

## President's Message Bob Lauver - May 2012



It is with a heavy heart that I prepare my last President's Message for the membership. Due to health reasons I have made the decision to not run for a second term. The next year or so will be filled with medical procedures and frequent travel that will make it impossible to devote the time and attention to the duties of the office that you, the membership, so richly deserve. We are fortunate to have individuals that have served the organization in various capacities that are willing and able to step forward and continue to preserve our heritage and insure that our history will stand.

The goals that I had when I took office were many and they have all been achieved or are well on the way to a conclusion:

- 1) **To conduct a final trip to Vietnam under Operation Gold Star.** This went exceptionally well and we had a respectful conclusion to the project with respectful recognition of all the participating Gold Star Mother's at our reunion in Boston last year.
- 2) **To insure fiduciary responsibility for all the monies we are entrusted with.** Under the watchful eye of our treasurer Allan Penwell and the Board of Directors, we now have financial statements that are independently audited and verified.
- 3) **To introduce a revamped line of DQS products for sale to the membership.** This has been accomplished and is ongoing with continual improvement in the design, quality, and variety of items with the DQS logo and the weapon systems that we served on.
- 4) **To continue to select interesting and historically significant sites for our reunions.** Boston certainly continued this tradition. Tacoma takes us to a part of our Country that we have not previously visited and allows many of our members to take part in their first reunion.
- 5) **A new and vibrant Website.** This continues to be a work in progress. Steps have been made in the right direction. I will charge the incoming President to drive this to completion by the end of this year.

6) **An unplanned goal was Project Eagle.** This was formulated and designed by BOD member Luke Clark. This will be featured at the Tacoma Reunion. Plans have been put forward, fund raising has begun, and the rails of approval have been greased by Vincent Tedesco. It is with anticipation that I wait to see your response to the design of this Permanent Memorial to Vietnam Air Defense Artillerymen.

I wish thank all of the membership of the National Dusters, Quads, and Searchlights for making these two years a pleasurable and rewarding experience for my wife and I. Thank you for all the officers and board members who provided outstanding leadership and intuitive guidance in the accomplishments of NDQSA. A special thanks to Paul Kopsick and Bruce Geiger for providing the wisdom of experience in conducting the affairs of this organization.

A final and special request to membership to make plans to attend the reunion. Call your buddies; look for those that you served with who now live in the Northwest. Let's beat the drums and burn up the phone lines to revisit that place where so many of us returned to the "World".

### **NOMINATIONS ARE CLOSED!**

Sam Hopkins and Joe Belardo presented their Nomination list before the Board.

<b>President</b>	- <b>Paul Hanson,</b>
<b>Vice President</b>	- <b>John Huelsenbeck,</b>
<b>First Vice President</b>	- <b>Bob Cuce,</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	- <b>Dave McCray</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	- <b>Allan Penwell.</b>

During the Annual Business meeting, the by-laws allows for nominations from the floor, but by that time most of the mail-in ballots will have already been cast.

Ballots have been or will be mailed to all Active (dues paying) members thru June 15th in order to have time for the post office to get the ballots to the Secretary in time to bring to the reunion. The Nominating Committee and a volunteer from the membership will open the ballots at the business meeting and make the tally. The results will be presented and made official at the July annual business meeting.

## Minutes of

### NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meeting March 30, 2012

Members Present	Time in	Time out
President: Bob Lauver	10:56 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
V President: Paul Hanson	10:59 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
1 <sup>st</sup> V P: John Huelsenbeck	10:59 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Secretary: Dave McCray	10:56 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Treasurer: Allan Penwell	10:59 AM ET	11:30 PM ET
Past Pres: Bruce Geiger	10:59 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Directors:		
Joseph Belardo	11:02 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Luke Clark	11:09 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Bob Cuce	10:56 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Duane Gettler	10:56 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Paul Kopsick	10:56 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
Sam Hopkins	10:59 AM ET	12:50 PM ET
George Nagelschmidt	11:06 AM ET	12:50 PM ET

Bob Lauver convened the Board of Directors meeting April 2, 2012 at 11:00 AM ET.

Bob Lauver called for approval of December 28, 2011 BOD Minutes. A motion was made to accept the minutes and seconded. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were accepted.

#### **Reports of Officers:**

*President*, Bob Lauver – deferred.

*Past President*, Bruce Geiger – deferred

*Vice President*, Paul Hanson – deferred

*First Vice-President*, John Huelsenbeck – deferred

*Secretary*, Dave McCray - deferred

*Treasurer*, Allan Penwell – presented his report by e-mail prior to the meeting. Allan reminded the Board of Directors that we are on a cash basis and our Income Statement shows a \$567.62 for 2011 compared to \$4,077.01 for 2010. While our cash balance at year end is roughly \$56,000 compared to \$40,000 in 2010. In addition we have a reasonable amount of inventory which is all profit, less postage. We still have undistributed donations of \$1,500 for the NDQSA memorial and \$800 for the searchlight. Currently, we have 49 members and spouses signed up for the reunion. Lastly, the annual audit was completed with no discrepancies, but the CPA did recommend keeping the inventory and sales on an accrual basis. However, Allan admitted this would be a more difficult bookkeeping task that both Duane and Allan can handle. Once first quarter financials for 2012 are completed, Allan will send a short report.

Next Bob Lauver moved to Committee Reports (note they are not necessarily in order of discussion):

#### **Membership Committee (Joe Belardo, Paul Kopsick):**

Paul Kopsick continues to work to locate individuals with approximately 60 plus names in the last couple months. We are losing a couple per month and adding about ten per month. Gary Puro continues to add a few names to the new contacts list and to the known deceased list. About 5 members were identified as passing since the last newsletter.

#### **Nominating Committee (Joe Belardo & Sam Hopkins):**

Sam Hopkins and Joe Belardo presented their Nomination list before the Board. They are as follows: President-Paul Hanson, Vice President-John Huelsenbeck, First Vice President-Bob Cuce, Secretary-Dave McCray and Treasurer-Allan Penwell. Write-in votes will be allowed on the Ballots as well as the taking of other nominations at the annual members meeting. The motion was made by Bruce Geiger to accept the nominations and was seconded by Luke Clark and unanimously approved. Sam brought up my suggestion we appoint an Assistant Secretary for backup as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. Garry Severin has agreed to accept the appointment. An executive decision by President Bob Lauver accepted the proposal. Discussions ensued on trying to get more representation from the 5<sup>th</sup> of the 2<sup>nd</sup> as well as other Batteries into the NDQSA.

#### **Legislative (Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver):**

No discussion at this Board meeting.

#### **Good Works Committee (Sam Hopkins, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger):**

Sam deferred these to the discussion on the Reunion committee at this time.

#### **Publications/Historian Committee (Paul Kopsick):**

Paul continues to process NDQSA History Book orders and send gift books. Sales of 272 books for \$14,645 which is about 124% of original purchase price which includes shipping. The January/February 2012 newsletter was printed and 1,796 newsletters were mailed. The cost of printing and mailing was \$1,361.88 or less than a dollar apiece. About 40 were returned, most due to Snow Birds and adjustment of addresses. The returned newsletters cost the NDQSA \$1.65 each. The newsletter contained information on the July reunion and a dues form revised to account for dues, book orders and the new coins. The form was modified to include the option for men to donate to: Operation Eagle; the Quad-50 and Searchlight restoration projects; and the Good Works project for the 2012 reunion. Paul and his wife Debbie mailed out the Rosters March 19-24<sup>th</sup> and were again

sorted by unit and year in Vietnam. The roster packet includes the roster, membership card and a note about the reunion. Paul requested the Board again approve the \$3 reimbursement program for printing. Motion to accept the programs was made by John Huelsenbeck and seconded by Sam Hopkins. It was approved unanimously.

**Reunion Committee (Bob Lauver, Bruce Geiger, Mary Severin, Paul Hanson, Sam Hopkins, Gary Hunsaker):**

Sam Hopkins contacted the Fisher House about the donation of \$50 pre-paid shopping cards to families at the Fisher House. The goal is to have the membership match the \$1500 from the NDQSA Treasury. Bruce Geiger will purchase the cards and make greeting cards from the NDQSA. Bruce Geiger and Bob Cuce will deliver the donations to the Fisher House on Wednesday. Bob Cuce's company is going to contribute original design Fisher House T-shirts for gifts to the families. Thursday will be an all day excursion Argosy Cruise to Tillicum Village. Mary Severin obtained the lowest bids for transportation to the boats by Hesselgrave Charter Buses Company. The cost of three buses with 141 seats would be \$1,861 or for two buses with 94 seats at \$1,700. The buses will run from 10:00AM to 7:00PM to allow for some shopping at Pikes Place Market near the docks. Friday is the trip to Fort Nisqually at 10:00AM the Remembrance Service for the Vietnam KIA and NDQSA Veterans who have died in the past year. The cost of the usage of the Fort before it opens at 11:00AM is \$250. Contact with the local VVA will be made to obtain a color guard from a locally sponsor camping organization for kids. An arrangement for the traditional ceremonial honors has yet to be done. Bob Lauver suggested we try to obtain a guard that used Black Powder rifles as well as our Bugler. After the opening of the Museum we will be staying to allow everyone to tour the exhibits and see the live re-enactors perform. After Fort Nisqually, the buses will travel to Fort Lewis for a riding tour of the post. Paul Hanson is trying to arrange a Stryker Demonstration, but may be June before he will know if this is possible. Also there will be a tour of the Museum if it has opened by July. Plans for a lunch stop for the tour group is in the works. The speaker for the Saturday luncheon has been secured. It should be noted no transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided by NDQSA; however, shuttles are available.

**Operation Eagle Committee (Luke Clark, Vince Tedesco, Joe Belardo, Paul Hanson, Dave McCray):**

Luke Clark stated the project should come under the budget. Luke stated materials need to be gathered by May 14 to prepare for the presentation by Vince. Luke requested for proof readers for the proposal and plaques. Joe Belardo and Bob Lauver volunteered. A copy of the landscape portrait is being completed from about 20

sketches. Construction plans are yet to be given to Vince because of a small change that occurred to the reinforced concrete. Luke requested we purchase the Bronze plaques (\$4,500) now so they can use it as part of their presentation to Fort Sill's Board. Request was approved by the board. The plaques have our logo and weapons systems on them. Sample bricks will be brought to the reunion and they also have our weapons systems. The bricks are 4x8 that will have 3 lines 20 characters/line. The Painting of the memorial will also be brought to the memorial. Luke stated it may take 6 months for approval from Fort Sill. Contract will start immediately upon approval. The large granite stones have a six month lead time. Luke would like to have the bricks paved in advance and inscriptions can be worked out at a later date. Luke and Vince requested that Dave Christianson ask the CG to reserve the memorial location and that has been accomplished. We need to sell a minimum of 200 bricks. KIA families have contacted Board members asking if they can participate in the memorial and that will be worked out.

**Products Committee (Duane Gettler, Bruce Geiger, Paul Kopsick, Bob Lauver):**

Bob asked Duane to send him a list of shirts that is need. Bruce obtained Bob's address to send the completed jackets. Jackets are completed and will be mailed out shortly.

**Website Committee (Bob Lauver, Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger, Robert Schmeisser):**

Paul Kopsick stated the existing website is stable. No problems and no new additions aside from the 2012 reunion forms. The redesign of the web site with MojoActive is proceeding. A format has been developed and Paul has had one phone call to become familiar with their website development tools. Next, the pages will be populated with artwork, existing information and new material from archives. Paul needs more time to work on it and get comfortable. A video conference should occur in mid-May. Technical savvy people such Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell and Bob Cuce have been identified for maintenance and upkeep. Paul hopes to have it ready before the reunion.

**Old/New Business:**

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Vietnam Wall is this Veteran's day. The annual wreath will be purchased by NDQSA. Paul Kopsick has identified available Searchlights for sale. Joe Belardo will be having dinner with John Lang next week and Paul may join to discuss the Searchlight. It was mentioned Clyde Larsen has his own Searchlight. Also the Quad 50 restoration was briefly mentioned.

Bob Lauver reiterated the next Board meeting would be in June. A motion to adjourn was made by John Huelsenbeck, seconded by Joe Belardo and accepted. Meeting adjourned!

Minutes compiled by

David McCray,  
Secretary, NDQSA

Minutes approved by

Bob Lauver,  
President, NDQSA

## **DUSTER PHOTO BOOK UPDATE**

NDQSA was contacted by David Doyle who is the author of several of the Squadron photo books of various armor and weapon systems. The DQS historian met with him to gauge his approach to these publications and to decide whether to share some of our archived material for the new book to be titled "M42 Dusters in Action".

The historian is pleased to report that NDQSA imagery from our archives will be a major part of the new book. Many photos collected from members over the years will be included in the book and properly credited. This will be a great opportunity for NDQSA to get a wider dissemination of our history to more of the general public.

David Doyle is also updating his photo book on the M-151 Jeep and has asked NDQSA for use of images of searchlight jeeps. NDQSA has made available a number of representative images from our archives for this book as well.

We find Mr. Doyle to be a dedicated historian, writer and editor and are pleased to support him. We will let you know when the new versions are published.

## **VETERANS DAY PARADE 2012 - NOT!**

We had believed that Vietnam Veterans Memorial group would be staging another parade for Vietnam Vets to mark the 30th Anniversary of The Wall. Well we were wrong. We could not find any information about such an event. So, no parade and no vehicles will be on display.

Still we hope that many of you will come to DC and attend the ceremony at The Wall. Remember, "Rolling Thunder" has their ride the day before and several guys come in for that gathering as well. But, if you want to see Dusters, Quads and hopefully a Searchlight jeep, plan on attending the 2012 Open House at the [Tank Farm](#) August 18-19, 2012.

## **NDQSA WEBSITE TO BE UPDATED**

Once this newsletter is mailed out, Paul Kopsick will be setting up time to work on the update of the NDQSA web site. It will be completely updated and populated with many new images, documents and stories. It is a major task and will take a lot of time and effort. The goal is to have a good portion of it up and running by the reunion.

Therefore we are once again asking for members to share their stories, look for paperwork and rummage through the old photo albums and make your material available to the historian for the website.

## **40MM PROJECTILE POINTS AND BRASS SHELLS FOR SALE**



Historian Paul Kopsick acquired and restored a number of 40 mm projectile points and brass shells for the duster restoration project at the Tank Farm.

Paul now has additional 40 mm projectiles available for sale to members that have shell casings but no projectiles. The cost is \$35 each, shipping included.

He also has a limited number of complete brass shell and projectile available for \$80.



Make your check, written out to Paul Kopsick, and send to: Paul Kopsick, 4338 Still Meadow Road, Fairfax VA 22032. [Paul Kopsick email](#)



## GOOD WORKS COMMITTEE

For the past several years, the NDQSA has made a donation to some worthy local charity that benefits veterans and/or active duty personnel at the site where we hold our annual membership reunion. In 2012, the Good Works committee has selected the Fisher House near the Puget Sound Veterans Medical Center in Seattle as our service project for this year. The Fisher House serves the families of our nation's wounded warriors, giving them comfortable free boarding while their family member is in the hospital. During their stay (which can be very extended at times), the families must provide for their personal needs, often on very limited means and income.

The NDQSA in conjunction with the Fisher House Volunteer Services Department will provide pre-paid shopping cards for the staff to distribute to families as needed. Whether you plan to attend the reunion or simply want to help support a very good cause, you are invited to make a donation to this service project either with your reunion registration payment, or as a designated contribution to the NDQSA for the Fisher House program. **So far we have raised \$440 in donations from the membership.** Thanks for responding to this earnest worthwhile appeal.

— Chaplain Sam Hopkins

## THE NCO CORNER

Well gentlemen, the Tacoma reunion is almost here. It is time to start contacting all of your friends, classmates, and members of your combat crews to get them to join us at what looks to be a great visit to the Great Northwest. We have never taken a reunion to this part of the country so we are hoping for your support to tell us that we made the correct decision!!! This is not a "Get out the vote" message, it is a get your friends and comrades in arms together for a wonderful reunion! It only works if you make it happen. Call everyone and see us there. NCO's have always lead the way and that is just how the Army works!

It looks like we finally have the last roster of missing classes from 16F NCOCS thanks to Carl Dorsey, 2-70, and Paul Kopsick our historian. Hopefully I will be able to finish this phase of our history by this reunion. Thanks for the help!! Additionally, the last First Sergeant of E-41<sup>st</sup>, James Tubbs, has rejoined our ranks. Retiring from the Army as a CSM, James found one of our reunion circulars in a service magazine (thanks to Bruce Geiger) and will be joining us at the Tacoma reunion. Glad to have you back aboard CSM!! You were my last First Sergeant in Quads and it will be nice to see you once again.

This reunion again looks to be one of the most interesting venues we have visited even for those of you who have never been to the Northwest except to leave or return from Vietnam. Lots of history and interesting places to see and looks like we will be going out on the Puget Sound for a great fish fry and dinner. We will have a Ft. Lewis honor guard, bugler, and rifle team at Ft. Nisqually for our memorial and a great visit to Ft. Lewis (never thought you would get back there, did you?). If you haven't made your reservations, please do so ASAP and join us for another great get together. NCO's have always been the backbone of our Army and will always be the same for the NDQSA. Come and support us as we invade Tacoma/Ft. Lewis/Seattle.

As always, take care, stay healthy, and take care of yourselves. If you have any information about NCOCS grads that you have not sent me please do so a.s.a.p. to [pdhanson1@comcast.net](mailto:pdhanson1@comcast.net) or 610-909-0632. I'll be here somewhere. Until Seattle/Tacoma -- Stay well !!!!!

— Paul Hanson, Vice President

## SEARCHLIGHT RESTORATION UPDATE

We now have a new project that will be of interest to the NDQSA searchlight veterans. We have information on acquiring 23 inch Xenon searchlight(s) for reunion and special projects. The folks at VMMV have expressed interest in adding a M-151 jeep and searchlight to their holdings. At the last VMMV "Open House" last August, NDQSA was given a prominent location in which a Duster, a trailer mounted Quad-50 and a M-151 Jeep were set up for display. See this link for information on this years show. [Tank Farm August 18-19, 2012](#)

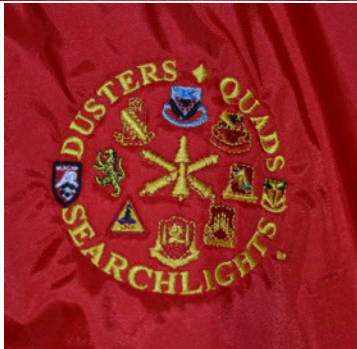
We would like to add a searchlight or two to the display this coming year. To that end, we are asking all NDQSA members, especially the Searchlight Vets from B-29, G-29, H-29 and I-29 to step up and include a small donation for this new project. We need a couple of thousand bucks to acquire the SLTs and if possible we would like to get a M-151 to dedicate to the project as well. **We have already raised about \$800 since the last newsletter.** Paul Kopsick visited with a commercial source for the SLTs in eastern Pennsylvania and Joe Belardo is negotiating with a VVA group near Philadelphia than may be in a position to donate one.

So please take a look at the new order form and show your support by mailing in a check designating a donation for any of the fine projects: Operation Eagle, Quad-50 Project, SLT Project and for this years Good Works Project which is the Fisher House in the Seattle/Tacoma area.

Collared Polo Blk, Gn, Wh \$30

# NEW NDQSA PRODUCTS

T-shirts : Black, Tan, Gray \$15 each



New Heavy Jacket  
Embroidered with  
Name and Weapon  
\$140+ any extras



# NDQSA PRODUCT SALES



NDQSA Cap



Light Jacket  
Embroidered with  
Logo and Weapons  
\$85 each

## New Products Size Chart

Subject to stock on hand  
Give 1st & 2nd choice on color

**Light Jacket:** Medium  
Large  
\$85 XL  
XXL  
XXXL

**Mens Polo:** Small  
Black Medium  
Green Large  
White XL  
\$30 XXL  
XXXL  
XXXXL  
XL Tall  
XXL Tall

**Ladies Polo:** Small  
Black: Medium  
White: Large  
\$30 XL

**T-shirt:** Medium  
Black: Large  
Tan: XL  
Gray: XXL  
\$15 XXXL  
XXXXL

## SPECIAL ORDER ITEM

Heavy Jacket: Medium  
Large  
\$140+ XL  
XXL  
XXXL

(Duster) (Quad 50) (Searchlight)  
(HAWK) (Vulcan)

You can have your name, unit, years  
of service added at an extra cost.

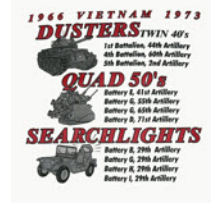
**Use the order form on the back of  
this page to order these items.**



## Patch Coins and Pin Sets

**NDQSA Patch:** \$5 each  
**Challenge Coin:** \$10 each  
**NDQSA Pin Set:** \$8 each  
**NDQSA Lucite Coin:** \$25

**Special Offer**  
While supplies last, all old style  
T-shirts will be available for \$10  
each with  
purchase of any  
other products.



**New Product**  
**50-cal**  
**Bottle opener**  
**\$12 each**

**2012 MEMBERSHIP INVOICE / ROSTER UPDATE /PRODUCT & BRICK ORDER FORM**

(tear off this page and mail it in with your up to date contact information and unit history)

**Roster Contact Information (Please print)**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: (     )         -  
Cell Phone: (     )         -

**Service Information (Vietnam) (fill out even if on file)**

Dates of 1<sup>st</sup> tour (m/yr): \_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Dates of other tour (m/yr): \_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Primary MOS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Battery /Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Attached to: \_\_\_\_\_  
Names of bases:

Names/Hometown of buddies: (if there are many, list them on a separate sheet of paper)

**Rank (highest E-grade while in Vietnam)**

Grade: Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ NCO: \_\_\_\_\_ EM: \_\_\_\_\_

**Valor Awards**

PH (    ) DSC (    ) SS (    ) BS/V (    ) ACM/V (    )

**If paying dues presents a hardship for you but you still want to be an Active Member, check box [    ]. Some members have made donations to assist you.**

**Would you agree to get future newsletters by email or from the website to save on printing and mailing costs? Yes    \_\_\_  No, please mail it    \_\_\_**

**ADA MEMORIAL PAVER BRICK  
(print clearly) (use extra paper for add'tl bricks)**

Line 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Line 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
(20 characters per line maximum)

**DUES – DONATIONS – PRODUCT ORDERS**

Make check payable to NDQSA.  
Shipping is included in the price of all items.

**Circle payment(s) for:** (2012) (2013) (2014) (2015)

**Dues:** \$25 per year (Jan-Dec)         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donations: \*Operation Eagle\***         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Quad-50 restoration         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW!** Searchlight Restoration         \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*30th Reunion Good Works Project \*    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Book order :** single book    @ \$ 60         \_\_\_\_\_  
multiple books @ \$ 55         \_\_\_\_\_  
reorder                    @ \$ 50         \_\_\_\_\_

**Challenge Coin:**         \_\_\_ coin @ \$10         \_\_\_\_\_

**Lucite Coin\*:**         \_\_\_ coin @ \$25         \_\_\_\_\_

**NDQSA Pin Set:**         \_\_\_ sets @ \$8         \_\_\_\_\_

**50-cal bottle opener**         \_\_\_ @ \$12         \_\_\_\_\_

**NDQSA T-shirt** (black) (gray) (green)  
SIZE: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 each         \_\_\_\_\_

**NDQSA Polo T-shirt** (reg) (tall) (women's)  
SIZE: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30 each         \_\_\_\_\_  
(white) (black) (green)

**NDQSA Light jacket**  
SIZE: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$85 each         \_\_\_\_\_

**NDQSA Heavy Embroidered jacket**  
SIZE: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$140 each         \_\_\_\_\_  
(Duster)(Quad) (Searchlight)(HAWK)(Vulcan)

**NDQSA Cap 2** for \$10 while they last         \_\_\_\_\_

**NDQSA Patch**         \_\_\_ \$5 each         \_\_\_\_\_

**Old style T-shirt (size)**         \_\_\_ \$10 each         \_\_\_\_\_

**ADA Memorial Brick**         \_\_\_ \$80 each         \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Label —>  
Cut out  
Use tape**

**NDQSA  
PO Box 2903  
Fairfax VA 22031-2903**





# 30th Annual NDQSA Reunion

## Tacoma Washington

### July 11 -15, 2012

*OPERATION*

*WELCOME*

*HOME!*

By far this will be the nicest hotel the NDQSA will have held a reunion at. It is devoted to art glass and is located in the middle of downtown Tacoma near the water and other attractions.



**Hotel Murano**

<http://www.hotelmuranotacoma.com>

**Dbl Deluxe or King Deluxe \$99 + tax**

**Phone: 1(888)862-3255 or 1(253)238-8000**

**Special online reservation for NDQSA ([click here](#))**

**Wednesday 7/11/12 pm** - Discussion of Public Transportation and how to get around the Tacoma/Seattle Area. Things to visit and sights to see. Presented by representatives of the Hotel and TravelTacoma: <http://www.traveltacoma.com>

**LeMay America's Car Museum :**

[www.lemaymuseum.org](http://www.lemaymuseum.org)

**Tacoma Glass Museum:**

[www.museumofglass.org](http://www.museumofglass.org)

**Tacoma Art Museum:**

[www.tacomaartmuseum](http://www.tacomaartmuseum)

**Dupont Historical Museum:**

[www.dupontmuseum.com](http://www.dupontmuseum.com)

**(Washington State)History Museum:**

[www.wshs.org](http://www.wshs.org)

**Reunion Registration Fee:**

(\$15 for individual/ \$20 per family)

We are calling this years reunion, **Operation Welcome Home**, since many guys came through Ft. Lewis upon their return from Vietnam.

**Thursday 7/12/12**

9:30 am-6:30 pm -

Argosy Cruise to

Tillicum Village/

Blake Island \$ 89 pp

Seattle's Island Experience

Cruise, Show & Salmon

Bake in the Spirit of

Northwest Natives

<http://www.argosycruises.com/publiccruises/tillicum.cfm>

and upon return, explore Seattle's Pike's Place Market.



**Friday 7/13/12 \$ 35 pp**

9:00 am-4:00 pm

NDQSA Memorial

Service at Fort Nisqually

Living History Museum

in Port Defiance Park and

to Joint Base Lewis/McChord for Lunch, Stryker

Demonstration, and

Ft.Lewis Army

Museum.

[http://www.metropar](http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/page.php?id=825)

[kstacoma.org/page.p](http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/page.php?id=825)

[hp?id=825](http://www.metroparkstacoma.org/page.php?id=825)



**Saturday 7/14/12 \$35 pp**

12:00 pm-3:00 pm -

NDQSA Luncheon Banquet,

Honored Speakers,

Awards & Presentations.

VA Puget Sound Fisher House Donations

NDQSA has identified agent [Kassandra Gehry](#) if you want to try and reserve a Princess Alaska Cruise after the reunion. You need to decide and act quickly since this will be the height of the season and the best cabins will not be available after February. Contact her ASAP if you want to find out more. Refundable deposits & insurance available. 1-800-565-2784 Mondays-Thursdays 7am-3:30 PST

# 2012 NDQSA \*TACOMA\* REUNION PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

< READ EVERYTHING >

**Air Defense Artillery**  
**"First to Fire....Last To Leave"**

**Operation Welcome Home**

**30th NDQSA Reunion**  
**Tacoma, WA**  
**July 11-15, 2012**

**WWW.NDQSA.COM**

**TIME IS SHORT- DO IT NOW!**

Name: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Which days are you planning to attend the reunion? (circle)

**July 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17**  
 S M T W T F S S M T

Remember to make your hotel reservations ASAP to insure room availability. If you have already made your reservations check this box [  ].  
**If you are local or not staying at the reunion hotel check this box [  ].**

To help in planning for reunion activities please pre-register now and send in fees for the following activities. As always, should something unforeseen happen and you cant attend the reunion, you will receive a refund.

ACTIVITIES	(You are not obligated to participate in any of these activities)	# Persons/\$ Amount
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> :	0900-1830 hrs - cruise to Blake Island and Tillicum Village	(\$89 per person) x ___ / _____
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> :	0900-1600 hrs Tour and Memorial Service	(\$35 per person) x ___ / _____
<b>Note: Everyone going to the Friday memorial services is expected to sign up for the trip.</b>		
Saturday Luncheon Banquet with Guest Speakers,		(\$35 per person) x ___ / _____
Voluntary donation to Fisher House service project fund		(any amount) _____
Reunion registration fee	<b>make sure you add it in to your total!</b> (\$15 for individual/ \$20 per family)	\$ _____

**Wednesday 11 July 2012**  
 Setup and Registration

**Thursday 12 July 2012**

9:30 AM – 6:30 PM  
 Boat Cruise Tour  
 Cost - \$89.00 per person.

Catch the bus to the dock at Seattle

Narrated cruise to Blake Island and Tillicum Village.  
 Northwest Salmon Buffet Lunch.  
 Native American Dance Performance.  
 Explore the Island.  
 Return to Seattle.  
 Stop at Pikes Place Market  
 Bus back to the Hotel.

**Friday 13 July 2012**

9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
 Tour and Memorial Service  
 Cost \$35.00 per person

Pick up at the Hotel Murano

Travel to Point Defiance Park Memorial Service at Fort Nisqually.  
 Travel to Joint Base Lewis-McChord. Lunch at the Base.  
 We are attempting to set up a Striker Demonstration along with a visit to the spectacular Fort Lewis Army Museum (Scheduled to reopen early 2012).  
 There is a Duster and a Hawk on the grounds.  
 Return to Hotel

**Saturday 14 July 2012**

9:00 AM – 11:00 AM  
 Annual Business Meeting  
 (all members required to attend)

12:00 – 3:00 PM  
 Annual NDQSA Banquet  
 Cost \$35 per person

Honored Speakers  
 Awards and Presentations  
 Evening Hospitality Room Activities  
 Fundraising Activities and Auctions

**SUNDAY 15 July 2012**

Morning Service and break down  
 Optional post reunion cruise

**Make your pre-registration check payable to NDQSA and send to the NDQSA Treasurer: Mailing Label ==>**

**Allan Penwell**  
**2408 N. Nottingham Ct.**  
**Champaign, IL 61821-7017**

**\* NEW MEMBERS \* NEW CONTACTS \***

We are very pleased that we continue to locate and bring new contacts into our Brotherhood. If they were in your unit or not, why not use the [email link](#) and welcome them to NDQSA.

[Art Marco, C-1/44 '68-69](#)

[Earl Evans, C-1/44 68-69](#)

**James Matthews, D-1/44 69-60**

[Earl Ziebarth, Jr., H-1/44 '68-69](#)

[Roy LeClair, A-5/2 '70-71](#)

[Grady Marshall, A-5/2 '69-70](#)

[Phil Pettice, C-4/60 ;67](#)

[Larry Hice, C-1/44 '70-71](#)

Donald Hanshaw, C-4/60 '69-70

[Patrick Costello, H-4/60 '71-72](#)

Sidney Allen, C-5/2 '70-71

Dwane Coons, A-1/44 '70-71

Stephen Rosenberry, 5/2 '70-71

[Jerry Golden, G-65 '70-71](#)

[Daniel Black, D-71 70-71](#)

Dale Clark, B-1/44 '70-71

Rick Goforth, E-41 '70-71

Michael Barth, ?-5/2 '70-71

William Miller, C-5/2 '70-71

[Keith Fullerton, B-1/44 '70-71](#)

[Henderson Hammitt Jr, NCOCS 2-70](#)

Gary Pini, ?'70-71

Gerald Swain, B-1/44 '70-71

[Glenn Hess, D-1/44 '69-70](#)

Paul Schau, A-5/2 '66-70

[Anthony Disanti, B-5/2 '67-68](#)

Richard Gabbard, D-71 '67-68

Daniel Pallanck, E-41 '70-71

Richard Whitehead, H-1/44 '68-69

Steve Babb, B-29 '67-69

Raymond Sturgal, ? '66-67

Paul Sappington, D-4/60 '70-71

[John Mayhew, D-4/60 '67-68](#)

[Larry Parker, D-4/60 '69-70](#)

[Jessie Stevens, A-4/60 '68-69](#)

[Bruce Miller, C-4/60 '69-70](#)

[Tim Davis, A-1/44 '67-68](#)

Larry DeSenville, A-1/44 '67-68

Dan McIntyre, A-1/44 '71

Dwight Harris, ?-1/44 '69-70

Michael Busse, H-1/44 '70-71

John Lennen,?-1/44 '68-69

Thomas Aragon, A-5/2 '66-67

Vernon Kirsch, C-5/2 '66-67

[Norberto Alejos, ?-5/2 '68-69](#)

James Wilson, B-5/2 '68-69

Ron Fleek, ?-5/2 '70-71

Nicholas Menechella, ?-6/71

[John Rauh, B-6/71 '65-66](#)

Michael Lindsay, H-6/71 '67-68

[Jack Lucas, H-6/71 '68](#)

Howard Ranson, D-6/71 '67-68

[Frank Whidden Sr., D-5/2 '69-70](#)

Jerry Bell, ?-4/60 '67-68

Larry Robinson, B-4/60 '67-68

[Jim Kriskowski, G-55 '71](#)

Peter Buongiorno, ?-1/44 '71

[Earl Locklear, G-65 '69-71](#)

[Frank Neal, C-1/44 '69-70](#)

Laurence Willaims, A-5/2 '69-70

James Tubbs, E-41 '71-72

So how did we find all these guys in just a few months? Well we worked at it. We implore you to remember names and share them with us. Check your papers, photo albums and letters home.

**+ RECENTLY IDENTIFIED AS PASSED +**

Lucas Shelby, 5/2 '70-71

Chris CJ Fowler, '70-71

Sollie Bell Jr, I-29 '67-68

Eric Eby, B-5/2 '68-69

Frank Proulx, B-29 '66-67 12Dec10, VA

Abner Lang, H-5/2, VCT 4Oct11 KY

Paul Walden, H-29 '68-68 4Jun11 KY

Terry Blackburn C-4/60 '70-71 7Jan12 IN

Roger Kohlman, D-71 '67-68 TX

Gary Onsted, B-29 '69-69 27Oct06 MI

Del Rouse, D-5/2 '66-67 3Jan12 CO

Dale Borger, B-29 '67-68 PA

James Kelsey 1'44 ('02 - NY)

**We honor and mourn those that have passed. "Rest in Peace, Brothers"**



## Sgt Mitchell Stout Honored in Ceremony in Knoxville, KY

“A Memorial Evening to SGT Mitchell W. Stout”

Within the confines of the buildings of downtown Knoxville, Tennessee, close by the Tennessee River, there is an emerald park, a remnant of the World’s Fair. At one end of the park gray granite monoliths rise above the grass. They are placed in order of the great conflicts of the past century on to the present day. Each of them bears one name. The first section is World War I; among the names is Alvin C. York, Sgt York, made famous to us by a movie. Moving on past World War II, and Korea, we come to a section of our time, Vietnam. Inscribed on one of these gray pillars is the name Sgt Mitchell W. Stout, one of ours, a Dusterman.

The monument recognizes 14 natives of East Tennessee who were awarded the Medal of Honor. The memorial was erected by East Tennessee Veterans Memorial Association. Last year that Association began a series of dinners to honor each of those awardees. This year, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Medal of Honor Evening was in celebration of the life of SGT Mitchell W. Stout.

his wife Lynette. NDQSA was also represented by Judge Donald Wittenberger, the Featured Speaker. Mr. Wittenberger was in the 1<sup>st</sup>/44<sup>th</sup> commo bunker at Battalion Head-quarters in Dong Ha, South Vietnam the night of 12 March 1970. His descriptive and emotional speech described the events of that night and the lasting affects those events had on his life. Air Defense Artillery was represented by COL Christopher L. Spillman, the Asst. Commandant, Air Defense Artillery School, and by David A. Christensen, the Command Historian of the Air Defense Artillery School.



The Stout Family was represented by Susan Stout Tyler and her husband Toby Tyler. Mrs. Tyler is Mitchell Stout’s Sister. Luke and I presented her with the booklet from the Gold Star Mother trip from last year. There is a description of the service we held at the Khe Gio Bridge in honor of SGT Stout. We also talked with the Tyler’s about some of the Vietnamese lore that has grown about that site.

It was an honor and a privilege to represent NDQSA on this occasion.

- Bob Lauver, G-65



The ceremony was held on the evening of 7 May 2012. The National Dusters Quads and Searchlights were represented by President Bob Lauver, his wife Sue, and Director Luke Clark and

## Snakes and Lizards – (Wild) Life at Cam Ranh Bay

1LT Ed McGill served all of 1967 as the Firing Section platoon leader in a HAWK battery on a hill at the southern tip of the Cam Ranh Bay peninsula. CRB was a major logistics port for U.S. forces in the mid-part of South VN. It also had a major USAF base from which fighter-bombers attacked the North. This is his description of life – and wildlife - on that desolate hill-top.



Although Cam Ranh Bay was one of the great, natural fleet anchorages in Southern Asia, the peninsula itself remained mostly a scrub-brush wilderness until the arrival of American forces and it was still, in its remaining undeveloped areas, a vast outdoor zoo, inhabited by exotic creatures that had adapted to living in proximity to humans. The tigers and wild pigs however, were long gone; shot by Green Berets on “bus-man’s holidays” in the early 60’s, or so I was told. But a lot of the other critters remained, and tried either to live with us or at least pay a visit. The most unwelcome of course, were the snakes.

To be fair, our existence there “encouraged” snake visits. The mess hall had a large garbage pit behind it and although it was properly maintained, the cover soil was all sand and easily burrowed into by rats, of which we had a permanent presence. They took up residence inside the double rows of sandbags that protected everything and they could never be eliminated. The rats came for the garbage and then the snakes came for the rats.

As it happened, our battery had a launcher-section sergeant who was an amateur herpetologist. He told me that in the wilderness below our site there were boa constrictors, two species of cobra (Asian, and King), and a small, brown krait which he assured me I would never see, but if I did, and was foolish enough to pick it up, its bite would kill me in less than 30 minutes. His final comment was: “Actually, Lieutenant, it’s hard to find a non-poisonous snake in Vietnam!” While he was with us we were for the most part, snake-free, because he knew where to look for them and how to capture them, and he did that all the time for reasons explained below. But he rotated home

four months after I arrived and then we started having encounters.

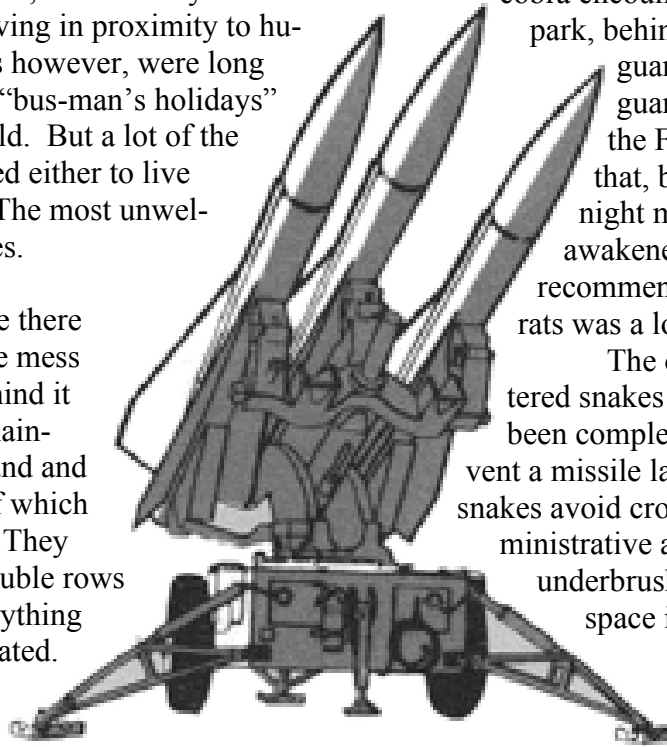
The danger of course, came at night. Snakes hunt at night. Those most likely to encounter a snake were the perimeter guards or the duty officer, who was required to check all guard posts twice before midnight and once after. Although the D.O. had a flashlight, for obvious reasons its routine use was discouraged. That meant relying on moonlight to see what might be crossing one’s path. And there often was a big moon overhead. When standing on the edge of the tactical site, overlooking the South China Sea, the moon seemed enormous. The big, ivory disc shimmering over the ocean always reminded me of the “fade-out scene” at the end of a romantic Hollywood film.

I only encountered a snake once when I was out checking the guards. Fortunately, it hissed at me and I froze. It was headed “out-bound”, so I just waited until it disappeared into the brush. There were also late-night, cobra encounters by others in the motor pool park, behind the mess hall, and once in the guard-dogs’ kennel area. Usually the guard would shoot a cobra, in spite of the First Sergeant’s instructions against that, because even a single shot late at night meant that most of the battery was awakened before the incident was over. The recommended weapon against both snakes and rats was a long-handled shovel.

The only place where we never encountered snakes was the Tactical Site because it had been completely stripped of vegetation to prevent a missile launch from igniting a brush fire, and snakes avoid crossing large, open areas. But the administrative area below still had trees and some underbrush. My unit had only cleared what space it actually needed.

There were also lots of lizards around. The smallest were about nine inches long and were always skittering around the edges of the tactical site, although they too avoided crossing large, open areas. They were so nimble they seemed to just fly across the ground.

Then there were the geckos. No one could forget them. They were as long as two feet and extremely solitary. Every building with a solid roof had one, but only one, concealed in the rafters. They sat motionless for God-knows-how-long, but would eat any smaller wildlife that came close to them. As a result, our quarters were largely free of vermin like ants, spiders, centipedes, and such. What was so memorable about the geckos was the sound they made. When they felt like “singing”, they



would start right after dark and go on for several hours. It was a long, high-pitched, monotone whistle followed by a series of short, “fweee-oh” whistles. When repeated, the sound reminded many of our men of a certain vulgar expression, and so they nick-named the geckos, the “F \_\_\_ you” lizard!

I never saw a scorpion but they were supposedly around too. I do remember seeing a dark, red millipede about six inches long. It too lived in the sandbags and its bite was reputed to be severe enough to put a man in the 97<sup>th</sup> Evac. Hospital on the north side of the Air Base.

Finally, our battery was “host” for a while to three, large monitor lizards. They ranged in size from 4 to 7 feet and were dangerous animals with a very menacing look. They resembled the famous Komodo dragons of Indonesia, and were from a small colony in the big pile of black rocks at the very southern tip of the peninsula. Our sergeant-herpetologist had somehow captured them, built a pen for them out of scrounged, chain-link fence, and fed them the snakes he caught, as well as butchered pig and goat meat obtained from the small fishing village over on the Bay side. That village was the only authentic Vietnamese presence on the entire peninsula.

The lizards seemed content enough in their cage but would hiss loudly if approached. The sergeant’s intention was to send them back to the States when he finished his tour. He said he could sell them to zoos for big money. And when he left, sure enough, he made “arrangements” with the captain of a contract freighter to take the monitors back to the U.S. I guess most DoD-contract cargo ships returned empty, so space was no problem.

I had only been in-country for a week or so when I was invited to watch the sergeant feed a live snake to the monitors. It was a black cobra about 10 feet long. The sergeant used a snake stick to quickly lift it out of a box and drop it over the cage fence. The snake immediately sat up, spread its hood, and wiggled wildly. The biggest of the monitors never even hesitated. Moving more quickly than I could have believed, it ignored the snake’s desperate attempts to strike, clamped its big, green jaws around the snake’s neck and then shook it violently until it stopped moving. Then it shifted the snake’s head to the front of its mouth and began swallowing the cobra whole. Standing there watching this huge lizard, up on its forelegs with head tilted upwards, triumphantly swallowing what had just been a living creature, I thought of a line from the old movie “The Wizard of Oz.” When Dorothy awakens from the tornado and looks around at the garish and bizarre surroundings in Munchkin-land, she says to her dog, “We’re not in Kansas anymore, Toto!”

## NEW DUSTER MODEL RELEASED!

-Paul Kopsick, Historian



For those of you interested in models of the M42A1 Duster, we finally have a new kit that is much more detailed than the current Tamiya and the original Renwal kits of the 60’s. They are just now getting into the retail stores and come with a list price of \$70. The cool Vietnam setting on the box cover is actually based on a Charlie Battery 1/44th Duster. There is also a color copy of the box cover suitable for framing included in the kit.

Although no one from AFV Club contacted NDQSA (that I know of), the kit’s decals show artwork and numbering found on 4/60th and 5/2d Dusters. The only mix-up I found so far is that they did not make the 5/2 decal properly, they made it IFFV instead of IIFFV. XXIV is included.

There are many more pieces to this kit than any before it. The biggest upgrade is the 40mm gun turret. The barrels are now metal and there are metal recoil springs and a photo-etched speed-ring sight. The suspension is also in component pieces, unlike the Tamiya kits, and is therefore more complicated a kit to assemble.

There are some shortcomings: it does not include any figures of men; and the engine compartment hatches are sealed and do not open or close. Fortunately, the TC, driver’s and front hatches are open they are designed to open and close. There are a few clips of 40mm ammo but no silver 40mm ammo cans are included.

I hope to have one completed to bring to the reunion. Contact the historian if you want a kit but cannot locate one locally.



# PROJECT EAGLE

-Luke Clark 4/60 - Vincent Tedesco 1/44th



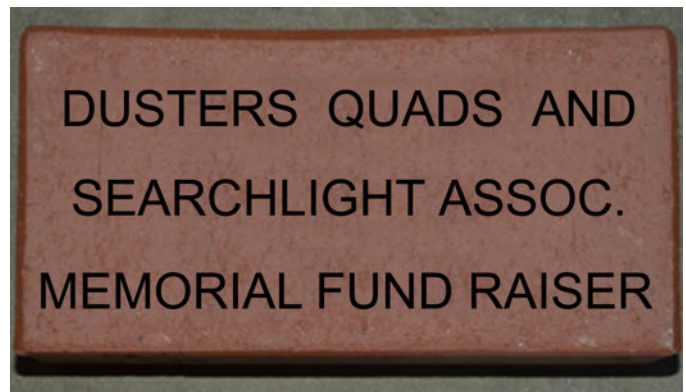
NDQSA's plan is to sponsor and construct a Memorial for the Soldiers who died in Vietnam while assigned or attached to Air Defense Units.

The 6 foot 5 inch tall Marble Eagle Sculpture made from marble quarried from Marble Mountain just South West of Da Nang was **donated by Luke Clark, H-4/60 '71** to include the cost of preservation and transportation to Fort Sill. This Sculpture will rest on a 5 foot tall block of granite and will be placed at the entrance of the memorial. The NDQSA logo will be front and center.

Through Vincent Tedesco, C-1/44th '67-68, a request for the actual location of the Memorial has been presented to Fort Sill. The NDQSA Board of Directors is reviewing proposed designs for the memorial and the rendering above by well known Portrait Artist, Margo Poe shows what it will likely look like.

We calculate that **we will need about \$40,000** in donations and the sale of bricks to complete the project. We will make copies of this portrait

available to any one for a small fee which will be used towards the construction of the Memorial. Copies will be available at the 2012 Reunion.



Primary fund raising for the memorial will consist of selling Donor engraved 4"x 8" Paver Bricks. The cost will be set at \$80 per brick. Remember this is a fund raising program and the price of the memorial brick represents that ideal. You can purchase as many bricks as you want.

Each brick can have three lines of up to 20 characters per line, typically: rank, name, unit, year, personal note. NOTE: We are not allowed to have bricks engraved with commercial names or businesses. If needed, we will solicit donations from individuals and organizations to supplement any shortfall from Brick Sales.

The memorial will be a fitting tribute to the men who died defending us and our country. **It is also an opportunity for family members of NDQSA members that have passed to include them in this wonderful memorial.**

You may start making contribution to the fund NOW! If you have already paid your 2012 dues, you can still use the NDQSA multipurpose form to send in your donations or to order paver bricks. We will review your submission with you to make sure it is what you want and complies with our guidelines.

If you do not want to do the "paver" for yourself, maybe do one for a buddy, a buddy that has passed or guys from your squad.

The ultimate goal is to coordinate a future NDQSA reunion at Ft. Sill when this is all done! If everything goes to schedule the Memorial could be completed by Memorial Day 2013!

**Add the dedication of the Memorial to your Bucket List and send in an order today!**

**National Dusters, Quads &  
Searchlights Association**  
P.O. Box 2903 Fairfax, VA 22031-2903

**Forward Service Requested**



**Air Defense Artillery**  
“First to Fire....Last To Leave”

**30th Annual Reunion**  
“OPERATION WELCOME HOME”  
July 11-15, 2012 Tacoma, WA

**WWW.NDQSA.COM**

Many of you have already paid for multiple years, so **look carefully at the mailing label for the year which shows when you are paid up through.** (2012, 2013, 2014 or 2015)

However, if you see the number **0000** we have not seen a dues payment in a while. If you can't afford dues, we fully understand so don't worry about it. We only ask that you update your status and verify your contact information, phone numbers and email. Just send in the completed form.

Rosters are printed out and mailed as soon as your check is processed and will contain the most up to date information. So please make any updates or changes **IMMEDIATELY!!**

If you have changed your phone #/email address recently send an email to [dqshistorian@cox.net](mailto:dqshistorian@cox.net) or leave a message at 202-262-9560.

To be sure you get the newsletter via email, tell your email program to accept emails from: [dqshistorian@cox.net](mailto:dqshistorian@cox.net) and [ndqsa@cox.net](mailto:ndqsa@cox.net)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The **National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association™ (NDQSA™)** is the original, official representative, and holds the longest, continual and official annual reunion for ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam. The NDQSA was founded in 1981 by John Huelsenbeck et al and has grown to over 480 active members with an identified directory of over 2200 ADA Vietnam Veterans and supporters.

NDQSA is an IRS 501(c)(19) non-profit veterans organization and is incorporated in the State of Indiana.

We welcome and encourage all ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam to join NDQSA and to share the fellowship, mutual support, and continued service to our Nation on behalf of all military veterans and active duty personnel.

***“Welcome Home Brothers”***