

MEKONG EXPRESS MAIL



The newsletter of the Thailand-Laos-Cambodia Brotherhood, Inc. Volume 22, issue 2
WWW.TLC-Brotherhood.com

Masks are almost a thing of the past and we hope our group comes together with recognizable faces, not facial feature and oxygen stealers! This year’s annual meeting and reunion will be in beautiful, charming, and historic Gettysburg, PA. The Wyndham Hotel, which has ample free parking, is a bright and friendly place at the eastern end of town, right off US Route 15 on the Lincoln Highway, US route 30.

We plan to provide two tours which center on Gettysburg’s place in history during the Civil War and WW2, as well as presentations on site. On Thursday, after registration, we may have an “on your own” informal dinner gathering at a Thai Restaurant for those who are interested. As always, there will be a Nipa Hut and Exchange, with the hilarious Assistance Auction taking center stage on Friday night with lots of laughs



*Let’s Reunite
in Gettysburg!*



Together on Hallowed Ground: October 14—16

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and wonderful items to bid on and carry home. The corporate annual meeting will, as usual, be on Saturday morning, with the “dress up” banquet on Saturday night, which includes our memorial service and an interesting guest speaker.

Gettysburg is fated to be a “tourist” town, inevitable because of its famous battlefield, which encircles the town. Because parkland limits modern growth of the commercial and residential areas, the center of town has always kept its “downtown” character of commercial and residential charm.

Within the parkland is the Eisenhower Farm, an unimposing, comfortable place frozen in the 1950s, where Ike and Mamie lived out their retirement from public life, and entertained many World leaders. There is now a tour of this property from the Gettysburg Museum and Visitor Center.

As a reminder, at the beginning of July 1863, the South met the North here in a three-day battle that was decisive for the

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Editor's Notebook

The 2021 Reunion and a Few Other Items

The Reunion: After a year off, a year that most of the world also took off, The Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood will hold its 23rd Reunion from October 14 to 16, at The Wyndham Hotel in historic Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. It is not unlikely that the absence of last year's regular gathering will make this year's event even sweeter. Chairman Bill Tilton has put together, beyond our regular scheduled meetings, an interesting program of tours and sights. Be sure to get your reservations in soon, since every indication is that the country is jumping on the travel bandwagon after being locked in their homes since early last year.

New Members, a Profile, an Exchange, and a Legend: After a slow period, the pace of new members has picked up, and a particularly interesting profile of one of them is featured in this issue. Additionally, a conversation about how to recognize "Vietnam Veteran's Day" that took place on the TLCB Facebook page between Vice President Gerry Frazier and Diane Shufelt, a visitor to the site, is interesting and thoughtful. Also, TLCB President Gary Beatty recalls his encounter with a legend, Patient Zero, during Gary's year at Nakhon Phanom back in the day.

The Election: Biographies of the candidates for TLCB Board of Directors fill two pages of this edition of the *MEM*.

A Personal Note: As you may recall, I was the chairman for 2020 Reunion in Newport, Rhode Island, that never happened. I looked into rescheduling, but in the meantime, the hotel is remodeled and has raised its rates beyond what TLCB considered fair. It was certainly a personal disappointment, but I rush to remind all TLCB members that if you're up this

way, you're always welcome here, by the Atlantic, and I'll give you a personal tour of some of the places we planned to visit.

John Harrington

MEM Editor

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The Rosie Wheatley

Memorial Assistance Quilt—2021



This beautiful patriotic design is full-bed size and will include an embroidered panel with an inscription honoring Rosie Wheatley and displaying the TLCB logo. Send your contribution for raffle tickets (\$2 per ticket, or \$20 per sheet). You can mail in the enclosed sheet or go to WWW.TLC.Brotherhood.com and contribute on-line. Fill in the info ONCE and we will print all the tickets you order..

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TLC Brotherhood, Inc.

Tax ID #54-1932649

Board of Directors and Committee Chairmen

2021-2022, showing year of term end

President: Gary Beatty, 2022 (final term)

Vice President: Gerry Frazier, (Reunion Committee) 2021 (1st term)

Secretary: Paul Lee, 2021 (2nd term)

Treasurer: Thelma Tilton, 2022 (1st term)

Chaplain: Jim Kidd (Memorial Committee) (unlimited)

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Ray Boas, 2022 (2nd term)

Roger Durant, 2022 (2nd term)

George Shenberger 2021 (final term)

John Sweet, 2021 (2nd term)

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Assistance Committee: Les Thompson

Communications Committee: John Harrington

Exchange Shopkeeper: Bill Tilton

History Committee: John Lorenzen

Membership Committee: John Duffin

Public Relations Committee: "Willi Pete" Peterson

The Mekong Express Mail

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Via website—uses PayPal system to accept credit card payments.

By check—make checks payable to "TLC Brotherhood, Inc."

Write payment purpose and member number on check.

Mail to:

TLC Brotherhood
P.O. Box 60
Aspers, PA 17304

Reunion 2021: Gettysburg, PA

New Member Profile:

– Well, Since You Asked...

by Gene Seehafer

Editor's Note: Like all new TLCB members, Gene Seehafer was invited to submit some profile information. Gene responded that "Yes, he would," and submitted some thoughts and asked which I thought he should include. I said, "All of them, and let's just go with what you sent me." Gene hemmed and hawed, but after a day or so, said "Okay."

So, here it is.

Some topics I could discuss or go into detail are:

Last year the VFW Commander in Pinedale, Wyoming, encouraged me to put my military stuff on the wall as part of my family history. I was actually surprised that I still had a lot of it and said that I needed to do it for them. So, I started sorting through two old cigar boxes and that dusty, brown service envelope, all of which I had packed away in the dark over 50 years ago.

But then another thing happened. My ten-year-old grandson asked me one day, "Grandpa were you in the Civil War?" Last

Medal and Patch Display



After a lot of searching and reading to make sure I got it right, this is the final result. I was happy to find all the patches at various sites on line, placing primary ones on the board and others in my USAF scrapbook. Identifying the correct awards were quite the challenge, but between a number of key sources I learned many of the Units at NKP received the Presidential Unit Citation, the AF Outstanding Unit w/ "V" device, and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross w/ Palm at various time periods during my deployment.

Photos furnished by the author.

week I completed my Medal & Patch display and put it up on the great room wall, and here it is — proud to share it with you.

My lovely wife of 51 years, Judy, was the pretty blue-eyed blond who greeted me when I returned home from Southeast Asia in September 1969. She was the only one who came to an essentially empty airport. Not one of my family, no one else but her. Beyond a doubt, she is the most dedicated and hardest working gal anyone could find; she continues to work Real Estate in the Pinedale area.

Our son, Aaron, is a PE/Civil Engineer here in Pinedale. He and his lovely wife, Mindy, have two children, Erica 13 and Elliott 10.

Our daughter is a large animal veterinarian in Montrose, Colorado, and her husband is a fifth generation farmer in the same area.

My working career spanned 38 years, starting as Industrial Maintenance Engineer/Supervisor, then Project Engineering Design & Project Management. My dream was to have a little ranch of our own, and in 1992, we bought 10 acres of sagebrush land nine miles north of Daniel, Wyoming. For 15 years, literally every weekend, every holiday, and every vacation, but for a few exceptions, I drove 125 miles from Green River every Friday night to work on my dream, and every Sunday night back, tired and dirty. The evening of April 26, 2007 I turned up the driveway with a giant lump in my throat and tears streaming down my face, I finally retired and never having to go back again. After almost 30 years of hard work, we have 70 acres of our own little "Paradise" surrounded by three mountain ranges.

At NKP, my primary duty was Air Operations Specialist in the Hobo Squadron. Many of the pilots were our friends, and on two occasions Captain Ken Gilmore took me along on A-1E missions over Laos. I can expound on that, but two things really stick in my mind. On the first, Capt. John Flynn went down, an MIA never to be recovered. Second, on July 20, 1969 a group of us were gathered in the main squadron room listening to Armed Forces Radio as Neil Armstrong said those famous words as he became the first to walk on the moon.

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Candlestick Crew—Kneeling L-R Capt. Rabigan, Major Rogers, Sgt. Nelson, Sgt. ----
- Standing L-R Sgt. Seehafer, Major Mickelson, -----, Major Correll, Capt. Marek,
-----, Sgt. Jackson



Seehafer *continued from page 3*

Working Air Operations was a nice clean job, and after five months I could see what other guys were going through and having to do. I felt like I really wasn't doing my part and there must be more I could do to support the war effort. I heard that



Candlestick Crew—Front Row L-R Major Mickelson and Sgt. Ferlaak Standing L-R, Lt. Colvin, -----, Sgt. Seehafer, Major Mullarky, Major Sylvester, Major Pruitt

there was a shortage of flare kickers, and soon put in for that. When the Flight Surgeon performed my exam, he told me that I was too tall for flight status, but said, "From now on Seehafer you're 6'4." One night during a flare mission, I learned the reason for the height restriction —when I stood up quickly to do something with a flare and caught the bulk-head cable smack across the middle of my forehead.

I remember the day we boarded the commercial flight to come home. The plane was full of GIs who had just completed their tours. As the pilot hit the throttles and accelerated down the runway, everyone was chanting in unison "Go Go Go Go Go!" And as we lifted off—a thunderous cheer.



In May 2016 we had an incredible opportunity to join friends on a one-week Safari in South Africa. Every day was a new adventure seeing different landscapes and diverse terrain. We paused in the middle of our hunt to get a photo with PH Johan DeKoker and Opah our tracker.

After Basic Training my first assignment was the 3615 Pilot Training Wing, Craig AFB in Selma, Alabama. That was shortly after Martin Luther King walked his famous march to Montgomery. As a country boy from "Up North," I had no idea how bad all of that was down there. Talk about an education, Wow.

I'd been there almost two years, and repeatedly put in for transfer to Alaska or Germany, but never got it. One evening we were sitting around the barracks drinking beer, when this big hillbilly kid (seriously) from Kentucky joined in. Says, "I want to go to Spain," and I quickly responded something like "Bulls--t, you can't go to Spain, I've been trying for Alaska and Germany a long time, never got it. Well, he put in for Spain and boom, gone in two months. So, I went to talk to my TSgt in charge and asked what's the deal. He said something like, "Don't you get it Seehafer, your scores are too good, you're ripe for Southeast Asia." As I read thru all the articles about NKP and now the TLC Brotherhood 53 years later, I can understand it.

When I got back to the States in Sept '69 I had \$4000 cash from drawing triple pay burning a hole in my pocket. I found a fully loaded, brand new 350 Chevy Impala for \$3900. My last hitch was Grand Forks, North Dakota, where I drove back and forth from central Wisconsin most weekends to see that pretty little blonde girl. At a jewelry shop in Grand Forks that fall, I found the best diamond ring I could afford, and offered it to her on Christmas Eve. It's been an incredible journey since then, and we still have so much more to do.

Anyway, hope that's enough to get us started. The weather has cleared a bit so I better get out and get some things done.



Mid-February last year I took a break from winter snow removal to attend the Sportsman's Expo in Salt Lake City. I wanted to visit our old friend Croc Adams, owner of Southern Mountain Adventures on New Zealand's South Island. The Kiwis are always up for a cold "Beea," and Croc had a cooler full stashed right there at his booth. Though a bit early in the afternoon for this old Cowboy, it was great to see Croc again and have a good visit.

Is “Happy” the Right Word?

A Conversation

Editor’s Note: In late March, there was a message wishing visitors a “Happy Vietnam Veterans Day” on the TLCB Facebook page. It was not an official message from our leadership and it is not known if the message was posted by a TLCB member (that is not a requirement for posting messages on the page). A visitor to the page, Diane Steinhauser Shufelt, who had some significant experience in Vietnam, took exception to the use of the word “Happy” and wrote an email to representatives of the Brotherhood. TLCB Vice President, Gerry Frazier, responded to Ms. Shufelt and began what I feel is a conversation worth reprinting here.

Who is Diane Shufelt?

She is originally from Elizabeth, New Jersey, and lives in Stevens Point, Wisconsin. From October to December 1967, she was with the American Red Cross base in Vietnam as part of its “Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas” program, AKA “Donut Dollies.” Today, she is active in the American Heroes Café program in Wisconsin Rapids. “Heroes” is a diverse group of veterans and first responders with chapters throughout Wisconsin. The American Heroes Café awarded a Quilt of Valor to Diane in 2019.



Diane in a helicopter, 1960s.

Message from Diane Steinhauser Shufelt

To Leaders of the Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood
I feel compelled to write to you – the representatives of your organization – and ask one question: Why would you include the word “Happy” in the picture shown [at right]? I wonder how many Vietnam Veterans really want/need to be wished a Happy Vietnam Veterans Day? For so many, there may be absolutely nothing happy about it. Death, destruction, Agent Orange, PTSD, and the list goes on.

I pray that you will STOP with this message and take it down from your site. I have seen it so many times on Facebook (I also copied it from your website – shown at right) that I am appalled that you of all groups would use the descriptor “Happy.” No, I am not a killjoy; I enjoy a good (and sometimes a not-so-good joke). This is no joke.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss my comments to you. I would appreciate it!

Diane Steinhauser Shufelt

The Reply of TLCB Vice President, Gerry Frazier

Subject: RE: “Happy” REALLY???

Dear Ms Diane Steinhauser Shufelt,

Your note caught me by surprise – I was only recently aware we had a holiday for Vietnam Veterans. Your comments prompted me to check our web site, where the message was not found, but the graphic does appear on our Facebook page,

wishing Vietnam Vets a happy day, and welcoming them home. The Welcome Home greeting is the more important, because that’s how we often greet each other, since many never received that greeting when they returned from Southeast Asia. The passion in your note suggests you may have experienced a personal loss resulting from the war. So did we. If so, you deserve respect, and a Happy Day, as we all do, particularly when loss makes happiness difficult.

Reflecting on your objection to the wording on the graphic, I don’t know how you would modify the message. Perhaps, “Have a Respectful Day?” “Have a Quiet / Productive / Restful / Reflective / [or some other adjective] Day.” “Nice” does seem a bit trite, but it has the virtue of being short enough to occupy little space on the graphic, while conveying good will.

Many of us wish friends, or even strangers, a nice day on any given day, for no particular reason than to share good wishes. Should National Vietnam Veterans Day be any different? I am assuming your objections to the “Nice Day” message are not motivated by anti-war politics of the 1960s. If that’s the case, it’s your problem, not ours. We take pride in having served in a cause most of us found just, under difficult conditions.

Fifty years have passed since most of us returned from the war, and I am aware that DoD has sponsored various commemoration ceremonies, but until recently I was unaware that we had “a day.” On the web I found:

Origins of National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration

2007: Congress incorporated language in H.R. 4986 authorizing a program commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War

2008: H.R. 4986 was signed into law on January 28, 2008

2012: The Vietnam War Commemoration began with the Presidential inaugural event at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012

2017: The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017



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established The National Vietnam War Veterans Day to be celebrated each year on March 29.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War will continue through Veterans Day, 2025.



Vice President Gerry Frazier, who furnished the photo.

So, I guess we have had a commemorative day since President Obama signed the legislation. I celebrated by getting a COVID shot.

Thanks for sharing your reflections on Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day – have a Nice Day.

Respectfully,
Gerry Frazier
Vice President,
TLC Brotherhood

Subject: RE: “Happy” REALLY???

Thank you for your response. I used the word “message” to represent the information shown in/on the graphic. You are correct; I did not mean that there was a direct message. I offer my apologies to you.

The Welcome Home greeting is so definitely overdue, and I am in favor of it whenever appropriate in addition to thanking



Diane Shufelt on Daytona Beach.
Photos furnished by Diane.

veterans for their service. It’s the word “happy” that I have strong feelings about. Your assumption is correct — I am/was not motivated by any anti-war politics of the ‘60s. And yes, I have experienced more than what one may describe as a personal loss. And I did volunteer and serve in Vietnam in a civilian capacity for 13 months. So technically, I’m not a veteran; however, because of my personal experiences, I don’t believe I would ever use “happy” to commemorate death.

Your graphic has been “copied” (assumption on my part) and posted and reposted many times yesterday if my Facebook page is any indication. It reminds me of wishing someone a “Happy” Memorial Day (or a Happy Passing Day or a Happy Funeral Day) — which I also consider inappropriate if not downright ridiculous. It’s a commemoration — not a celebration.

But to each his/her own. You have yourself a happy day.

Diane Shufelt



The Legend of Airman Orez: Patient Zero

By Gary Beatty

No one who encountered Airman Orez could remember anything about him. But during a few months at Nakon Phanom (NKP) in the spring of 1974, he caused quite a commotion at the 56th USAF Hospital. To understand how, I must first explain about how the hospital operated and the key personnel involved in the Airman Orez saga.

The hospital squadron was one of the smallest on the base. Our total compliment was about 60, which included doctors, dentists, medics, a couple of nurses, lab, x-ray, pharmacy, dental and med record techs, along with various squadron admin guys. Being that small, nearly all of us enlisted guys knew each other and lived in the same hooch quad.

As was common in every USAF hospital I served in, the medics and various techs were on first name basis with the doctors. Rank was rarely acknowledged. The exception was the hospital commander. The most informal we got with him was to call him “Doc.” During most of my tenure at NKP, the hospital commander was Colonel (Dr) Thomas Santacroce, who we learned was the senior colonel flight surgeon in the entire Air Force at the time. (He told me why he was “never going to be a general,” but that’s a separate tale.)

‘Doc’ Santacroce took a personal interest in his troops and really looked out for us. He also preferred the food at the NCO club over the O-club, so he would put on civies and we’d take him into the NCO club to eat, as a guest, whenever possible. Because of my interest in the 56th SOW Medical Civic

Action Program (MedCAP), which was Doc Santacroce’s pet project, I became something of a protégé. One of my proudest possessions is a letter he wrote recommending me for medical school. My relationship with the colonel became a factor in the Airman Orez “crisis.”

In addition to the hospital commander, hospital squadrons are commanded by a non-physician. During Airman Orez’ tenure at NKP, our squadron commander was Captain “B,” who had arrived not long before Airman Orez. Prior to coming to NKP, Captain B had been a training squadron commander at Sheppard AFB, and had been my commander when I was training there.

Patient Zero continues next page

He had never commanded an operational hospital squadron, and it quickly became clear that he was not prepared for the differences from a tech school, such as the informality. He often verbally reprimanded us (and sometimes the doctors) for addressing each other by first names. He did not condone the dress code. He wore only 1505s. We all wore the jungle fatigues, which you are all familiar with, but he thought them inappropriate. He ordered that we all wear the starched whites commonly worn in the big hospitals. I pointed out to him that I was going out to the villages on MedCAP every week, often with armed Thai security, and that wearing whites would make me a bit conspicuous as a target for any lurking CTs. That befuddled him, and after consultation with Colonel Santacroce, the captain rescinded his order. Captain B also particularly disapproved of certain off-duty activities, and ordered that no one could live downtown with a teelok. That order was likewise quietly rescinded when the First Sgt continued living with his. Captain B was most assuredly not prepared to deal with Airman Orez.

Working the night shift (1700 - 0830) in the ER was either crazy busy, or mind numbingly boring. Some nights all we did was BS with the doctors or read while waiting for something bad to happen that we'd have to manage. As my grandma once said to me, "Idle hands are the devil's tools!" It was on one of those boring night shifts that Airman Orez first appeared in the hospital.

This is his tale as best as I can recall. Though the quoted conversations may not be exact, they convey the substance of what was said. Airman Orez, more specifically his 56th USAF Hospital medical record, came into existence in the wee hours of a boring ER night shift. No one can recall the reason for his first "visit" to the hospital, but over the next couple of months he had quite a few "hospital visits" for various ailments, and he became something of a celebrity. As his "fame" spread throughout the hospital, all departments contributed to Airman Orez's "care." He had lab work, x-rays, and dental work performed—all of which was meticulously documented in his medical record, though somehow none of the signatures were legible. Airman Orez continued to receive excellent care, until one day all of us "first-termers" were ordered to assemble for a commander's call.

At that meeting, Captain B informed us of the existence of "a falsified medical record," and he was "going to find out who was responsible." He said that he would personally oversee the search for the "fraudulent" record. After Captain B left the room, the First Sargent said, "You assholes made up a fake patient didn't you!" None of us, of course, had any idea what he was talking about. He said that he tried to explain to the captain that this was an old medic gag played on doctors; that we'd soon get bored with it and the mystery patient would disappear.

The captain, however, took it as an attempt to embarrass him personally, which never crossed anyone's mind—until we heard that. Then the comedy value expanded exponentially. Captain B was on a mission, and got OSI involved. That's when it turned into a Monte Python skit.

Over the next few days, each of us reported for an "interview" with OSI. My interview was typical of the others, and went like this:

OSI: Sgt Beatty, do you know -----?

Me: Yes.

OSI: How do you know him?

Me: He's a medic in the hospital.

OSI: Do you know ----- ?

Me: Yes

OSI: How do you know him?

Me: He's a lab tech in the hospital.

It went on like that for several minutes, until I told him that because we are such a small squadron and all live in the same hooch area, he could assume that I know everyone assigned to the hospital. After several more minutes of him asking me questions about "a fake patient record" and getting various renditions of "I don't know nothin' 'bout nothin," he told me to "get lost," and he made it clear that he had much more important things to do than "investigate this bullshit."

For about a week, none of us could access the records room because the captain and squadron orderly were in there going through every record. We had to request, and wait for, patient records from them, which caused patient backups at sick call. That pissed off the

doctors which got Colonel Santacroce involved. He put a stop to the nonsense and reopened the records room. He also took me aside for a "private word." He said, "Gary, I know you guys made up a fake patient. That's an old medical school prank, so I wouldn't be surprised if one of the doctors put you up to it. I'm not going to put you on the spot by asking if you know anything. Just make the patient disappear so things can get back to what passes for normal around here." As he turned to leave, he said, "You guys didn't trick me into signing anything in that chart did you?" This was followed quickly by, "Never mind, I don't want to know. Just make it go away!"

Airman Orez apparently DEROSSED soon after, because he was never seen nor heard of in the 56th USAF Hospital again. There are rumors that his med record showed up at a CONUS hospital along with others shipped there. But if such a thing happened, I have no knowledge of it, and if I did have such knowledge, I would not be disposed to talk about it. He may still be in some Air Force hospital records room to this day. Airman Orez—a legend in his own time.



Candidate Biographies for the Board of Directors

For Vice President, 2nd term

Gerald T. “Gerry” Frazier, Major, USAF (Ret).

Surirat “Sue” Frazier and I married at Udorn Thailand in 1971, and we have two sons and three grandchildren. I was born and raised in Louisville, KY and completed a B.A. Degree in Political Science and was Commissioned from Air Force ROTC at DePauw University, Greencastle, Indiana, in 1967. I also hold a Master’s Degree in Aeronautical Science from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University.

My first active-duty assignment was the Armed Forces Air Intelligence Training Center, Lowry AFB, CO. I arrived at Nakhon Phanom RTAFB in April 1969 and served at Task Force Alpha. In 1970, I took a consecutive overseas tour to Udorn RTAFB where my assignment was to HQ 7/13AF. In 1972, after 22 months at Udorn my assignment took me to Project 404 in Vientiane, Laos, until March 1973. I served a total of 20 years active duty in a variety of Intelligence positions in Hawaii, CONUS, and Germany. After Air Force retirement, I held a variety of private sector and government civilian jobs in, or related to, intelligence, analysis, and computer modeling and simulation. I retired from the US Government in 2015.

I am a charter member of TLC Brotherhood, having joined in 1998, and was previously appointed a Member-At-Large on the Board of Directors to fill a vacancy. I was first elected Vice President in 2019 and I am willing to serve another term. Thank you.

For Secretary, 1st term

David Gurley

I was stationed at Udorn in 1970 to January of 1971, working in the communications center.

I would like to become more involved in the TLCB again. I have been a member of the TLCB since 2001 and was secretary of the Assistance Committee from 2007—2019. My wife, Virginia, and I have attended many reunions and were on the committee for the Atlanta, GA 2010 Reunion. You may remember that she supplied delicious homemade snacks and I built the lighted, bamboo Nipa Hut for the hospitality room. We both enjoyed the experience and camaraderie involved with the committee undertaking.

We live in Rockmart GA. I was a school teacher and have been retired since 2000, spending my free time gardening and making knives. We also enjoy travel to visit our children. Our daughter’s family is at Luke AFB where our son-in-law is a Lt. Colonel and F-16 pilot, and our son and his family are in Indiana.



For Secretary, 1st term

Tom Ungleich

Hello: I am running for the position of Secretary, and would like to take a couple minutes of your time to tell you about myself. I was raised in Syracuse, New York and received a Bachelor of Science degree from the State University of New York in 1968. At the “encouragement” of the draft board, I enlisted in the active U.S. Air Force in 1969 and was assigned to the medical service career field. I served overseas in the Azores, Guam, and Nakhon Phanom. While at NKP, I was assigned as a Radiology Technician and also functioned as the Supply NCO for the MedCAP Program. I was honorably discharged in 1973, but after a while, began to miss military life, so I enlisted in the Air Force Reserve and was assigned to the air transportation career field. Receiving a direct commission in 1980, I was subsequently assigned to bases in the US, Germany, and Japan as a Reservist. In September 2001, I volunteered for recall to active duty in support of the War Against Terrorism, deployed to US Forces Japan (USFJ), Yokota AB, as a Logistics Readiness Staff Officer, where I remained until October 2002. I received the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and the Joint Service Achievement Medal for this year of active duty. After release from recall, I returned to regular Reserve status until my mandatory retirement from the Air Force Reserve in April 2006. I was awarded the DoD Meritorious Service Medal for my 33 years’ military service.

After my active-duty military service, I returned to Florida to continue my education, and obtained a Master of Arts degree in European History from the University of Miami in 1974. I then started law school part-time in the evenings and eventually earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Miami School of Law.

I had an eleven-year career with the former Seaboard Coast Line Railroad (now CSX), mostly working out of Miami, FL, in various administrative and managerial capacities. I began practicing law as an associate at a law firm on Miami Beach, FL, in 1986, but after a couple years in private practice, decided to enter the federal civil service with the Department of Defense and its military forces. My legal assignments were numerous due to the constant reorganizations after the end of the Cold War, which included these OCONUS commands: US Army Europe, Hanau, Germany; USFK, Osan Air Base, S. Korea; and PACAF, Hickam AFB, HI. I picked my last assignment to be HQ US Army Japan, Camp Zama, Japan, employed as the Administrative & International Law Attorney until my retirement from the Federal Civil Service in 2010, after a total of over 22 years.

I have been married to Kim for over 40 years. We met at NKP and have one grown daughter, who also lives in South Florida. Despite all the traveling for DoD, we have maintained our home in Hollywood, Florida, since 1984 and try to make a trip to Thailand every 2 or 3 years. We were privileged to meet with both John Middlewood and Mac Thompson on some of those occasions. We volunteered at an orphanage in Buriram, Thailand and wrote an article for the December 2016 Mekong Express Mail.

I have been a member of The Florida State Bar for almost 40

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years, and have been an active member of the TLCB since 2011, currently serving on the Assistance Committee. I am a life member of both the Reserve Officers Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars and an active member of American Legion Post 821 in Clayton, NY. I have participated in several church-sponsored medical missions to the Dominican Republic, and regularly volunteer at Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital in Hollywood.

In conclusion, I feel that my education, training, and experience render me well-qualified for the position as TLCB Secretary. If elected, I promise to give my best efforts to the position and to the Brotherhood. Thank you for your anticipated support.



For Chaplain, 1st term ***George Shenberger***

I am running for Chaplain and would like to tell you a little about myself. I was in the United States Air Force from November 1965 to February 1969, and went to Chanute AFB and Aerospace Ground Power Equipment Repair School after basic at Lackland AFB. After graduating from the ground power course, my next assignments were Mather AFB in Sacramento for a year and McConnell AFB for more schooling on gas turbine engines. My next stop was Korat, Thailand for a year where I was a member of the 388th T.F.S. providing support for the F-105 missions over North Vietnam. After that, it was off to Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, then TDY to Naha, Okinawa. During my time there, the U.S. Pueblo was captured, and I volunteered to go to South Korea, Suwon AFB, ROK, when the Air Force sent a squadron of F-101s to Suwon from Naha.

After my military service, I worked for Johnson Controls as a maintenance machine repairman for 34 years, and retired in York, PA in 2004. My wife, Ruth Ann, and I raised four children; three graduated from college and the youngest girl manages our preschool in York, Jkandjlnurseryschool.com. I am a full-time landlord in York, PA and Wildwood Crest, NJ, where Ruth Ann and I are property managers.

I have visited Thailand and Laos three times and have traveled the roads with Mac Thompson and visited John Middlewood, both of whom were blessings to everyone and are missed by all. We visited the schools, orphanages, and some of the projects you read about in the "Mekong Express Mail." These trips gave me an opportunity to see our TLCB Assistance Program at work! The appreciation the students and teachers show is unbelievable. Travelling at our own expense, and experiencing these locations and what little the children and teachers work with, I realized that I would like to help with the TLCB objectives!

With my past military experiences, my present, successful business ventures, and my time on the BOD, I know I can continue to be an asset to the TLCB. I would also like to help the TLCB with its spiritual side. Ruth Ann and I attend two churches in York, PA, the Living Word Church and the Eastminster Presbyterian Church. I am asking you to vote for me for Chaplain. I promise to do a good job.

For Board Member, 1st term ***Alfonso (Al) Dozal***

Greetings. I have been a member of this honorable group for over 10 years, and my wife, Leonor (Ellie), who is also a member, and I have attended and enjoyed several reunions.

After attending a semester at The University of Texas El Paso, I joined the USAF, and completed basic training at Lackland AFB. My orders then sent me to Chanute AFB, where in December of '71, I graduated as an airframe structural specialist and plastics fabricator. Subsequently, my assignments in 1972 included Dyess AFB with the 463rd TAC Field Maintenance Squadron and Cannon AFB with the 27th FMS. In 1973, my PCS was to Ubon RTAFB where I served in PACAF with the 8th TFW/16th SOS "Spectre." Upon my completion of duty in SEA in 1974, I was assigned to McClellan AFB with the 2951st Combat Logistics Support Squadron.

In 1975, I was honorably discharged, after which I became a corrections officer before returning to the university. I earned a degree in education and was an elementary school teacher for 30 years before retiring in 2011. Despite the fact that many of us see each other just once a year at our awesome reunions, Ellie and I feel that we have gained a family of brothers and sisters from across the globe. As members of the TLCB, we are proud of the achievements of this great organization, and I would be honored to serve as a member at large on the board if I receive your vote.

For Board Member, final term ***John Sweet***

Born in 1947 in Marblehead, MA (suburb of Boston); moved to Salem, MA; and graduated from Salem High School in 1966

Joined USAF in 1966 and graduated from basic training in October 1966, then assigned to Headquarters Western Ground Engineering Electronics Installation Agency at McClellan Air Force Base, CA. August 1969, ordered to Bien Tuey, Vietnam. Orders changed to 1987th Communications Squadron, assigned to Message Distribution Center, within the Tactical Units Operations Compound, Nakhon Phanom August 1969 — September 1970.

Assigned to 2014th Communications Squadron, Hanscom Field, Bedford, MA from September 1970 until July 1972. Assigned to Commander's Staff, NCOIC Administrative Services, 2069th Communications Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base until July 1973.

1979 — 2002, Engineering Services Supervisor at Gloucester Engineering Corporation, Gloucester, Massachusetts.

August 1997 returned to Nakhon Phanom and Thare Orphanage, then commenced Operation Thare program to aid the children there.

In 1998 with Bill Tilton, Paul Lee and others, commenced establishment and founding of the Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood as a 501c(3) non-profit charity Veterans Organization.

TLC Brotherhood Treasurer 1998 — 2000

Founded TLC Brotherhood Assistance Program 1998

Assistance Committee Chairman 1998 — 2006

TLCB Vice President 4 terms: 2000 – 2004 & 2009 — 2013

President of the TLCB March 2013 to 2016

I am a strong supporter of all TLCB objectives and membership.

Maj(ret) Floyd F. McGurk 1937-2021

by Marshall McGurk

My father didn't talk about his experiences in Southeast Asia while my brother and I were growing up. By the time we returned from our own deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan, my Dad had found the Thai-Laos-Cambodia Brotherhood, and gained more confidence to talk about his tours of duty. The connection with comrades and friends undoubtedly extended his life by many years. He spoke joyfully of the reunions, sent hundreds of emails documenting history, and implored his sons to learn more from the Vietnam-era veterans. Unfortunately, the effects of Agent Orange, strokes, and diabetes took their toll on my father, and he died the evening of April 30, 2021. He was 83.

The son of a western Pennsylvania coal miner and a university cook, my Dad, Floyd Francis McGurk, who took on the moniker "Old Floyd" by the time he reached 70, was commissioned as a Distinguished Military Graduate with an active-duty commission into the Army Corps of Engineers in 1961 from Colorado School of Mines. He took his young family to Fort Lewis, WA, where he participated in maneuvers in Alaska, Yakima, WA and other training sites in the West. Stateside garrison military life would soon be overtaken by overseas field service. Of his 15.5 years on active duty, 9.5 of those years were overseas.

As the Vietnam War ramped up, then 1LT McGurk was deployed to Thailand in 1964, building out Air Force bases at Nakhon Phanom and Korat, Thailand. He grew fond of Thailand and the Thai people while making many friends, including now-deceased TLCB member Mac Thompson. After returning to Fort Lewis and now a Captain, he went to Fort Bragg, NC for advisory training. He arrived in Vietnam as an Infantry Advisor to the South Vietnamese Regional Force / Popular Force in the Mekong River Delta, at Truc Giang, Vietnam. He returned to the U.S. with a Combat Infantryman's



Photo of Floyd when he served as a senior member in the CAP cadet program, in South Carolina and the Southeast, 1995-2008. Photos from various sources.

Badge (CIB), and a Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Bronze Star for directing U.S. aircraft against Viet Cong positions during an attack. (I never knew about this until I had the award translated after his death. He never spoke of it.)

After a quick sojourn at USMC Amphibious Warfare School, and then Arizona State University for a graduate degree, now MAJ McGurk returned to Vietnam from 1969-1970 as an Engineer at Tan Son Nhut Air Base near Saigon. It turned out to be an eventful tour of duty, as he suffered a heart attack, was evac'd

to Camp Zama, Japan, quit smoking, and then saved men out of a burning ammunition building before it exploded. For the latter action he was decorated with the Soldier's Medal. Of all his decorations, he was most proud of the Soldier's Medal and the CIB. He left the Army in 1976, but returned to federal service with the Corps of Engineers at West Point, NY in 2003, retiring in 2007.

Floyd McGurk traveled the world on construction sites with the Army or various companies: Thailand, Vietnam, Yap island, Saudi Arabia, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, and Barbados, to name a few. He



Floyd in combat gear.

made friends everywhere he went. Furthermore, he encouraged young people to consider military service while admonishing older generations not to waste young lives needlessly. As he stated during a Veteran's Day interview with Medal of Honor recipient Jack Jacobs: "They are all our sons and daughters."

He leaves behind a legacy of caring for young people, being passionate for justice, loyal service, and a hatred of war that made him an exceptional warrior. A Zoom virtual memorial is being held on June 19, while an in-person memorial is scheduled for Saturday, 21 August in Pittsburgh, PA, with interment the following day. More details will be published through TLCB leadership for those wishing to attend. Memorial donations can be sent to the TLCB or Guiding Eyes for the Blind.



With Mac Thompson, standing, left, in Thailand at Christmas, 1964. Floyd is standing, with white shirt. Mac is waving the Hawaiian "Good Luck" sign.

REUNION *continued from page 1*

whole war. It was the only major battle on Union soil and resulted in the most casualties of the Civil War. After the war there was a great desire to place thousands of monuments to commemorate soldiers' units and special events in the war. An agreement was reached that Gettysburg would be the primary site for commemorative Civil War monuments, which explains why there are so many here, rather than at other famous sites like Antietam and Shiloh. Gettysburg is also important for other events besides the Civil War battle (see "The Gettysburg You Didn't Know You Knew," on page 14).

Transportation

While some say the battle happened here because of the ten major roads leading to Gettysburg, none are Interstates. There are several major Interstates within a half hour: I-81, I-76, and I-83, and near-Interstate quality US-15 running North and South. The old Lincoln Highway, US-30, goes through the middle of town. Today there is no passenger rail or bus service. D.C. and Baltimore airports are within reasonable driving distance, and the airport that serves the state capital of Harrisburg has a surprising number of direct connections and is an hour's drive from the hotel. Philadelphia and Pittsburgh have excellent airports, but are quite a bit further to drive. If you have the time, we suggest you drive the slower routes and enjoy the picturesque Pennsylvania farmland.

Your Gettysburg Address

We will stay at the Hotel Wyndham Gettysburg, located in the Gateway Gettysburg campus, at:

95 Presidential Cir, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

Hotel phone number: (717) 339-0020

Identify your group as: THE TLC BROTHERHOOD to get our group room rate of \$129 plus sales tax. "Central Reservations," and other reservation services may not recognize this group.

Our contract includes three "shoulder dates" before and after the reunion period, at the group rate.

Cutoff date: You MUST reserve by September 14 in order to qualify for the group rate.

NOTE: The committee strongly recommends reserving as soon as possible since the hotel is already filling up for our group and is experiencing strong interest in post-Covid travel. We have a limited block of guaranteed rooms. (You may cancel



As the Civil War tested whether "...that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure.", the 1794 "Whiskey Rebellion" tested whether a government of this union of 13 independent states could even govern at all. George Washington's 12-15,000 troops showed a skeptical World that it could. On the way back to Philadelphia President Washington stopped at Russel's Tavern, now a private residence. It is about four miles north of Gettysburg, which had not yet been founded.

up to 24 hours before your stay, if necessary).

Rosie's Memorial Assistance Quilt Raffle

Yes! there is a quilt raffle again this year. Once again, this quilt is being donated by an anonymous member and will be stitched by the widow of the long-time president of another veteran's group, who has been providing excellent quilts to that group for at least 20 years. See example, on page 2:

The SHIRT

This year we had a request for a traditional T-shirt, so that's what it will be. We have chosen a black Port Authority long sleeve T shirt in lady's style or men's regular or tall. The men's Ts will have a pocket. The reunion logo and motto will be



View of shirt back.

silk-screened all across the back, and "Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood" will appear on the right front. The illustration shows approximately what it will look like on the shirt.

Schedule (tentative)

- Thursday:** Registration and Nipa Hut
Option of Thai dinner "on your own" (OYO)
- Friday:** AM: Gettysburg Area Special Tour
Lunch (to be determined) OYO
PM: Visitor Center or LS-85 Briefing
Pizza dinner and Auction in Nipa Hut
- Saturday:** AM: corporate Annual Meeting
Lunch (to be determined) OYO
PM: Guided Battlefield Tour
Banquet, quilt drawing, guest speaker

Area Attractions: Expand your reunion trip and enjoy South-Central Pennsylvania points of interest, such as the Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, the state capital of Harrisburg, including the Pennsylvania History Museum, the Civil War Museum, and the lavish State Capitol; the stone arch Rockville Bridge, and the Enola railroad classification yard. There is Hershey, the Harley Davidson motorcycle factory in York, and the "snack food capital" factories of Hanover.

Further east is Lancaster County's famous Pennsylvania Dutch country. And **further west** is the 9/11 monument to the brave passengers and crew of United Flight 93, near Shanksville. Maryland's Antietam battlefield is about **an hour south**. It is the best-preserved battlefield and the site of the most casualties in one day in U.S. history.



Abraham Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address"

Note: After the Battle of Gettysburg ended, there were nearly 9000 decomposing bodies on the fields around the town. After various efforts by locals were begun, Governor Curtin of Pennsylvania, was appalled by the scene of dead bodies, shallow graves, and the gruesome task that confronted the citizens of the town. He asked attorney George Wills to purchase land for a Union cemetery. Curtin proposed to the other Union states that they chip in and a contractor was hired to re-inter Union bodies. Confederate dead were buried where they fell, in relatively shallow graves, as the bitter war dragged on for nearly two more years.

Though only about a third of the Union bodies had been re-interred, a dedication of this first national cemetery was held on November 19th, 1863. World-renowned orator Edward Everett was engaged to give the consecrating speech. As a courtesy, Governor Curtin invited President Lincoln to attend and make "a few appropriate remarks." Here is his text..

Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.

Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battle-field of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this.

But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate — we cannot consecrate — we cannot hallow — this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or

detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us — that from these

honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion — that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain — that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom — and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.

Abraham Lincoln
November 19, 1863



GEORGE LINCOLN SCHREADER

Short Biographical History – Military Civil War Connection

By George F. Schreder, Jr.

Author's Note: This short biographical history of my Great Grandfather was published as a supplemental chapter in my 2015 book entitled, "Sergeant Doughboy – Journal of a WWI American Soldier." This was the second book of my three-book military history series – Generations at War – about the military connection of four successive generations of Schreder men, all named "George." My Great Grandfather, by all family historical and anecdotal accounts, was a remarkable artisan whose stone sculptures and artistic work were well known throughout the eastern coal region of Pennsylvania in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. His seminal work of sculpturing, "The Sharpshooter," a tribute to Pennsylvania's 96th Infantry Regiment, lies in the hallowed battlefield of Gettysburg near the base of Little Round Top.

George Lincoln Schreder was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania on May 3, 1865, a few short weeks after the assassination of President Abraham Lincoln. His middle name bears honor to the great president bestowed by his parents, James Schreder (original German spelling "Schroeder"), and Mary Ann (Sturman) Schreder, both of whose parents had immigrated to America in the late 1700s (James's parents from Germany; Mary Ann's parents from England).

George L. by all accounts was a gifted craftsman and artist, and at age 19 left the coal region to study at the Philadelphia Academy of Fine Arts. There he met the future renowned American sculptor, August Zeller, who was five years his senior. While residing in Philadelphia, George L. and Zeller roomed together during their time at the academy and became very good friends. Zeller was later godfather to George L.'s first-born son,

Schreder continues next page

August Albert (the author's Grandfather,) who was named after the future great sculptor. George L. himself would go on to gain local fame as an artist and sculptor, and in collaboration with Zeller, designed and sculpted one of Gettysburg National Park's famous Civil War monuments, "The Sharpshooter," honoring the 96th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry Regiment.

After graduating from the academy, George L. returned to Pottsville and learned the stone carving trade, working for family friend Richard Collins, who ran the local marble works. Around 1887, the State of Pennsylvania contracted Collins Granite and Marble Works to create the monument to the 96th Infantry Regiment, which was mustered in Schuylkill County during the Civil War. It was to be placed near the Wheatfield below Little Round Top in Gettysburg National Park, where the regiment battled at the base of Little Round Top during the Battle of Gettysburg. It is not known exactly how the triad of Collins, Zeller, and George L. came together on the project, but since the state was contracting a local county business, it is presumed that George L. recommended or referred his friend to the state, as Zeller at the time was living at his home in New Jersey.

History indicates that by this date, Zeller was already beginning to gain recognition in the art world for his sculpting talents, and the Gettysburg monument would later prove to help launch his future career. August Zeller was brought in as the sculptor/artist to design the monument, and he moved to Pottsville to work on the project, opening up an art studio, where he continued his early work for the next five years before leaving Pottsville. When Zeller arrived, he partnered with his friend George L. at the Collins works to assist as artist-designer. Both Zeller and George L. are recognized and recorded as artist and/or sculptor, but whether there ever was an official contractual designation differentiating the two is lost to history. Regardless, by all verbal accounts of family history and archival local newspaper accounts of the period, George L. was the primary artisan/craftsman who contributed both design and stone carving skills to create the famous monument at the Collins works in Pottsville.

The artist's model for the monument was Thomas D. Gillespie, who was a personal friend of George L., who also hailed from Mechanicsville, an adjacent borough of Pottsville where the Schreder family lived at the time. The Schreder family archives contain a series of four of the artist's original nude photographs of Gillespie in the familiar soldier's pose

Changed your address? ...eMail?

If so, please let us know so that we can update the official database and ensure that *MEM* issues and official mail get addressed properly. You can send an email to BillTilton@gmail.com, or a note in the mail to TLC Brotherhood, PO Box 60, Aspers, PA 17304.

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***The Official Thailand-Laos-Cambodia
Brotherhood page***



96th Pennsylvania Volunteers regimental monument near the foot of Little Round Top. This granite sculpture was dedicated in 1888, 25 years after the Battle of Gettysburg. The sculptor was the great-great-grandfather of the author.

that was to become the hallmark of the monument — "The Sharpshooter" — lying prone in the field looking out onto the battleground. The monument was thought to have been completed in a year's time, and it was then transported to Gettysburg, where it was dedicated on June 21, 1888. Both sadly and unfortunately for family historical recognition, only the Zeller and Collins names are etched on the monument. An undated family archival photograph of George L., his wife Anna, one child, thought to be August, b.1890, and an unidentified man who is believed to be a park official, was taken sometime after the dedication in the early 1890s in front of the monument in Gettysburg.

After the completion and placement of the Gettysburg monument, George L. continued to assist Zeller on various projects until Zeller's departure from Pottsville some four years later. Several other figurine monuments were sculpted and erected by Zeller and George L. and placed in Garfield Square, Pottsville, to commemorate the Civil War. After Zeller's departure when he went to France to study under world-renowned artist, Auguste Rodin, George L. continued in the stone carving trade, leaving Collins in 1891 and opening his own business, the George Lincoln Schreder Granite & Marble Works, in Bradford, Pennsylvania. He then moved the business back to Pottsville in 1894, opening the George L. Schreder Pottsville Granite & Marble Works. His business thrived and produced many monuments around the state, but a detailed record of additional monuments beyond those mentioned above has been lost to history. He ran the business in Pottsville for twenty years until failing health, of lung-related disease from years of stone carving, forced his confinement to his home for a year until his death at age 51 in February, 1916. The business was initially continued by his two sons, August Albert and George William, but was sold shortly after their father's death. It was his second son, George William Schreder, who enlisted in the Pennsylvania National Guard in June, 1916 and moved on to shape his own piece of family military history in WWI.

Historical data compiled by George Falls Schreder, Jr., 2015.



The Gettysburg You Didn't Know You Knew

by Bill Tilton

Four Wars, 1938 Reunion, National Cemetery, Eisenhower, —and More

Most people know that Gettysburg is famous for a Civil War battle, and perhaps even more so for a short speech given by President Lincoln. Most “mature” Americans may also recall that President Eisenhower and his wife, Mamie, lived near Gettysburg after he retired from public life. But much less well known is General Eisenhower’s other connections with the town, and the activities here that occurred during World Wars I and II. Your local reunion committee has arranged with a professional guide to present these fascinating details and take us around to some of the sites.

On this tour we will learn why Captain Ike despised his first command assignment, a training camp on the battlefield, yet later chose to retire to the first house the famous couple ever owned, a farm nearby. On certain occasions here, he hosted both the Englishman he most admired and the Englishman who had been his greatest headache. He also entertained the leader of our then-greatest rival in the World. See where the White House operated for 38 days while Ike was president. After Ike had signed the laws creating our 49th and 50th states, he was presented with the nation’s first 50-star flag. We will learn about the “church of the presidents,” where it’s on display, along with a couple of excellent paintings by this talented general and president. And we will also learn about two other presidents who worshipped in the same church.

In 1938, nearly 2000 Union and Confederate brothers-in-arms (average age 94) met peacefully where they had once tried so furiously to maim and kill each other in 1863. For the final great reunion of these surviving veterans the obvious choice

Below, Rebel and Yankee veterans meet again at “The Angle,” where so much blood was spilled on both sides. This photo was taken during the famous and final Civil War veterans reunion, held here in 1938. Tara Wenzel will reveal fascinating details about this emotional and famous “final encampment.”



Retired from the NSA, Tara Wenzel now pursues her avocation in Adams County, PA. Here she explains surprising facts about the “Eternal Flame Peace Memorial,” which was dedicated in 1938. Photos furnished by the author. Just visible are the two breech-loading Whitworth rifled cannon, which are very rare.

was Gettysburg. At the (almost) perpetually burning “Eternal Flame Peace Memorial” that they dedicated here on the 75th anniversary of the end of the Gettysburg Battle, we will learn facts both amazing and curious about that famous encampment. For the armorers among us, did we know that there were two breech-loading cannon at Gettysburg during the battle? We will have a chance to see them on that hallowed knoll. By the way, the barrels of nearly all the cannon on this battlefield *are* original, though the concrete carriages only *look* like wood, which would have rotted away many years ago.

On the square is the Hotel Gettysburg, a place that has many stories of its own to tell, and was witness to many notable events. Less than a block off Lincoln Square we will see Christ

Lutheran Church, where a famous photo was taken, showing the West Point “class the stars fell on,” including some of the most famous generals in U.S. history.

On Confederate Avenue we will see where German prisoners of war were encamped during—and after—World War II, and we’ll learn about another nearby prison camp that was much more secret and much less friendly. And speaking of secrets, at this stop we will see McMillan Woods, where some very sneaky things were going on during WW II (ever heard of the Camp Sharpe “Psycho Boys”?), and this stop happens to be very close to the launch point of “Pickett’s Charge” that was the climactic and, for the



Gettysburg continues next page

Confederacy, disastrous, event of the three-day Battle of Gettysburg.

Finally, we may visit the graves of some important heroes who are buried in the Gettysburg National Cemetery, which President Lincoln helped dedicate in November of 1863, when he uttered “a few appropriate remarks,” known forever after as “Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address.”

Our guide for this tour will be Mrs. Tara Wenzel, who retired from a career at the National Security Agency (NSA), as did her husband, Ray. They are now local residents, but both have visited dozens of foreign nations during their careers, including all the countries of Southeast Asia, of course. As we will see, Tara has done an enormous amount of research, and has a wonderful knack for weaving events and places together in a way that is both entertaining and informative, using key events to explain why others occurred, the way and where, they did.



The 2021 Reunion Local Committee in the lobby of the Whyndham Gettysburg Hotel. Left to right: Alan Flowers, Thelma Tilton, Bill Tilton (chairman), Monty Dubs, Potanje Dubs, Jim Hebert. Inset: Marie and Ray Boas, who live near Dayton, Ohio, but volunteered to take charge of the “Nipa Hut” hospitality room.

Lunch and Visitor Center

The final schedule is still being developed for Friday and Saturday lunches. One may be at the highly regarded General Pickett Buffet with options to walk a short distance to any of a number of other restaurants, fast-food vendors, and various tourist shops of interest. Also, the Gettysburg Battlefield Museum and Visitor Center has a nice cafe for our group. There you can view an enormous collection of battle artifacts, take a bus tour to the Eisenhower Farm, and immerse yourself in the giant and legendary Cyclorama painting of the battle. Created by French artist Paul Philippoteaux in 1884, the Battle of Gettysburg Cyclorama depicts the fury of Pickett’s Charge during the decisive third day of fighting. *You will be impressed!*

The painting weighs 6 tons and measures 42 feet high by 377

feet wide. The work survived years of commercial exhibition, multiple moves, vandalism, fire, cuts and neglect before finding a home in Gettysburg in 1913. Purchased by the National Park Service in 1942, the painting underwent multiple restoration efforts—including a multimillion-dollar restoration from 2004–2008. It is displayed with actual battlefield objects and debris.

And we are hoping to include a hotel presentation by “Willie Pete” Peterson, for an update on the new information he has uncovered on the LS-85 attack.

The Battlefield

Our tour of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park will be directed by Mr. Denny Forwood, who has been a licensed guide for over 20 years. We promise you will not be disappointed

or bored. Even serious students of the battle and the Civil War will always learn something new, and for the rest of us, we will easily understand what happened here, and why. Administered by the National Park Service, this National Military Park includes over 6,000 acres of land, more than 1,300 monuments, 400 cannons, 31 miles of historic avenues, and 147 historic buildings.



At left, The obelisk stands at the “High Watermark of the Confederacy,” where General Lee’s frontal attack on the Union center was turned back after some of the fiercest fighting of the war, known as “Pickett’s Charge.” The Pennsylvania monument is at far left, and Little Round Top, then fog-bound Big Round Top, are in the distance.



Newest Members in the TLC Brotherhood



The 12 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 sincere “Welcome Home.”

No.	Branch	Last Name	First Name	City	State
1960	USAF	Kassatkin	Alexei	Arcata	CA
1961	USAF	Thurston	Dan	Harwinton	CT
1962	USAF	Fink	Edward	The Villages	FL
1963	USAF	Busby	Robert	Salisbury	MA
1964	USAF	Miller	J.O.	Arlington	TX
1965	USA	Farkas	John	Brookfield	WI
1966	USAF	McClure	Charles	Crowley	TX
1967	USAF	Rowe	Gordon	Millersville	PA
1968	USAF	Thomson	Jon	Pomona	CA
1969	USAF	Seehafer	Gene	Daniel	WY
1970	USAF	Walters	Rich	University Place	WA
1971	USAF	Rewt	Edward	Peckville	PA

Student Assistance Program



Juthathip Siriwong

Nittaya Manasen



Nantawee Chanapoch

In April, we had three students complete their university studies. These three students, left to right: Juthathip Siriwong, Nittaya Manasen and Nantawee Chanapoch, all started high school in 2014. After completing high school, they moved into university where they continued their studies.

The Assistance Committee congratulates these students on their achievements.

Les Thompson, Chairman