

MEKONG EXPRESS MAIL



THE NEWSLETTER OF THE THAILAND LAOS CAMBODIA BROTHERHOOD, INC. VOLUME 14, ISSUE 2

New President for the TLCB

In March of this year, Frank Marsh resigned as President of the Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood (TLCB). In accordance with the by-laws, John Sweet, who had been serving as Vice President, has taken over the Presidency, and Les Thompson, who was a Member-at-Large of the Board becomes the Vice President. Mike Potaski was appointed a member-at-large to complete Thompson's term in that position.

Message from John Sweet

Brothers and Sisters - I pledge to do everything I can to further comradeship and growth of the TLC Brotherhood and I will work hard to enhance the organization's spirit of service for all members.

I am excited about our gathering together in brotherhood at Ft. Walton Beach, FL 3-6 October 2013. This will be our first return to "The Beach" for our reunion in 10 years. Ed Miller is once again our Local Reunion Chairman, and under his capable leadership he and his fellow committee members will once again put on a warm, smashing, fun-filled event. I especially welcome each of you to fellowship with one another at Hurlburt Field, where those old planes we know stand guard over the memories and monuments which fill us with so many emotions when we band together. Mark your calendars and don't miss this opportunity to meet with old friends and make new ones. If you have never attended a TLCB reunion, make this one your first. Come meet our brothers and share experiences! I look forward to seeing you there in October!

A profile of John Sweet appears on page 2.

Table of Contents

New President for TLCB	1
A Profile of John Sweet.....	2
Editor's Message: More About Members	2
On the Road to ... NE Laos with Mac Thompson	3
TLCB Information	8
Newest Members.....	8
My Year in Korat, Thailand.....	9
Why I Joined the TLCB, by John Lorenzen	9
Reunion Speaker, Col Edward Hubbard	12
Coming Home—Remembrance "At The Beach"	13
TLCB Annual Meeting.....	15
Rosie's Quilt for 2013	16



New TLCB president, John Sweet, at the 2008 reunion in Philadelphia.

**Don't miss all the great member news. Join us at the TLCB Forum.
Go to www.tlc-brotherhood.com/Forum**

A Profile of John Sweet, the new President of the TLCB



John Sweet was born in 1947 in Marblehead, MA, a suburb of Boston. He moved to Salem, MA at age 9, graduated from Salem High School in 1966, and joined the USAF that year, graduating from basic training in October. John attended technical training school at Lowery

Air Force Base as a 23450 precision photographic processing specialist in satellite reconnaissance; he cross-trained to 70250, and was assigned to Headquarters Western Ground Engineering Electronics Installation Agency at McClellan Air Force Base, California. He was ordered to Vietnam at Bien Tuey and assigned to 56th Special Operations Wing, 1987th Communications Squadron, Tactical Units Operations Center, Nakhon Phanom from August 1969 to September 1970. While there, John established "Operation Thare" to assist the children at St. Joseph's School at Sakhon Nakhon, Thailand under Father Lawrence W. Khai.

John was next assigned to 2014th Communications Squadron, Hanscom Field, Bedford, MA from September 1970 until July 1972, then received assignment to the commander's staff 2069th Communications Squadron, Nellis Air Force Base, NV until July 1973.

After leaving the Air Force, John worked at the Peabody Museum, Salem, MA as a photographic processing specialist

and microfilm technician. John's avocations include his twice serving on the vestry of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Salem, acting as chairman of the Salem Handicapped Commission, serving on the Salem Planning Department Advisory Board, and member of the Salem Historical Commission. From March 1979 until his retirement in August of 2002, John worked as an engineering services specialist at Gloucester Engineering Corporation, Gloucester, MA.

John married the love of his life, Nancy B. Haley, in May 1979. They relocated to Seabrook, NH in 1983 where he served as president of the Seabrook Village Association in 1984 and was founding chairman of the Seabrook Village Cooperative.

In August 1997, John returned to Nakhon Phanom and the Thare Orphanage and met with Archbishop Lawrence Khai who ran the orphanage during the war and commenced a program to aid the children there today. Father Khai has since died.

In 1998, with Bill Tilton, Paul Lee, and others, John helped found and establish the Thailand Laos Cambodia Brotherhood as a 501(c) 3 non-profit charity veterans' organization for those who served in the TLC Theatre. John continues to be a strong supporter of all TLCB objectives and membership.

TLC Brotherhood Treasurer 1998 -2000

TLCB Vice President; 4 terms: 2000-2004 & 2009-2013

Founded TLC Brotherhood Assistance Program 1998

TLC Brotherhood Assistance Committee Chairman

1998-2006

Established TLC Brotherhood original

list servers 1999



Editor's Message: More About the Members

This is the third issue of the Mekong Express Mail (MEM) that I've edited. Actually, it's more accurate to say the third that I've been involved in the editing of. The fact is that Bill and Thelma Tilton still do a good deal of the heavy lifting. Nonetheless, I wanted to take a few lines to tell the TLCB how much I've been enjoying the job. And what makes it so enjoyable is the opportunity to learn more and more about the members. Take a look at this current issue.

John Lorenzen took a little prodding before he agreed to tell something about his year in Korat, back, as they say, in the day. He had sent me a note, with some thoughts about a member or two who might have a good story in them. Well, they very well might, and I've been after a few of them. But I turned it back on John and asked him to tell us his story. Initially, he thought it might not be as exciting as some of the other members' tales, but I said there are no dull stories, just dull story tellers. I think John proved my point. It's a nice tale of a young man, serving his country, and learning something about himself as well. Then, all on his own, John threw in, "Why I Joined the TLCB." I think it's a short piece that speaks for a lot of us.

In fact, I would like to see more variations of both of these items - member profiles, preferably in their own words, and "Why I Joined..." The TLCB enriches each of

our lives, and sharing something about that will also enrich the lives of the members as well.

MacAlan "Mac" Thompson is a frequent contributor to MEM, probably because he does so much for the TLCB, particularly in terms of travelling around SEA, visiting outreaches of the Assistance Program, and often delivering the goods as well. On top of that, he's a pretty good story teller. Some of you may recall I wrote an article here a little more than a year ago about the first and only return I've made to Thailand. I pretty much felt it was the one and only time I was going to get back there. However, after reading some of Mac's adventures, I'm beginning to think I may have one more journey in me, especially if I can tag along with him on one of his jaunts.

In our previous issue, we had stories, memoirs, journals from other TLCB members - Jim Stanton (AKA, M.H. Burton), Herb "Ghostman" Neeland, and Tom Ungleich. There's more in the works for upcoming issues. Members! Don't be shy! Send me your stories. And send your personalized versions of "Why I Joined the TLCB."

Also, contact me with your thoughts and ideas about anything and everything. There are no bad ideas.

John Harrington
jharrington@nscopy.com

On the Road with Mac, continued from page 3.

On the morning of the 31st it was raining. Happily, it was the only rain we ran into on the trip. Breakfast back at the market was pretty good, a kind of rolled omelet, weeds, and sticky rice, khao nieo. The cook/owner was out of regular



Left to right, "Kiwi John" McBeth, Mike Thompson and Mac, at the drippy-wet morning market in Xaysomboun. This time of year the legendary karst hills are shrouded in clouds much of the time. All photos for this article provided by Mac Thompson.

white rice but sticky rice is also quite tasty. It was a bit damp at the morning market but the sky did clear up a bit for some photos later. The next stop was to the local sawmill and furniture maker to drop off some photos I had taken during the last trip. I usually do this as it helps people remember me/us on subsequent trips. One guy was doing some pretty good wood carving and said the nearly six-foot panel would go for about kip 5,000,000, or approximately \$640.

We had some minor difficulty getting a pass for transit to Long Tieng, which is still very restricted for some reason, on the way to Phonsavanh. The top cop hadn't come to work because of the rains. We went back to the District HQ and spoke with the security people and finally got the "go." They said they would phone up to Long Tieng. *Nice to have cell service up there now; not so just four years ago.*

We were running a bit light on diesel and the local gas pump was closed. The owner just stayed home... because of the rains again. We drove up to the junction to Long Tieng and found a guy with a drum and hand pump. We arrived at Long Tieng just in time for a lunch of pho soup...good stuff and about the best we had on the trip. We ran into the head of the secondary school and talked about needs. A new school complex, expanded primary school and secondary, was built there by a Vietnamese construction company. The old three-room secondary was turned into a dorm for kids who lived too far away to commute. I really like this kind of project because it increases the opportunity for education. While the dorm itself is OK, the principal suggested that

the kitchen the kids had built for themselves could use some improvements. "Fine," says I, "go for it." He then prepared a bill of materials and we walked up to the local hardware store for pricing, and luckily, I had some TLCB funds left over from an earlier trip, along with betting on the come that the Assistance

Committee would agree to it, I also handed over some personal funds. When asked when the relatively small project would begin, we were told 'today-if the rain stops.' A report from Art Crisfield, via phone call to Long Tieng, was that the project is finished and photos should be forthcoming. The new primary school has 536 students and the lower secondary school has 279, of which 90 are girls. About 30 boys and girls are housed in the dorm which consists of three rooms.

Mike was a bit dismayed at the lack of any lighting in the school rooms other than what manages to filter in through the windows and walls. Translucent, corrugated panels were a suggestion that was immediately dismissed. It seems they only last about 3 years as opposed to the 5 to 6 years for the tin sheets in the Lao climate. Electric lighting was out of the question as there was no money to pay for the electricity.

Next, we were on to Sam Thong, LS-20 my "home" for a few months during the spring of 1969. Nothing remains from the old days except some concrete pads,

remnants of the USAID housing, a warehouse, the hospital, and the Air America hostel and eatery. However, as a sort of monument, there is a bit of a reminder of how cold it got up there in the winter, a fireplace formerly in the Air America eatery. Walking the short distance between the primary school and the fireplace we ran into some left over UXO, unexploded ordnance. The school is putting in for a new tin roof. I will be passing this on to the Assistance Committee, perhaps after the next trip.

On the Road with Mac, continued next page.



New school complex at Long Tieng (former LS-20A), built by a Vietnamese company. Old school has been converted to dorms for kids who live too far from this village.



The dorm-dwelling schoolkids at Long Tieng (LS-20A, the CIA's once top-secret main base in Laos) built this kitchen themselves. The principal thought it might need improvements.

Out of Sam Thong and on the way via the sometimes rough road to Phonsavan, we stopped by the hulk of a Russian tank for a photo op. We stopped to RON at the normal digs, the Hmong-run Nice Guest House. We had dinner that evening at the new Scottish-run 'Bamboozle' Restaurant with a retired Aussie army colonel who is working with an Aussie Non Government Organization (NGO) called "MiVAC." They are doing

community development work in the area and have previously done mine clearing.

1 February was a bit of a sightseeing day for Mike and John. We had breakfast at The Craters Restaurant and watched the morning bus leave for Vinh. We went on to the Khang Don primary school where the TLCB had funded a soccer field and library as well as some books from the Big Brother Mouse project. Next to come will probably be a new tin roof for the main school building here. There were two *very nice*, large bomb craters next to the school buildings, which are left over from when this was an army camp 40 plus years ago.

Next on the trip menu was lunch at Mounng Khoun, AKA Xieng Khouang Ville (L-03) and then to the Ban Phosy primary school where we had previously funded a small building for meetings and extra studies, a tin roof, and a concrete floor for another building. One item the

villagers handled at our encouragement, but without TLCB funding, was the rerouting of the river that was eating into the school grounds. *I'm happy to report it's still working and that the erosion has been contained.*

One thing seen from this school are bird traps on the far hillsides consisting of a bare patch of ground, seeds for the birds, and a large net that loops over the area to catch the birds. This school also has an active anti-UXO program for the kids coupled with UXO identification posters, which is pretty common in the schools.



The TLCB funded and helped stock the library at Khang Don elementary school.

Now for the Jars, this is after all, the Plain of Jars! Given time constraints we only hit Jar Site 1. This site is just 20 minutes from Phonsavan. Jar Sites 2 and 3 are also very nice but are about an hour distant. These are the three sites that have been cleared of UXO by MAG, the Mine Action Group, and are declared safe for tourists...but don't wander too far off the pathways as you can't be sure what might be hiding not too far under the surface. As noted from the trench lines and gun positions, this area was a combat zone 'back then.'

On Saturday, 2 February, we headed north with two more potential school projects to visit. We passed by another leftover PT-76 tank, from

See **On the Road with Mac**, continued on page 6.



MEM has carried several articles about UXO clearing in Laos. Mac and team found this shell, above, near a school.

appearances, on the way to the Naxaythong primary school where we have previously assisted with tin roofing and a cement floor.

Now they are looking for a waterline and pump to bring water in from the nearby creek and get water to the school toilet. The school library and agricultural science room is really nice. Lots of effort has gone into this. TLCB provided books from the Big Brother Mouse project, which are also in stock.

We drove on north for another hour to the Ban Mixay secondary school where they are requesting new tin and cement for one older building. This is a full secondary school, five years worth, which draws students from a large catchment area. This will be their first TLCB project.

From here we went on to lunch at the home of an Aussie friend in the area and had a nice talk about the old days with his father-in-law, a former soldier. I asked him if he was the guy who put nine holes in the H-34 I was milling around the skies in one day. "Nope," he said. Well, how about the one hole in

the Porter? "No, no, not me," says he. We both had a chuckle.

After lunch we made a side trip to Bouam Long, LS-32, a notable site 40 plus years ago. It was a busy site then with lots of conflict. It's sure quiet now with no villages in the area that we could see. I expected that there was a lot of UXO around and we found some right where we were walking. We were chased off the premises by a Lao soldier and his companion on a motorcycle, but not until after we had snapped a few pictures.

We moved on to Vieng Thong AKA Moungh Hiem, LS-48, for the night. Since we were running out of time, we had to bypass a visit to Na Khang, LS-36, but I had visited this site in May 2012 so that was OK with me because I had already checked it off my "to do" list. There are two new guest houses



The staff of the Phon Chalern Primary school at Tha Thom District, on the road south of the PDJ towards Paksan. We previously funded furniture and a meeting room/office building for them. Mac recently received their proposal for new roofing tin. He says the old tin is "a tad rusted out, as you can see."



Fabled Sam Neua, once headquarters of the Pathet Lao in the most remote province of Laos. Pathet Lao caves are nearby, and LS-85, where USAF placed an ill-fated TACAN site, is in this area.

here which are fixed up quite nicely. No more squatters for the toilet! I had brought along my "Norden" squatter converter, just in case of need. The town now has reliable electricity. Previously, lights came on about 1800 then shut down by 2100 hours. Lights came back on at 0400-0700 hours for the morning market, and that was it for the day. *Progress in upcountry Laos!*

Sunday the 3rd was to be a bit of an adventure day and we wanted to see if we could head further north and then pass by Phu Pha Thi, LS-85, on our way to Sam Neua town. We departed Vieng Thong, passed by the hot springs just out of town, and headed out on a good dirt/gravel road. A couple hours out we arrived at the Moungh Son area, L-59, and stopped to look at some weaving. We then headed up the road a short bit and saw a new guest house going up. I asked around and found the road that

On the Road with Mac, continued next page.

heads east towards Phu Pha Thi and Sam Neua. I must say that at least for the initial 10 km or so, calling it a “road” is being really charitable. We three pax talked about turning back, but our valiant Lao driver said “no, have faith! We can get through.” And indeed we did. We topped out at high village and stopped for a while. This place had a bad fire a year ago and was pretty much wiped out, but it is looking a lot better now. And, from here on, the trail became a ‘part-time’ road. Things improved considerably. We passed by a road camp and several areas under construction.

We got to Ban Houay Ma, LS-107, and drove up to the top for a view from the small army camp. We got a nix on photos from an NCO, so we headed on down the ridgeline to a good enough view point for some photos from about 8-10 km from Phu Pha Thi. A friend who had passed by this way last year advised strongly not to take the road up to the base of PPT. He did last year and was detained for a few hours while explaining what he was doing in the area. We gave that option a miss.

We traveled on to Sam Neua and RON at the Sam Neua Hotel, which was not too bad, but with really small rooms and not too great either. And no Beer Lao, but Mike and John resolved that situation quickly enough, right out back on the side street.

It was Monday the 4th, and we decided to head over to Vieng Xay, the headquarters for the Pathet Lao way back when. It’s only an hour on and the road is paved. We visited the Visitor Center but didn’t take the cave tour since there would be lots of walking it seems. We did drive around and looked at some

Mac, Mike, and John pause for a photo op in the karst hills of Laos, where every ridge opens a different breath-taking vista.



Ban Nam Mo. This was the site of LS-207, and in the center of the photo is the present-day Phu Bia gold mine, on the way up to Long Tieng, LS-20A.

cave entrances, leaders’ houses, and a collection of small caves including the Women’s Association cave. We had some photo for lunch at the BBQ restaurant and also got a Beer Lao table cloth which our driver talked out of the owner.

It was time to start back south, so Tuesday the 5th, ex Sam Neua and back to Phonsavan via the “Road of 900 Curves.” And that’s about what it is, and it’s not good if you get carsick. We missed out on a good photo op from the road when it tops out on the south side of Sam Neua. There’s a great view of the town if there’s no ground fog, which there was plenty of that morning. Motoring along, we wondered what the narrow ditching was alongside the road and saw some flagging. It turns out it’s a new fiber optic cable headed up to Sam Neua, and I presume, on to Hanoi. *Progress!*

We stopped briefly on the way to drop off some photos to a lady doing weaving, which I had taken three years back when I was up this way. Next, we passed by the junction to Ban Pakha where the TLCB funded a large dormitory a few years back. There was no time to visit as it’s a two hour round trip...perhaps next time, and I did visit it on the May 2012 trip.

We were on down to Nam Neun for lunch. I’ll bet this was a great choke point back then with the river crossing down in a sharp and narrow valley. Our driver decided to cook his own lunch, and when I visited the toilet noted the live fish standing by for someone’s meal. We passed by Mung Kham AKA Ban Ban, LS-10, the junction of Routes 6 and 7, a major choke point back in The

See **On the Road with Mac**, continued on page 14.



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By check—write checks payable to "The TLC Brotherhood, Inc." Write payment purpose and member number on check.
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Reunion 2013: Fort Walton Beach FL, Oct 3-6

Newest Members in TLC Brotherhood

Since the new TLCB Forum was inaugurated last July, we have experienced approximately double the rate of new members. The members listed below joined between the last issue of the MEM and the end of May. We have listed their locations, dates they joined, branch of service, and email addresses. You can find more information on our Website database. The MEM wishes you all a hearty "Welcome Home."

Member	Last Name	First Name	City	State	Branch	Email
1504	Becker	Ronald	Gardendale	AL	USA	avctech1@aol.com
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1515	Cast	Linda	New Braunfels	TX	USN	LCast2002@Yahoo.com
1511	Crowe	Hoyt	Sumner	GA	USA	c1h1@planttel.net
1505	Dion	Richard	Piermont	NH	USAF	centurion1001@gmail.com
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1516	Willis	Walter	Grafton	WV	USA	MBWillis@prodigy.net
1498	Worsham	Laird	Voluntown	CT	USAF	lewkaw@msn.com

My Year in Korat, Thailand

By: John Lorenzen

In the summer of 1962, a good friend and I decided to join the Air Force. Our friends were being drafted into the Army, even while attending Arizona State University (ASU) as we were. The world was pretty much at peace except for the Cold War, and we thought it would be better to enlist than be drafted...and maybe we could even see some of the world.

During my sixth week in basic training at Lackland AFB, the Cuban Missile Crisis developed. I wasn't sure what I had gotten into. As a senior flight, they gave us a canteen and a flashlight and had us patrol areas of the base at night.

November 1962 found me stationed at Whiteman AFB, MO, a SAC base which was flying B-47s on round trips to the north 24 hours a day while converting to a Minuteman ICBM base. Ultimately, there were 150 Minuteman missiles housed in individual silos scattered around Western Missouri. My time at Whiteman was fairly uneventful. My major recollections were of President Kennedy's assassination in November 1963 and my '57 Chevy being one of 21 cars destroyed in a fire that destroyed the on-base Auto Hobby Shop, an old wooden structure built during World War II.

I had majored in photography in college, and the recruiter had assured me that I would have no problem getting into photography. I'm sure many others were given similar assurances; however, I found myself working in the orderly room of the Food Services Squadron. The first sergeant had decided my two years of college and my excellent typing skills from high school classes could be best utilized in the office of the

Squadron Commander. This was key to my eventual assignment to Thailand.

In March 1965, my third cold winter was almost over, but not quite. One morning a communication came in for the squadron commander, requesting assignment of a person to Korat, Thailand. I hurried through a snowstorm to the base library and asked for a book about Thailand. When I read that it had a warm, tropical climate, I put the book back on the shelf and walked back through the snowstorm to my office in the orderly room. I went into Maj Carney's office and said, "Sir, I would like to volunteer for this transfer to Thailand." He asked me, "Are you sure?" I said, "Yes Sir!"

The next morning I reported to the base hospital where I was given at least 10 shots. By the time I returned to the barracks I was very sick, and I spent the afternoon and night in bed, as sick as I've ever been. But, four days later, I was driving out of Missouri on the way to Phoenix for a 30-day leave. During that time, I went to nearby Luke Air Force Base to receive even more shots. Finally, in mid-April, I was flying to San Francisco for transfer to Travis AFB to await a flight to Thailand.

My flight was on a Pan American Airways 707. We stopped first for refueling in Honolulu. The next stop was either Midway or Wake Island – I can't remember which, and have always wondered which island it was. We made a stop on Guam for a couple of hours and the aircraft finally arrived at Clark AFB

Airman Basic John Lorenzen, Summer of 1962. Photos provided by the author.



See *Year in Korat*, continued on page 10.

Why I Joined the TLCSB

by John Lorenzen

After college, like everyone else I'm sure, I was busy with work, raising a family, and many other facets of life. I didn't think a lot about my military service or my year in Thailand. I would go to the air shows at Luke AFB to watch the Thunderbirds and look at the ground displays of aircraft etc., and if I saw an article in the newspaper about the Air Force – or about Thailand – I always read it.

Sometimes I discussed taking a trip to Thailand some day with my wife, and she was somewhat interested. I guess I assumed that one day it would happen. But, Korat was so long ago and so far away that, although I had fond memories of it, I didn't really expect to ever be there again. But there was a kind of a yearning in me. Was it real? Did I enjoy it that much? Sometimes our memories filter out the unpleasant and allow us to think back on "the good old days." Time passed, and the memories became less clear and harder to remember.

See *Why TLCSB*, continued on page 12.

in the Philippines. While at Clark for about 10 days awaiting transportation to Korat, I met several others who were on their way to permanent change of station (PCS) at Korat. We visited nearby Angeles City several times and the Negrito village just outside of Clark AFB, where I purchased a blowgun with darts and a handmade bolo knife, which I still have. I remember Clark as a very pretty place with a lot of tropical vegetation, which was new to me, having lived only in Missouri and in a desert in Arizona. I also learned just how hard it could rain during a tropical downpour one afternoon at Clark.

Finally, one day our names were posted for a next-day flight to Korat. We boarded a very full C-130 for a non-stop flight, and landed on May Day 1965. My first view of Korat was when they lowered the back ramp while taxiing down the runway. I soon saw the F-105s and F4C Phantoms that were flying from there at the time. During a briefing about the base, Thai customs, and how to behave downtown, etc., we were told that we were the first permanent duty Air Force personnel assigned to Korat, which then consisted of about 900 troops. Before that time, personnel there were TDY along with New Zealand military, called Kiwis, who I soon found out had earned quite a reputation downtown.

I reported to MSgt Waddell and TSgt Pendergast who were in charge of the 6234th Combat Support Group. They had only arrived days before. They asked what my prior assignment had been and decided to have me oversee two Thais who worked in the small warehouse in which perishable food supplies were stored, and I was also to handle the ordering of food supplies and the paperwork and accounting for them. I also, at most meal times, sat at the front entry of the main dining hall to collect per diem meal payments from TDY personnel and other travelers through the area. About three times a week I drove a truck, with the two Thais, down a dirt road to Camp Friendship, 9th Log, U.S. Army to pick up more supplies for storage in our warehouse. Occasionally, I drove the truck into Korat to pick up perishables, which of course were carefully washed in water and bleach by food service personnel. Learning to drive on the left side of the road came easily.

One of the Thais, Dang, spoke pretty good English, and he taught me quite a bit of Thai and provided information about Korat and Thailand. It was his desire to go to the United States some day, and I hope he was able to do that. A favorite activity, when we weren't busy working, was to attack each other by surprise, much as Peter Sellers and his houseboy did in the Pink Panther movies.

My hooch was near the perimeter of the base, but not very far from anything. Everything was stripped bare of vegetation

until you got to the perimeter, and then it was quite lush. I've wondered if Agent Orange was used to kill the vegetation on the base and near its perimeter, where I spent a lot of time. I was surprised and happy at the very different environment I found myself in compared to the SAC base I had left where the first sergeant performed a barracks inspection every Saturday morning. If you didn't pass inspection, you stayed on base that Saturday. In my new environment there were no inspections, and I had a house girl to do everything for me for \$5.00 a month. Eight of us in the hooch shared the cost for her to clean the hooch, make the beds, wash our clothes and bed sheets, shine our shoes, and even wake us up in the morning.

The base movie theater was open sided with logs for seats.

Camp Friendship had a similar theater. The theater in downtown Korat had nicer seating and sometimes showed American movies which were dubbed into Thai by live personnel who traveled around the country with the movie. The Thai movies were all very action packed, and everyone was expected to stand for the Thai national anthem before the start of each movie. Occasionally, I attended Thai boxing matches. I hadn't seen boxing with feet before and discovered that the loser was usually carried from the ring unconscious. The Airmen's Club on base was called the Cobra Club. The Thai bands did their best at playing Farang music such as *Satisfaction* by the Rolling Stones, and they played *Dixie* and *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* to get crowd reaction.

I took a few trips from the base – including some to Phimai Historical Park, about 40 miles away, which had one of the most important Khmer temples of Thailand, comparable with that of Angkor Wat. The buildings were from about the 11th century. I also took a weekend

trip to Chiang Mai on a C-47 that was taking some supplies to some outpost near there. I also made several trips to Bangkok to take money, that had been collected at the dining hall, to Don Muang Air Base. Sometimes I couldn't catch a flight back to Korat until the next day. One time it didn't look like I would be able to return for a couple of days, so I rode the local Thai bus from Bangkok to Korat. Let me just say that it was a six-hour trip I will never forget. I also got approval to take a trip for several days to Bangkok to visit a friend of mine who was coming there from Vietnam on R & R.

There were quite a few celebrities who visited Korat with USO shows or were just visiting to greet and talk with troops. I met Raymond Burr and Robert Mitchum and also ran into and visited with Martha Raye at Camp Friendship. But, my favorite visit from celebrities was in December 1965, when Bob Hope and his group arrived for a Christmas Show. I can't

Year in Korat is continued next page.



John Lorenzen

Korat, Thailand
November 1965

remember now exactly where the show was, but it wasn't on the Air Base. It may have been at Camp Friendship or the Thai Base. I remember that we sat on logs and there was a makeshift stage and a Thai man sitting on an elephant near the stage. That may have been planned, as Bob Hope made reference to the elephant several times in his monologue. Bob brought along with him some very welcome celebrities, including Joey Heatherton, Carroll Baker, Anita Bryant, Kaye Stevens, Miss USA, Jack Jones, and Jerry Colonna. I can still hear them all singing "Silent Night."

One morning, I awakened to the people in Korat very excitedly talking about Miss Thailand, Apasra Hongsakula, winning the Miss Universe contest. I think it was the first time that Thailand or a Thai person had received major recognition on an international level. It was truly an exciting time in Korat. As I recall, Miss Thailand's father was a Thai Air Force officer.

There were two Thai holidays I enjoyed while at Korat. The Loi Krathong Festival, which involved floating lighted decorations in the ponds by the Lady Mo statue in downtown Korat, and the second holiday was Songkran, the water festival. We were told to not go downtown if having water thrown at us would make us mad. Of course, we then had to go downtown and join in the fun. I have since attended both celebrations at Wat Promkunaram, the Buddhist Temple a few miles west of Phoenix.

I left Korat in April 1966. They were digging a hole for a swimming pool and multi-story, concrete-walled barracks were under construction as I left. I flew to Bangkok, where I caught a Trans International Airlines DC-8 charter flight. I only remember one stop, Honolulu, before arriving at Travis AFB. I was told at Travis that I was being released to inactive reserves, as I only had four months left in my enlistment.

During the next few years, I met and married my wife Kay and returned to ASU. With the help of the GI Bill, I obtained a degree in accounting. For the last few decades I have worked in local banks as a trust officer and the manager in bank trust departments. We had a son and then a daughter. Kay and I will celebrate our 45th Wedding Anniversary in September, and we are expecting our first grandchild to arrive a month later.

After joining the TLC Brotherhood, I transferred my VFW membership to the Korat VFW Post. I also arranged for a visit to Whiteman AFB, MO, where I had an escorted tour of the B-2 Stealth Bombers, up close. Virtually all of the 26 B-2 Stealth Bombers are stationed there, with one or two maintained elsewhere – Guam at the time. I also was given a tour of the underground

Minuteman Launch Control Facility located on the base. The other 14 had been spread over a 125 mile radius from the base.

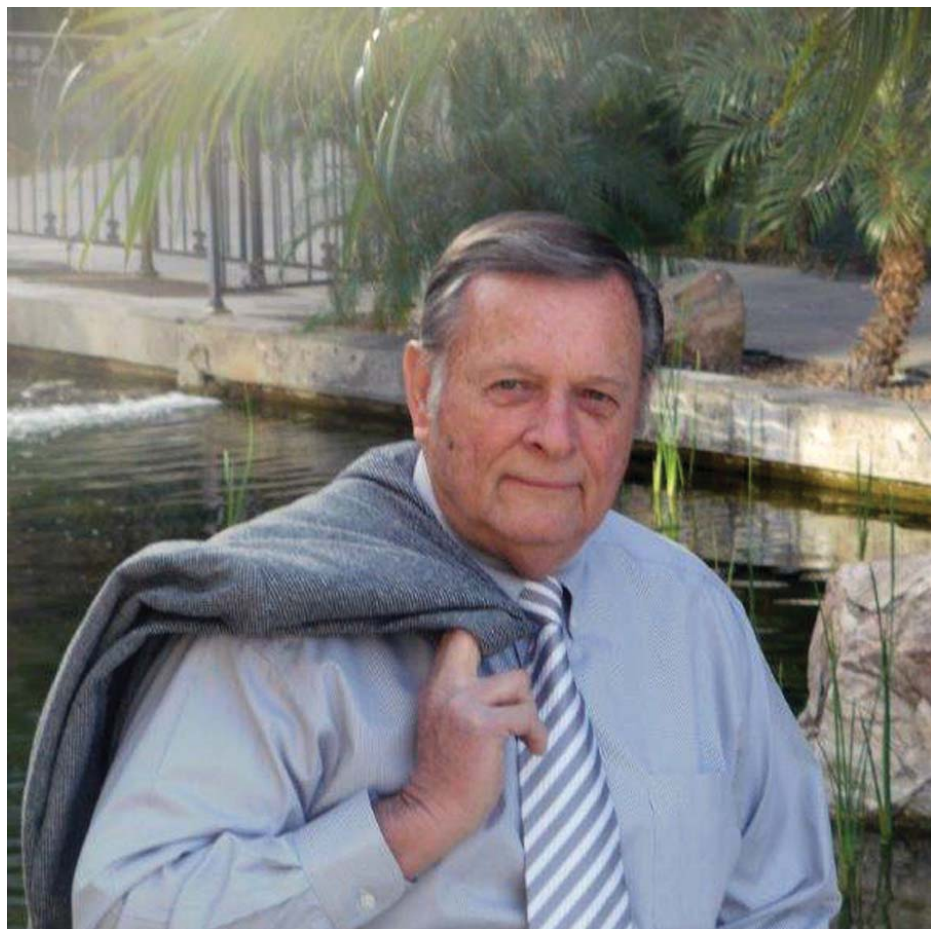
In January and February 2008, Kay and I traveled to Thailand. We spent several days each in Bangkok, Chiang Mai, and Phuket. One day during the Bangkok portion, I took a day trip up to Korat, which MacAlan Thompson had arranged. Jim Traywick, who coordinates Thai / US activities met me and escorted me onto and around the base. It is an active Thai Air Force base called Wing One. While I was there, an annual joint military exercise with Thailand, the U.S., and Singapore was just getting underway. There were already some American aircraft along the flight line, and I watched as several Singapore Air Force aircraft landed.

The swimming pool that was being built when I left Korat in 1966 appeared to be long abandoned. I've seen pictures of it on the internet, and they pictured many American service personnel and also some Thais enjoying it. I found my hooch. It was still there, but had been overtaken years ago by the jungle. The biggest surprise was how much thick, mature vegetation there was on the base, including many mature trees that were not there during my time.

My year in Thailand was one of the best of my life, and I look back on it fondly. But I still wonder whether it was Midway or Wake Island that my plane stopped at on the way over. I will probably never know for sure.



John Lorenzen today: proud to be a member of the TLC Brotherhood.



Why TLCB, continued from page 9.

I think it was about eight or ten years ago, a co-worker was talking about his “year in Vietnam.” I thought it interesting that, although he was in the Navy and spent the entire year on a ship off the coast of Vietnam and never set foot in Vietnam, he felt he had served in Vietnam...no “boots on the ground,” a term I’ve learned since joining TLCB. He mentioned that he had been awarded the Vietnam Service Medal. So, I located my old Form DD-214, and found, or maybe I had known and forgot, that I had been awarded the Vietnam Service Medal for serving in Thailand. I had earlier joined the American Legion when another friend suggested it, but with the Vietnam Service Medal, I decided to join the VFW as well. I then started checking out the internet. Until a few years ago, before internet access, there really was no way to investigate such things other than to take a trip to the library, etc.

Anyway, I “surfed” the internet to find out what was happening at Whiteman AFB, MO, and learned that it was

the home base for our B-2 Stealth Bomber aircraft. I started entering the words “Korat” and “Air Force,” etc., and found a wealth of information. One site I looked at was the TLCB’s. I found it to be very informative and that its membership consisted of people like me who had served there way back when. So, I applied for membership to have more access to information, the reunions, contact with others who share the same memories – well, not the same memories, but similar memories of the same place and times.

Probably as we get older and life settles down, we have the opportunity and interest in looking back and remembering. One thing I remember that appealed to me and helped me decide to join the TLCB was the charitable work that the Assistance Program provides in Thailand and Laos. The organization is not just a group of guys dwelling in fond memories of the past. At the group’s core is a spirit and motivation to do something positive today – in a place that, I like to say is my “second country.”



Reunion Guest Speaker, Colonel Edward Hubbard, USAF Ret., Ex-POW

Edward L. Hubbard, author, artist, and internationally known speaker, is dedicated to helping others overcome any obstacle, handle any ordeal, and reach any goal by developing the correct state of mind. Building upon his adverse experiences during more than six and one half years of captivity in North Vietnam, Ed conveys a positive message for personal growth. After hearing his presentation, you will feel good about your country, yourself, and your own ability.

A product of the Midwest, Ed spent his childhood in the Kansas City area. At age seventeen, he joined the Air Force Reserve and in 1962, entered active duty where he received his navigator wings and commission through the Aviation Cadet program.

Ed culminated a twenty-eight-year, active duty, military career in August, 1990, of which almost 25% (six years, seven months, and 12 days) were spent as a prisoner of war. It was an experience that truly changed his life, and as a result, the lives of countless others.

Following his release from prison in 1973, Ed completed five college degrees in seven years, in his spare time and at night. In 1976, his concept—after only eight days of implementation—increased the productivity of a \$350 million resource by 50%. He later inherited an organization designated “...the worst managed...” among fifty-eight units by an Air Force audit. Within four months, he turned the unit around and demonstrated statistically significant improvement in 96% of the audited areas.

During ten years as head of the largest safety organization in the air Force, they shattered all records. They achieved 30% to 70% improvements in all categories, where a 3% improvement had long been the norm. His organization was recognized as

“best in the Air Force” for ten consecutive years, and a previously accepted, multi-million-dollar loss rate per year was reduced to less than fifty-thousand dollars per year.

In 1985, Ed began motivational speaking. Following his Air force retirement in 1990, Ed formed Positive Vectors, Inc., in order to share the lessons he learned during captivity and authenticated by his Air Force results. Since, he has spoken to thousands of members of corporate America, government agencies, and non-profit groups. Ed’s desire to change the attitudes of individuals through a better understanding of true, human potential remains his number one goal in life.

Today, Ed is an acknowledged motivational speaker, management consultant, artist, and author. His book, “Escape from the Box: The wonder of Human Potential” was published in January, 1994.



Coming Home—Remembrance At the Beach!

October 3~6 at Fort Walton Beach, Florida

Welcome home brothers and sisters to the Emerald Coast of Northwest Florida. It's time again for me to provide you with information about our 2013 Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia Brotherhood, Inc. Reunion. The most important emotional feeling of having an annual reunion is remembering friends, co-workers, service locations, missions, and happy and sad life events that happened 40 years ago or just the other day.

The celebration begins October 3rd, Thursday, at the Quality Inn Bayside, 322 Miracle Strip Parkway (Highway 98), Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548, where the TLCB local reunion committee brings you "Remembrance." 2013 is a special year for us to remember because it is the 40th year anniversary of "Coming Home." On March 13, 1973 we brought our Prisoners of War (POWs) home from North Vietnam, and we will honor one of those individuals at our Saturday night banquet dinner. Retired USAF Colonel Edward Hubbard will be our guest speaker. Photo and Bio are on the facing page .

Hotel Rates/Reservations:

You must make a direct call to the hotel and not use the national telephone number or online reservations. Call the hotel number, 850 275-0300 or send an email to gm.fl685@choicehotels.com to make reservations. Speak to any hotel representative who answers the phone, and remember to tell them it is for the TLCB Reunion to get our special rate.

Location: The Quality Inn is centrally located in Fort Walton Beach on the main east/west thoroughfare along the coast, better known as Highway 98, east to Okaloosa Island and Destin and west to Hurlburt Field and Navarre Beach. We will provide a listing of restaurants and lounges close to the hotel.

RV Sites: For any of you that will be arriving via RV, there are several RV sites 5-7 miles west of our hotel location. I have checked with the hotel and there is a designated area for parking your RV if you need to drive it to our reunion location, but NO overnight parking/staying. If you need any assistance locating an RV site, contact me at thainkp69@cox.net.

Display Items: Please bring or send any historical documents, photos, and artifacts for our own static display area in the hospitality room. Our TLCB Historian, Jim "Dusty" Henthorn, is here in our area and will be the OPR of this section. It will afford Dusty an opportunity to copy or photograph any items for our own historical records. My address is: 139 Fulmar Cir NE, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548. Include any special instructions or handling procedures, and let me know if you need the item(s) returned by mail.

Hospitality Room: Our Hooch Bar will open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 1200 noon with closing time at midnight. This will allow you to visit with others just about any time during the reunion. There will be a "Last Call" shortly

after the close of our Saturday night banquet upon return to the hotel. This will be a great time to say "Good Byes." There will be snacks and finger foods included in your bar tab, which is listed as an expenditure on the registration form. Alcohol drinkers' fee is \$20 and the non-alcohol drinkers' fee is \$10. This is a self-serve honor system.

Friday morning tour: Our tour to Hurlburt Field will begin at 9:00 AM and is currently awaiting the Base Commander's approval. The planned lineup is by Public Affairs. We will go to a static display set up for us, then over to see the "Osprey" OV-22s at Memorial Air Park, with a pay-as-you-go lunch, tentatively at the Soundside Club before the buses return us to the hotel at approximately noon.

This tour is limited to 40 persons so we will take the first persons who sign up. Those individuals not having a DOD ID card will require pre-registration. We will notify those individuals of necessary documents or of any additional restrictions. Federal budget "sequestration" has already affected Eglin AFB hard and we hope there won't be any cuts to our tour. We may consider organizing some car pool tours possibly to Eglin AFB, Air Commando's Headquarters building, or for some shopping. My September article will readdress this topic with Hurlburt Field tour updates.

Friday Evening Assistance Auction: This fun evening is again the major fund raiser for the Assistance Program. Please bring your donated items or mail them to me at my address above. I can't wait to see this year's quilt, again made by the talented Rosie Wheatley. I'm sure it will be beautiful.

Annual Meeting: The 2013 Annual Meeting of the TLC Brotherhood, Inc., will be on Saturday, October 5th, starting at 9:00 AM. All active members are welcome to attend. Spouses are welcome to attend, but are asked not to address the meeting and they may not vote unless they are also members.

Saturday Banquet: The registration form enables you to choose either prime rib au jus or chicken cordon bleu with white sauce. Each dinner includes a salad, oven roast red potatoes, seasonal vegetables, cheesecake, and beverages. Your cost for either will be \$32 per person, which includes gratuity and set-up fees. Cocktail hour will be pay-as-you-go starting at 6:00 PM. Drink prices are very reasonable.

See **Coming Home**, continued on page 16.



Day. I have RON'ed here a couple of times. It's a nice enough town, but small with only one good eatery. We went back to Phonsavanh and the Nice Guest House. I ran into a Lao guy I had met last year, a former school teacher at Sam Thong back in the 1960s. He still remembers some IVS and USAID names from those days.

Continuing on south on Wednesday the 6th, we hit the morning market in Phonsavanh, first to pick up some kind of special Xieng Khouang rice for Sunee. She had phoned me from home near Don Muang and told me not to forget. Cell phones, again are very handy.

Our next stop was at Moungh Khoun aka Xieng Ville, L-03, and what was at one time the main temple of the town, built

plete. The ferry is up on the bank and that's what we used last September to cross the river. Earlier trips included our vehicle being carried over on the back of a 10-wheel truck and towed across the ford by a local log truck. *Progress.*

We next hit the junction at Tha Si. A right turn takes you down to Paksane, L-35, a way I've been before. On earlier trips I had thought about going straight south to Route 8, an east-west road from Vietnam to Route 13S, the main highway in Laos hitting it just north of Thakek opposite NKP. I talked it over with Mike and John and we decided to give it a go. It turned out the road is great and newly paved, so new that a couple of the bridges aren't quite finished so we did ford some streams. We hit Route 8 and turned east towards Vietnam to Lak Xao, LS-49, for the night.

The next morning, the 7th, and last day of our scheduled

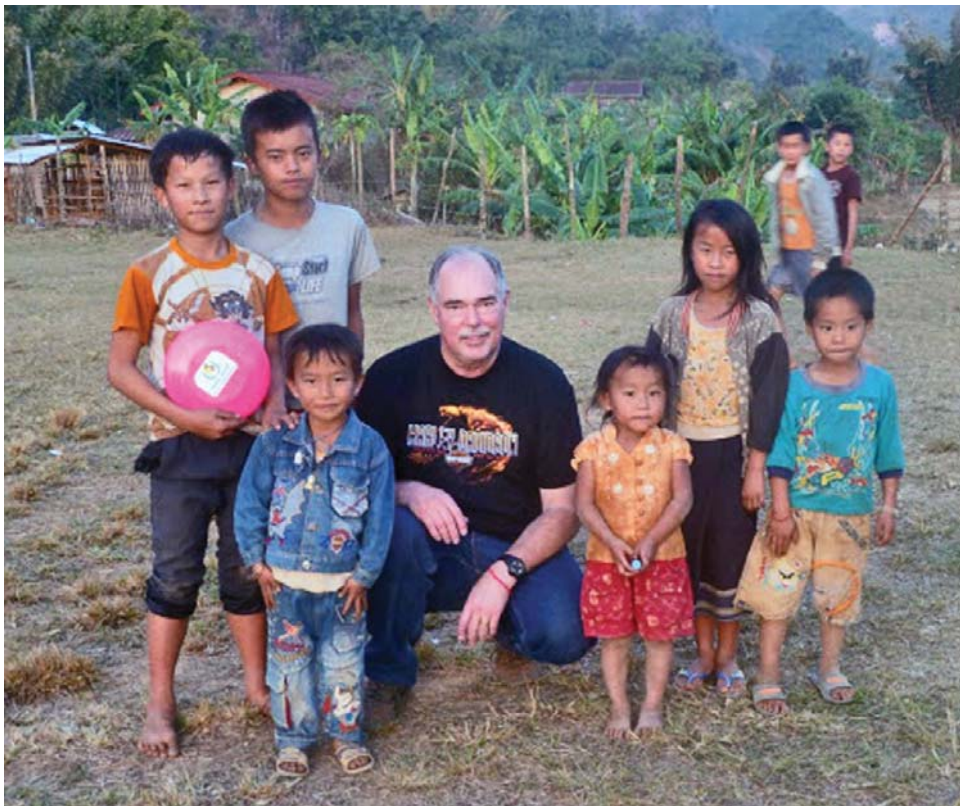
nine-day Lao trip, we headed west towards Route 13S to catch it on up to Vientiane, passing by a complex of karst rock formations just north of the road. Mike noticed some orange color up there, way up there, so we stopped and hit the telephoto on the cameras. It turned out to be a group of Buddhist monks. I wonder how they manage to do their morning alms walks. A bit later we pulled off at a nice viewpoint for a look at the 'limestone forest.' Sure would hate to have to land in this area via parachute, or even a helicopter! We arrived back in Vientiane at the Mali Namphou Guest House and had dinner that evening with several friends who either live there or were passing through.

On Friday the 8th, we split up. Mike stayed in Vientiane for a few days, then hit Luang Prabang and flew on to Hanoi for four days before catching his flight back to the

States. John and I carried on across the bridge to Nong Khai, then down to Korat for the night. We stayed at the Sripattana Hotel. People formerly based at Korat 1968 and afterwards might remember the place. Pretty good stay for a tad over \$20 a night.

On Saturday John and I headed to Future Park Mall, just north of Don Muang, and joined Sunee and Les and Mayuree Strouse for lunch. John then taxied on downtown and Sunee and I headed back to Klong 10 and home. I was a bit beat after all that travel. And on Sunday the 10th, John treated a bunch of the "old Bangkok hands" to lunch at the rather upscale Shangri-la Hotel on the Chao Phaya river. He then went back home to Bali.

All in all a good and eventful trip, with a plus of running into a number of good projects for TLCB Assistance Funding in the future.



Mike Thompson and kids at Ban Khi Xang school project. The crew took some photos and passed out frisbees to the kids.

some 681 years ago and later bombed out. On down the road, we stopped just south of Tha Thom to visit the Phon Chalerm primary school where we had assisted with a meeting room, office, and new school furniture. I had missed the furniture delivery when I last went through in September 2012. Good group here.

Just a few km south, the bridge over the Nam Xan is com-

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 changes to us, at JKarnes@tlc-brotherhood.com.

Thailand, Laos, Cambodia Brotherhood, Inc. Annual Meeting

The 2013 Annual Meeting of the TLC Brotherhood, Inc. will be held on Saturday, October 5th at 9:00 AM, at Fort Walton Beach, Florida. All active members are welcome to attend and may bring spouses or other guests; however, they can neither participate nor vote.

The first order of business will be the election of open board seats. Ballots will be provided at the meeting. Members who are not able to attend should send absentee ballots or proxies, as explained on the absentee ballot enclosed within this issue. Candidates for open seats were invited to submit biographies for publication. The following were received and are published in accordance with TLCB policy and bylaws. The official slate, including nominations "from the floor," is on right, and on the absentee ballot (2 members -at-large open). No further nominations will be accepted for this election.

Offices	Candidates
Vice President	Les Thompson (incumbent)
Secretary	Jim Closs (incumbent)
Chaplain	Deb Stein (incumbent)
Member-at-large	Gary Beatty (incumbent)
Member-at-large	Mike Potaski (incumbent)
Member-at-large	Jim Green
Member-at-large	George Shenberger

I'm **Gary Beatty**, and I'm asking for your vote for Member-at-Large of the TLCB Board of Directors for another 2-year term. I've belonged to the TLCB since 2004, and attended every reunion, except one, since then. I've served on the Board since 2009.

During my tenure, in addition to regular duties of a Board member, I Chaired the Audit Committee in 2012 which reviewed TLCB finances. I'm currently overseeing the application process for trademarking the TLCB logo with the US Patent Office. In 2008-9, I served as TLCB Vice-President. In that capacity, I was Chair of the reunion committees for 2008 in Philadelphia, and Cape Canaveral in 2009.

My military experience includes a tour at NKP from July '73 to July '74, where I was a medic in the 56th USAF Hospital, and Medical Civic Action with the 56th SOW. Other active duty assignments were in the hospitals at Tyndall AFB, and Maxwell AFB, plus two years in the active reserve with the 37th Medical Air Evac Squadron at MacDill AFB. I was qualified as an independent duty medic (90270), and crosstrained as a flight medic (90250A).

Since leaving the Air Force I received a BA degree in Political Science, from the University of South Florida, then worked for USAA Insurance Company. I left USAA to attend law school, at Florida State, where I received a Juris Doctor degree. For the past 26 years I've been a prosecutor for the State of Florida, and professor of criminal law and evidence. I'm married to a RN, an Army veteran, who has attended several reunions, and was indispensable in running the reunion in Cape Canaveral. We have four teenage grandchildren.

My goals for the TLCB include expanding medical assistance, and water purification projects. These are of special interest to me, because both were part of my duties working with Medical Civic Action during my tour at NKP.

As in the past, I will continue to be accessible to any TLCB member who wants to be heard by the Board.

Again, I'm GARY BEATTY—and I'm asking for your vote for re-election as a Member-at-Large of the Board of Directors.

Rev. Debbie Stein joined the U.S. Marine Corps at age 17½ in 1977, doing her basic training at Paris Island, South Carolina, later stationed at Camp Lejeune. Later, she joined the Air Force Reserves, serving with the 508th Combat Support Squadron at Hill AFB in Utah. Eventually she returned to California, transferring to the California Air National Guard, serving with the 216th EIS at Hayward ANG Base. Through all the time of her service, Debbie served as an automobile mechanic, a driver (limos to 45 pass bus), driver training instructor, and eventually Training NCO. Debbie was honorably discharged from the CA ANG in the mid 80's with the rank of Staff Sergeant.

Debbie worked for Pitney Bowes Business machines holding positions from service rep to project manager, at various locations around the country for over 23 years. She met her husband, Ed, at the corporate headquarters in Connecticut. After being laid off, the two went to work managing retirement residences. Eventually, God pulled Debbie in a new direction, leading her and Ed to resign their positions and move to Philadelphia where she attended the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, graduating with a Master of Divinity degree. Currently, Debbie serves as pastor to the congregation of St. Stephen Lutheran Church, in Syracuse, New York.

George Shenberger: I was in the Air force from November 1965 to February 1969, went to Chanute AFB after basic, and then to Aerospace Ground Power School. After graduating from Chanute, my next stop was Mather AFB in Sacramento, CA for one year. From there, I went to Korat, Thailand for a year in the 388th TFS, providing support for the F-105 missions over North Vietnam. After Korat, I was stationed at Nellis AFB in Las Vegas, NV. While stationed there, I went TDY to Okinawa, Naha. During my time there, the North Koreans captured the USS Pueblo, so I was

shipped up to South Korea, Suwon RAFB.

After my military service, I worked 34 years for Johnson Controls as a maintenance machine repairman and retired from that facility. My wife, Ruth Ann, and I have raised four children. I am a full time landlord in York, PA with 26 houses, 47 apartments, which Ruth Ann and I manage.

I have visited Thailand and Laos and traveled with Mac Thompson and visited some of the school projects that he writes about in the Mekong Express Mail. This travel gave me an opportunity to see our assistance work first hand. Seeing the schools and what little the children have to work with has made me realize that I would like to help further the TLCB's objectives. With my past military and present successful business experience, I feel I can be an asset to the TLCB Board, and I am asking you for your vote! George Shenberger

Jim Closs is a retired United States Air Force Master Sergeant (First Sergeant). He is a Desert Storm veteran with nearly 25 years of distinguished service, and served at Udorn RTAFB during the final years of the Vietnam War. Today, he is an Adjunct Professor of Political Science at Gordon State College in Barnesville Georgia.

During his military service, Jim was trained in six different specialties, including: Administrative Specialist, Automatic Tracking Radar Technician, Scientific Laboratory Technician, Systems Repair Technician, NCO Academy Instructor, and First Sergeant. He has many decorations including the Meritorious Service Medal, four Air Force Commendation Medals, two Air Force Achievement Medals, seven Air Force Good Conduct Medals, and several others.

Educationally, he is a Doctoral student in Public Policy with a Nonprofit Management and Leadership specialization. His research topic is an examination of any relationship between fundamental tax reforms and contributions to nonprofit organizations. Jim holds a Master of Public Administration Degree, a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, four Associate of Applied Science Degrees, and one Associate of Arts Degree. The AAS degrees are in: Scientific Analysis Technology, Personnel Administration, Instructor of Technology and Military Sciences, and Communications Electronics Management (with honors). His AA degree is in General Studies, with honors. Jim is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, Pi Alpha Alpha National Public Administration Honor Society, and Alpha Phi Sigma National Criminal Justice Honor Society.

During his military career, he skillfully trained, directed, and negotiated with members of the US Diplomatic Corps at 40+ different geographically separated locations. He routinely gave highly classified briefings to high level governmental officials including: Ambassadors, Congressmen, Secretaries of State and Defense, and specified Foreign Dignitaries. In 1990, he was recognized as the Instructor of the Year for the Air Force Logistics Command's Noncommissioned Officer Academy. He has also received several military and civilian awards.

Jim is a life member of numerous other veterans organizations including: the Disabled American Veterans; Air Force Association; Air Force Sergeants Association; National Association for Uniformed Services; The Retired Enlisted Association; Noncommissioned Officer Association; and Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. He is also a member of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity International, the American Association of University Professors, and the Society of Claim Law Associates. He has held several elected and appointed offices. In the TLCB, Jim has been the Corporate Secretary since 2011.

Jim and his wife Paula have been married for 10 years, and combined, they have four children and five grandchildren. Their home-life is predominantly occupied with caring for their numerous rescued dogs and cats.

Restaurant location: The banquet dinner will be at the Two Trees Restaurant, Fort Walton Beach Golf Club, which is approximately 8 to 9 miles north of the hotel and is a very easy drive. The address is 1955 Lewis Turner Blvd, Fort Walton Bch, FL 32547. If you don't have transportation, there will be a bus available for the dinner. The transportation cost is \$15 per person, roundtrip, and is listed on the registration form.

Sunday Memorial Service: Our Memorial "Remembrance" Service will be at 10:00 AM at the Air Force Armament Museum at Eglin AFB, FL. Currently, our own TLCB Chaplin, Debbie Stein, plans to minister along with a special guest, pending confirmation. If weather is inclement, we will move inside the museum building.

Directions to the Service: Take Eglin Parkway North through Shalimar. After passing Shalimar Elementary School, take the next exit, continuing on Highway 85. The museum is on the other side of the overpass, on the right. This is just outside of Eglin AFB, with no special pass entrance requirements. Also, it is very near the Northwest Florida Regional Airport with easy access to highway roads leading to Interstate 10, so please allow time to attend on the way home. I don't expect a dry eye after this emotional ceremony.

Hotel checkout is 11:00 AM in the morning. I will post additional information, photos, and video on our TLCB Web Home page. Please check there or start a topic on the Forum for questions and answers.



At the Beach: The Quilt!

by Bob Wheatley

It's hard to believe we're already six months into 2013, and soon it will be time to convene again for our Brotherhood reunion/annual meeting. A huge part of each reunion is our effort to raise money for the TLCB Assistance Fund. Beginning with the 2000 reunion in Colorado Springs, the TLC Sisterhood sponsors a raffle to win a beautiful one-of-a-kind handmade quilt,



each one crafted with tender loving care by Rosie Wheatley on behalf of the TLC Sisterhood. Every penny raised in the raffle goes directly to the TLCB Assistance Fund to aid the needy people of S.E.A. in the memory of our brothers who did not return with us.

As is tradition, this year's quilt follows a patriotic theme. It incorporates a large central panel with an American eagle with wings spread, set against a background of the American flag waving in the breeze. In its talons, it clutches a banner that reads, "Proud To Be American." Surrounding blocks consist of eight-point stars assembled from various patriotic fabrics in reds, white, and blues. A double outside border, one gold and another blue, frames it all. It presents an overall picture that will be eye-grabbing on any full-size or twin bed, or as a wall hanging on a large wall. Finished measurements are approximately 58" wide by 74" long.

So how may I enter the drawing, you ask? **Simply go to**

our Web site, www.TLC-Brotherhood.com, where you can purchase as many as you want, using PayPal (you don't need an account). Or, you can use the printed sheet of ten blank raffle tickets in this copy of the MEM, and you can also find a PDF copy to download and print from the TLCB Web site 2013 Reunion page. Each ticket costs two dollars, so the total cost per sheet of ten is twenty dollars. You or your family and friends may purchase and enter only one ticket, or as many as you wish. If you desire more than the ten tickets found on a single sheet, you may make copies. Of course, the more you buy, the better your chances of winning the drawing.

To purchase a very large number of tickets, it's best to go to our Website. However, to make things as easy as possible for those who want to use paper, you may fill out a single ticket with your contact information and send it with your request for a specific number of tickets, along with your payment of \$2 per ticket to the address below. Your tickets will each be printed with your contact information and entered in the drawing on your behalf.

Make your check payable to TLC Brotherhood, Inc. In the memo line of your check please indicate "Quilt Raffle" and your member number. *Please don't cut your tickets apart—they could get lost.* Mail your tickets and checks to:

TLC Brotherhood
P.O. Box 343
Locust Grove, GA 30248

The winning ticket will be drawn at the 2013 Reunion Banquet, but **YOU DON'T NEED TO BE PRESENT TO WIN.** We will contact the winner as soon as practical after the drawing; the quilt will ship via insured USPS package.

