) shower, and a general purpose (GP) tent for supplies and the kitchen. In the kitchen we had a kerosene stove, a kerosene cooler, a kerosene freezer, and a good supply of cookware and table ware. Hot water was thanks to an immersion heater. Our water was supplied by the engi-

More recent photo of Dave Harrington, in North Carolina.



neers, delivered once a week to 55-gallon drums near the tent.

We had three vehicles: A ¾ ton truck with no canvas (and no brakes either), an M-38 jeep with no canvas, and another utility vehicle. Not too far away from us there was a USAID auto repair shop, with 3 Filipino mechanics who serviced the FAN vehicles and ours.

We also had the services of an engineer corporal, "Joe," who spoke about four words of English. We paid him about \$60/mo, which was triple what he might have been paid by the FAN. His jobs were to heat the water in the morning, wash the dishes, and keep the water drum above the shower filled.

When we got there, we inherited two local dogs (Fink and Funk), both very pregnant. They presented us with seven puppies, which were very cute (aren't all puppies?). We kept one and gave the others away. Our dogs were fed table scraps; the puppy grew up comfortably large. I later saw one of our giveaways, who was maybe half the size.

Jack Frye kept a monkey, who was housebroken—meaning he never went in his bed, but everywhere else. When Jack was transferred home in March, he left the monkey. The Thai aircraft mechanics at the airstrip said they would be glad to take him from us. We never saw the monkey again. I understand they had a very healthy breakfast the day afterward.

Romero was a big guy, maybe 6'3, 250lbs, and with a tremendous sense of humor. He would go into the local village of Moung Soui, between us and the airstrip, and shop for foods. It was a joy to see him go up to a shopkeeper, whom he towered over, and bargain over the price of whatever. He spoke no Lao, they spoke no English. So he would bargain in absolute gibberish, incomprehensible to anyone, while the shopkeepers would play the game, bargaining in Lao. Somehow, they would come to an agreement, kip would be exchanged, and everyone concluded the deal smiling.

Postscripts

Who or what is USATFAN? It stands for "U.S. Augmentation to Force Armee Neutraliste." When one sits around of an evening, without much to do, one's mind gets creative. Since we all had come from Korea, and had KATUSA's (Korean Augmentation to the U.S. Army) working with us, we all agreed that USATFAN was an appropriate description of our team. We never applied for official U.S. Army recognition.

I stayed in the Army until '79, and retired to the Richmond/Petersburg area of Virginia. I was in the computer business, working with several contractors and in state and local government agencies. In 2006, we retired to Haywood County, North Carolina, in the heart of the Blue Ridge/Smoky Mountains. I'm enjoying retirement, woodworking, blacksmithing, taking music classes, and otherwise just reveling in the beauty of western NC.



Why I Joined the TLC Brotherhood

Making Amends With My Brothers

by Gary Dooley

MSgt retired, Nakon Phanom 1971

My entry will not be as long or as interesting as that of Gary Beatty or others, but there were good reasons why I joined the TLCB.

Prologue:

When I entered Thailand I was a bad-ass E2 right out of technical school in Lowery, pilot sun glasses and all. As a Cold War child and a new munitions specialist (46130), I was going to bomb the commies' right out of Viet Nam, all of it. If asked, I would volunteer as a door gunner, and if the opportunity arose I would come back to the States as a war hero. I took that attitude into Bangkok for two days Remain Overnight (RON), and then to NKP; it is a real wonder/miracle that I survived unscathed. The real problem was it took 6 months of hard knocks at NKP before I began to grow up. I was/am a very slow learner. They did, however, give me E3 before I left.

Convergence:

First, we the Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia military vets had had it up to here from those who would not take us seriously concerning the war efforts we made out of Thailand. According to most all of those "informed" war vets who had "boots on the ground" in Viet Nam, all of Thailand was an R&R site. Oh and just for the record, NKP was not an R&R location by anyone's imagination! In 1994, after a twenty-three year AF career, I wanted to be included as a Viet Nam vet, and even the VA would not include me. Yet my DD form 214 included the Viet Nam Service Medal with three oak leaves, Republic of Viet Nam Gallantry Cross with device, and the Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal. Still I was not officially a Viet Nam vet. Also note we launched the Son Tây raid out of NKP in November of 1970, countless SAR sorties, AC 119s missions, as well as many CIA interventions with funny looking airplanes, some with no pilots.

At times, I know Viet Nam/Cambodian combat ground forces and downed pilots were glad to see our fast and slow



Above: Tom Dooley in the munitions build-up area at NKP in 1971.

movers arriving, missioned out of Thailand. Just for the record, I do not include myself as a "combat veteran." That is a very high honor to which I never rose to; unless one counts fights at the Cobra Airman's Club. Second, I was too young to be anywhere outside of rural Calhoun County, Iowa. I was 19 with no clue about what it meant to live a responsible and safe life. Alcohol helped me to do many bad/dumb things while in Thailand, thus I was not a good representative of the U.S.A., Iowa, or the USAF.

In the winter of 2008, I learned about the TLCB and I wanted to try to make amends, and the TLCB gave me an avenue towards that goal. I give every year to the TLCB scholarship fund as I am able, hoping to help young rural Thai people aspire, and just maybe put some of my haunting ghosts out to pasture.

Why I Joined continues on page 8

Why I Joined
— from page 7

Epilogue:

I would like my TLCB and Air Force brothers/sisters to know that I turned out OK: Married for 45 years, two kids, three grand kids, and a brand new great grandson. I am retired USAF, a Believer, with an advanced degree. I am living in Lake City, Iowa, my home town. All in spite of myself! The Secret? A wonderful wife.

Oh, I have a question for Gary Beatty: in your TLCB photo...what's with the hair?



Tom Dooley now. Photos from the author.

Newest Members in the TLC Brotherhood

The 19 members listed below joined between the last issue of the MEM and the end of May. You can find more information on our website database. The Mekong Express Mail wishes you all a hearty "Welcome Home."

No.	Branch	Last Name	First	City	State	Email
1728	Other	Vincent	Douglas	Irvine	CA	DL.Vincent@Gmail.com
1729	Other	Moua	Charley	Merced	CA	SGuvv@mail.com
1730	USAF	Howard	Kenneth	Freeport	IL	KGHoward@comcast.net
1731	USAF	Brown	Clyde	Normal	IL	Clydebrown7569@comcast.net
1732	USAF	Burgess	Herbert	Roanoke	AL	HerbBurgess@Yahoo.com
1733	USA	Seffler	Charles	Conroe	TX	CSteffler@aol.com
1734	USA	Hogan	Robert	Canyon Lake	TX	morph@gvtc.com
1735	USA	Cogburn	Larry	Newark	DE	Cogburn@udel.edu
1736	USAF	Minoughan	Patrick	Dolany/Olomouc	CZE	himagain2prg@gmail.com
1737	USAF	Schwaberow	Richard	Redwood City	CA	RCSchwaberow@aol.com
1738	Other	Wharton	Chris	Owings Mills	MD	Christowharton@gmail.com
1739	USA	Cameron	Chris	Santa Clara	CA	seeremarks@email.com
1740	USAF	Propst	Bernard	Waddell	AZ	berniepropst@hotmail.com
1741	USAF	Bates	John	Lexington	KY	nailschosen@TWC.com
1742	USAF	Jefferson	Claud	Corona	CA	claudjefferson@ca.rr.com
1743	USAF	Maynard	Warren	Apopka	FL	warren6240@yahoo.com
1744	Other	Breaw	Richard	Dover	FL	Richard.Breaw@socom.mil
1745	USAF	Richardson	Stephen	Oak Hill	WV	stevexp@mac.com
1746	USAF	Boulter	Frank	Canton	MI	fboulter@comcast.net

New Member Profiles

Gordon “Alex” Graham

On May 15, 1970, I arrived at Udorn RTAFB as a telephone installer. On July 3, 1970 I was sent TDY to Tan Son Nhut AFB (7th TAC Air Combat Control) for an interview with Operation Rustic. (<http://www.fac-assoc.org/Rustics/R-2.htm>)

I was accepted and went back to Udorn to get my belongings. My new duty station was 19th TASS at Bien Hoa AB with air conditioned quarters for aircrews. With less than 3 days to deploy, the French interpreter at Long Tieng (LS-20A) was shot down and killed, and I was sent as a replacement (AFSC 203X0). I arrived at Wattay Airport (L-8 Vientiane) and went through in-processing at the Embassy with the Air Attache. Standard protocol: Turn in everything related to military and get a Laotian driver's license/USAID card. They referred to it as sheep-dipping. They even took my Geneva Conventions Card/yellow shot books. No uniforms-just civilian attire.



Alex Graham in jungle suit. Photos provided by Alex.

I reported to the CAS at Long Tieng and began sitting in on dinner parties to eavesdrop on the Royal Lao Air Force (RLAF) officers and General Vang Pao's staff.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays, I was the Chieu Hoi boy dropping flyers and encouraging Pathet Lao/ Neutralists to desert to the other side. We flew a lot of missions up Route 7 towards Ban Muong Soui (L-108), east of where it intersects Route 71 above the Plain of Jars.

I was shot in the leg north of Alternate during Operation Leapfrog near Ban Na (LS-15) on September 17th, 1970, and was recovered to LS 20 Ban Sam Thong. The Air America hospital there did the transfusion. Several Hmong Tahanns supplied the blood. I came down with Hepatitis three months later.

I was transferred back to Udorn, but my job had been filled, so I was surplused to Tango 11 upcountry in the Northwest. I did various communications projects there along with TDYs until I DEROSed in May 17, 1972. I went to Edwards AFB, where it was determined I had gone “native” in my two years over there. I got a General Discharge under Honorable Conditions with less than four months left. They said I was “antisocial with passive aggressive tendencies.” Oh well...

I was diagnosed with Hepatitis C in 1996 and accused of being a “druggie” by the VA. I finally got all my records Air

America could salvage in 2008 and the VA granted me permanent and total rating back to my original filing in 1994.

I began a website (asknod.org) to help other Veterans attain service connection in 2008, and I am awaiting my VA agent's certification so I will be able to represent veterans before the VA. I expect it soon.

I was a builder before the Hepatitis C pole-axed me in 2007. I did the new treatment in 2014 and am now in remission. Unfortunately, I still have Agent Orange problems. I came down with porphyria cutanea tarda when I was over there and didn't know what it was. All my exposed skin broke out in hives and zits in the summer, and it went on for years until it was diagnosed in 1992. That's when I filed my VA claim. VA finally gave me another 100% for that last fall on appeal. I have to get a one-pint phlebotomy every month to keep it in control.

I have two great kids and a few grandkids. I live here in the northwest and have a small farm with horses and gardens. I applied to VA for the Independent Living Program and they gave me a computer to do my blog with as well as a sizable greenhouse to work indoors out of the sun.

I finally got my medals in 2013. When they gave me the boot in '73, all the DD 214 had listed was the NDSM.

My non-disclosure agreement with Consolidated International Airways expires on September 22, 2020. It was a standard fifty-year contract. I can't say a whole lot more than that now. All in all, it was a rather uneventful two years, and in retrospect, raising a daughter was twice as scary.



Recent photo of member Alex Graham.

Profiles continues on page 10

Kerwin Stone

I went to college at Southern Methodist University on an Air Force ROTC scholarship, receiving my commission in 1969. I remained there for another year to obtain my master's degree in mathematics, and then went on active duty with the Air Force in August 1970.

I spent my first tour at Eglin AFB, and then in late 1972 I received orders to go to Ko Kha AS, Thailand, where I spent a year as a Squadron Surveillance Officer in the 17th Radar Squadron. I returned to Eglin AFB, and remained there until my separation in August 1975. After the fall of Saigon on April 30, 1975, a bunch of us who had served in SEA were detailed to establish and operate the Vietnamese Refugee Camp at Eglin, so I got to spend the better part of two months living among the refugees.

A week after leaving active duty, I registered for law school at the University of Texas on our highly inadequate GI Bill. I began practicing law in Beaumont, Texas in 1978, and continue to do so now (although at a reduced pace); my practice includes corporate law, commercial transactions, banking and real estate, primarily.

I am very active in my church and also in veterans affairs, especially in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. (VVA); I am president of my local VVA chapter, vice president of the VVA Texas State Council, and a member of the national board of directors of VVA. One of my sons is a Methodist preacher. My other son retired from the Air Force recently (highly decorated A10 pilot) and now flies for United Airlines. Each has blessed me with two beautiful grandchildren. In 2011, after much deliberation, I returned to Southeast Asia and spent a month travelling through Vietnam, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.

I am pleased to be a member of the TLCB, and I am hopeful of perhaps finding others with whom I may have crossed paths!



At right, Kerwin as a lawyer.
Photos from the author.

How can we reach you?

If we don't have your current email address, you may be missing out on important messages about your Brotherhood. Please send email, phone number, and address changes to us at JKarnes@tlc-brotherhood.com.



Kerwin as a Captain



In Memoriam

Bob Wiehr 1946—2016

Received from Lisa Maloney recently:

It is with great sadness that I must inform you of my Uncle Robert Wiehr's passing on January 7, 2016.

Here is a portion of the obituary that was published:

Robert John (Bob) Wiehr, 69, passed away at his home in Granite Falls, Washington on Thursday, January 7, 2016. He was born April 2, 1946 in Yonkers, New York.

Bob served in the United States Navy Seabees including two tours in Viet Nam. Prior to his retirement, Bob was a carpenter by trade. He was an avid outdoorsman and hunter, traveling abroad for many excursions.

Bob joined the Brotherhood two years ago in May.



Bob Wiehr,
1946–2016
Photo provided by his niece.

Davis “Doc” Ball 1938—2016

March 15, 2016

To the Editors of The Mekong Express Mail:

It is with great sadness that I share that my dad, Davis “Doc” Ball, died in August of last year. While he fought the ravages of cancer and was almost a victor in that war, a previous benign heart condition worsened and took his life.

Dad's birthday has just passed. He would have turned 78. During those last days, Dad spoke at length about what being a member of the Brotherhood meant to him. Some years ago, my mom also talked about what a valuable affiliation membership in the Brotherhood had been for Dad. I am grateful that he found the fellowship and connection sought with others who had shared the experiences no one else can quite comprehend.

You might know that at this time last year, we were able to complete one of his big “bucket list” items with a return trip to Puerto Rico where he served as a medic at Ramey Air Force Base. Our time there was bittersweet as he struggled to move around comfortably. However, he reconnected with the place and the people that held a very special place in his memory. On that trip, and in the time that followed, Dad continued to live each day with his sense of adventure intact and fulfilled.

Needless to say, the Brotherhood will be smaller by one more this year. I believe that somewhere Dad will be watching over the work you continue to do. He displayed his affiliation humbly but proudly, and I hope you'll raise a toast to his memory this year and tell a story or two about him.

My best wishes for health and good memories to you all.

Liz Ozuna

San Antonio, Texas



Liz Ozuna supplied this photo with Doc's obituary. The obituary says that he served as a tank gunner in the Army and as a medical corpsman and information officer in the Air Force. Later as a civilian employee, he supported officer training at Lackland Air Force as a media specialist. In retirement he was an avid historical researcher, particularly of regional Texas history.



Candidate Biographies, The TLCB Board of Directors Election

Gary Beatty

My name is Gary Beatty, and I'm a candidate for TLCB President. I've been a member of the TLCB since 2004, and have attended every reunion (except one, due to work conflict) since joining. I've served on the Board of Directors since 2008 first as VicePresident in 2008-9, then as a member-at-large until 2014, when I was appointed by the Board to fill the unexpired term of our corporate secretary who resigned. In 2015 I was elected secretary, the position I currently hold.

During my tenure on the Board, I have chaired two reunion committees, the financial audit committee, and am currently chairing the bylaws revision committee. I obtained the trademark registration for our logo from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Since assuming the Secretary position I've obtained an official corporate seal, and am working on compiling a complete, official record of the TLCB.

My service in SEA was as a Medic with the 56 Wing, Medical Civic Action Project (MedCAP) in 1973-74. My MedCAP duties give me a unique perspective on our TLCB Assistance activities that relate to public health and medical assistance to children, which are similar to the MedCAP duties I performed during my tour.

I also believe my current employment affords a unique opportunity for the TLCB if I'm elected President. Since 1987, I've worked as an Assistant State Attorney in Brevard County, Florida. My current duties include doing a live internet courtroom webcast every weekday. This gives me an elevated public profile within both the legal profession and community at large. Because of this, my election as TLCB President has the potential for media exposure for the TLCB which I would use to endeavor to expand our sources of donations for our Assistance program.

In addition to expanding our assistance program donor base, I have three other goals as TLCB President. First, to work with our outstanding membership committee to continue the excellent job they are doing recruiting new members. My focus would be on my contemporaries, vets who served their SEA tour during their first/only enlistment. There are thousands of us out there.

Second, since the unfortunate death of John Middlewood, my one assistance program is winding down. I would work with the assistance committee to reallocate those funds to public health projects, such as the clean water system we built as one of our first assistance projects. In my MedCAP experience I learned the importance of clean water sources in the rural villages. These projects can contribute to the health and wellbeing of villagers for generations.

Third, we all realize that the TLCB may expire along with us SEA vets. I believe the TLCB can continue our assistance activities after us. I have an idea how to begin the dialogue to facilitate that transition so the TLCB Assistance program can be a legacy we leave to future generations.

I'm Gary Beatty, and I'd appreciate your vote as TLCB President, so that we can pursue these goals together.

Bill Tilton

I am Bill Tilton, candidate for Treasurer of the TLC Brotherhood, Inc.

My main qualification for this position is my experience with the TLCB, having previously served four two-year terms as treasurer, with a two-year break after the first three. I was also the founding president of the Brotherhood and served the limit of three consecutive terms in that position. While I have never had an accounting course, I have adapted the Excel spreadsheet created by Dusty Henthorn when he was treasurer, so that it provides the management information needed by the board and adds computations for the annual tax return to the IRS. I also account for Exchange transactions and all financial transactions of the annual meeting and reunion. While Paul Lee was treasurer, I continued to support him by maintaining this spreadsheet.

I joined the Air Force in 1961 and served twice in Thailand, in 1966 as a FAC at Nakhon Phanom and one tdy to U'Tapao in 1972 as a KC-135 crew commander. I retired at the Pentagon as a manpower management officer in 1981. I live in Locust Grove, Georgia, and work full time from home for a company in Virginia. By the time of the election I will be 78. As treasurer, I assist my wife, Thelma, who maintains and operates the TLCB Exchange, as requested by then-president Frank Marsh. I also support Editor John Harrington of the "Mekong Express Mail" by doing the layout and printing mailing labels and other needed tasks, and I am a member of both the Assistance Committee and the Membership Committee.



Paul Lee

Paul Lee for board member-at-large

I am Paul Lee, and I am running for a second term as board member at large. I have been a member of the TLCB since its creation as a formal organization following the 1998 reunion in Dayton, Ohio. Prior to that, I was active, along with many others, in locating veterans from the TLC area. I am very proud to be a founding member of the TLCB, and have served as vice president, treasurer, and one term as member-at-large. I strongly believe in the work the TLCB is accomplishing for children in northeast Thailand and Laos. I also support the objectives stated on the reverse of our membership cards, the true essence of the organization.

My SEA service was at NKP and Ubon as an O-2 mechanic with the 23rd TASS in 1969. I retired from the Air Force in 1984 with twenty years and the rank of MSgt. I look forward to the opportunity to continue serving the membership of the TLCB.

Continued next page)

Ed Miller

TLCB Charter Member #00142

Something about me:

I am known as Ed or sometimes Eddie Miller. I am married to my Thai wife, Pet Miller, for 45 years and am the father of four sons. I am totally retired now and a disabled veteran. I am a man of Christian faith and a member of the Emerald Coast Church. I love sports and have been a coach to all four sons in baseball and football from T-ball level through high school. I am a happy and talkative guy always willing to share a story with you. Wife and I love traveling in the USA and in Thailand.

Work Experience: Retired TSgt USAF/Administration September 1967 thru October 1987. Served at Westover AFB, MA; Nakhon Phanom RTAFB; Udorn RTAFB; Homestead AFB, FL; Bangkok/Don Muang RTAFB, Cape Charles AFS, VA; NAS Jacksonville, FL; Eglin AFB, FL, including extensive TDYs throughout Thailand and East Coast Radar Sites. I was a U.S. Postal Service/Rural Carrier; Mail Processing Clerk October 1987 thru September 2007, and worked in all areas of the Postal Clerk duties in a large mail processing facility (Pensacola, FL), which processed all outgoing and delivery zone mail for the 325 area (NW Florida)

TLCB Organization:

When the Brotherhood was just sharing emails with each other and talking about getting organized, I was there. I became a Charter Member and was the 42nd individual to sign an application and submit it with the membership fee, 2-24-1999. After Incorporation, I became Secretary of the TLCB and served that position for 3 1/2 years. Many of my ideas for this position are still being followed today. I have organized and served as the Local Chairman of three annual reunions at Fort Walton Beach, FL (2001, 2003, & 2013). Also, I have been able to attend eight reunions, beginning with 2000 through 2015. I was an Assistance Committee member from the beginning and I have worked directly with the Northeast Thailand Coordinator, the late Dr. John Middlewood, performing photography and video of Assistance functions in Thailand while producing final presentations for our membership and organizational web page. After his unexpected death in October 2014, I served as a replacement, disbursing funds monthly for the Student Assistance program thru March 2015.

Other:

I am also a Life Member of the Air Commando Association (ACA) and a member the National Veterans of Foreign Wars, VFW Organization, Post 7674, Fort Walton Beach, FL.

Email: thinkp69@gmail.com

Bill Peterson

William R. Peterson (better known by his Vietnam nickname "Willi Pete") is running for re-election as a member-at-large (MAL) of the Board of Directors because he believes the position serves the members as an advocate. It's their pathway to present their issues to the Board.

Bill has served as MAL for several years. He was the first to take the issue of "second class veteran" to Lt Gen Kicklighter,

USA (Ret.), Director, DOD Vietnam War Commemoration. That meeting in Washington resulted in total inclusion of all U.S. Veterans in the celebration and recognition of their service. It is the official, legal basis for our status as Commemorative Partner. Go to <http://tlc-brotherhood.com/Forum/> to read his posts. This job requires the TLCB to host six events over three years which honor Vietnam War veterans. We have done this at Dover AFB, the Colorado Springs Reunion, and the Boston Reunion. We are currently supporting the Arizona Wall with brother CP personnel in the Phoenix area, and we will host event number four during our TLCB Reunion in Washington later this year. The final two will be at the Dayton Reunion in 2017 and at a final site to be determined at this year's reunion/annual meeting.

Bill has also served as the TLCB Public Relations Chairman spreading the word about the good work we do as a veterans' organization. This is done through print media, email, and personal meetings. Bill recently represented the TLCB at a Vietnam Veterans Day Wreath Ceremony at VFWE Post 5118 in Easton, MD alongside the VVA, AL, VFW, and DAR. He informs everybody who will read or listen: We are a "hands on" group of Vietnam War veterans who have not forgotten our former allies in Laos and Thailand.

Bill served in the U.S. Air Force from 1965 to 1980 attaining the rank of Lt Colonel. He was a Combat Crew Senior Director, the Air Battle Staff directing Strike, MiG CAP, Reconnaissance and Recce missions, and SAR operations in Rolling Thunder (North Vietnam) and Barrel Roll and Steel Tiger (north and south Laos). He was the squadron intelligence and security officer during TET 68 at Monkey Mountain, I Corps, Vietnam 1967-1968. He provided daily support to Top Secret covert operations at Commando Club at Lima Site 85. He was the Project Officer for Top Secret/SI special SIGINT operations (RIVET GYM) flying 20 missions/223 hours in 42 days in northern Laos and upper Tonkin Gulf in the EC121D of College Eye Task Force based at Korat RTAFB. In his subsequent years he was a Squadron Operations Officer and then Squadron Commander with one RC-130 SIGINT aircraft and two ground collection sites. He served as a Russian/Warsaw Pact Intelligence expert on the staff of the Air Force Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence in the Pentagon. He co-authored two and wrote one National Intelligence Estimate. He was selected by the Director/National Security Agency to be his personal Representative to DOD for Air Force Matters. Bill was also assigned to spend two years attached, as an additional duty, to the Deputy Director/Defense Intelligence Agency to promote, integrate, and make better use of SIGINT in POW/MIA matters. Bill's final work in the government was at CIA where he was on the 14 Member U.S. Negotiating Team working with the Government of Israel Team for 18 months culminating in the U.S.-Egypt-Israel Sinai Treaty bringing peace between those two nations since 1980.

Bill is about to begin work with the Defense POW/MIA Accountability Agency following a telephone interview with Lt. Gen Michael Linnington, USA (Ret). The agency has asked Bill to focus on Lima Site 85, and then on "scope losses" where pilots disappear after a shoot down.

Reunion *continued from page 1*

Vernon is only 30 minutes away from the hotel, and will be a feature for those who want to experience it. A new, interactive visitor center, beautiful grounds on the bank of the Potomac, re-creations of daily plantation activities when Washington lived at Mount Vernon, and the graves of George and Martha Washington are all located within a short distance of the mansion Washington built on the site. Washington was also noted as a distiller of whiskey when he ran the farm, and both his grist mill and distillery are located just 10 minutes east of the main Mount Vernon grounds. There will also be time for individual explorations of historic Olde Towne Alexandria, Virginia, and other points of interest just minutes from our hotel.

Group rates at our hotel are only available until August 25th, so you must make room reservations before that date. **Make hotel reservations by phone at 1-800-465-4329 and identify yourself as a member of the TLC Brotherhood Reunion reservation group.** Non-smoking rooms with either one King-size bed or two doubles are available at \$119.00 per night. Add a parking fee (\$20.00 per night) if you arrive by car, so the 'practical' daily room rate will be \$139.00 plus taxes. You can reserve additional days at the same group rate three days before and after the reunion, subject to availability. Room reservations can be cancelled up to 72 hours in advance of check-in at no

charge. The hotel reservation does not sign you up for the Reunion itself. You must register separately for the Reunion by mail or at the TLCB web site, using the Reunion Signup tab.



Mount Vernon on your bucket list? What better way to visit, or re-visit George Washington's quaint plantation than with your brothers and sisters of the TLCB? Photo from the Internet.

TLCB Part of the Arizona Wall Project

Through the efforts of John Lorenzen, the historian of the Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood, the TLCB participated in the March 19, 2016 groundbreaking of the Welcome Home Veterans Park in Gilbert, Arizona. The park will include a replica of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. The TLCB's participation is part of the organization's involvement in the Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemoration program.

As described in its literature, "Welcome Home Veterans Park" is centered on the concept of a circular Walk of Time. Upon entering the park..., this Walk of Time will have installations recognizing those who served in America's wars beginning in 1775 to the Korean War. The path continues south to the grandest installation, the Vietnam Wall Memorial. The Wall serves as the reminder to never forget to welcome home our veterans, and as a symbol of welcoming home the 58,307 souls to Arizona, who never received one."

John Lorenzen, who lives in Scottsdale, as the representative of the TLCB, was invited to be part of the Living Wall, a prestigious group of veterans who were provided special seating. A highlight of the groundbreaking ceremony was the participation of Patty Hopper, whose husband in on the Vietnam Wall. She used a shovel used in the groundbreaking

of the Washington Wall, and she had also participated in the original ceremony.



The groundbreaking, Peggy Hopper in center.



John Lorenzen, TLCB Historian

The Living Wall, John Lorenzen in center left. Photos from John Harrington.



Amaze your friends...
...be the first on your block!

Grandchildren Want to Know! —And the “Callsign” mug is back!



Have you spent time telling your family and younger friends about the Secret War and your experiences in it? Do they know where South-east Asia is and what a callsign is? We are getting older—after we’re gone will they say, “He never told us about it.”

See the complete wrap-around Callsign design below—it even has a TLCB logo in it. And we have redesigned the “Logo” mug to look like the original, with the addition of “THE SECRET WAR” opposite the handle.

Check out the latest merchandise in your TLCB Exchange-mugs are back at last! Prices are low as ever, and shipping is included.



Cheaper by the pair! At left, our new “Logo” mug.

Student Assistance Fund Successes

Khun Satawat Sri-in, our Student Assistance Fund (SAF) representative in Nakhon Phanom, says, “I think you will be happy to see these pictures of TLBC-supported graduates. They are Nittaya Suree, Jenjira Wongdee, and Amonrat Sriphirom on their commencement day, when they recently graduated from Nakhon Phanom University (NPU). Photo below.

We have 18 high school students, and 9 of them just graduated in March 2016. These graduates are now applying to universities and we are waiting for the results. If they attend colleges in Nakhon Phanom, Sakon Nakhon, or Khon Kaen, where Maew can take good care of them, TLCB has committed to support them. We have to wait until August to see their application results. Currently the Student Assistance



Fund (SAF) supports 4 college students.

Joe Boys, who helps Maew Middlewood, sent us some information also. He says that Teacher Pattaya, from Chiang Yuan Wittaya School (CYWS), in Tha Uthen District of NKP Province, recently visited Maeo with one of the CYWS students to receive a TLCB scholarship payment. Pat gave us some great news about Kultida, who is also a TLCB scholarship student, now at CYWS. Kultida just got her first term report; her grades came to 3.5! This is outstanding. Amazing. Joe and wife



Sandy spent several weeks one-on-one tutoring Kultida before her admissions interview at Khon Kaen University (KKU) last May. Thanks in large part to their efforts, she was admitted into a small, highly desired intensive English study program at KKU. Teacher Pat is in Photo at left with Maew.

The Quilt!

by Bob Wheatley

Our thoughts are beginning to turn to our upcoming reunion/annual meeting where we will once again gather at The Wall to honor and remember our brethren who did not return from the war with us. In the year 2000, our TLCB was chartered as a non-profit charitable organization, with aid to the needy people of Southeast Asia in the name of our departed brothers as one of our four main objectives. In support of that objective, beginning with the 2000 reunion, each year Rosie Wheatley creates a one-of-a-kind quilt for raffle at the annual Saturday banquet, with all proceeds going to the Assistance Fund.

Fashioned with a great deal of T L C, this year's quilt will be in the so-called "Curved Log Cabin" pattern with quality fabrics in shades of red, white, and blue. The 2016 reunion theme logo, "Return to the Wall," will be incorporated in the quilt. Finished measurements will be approximately 90 by 90 inches, suitable to cover a queen-sized bed.



Raffle tickets are still priced at only \$2 apiece, and you need not be present at the drawing to win. Purchase as many as you wish by affixing an address label on the enclosed sheet or simply filling in one ticket with your contact information, and writing how many tickets you want at the top of the raffle ticket page. Send your **UNCUT** tickets or request for tickets, plus payment of \$2 per ticket to **TLC Brotherhood, Inc., P.O. Box 343, Locust Grove, GA, 30248**. Write "Quilt Raffle" in the memo line on your check. Your tickets will be created and entered in the drawing on your behalf. What could be easier? Let's make this year's raffle another rousing success to benefit the needy children of Southeast Asia in the name of our departed brothers.

"Six Tigers" Raise Money for Assistance

In December of 2015, TLCB member Cato McDaniel provided an excerpt from a book he had written, and also offered to donate the proceeds of donations he hoped to raise from his first book signing, to be held March 12, near Houston. The book is titled *A Tale of Six Tigers, A window on the covert Air War in Southeast Asia 1971—1975*, and the excerpt was published in the March 2016 issue of *Mekong Express Mail*. Cato hoped to raise as much as five or six hundred dollars for TLCB Assistance, but it worked out much better than expected. There were about sixty people at the signing, and donations so far have reach over sixteen hundred dollars from twenty of them.



At the signing on March 12, 2016. Cato McDaniel at far right. Photo from Cato.

TLC Brotherhood, Inc. 2016 Annual Meeting NOTICE

The TLC Brotherhood, Inc. Annual Meeting will be on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at the Holiday Inn and Suites in Alexandria, Virginia, to conduct the business that has come before the corporation.

The official slate for the 2016 election to the TLC Brotherhood Board of Directors is given here. Biographies submitted by the candidates are published in this issue on pages 12 and 13.

- President** Gary Beatty
- Treasurer** Bill Tilton (eligible incumbent)
- Members-at-Large (vote for two):**
- Paul Lee (eligible incumbent)
- Edward Miller
- William Peterson (eligible incumbent)

A ballot/proxy is enclosed. If used, the absentee ballot or proxy must be received at the address shown on the form no later than August 9, 2016. If the voter subsequently does attend the Annual Meeting, the absentee ballot or proxy will be void.

Donors so far are:

Dale Jamison Emily Murphy, Douglas Ikenberry, Timothy Harvey, Eileen Walton, Joseph Wiget, Mary House, Gary Springer, James Moffitt, Linda Ginsel, Douglas Lamppin, William Shumway, Bruce Andersohn, Jason Sasarak, Calvin Jochetz, Nancy Ferreira, Christopher Cash, Lewis Volgenau, Yee Lee, Katerina Newman, and President John Sweet.

Cato says one of the young guys gave a copy to his dad. His dad read the book and said, "I know just where these guys were! I was at Bergstrom and we knew something was going on down there—we just did not know what!" But best of all one of the old Marines who came to the signing party called me and said, "I read the book and I did not recognize you, but I'm pretty sure I remember your jackets from a bar fight!" Ouch! That one hurt.

Cato lives near Houston and recently retired from Halliburton, where he was Chief Scientific Advisor. He says he got a package and "...got out 90 days before I had planned. I'm amazed—every day is like Saturday now!"

