

President's Message

Paul Hanson - J a n u a r y 2 0 1 3



Hello Air Defenders, the time has come to thank you for allowing myself and those on the current Board of Directors to carry our organization into a new year. Those who came before us have left indelible marks with their deeds so we will just try to keep the ball rolling as NDQSA moves forward. The New Year is filled with great promise. With the people in place

that you all elected, I have no doubt this will be an interesting and exciting year.

Just to recap for a moment, for those of you who were not able to join us in Tacoma, we had a wonderful reunion with beautiful surroundings and Mt. Rainier for a backdrop. We then took a boat trip on Puget Sound ending in an island Salmon fish-fry to definitely be remembered, then an afternoon of Seattle shopping for the whole gang, and ended with an evening of friendship and camaraderie at the hotel, and just a few discussions of old photos and memories. The next day we had a solemn memorial for all of our lost comrades at the old trading fort at Ft. Nisqually with soldiers from Ft. Lewis providing the Honor Guard, the Rifle Team, and the bugler for a memorable rendition of Taps. This was a moment to be remembered and a very fitting memorial for our lost friends. We then took a bus tour of Ft. Lewis with a display of the new Striker vehicles which impressed all who attended. Then a full lunch in an Army Mess Hall (the wives loved it while there was mixed levels of enthusiasm from the guys!) and where we learned open toes shoes for the ladies did not meet DOD standards of dress for "Dining Facilities"! Regulations are still a pain in the backsides, however, as Air Defenders; we overcame the obstacles and had a great meal!! Guys, you will never again convince your wives that mess halls have horrible food. We finished the day with a tour of the newly renovated Ft. Lewis museum where, correctly, they have a Duster as one of their main display vehicles. We left more than a little drool on its fenders! The last day we had our banquet and a great speaker in Col. Chuck Meadows, USMC. The fundraising for Project Eagle started with the Clark family manning the table and selling memorial bricks to attendees. The evening ended with a fun auction and a great round of good-byes for another year. A lot of people did a lot of things to make this one of our best reunions ever-- my thanks to them all! (See page 11)

This brings us on to current business. The membership decided on Oklahoma City as our next reunion site and

that is in the works as we speak. You have all seen or heard about our Ft. Sill Air Defenders memorial Eagle Project which is well on its way to final Department of Defense approval. NDQSA sent a special Project Eagle flyer in late 2012 in lieu of our Fall newsletter to explain the project. The plans are drawn up and approved, the site has been located and approved at Ft. Sill, the funding is in place. As a result, Oklahoma City has been chosen for our 2013 reunion location. The only thing we are waiting for is the final approval from DA so we can begin construction and choose our actual reunion date to coincide with the memorial's dedication. Tentative dates are August 7-11 and August 14-18.

It will truly be a fitting event to celebrate memorializing those we left behind in Vietnam. The reunion committee is even now beginning to establish relations with the hotels in the area and hopefully we can get final dates for all of you as soon as possible. If you have further questions, let me know and I will try to get you some answers.

Before I close, I would like to invite all of you to join us this year at the Ft. Sill Memorial and at the reunion. We had a large number of new people at the Tacoma reunion as we did our first ever reunion in the Great Northwest. Although we have been all around OKC, we have never been in this great city and sampled all Oklahoma has to offer. Because it is central to all of us, I hope you will ALL take the opportunity to let the current batch of Air Defenders at Ft. Sill know that we are the best they ever had and are damned proud of it! Until our next meeting, sincerely yours,

- Paul D. Hanson, President, NDQSA.

RESULTS OF THE 2012 NDQSA ELECTION

President : Paul Hanson (291 VOTES)

Vice President: John Huelsenbeck (290 VOTES)

1st Vice President: Robert Cuce (288 VOTES)

Secretary: David McCray (287 VOTES)

Treasurer: Allan Penwell (288 VOTES)

Other changes to the Board of Directors:

When Bob Cuce became second Vice President, Bob's vacated Director position was replaced by Presidential appointment to Bruce Geiger in accordance with our by-laws. Also Bob Lauver became the most current Past President Director.

There were three BOD meeting since the last newsletter. We are printing the July 2012 minutes here. August 2013 and January 2013 minutes will be on the web site.

**Minutes of
NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers
Meeting in Seattle July 12, 2012**

Members Present	Time in PT	Time out PT
President: Bob Lauver	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Vice President: Paul Hanson	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
1st VP: John Huelsenbeck	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Secretary: Dave McCray	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Treasurer: Allan Penwell	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Past Pres: Bruce Geiger	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Director: Joseph Belardo	Unavailable	
Director: Luke Clark	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Director: Bob Cuce	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Director: Duane Gettler	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Director: Paul Kopsick	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Director: Sam Hopkins	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Director: George Nagelschmidt	7:45 PM	9:30 PM
Asst Sec: Garry Severin (non-voting member)		NA

Bob Lauver convened the Board of Directors meeting July 12, 2012 at 7:45 PM PT and requested a short meeting.

Bob Lauver called for approval of June 26, 2012 BOD Minutes. A motion was made by Sam Hopkins to accept the minutes and seconded by Luke Clark. Motion carried unanimously and minutes were accepted.

Treasurer's Report:

Report was deferred until the Annual Business Meeting.

Reports of Officers:

President, Bob Lauver – Bob called for ballots to be counted by Sam Hopkins, George Nagelschmidt, Frank Ward and another member to be determined by Sam Hopkins which may be Richard Shand.

Past President, Bruce Geiger – stated the final count for the Banquet was 114.

First Vice President, Paul Hanson – deferred.

Second Vice-President, John Huelsenbeck – deferred.

Secretary, Dave McCray – stated ballots have been turned over to Sam Hopkins prior to meeting.

Treasurer, Allan Penwell – presented 2011 Financial Statements stating the organization ended 2011 with \$55,774 which is approximately \$16,000 higher than end of December 2010. Profits for last year were \$567 versus \$4,077 in the previous year. The difference between the sizeable increases in cash with only a small profit arises from timing differences because we are on a cash basis of accounting which means that we only record revenues when a deposit is made and record expenses when a check is written which accounts for this difference.

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

Membership Committee (Joe Belardo, Paul Kopsick): Paul Kopsick reported we have approximately 480 active members surpassing our previous high of 475 and that 30% of this year's reunion is first timers. The Board applauded the new members and it was stated this is why we came to the West Coast.

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

Bob Cuce reported the T-shirts were a hit and thanks to those that helped. He reiterated that UPS shipped the items for free. Congratulations were given by Board members to Bob Cuce, his company and volunteers for their contributions and work. Bob Cuce, Diane Cuce and Bruce Geiger visited the Fisher House early this morning and handed out 64 \$50 Wal-Mart cards along with all the T-shirts and toiletry items provided by NDQSA and Bob Cuce's company and volunteers. Sam Hopkins suggested we prepare a PowerPoint presentation from the Fisher House visit! Bob Cuce suggested the copyright items on the T-shirts could be a problem in selling the shirts. He would investigate by making a call to get permission. Bob Cuce wanted to make sure everyone knew the kids who volunteered did it all (design, silk screening, folding, packaging, etc). Bob Lauver suggested we draft a certificate thanking Bob Cuce's company and kids for all their time and hard work. In addition, Bob Lauver suggested we do the same for UPS thanking them for their free shipping.

Bob Lauver suggested we obtain a projector for a presentation on the Fisher House project and have Bob Cuce speak about the good deeds of his company and all the kids who volunteered and helped.

Nominating Committee (Joe Belardo & Sam Hopkins): Sam Hopkins and George Nagelschmidt along with two selected members would help pre-count the absentee ballots tonight in preparation for the Annual Members Business meeting Saturday morning July 14, 2012.

Legislative (Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver): We did not address tonight.

Publications/Historian Committee (Paul Kopsick): We did not address tonight.

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

The Thursday trip to Blake Island and Pike's Market were well received. The only problem appeared to be one of the buses rear air conditioning was not working. Paul Hanson will be at Fort Nisqually at 9:30 tomorrow to meet with Matt Hinkle. We will have a bugler, firing team and color guard. Arrangements have been completed. We will eat at the Fort Lewis mess hall and \$4.50 per person will have to be paid in cash to Matt Hinkle to get through the gates. Trip to Fort Nisqually is 35-40 minutes for the 10:00 AM memorial service. We will need to leave by 11:15 AM to be at Fort Lewis Mess by noon. After mess we will attend a Striker demonstration and then a modern ADA weapons demonstration. Last we will visit the Fort Lewis Museum which has a Duster. Buses have to roll on time to stay on schedule. Bob Lauer and Paul Hanson will each take one of the big buses. John Huelsenbeck will take the short bus. Cameras are OK on the trip. The Museum is indoors and outdoors. Paul Hanson mentioned we should do something for the mess sergeant like a challenge coin. We will be giving a selection of white T-shirts, Lucite coins, hats and shirts to Public Affairs Officer and other participating personnel.

Women's Auxiliary meeting at 8:30-10:00 AM will be in the Murano Room and have a continental breakfast provided. At the same time the Annual Members Business Meeting will occur in the Burano Room on the third floor. Vincent Tedesco and Luke Clark will talk about the Project Eagle Memorial Friday night in the gathering room. Vincent will also talk about the current ADA in the army and what is happening now. Paul Kopsick suggested anyone post-meeting who buys a brick will get a free year's dues in 2013, the suggestion was allowed to stay open for discussion until the next board meeting.

Special Committee Reports:

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

Luke discussed the schedule on Project Eagle. He suggested the OKC reunion that the trip should be made on Friday. Should OKC not be ready then we should consider Washington DC. Fort Sill has approved our design. Luke and Vince think everything will be approved by October 15th by the Department of the Army. Luke presented a timeline that includes the following:

1 November 2012-final proof of Unit and Campaign Engraving for Eagle Pedestal Stone

1 November 2012-50% payment to Gregg Monuments-total cost \$30,000 +/-

10 November 2012-Order Memorial Stone and Pedestal Stone

1 December 2012-Complete contracts with contractors for all concrete and brick work.

1 March 2013-Begin construction

1 May 2013-Construction complete-total cost \$22,000 +/-

1 July 2013- PROJECT COMPLETION DATE

Website Committee (Bob Lauer, Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger, Robert Schmeisser): Paul Kopsick has gone through a final redesign with MoJo Active on their web software to better accommodate our needs. When time allows, he is ready to populate the web pages. Unfortunately he will be very busy with post-reunion accounting, the next newsletter, the open house at the tank farm and Project Eagle.

Special Projects – Restoration Notes:

Joe Belardo is still working with New Jersey and Pennsylvania groups to acquire a Quad-50 mount and Searchlight for the use by NDQSA.

Old/New Business:

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

Duane reports no shortages and a few special orders outstanding.

Bob Lauer requested a motion to adjourn. A motion to adjourn was made by Bruce Geiger and seconded by Duane Gettler. Motion was approved unanimously and accepted. Meeting adjourned!

Minutes compiled by

David McCray,
Secretary, NDQSA

Minutes approved by

Bob Lauer,
President, NDQSA

Note: The Board of Directors held conference calls in August 2012 and January 2013. The only update of note regarded Project Eagle:

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

Paul Hanson and Bob Lauer opened the discussion on Project Eagle Funding appropriation. Bottom line, final costs are expected to be \$52,000 per Luke Clark. This amount includes shipping, engraving, erecting of statue, base construction, and partial payment of paver bricks. This all depends on The Department Of The Army's approval of this project which is expected on or about Oct 01, 2012. Discussion was opened to clarify a \$20,000 grant from the NDQSA treasury for the building and erecting of the Project Eagle Memorial at Ft. Sill. This had been discussed but not voted upon during the BOD meeting in Tacoma. Following a short discussion motion made by Bob Lauer seconded by Sam Hopkins,

a vote was called for which passed unanimously, no dissenting votes were noted. Luke Clark to advise Vince Tedesco on funds in the amount of \$20,000 had been approved by Board of Directors of the NDQSA for funding of Project Eagle. Bob Lauver made a motion to adopt Joe Belardo's idea to send out a flier to remind members of Paver Bricks for Memorial. John Huelsenbeck seconded the motion, motion passed with no dissenting votes. April 01, 2013 to be cut off date to purchase bricks that are to be engraved and placed at the memorial, in time for the reunion. Paul Kopsick related \$1500.00 in donations were received to go toward Project Eagle. Luke Clark and Vinnie Tedesco will retain all responsibility for Memorial. They are to notify the President and the Board of Directors if any problems arise. These can be addressed by board at a later date.

In the Fall of 2012, a special Project Eagle mailer was sent to every valid mailing address on record to make sure every member knew about the project and the plans for the 2013 reunion. The overall response to the flyer has insured that the memorial will be sufficiently funded.

The latest BOD conference call was in January 17, 2013 and relevant sections presented here for review:

Reunion Committee (Bob Lauver, Bruce Geiger, Mary Severin, Paul Hanson, Sam Hopkins, Dave McCray):

Bruce stated he needed a fixed date to pursue the negotiations with the hotels. He has received a packet from the Renaissance, but nothing from the other hotels. Until the date is set, Bruce and Bob are not comfortable with pursuing the negotiations. The hotel packet received did include the dates of August 7-11 and August 14-18 which more than likely will be one of our dates. Sam Hopkins volunteered to come to Oklahoma City and help with the negotiations. Dave McCray stated he would help as needed too. Paul Hanson stated any later that the 14-18 will interfere with his teaching at the University and his pursuit of his PhD. Bruce hates to do any negotiations until the Memorial approval is 100% complete. We are still waiting on the Department of the Army and it is thought we will receive it by February 1st. Col Vincent Tedesco will let us know when received.

Special Committee Reports:

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

Fort Sill has given its approval and we are waiting on the Department of the Army. It is thought Vince will receive it

by February 1st. In the meantime, Luke needs a letter from Allan Penwell on our Tax Exempt status for both Louisiana and Oklahoma. Luke stated he has completed the negotiations with the contractor and the contractor has given us a 2K break on price. Luke stated the price quoted by Gragg Monuments for all granite stones including the placement of the Eagle free. Engraving, concrete work and placement by Broyles & Associates of the 648 bricks is \$12,500. Luke needs a higher resolution art work for the project and Bruce Geiger will work on getting a copy from our embroidery supplier. Paul Hanson informed Luke he had the go ahead as soon as the Department of the Army gives the OK. The black granite block will have the 209 ADA casualties on it with room to add other casualties if discovered; however, they can not be put in order of death.

Luke wanted to emphasize no advertising is allowed on the memorial. Bob Cuce wants the "pdf" file about the memorial to use for additional donations he is working to obtain. Paul Kopsick will supply him with the file. Luke mentioned a possible addition that could be added with additional revenue is an upgrade to a 30 foot flagpole as well as other items as monies become available. They may require additional approval from Fort Sill and the Department of the Army.

Paul Kopsick discussed sponsoring memorial bricks for the six original members of NDQSA. Luke Clark made a motion to sponsor bricks for the original 6 members of the NDQSA. It was seconded by George Nagelschmidt and approved unanimously.

Paul Kopsick asked what the cutoff was for the bricks and the Secretary reported the last Board of Directors meeting the date for brick cutoff would be set at April 1, 2013.

Luke stated we will have 648 bricks of which 432 can be engraved. It was estimated we have sold in the neighborhood of 360 bricks. It was suggested that we reserve 28 additional bricks for all the remaining Battalion Commanders. The 4th/60th has already been paid for and several BOD donors decided they will do the same for 1st/44th, 5th/2nd and the Hawks. Paul Kopsick has this information.

There are a very limited number of bricks still available for sponsoring. If you forgot to do it already, do it NOW!

This is your final warning!

RESTORATION UPDATES



QUAD-50 GUNTRUCK

We are very pleased to announce that [Robert Ratliff](#) of [History Fanatics](#) has acquired the loan of a nicely restored M-55 quad gun mount for fundraising purposes. The mount is on loan pending the results of fundraising.

It is already on the M35 deuce and a half acquired and restored with partial funding by NDQSA members. It is currently housed at the [National United States Armed Forces Museum](#), 8611 Wallisville Road, Houston, TX 77029. Click [here for link](#) to more photos.



The plan is to make it look like Pete Labarre's quad "The Widow Maker" from G-65th ADA, circa 1967 at Dong Ha.

NDQSA will continue to accept donations for this project though our membership multi-form and direct these funds to them. Robert has indicated that he plans to have the restored quad transported to Ft. Sill for the 2013 reunion. Okay you quad guys, time to show your gratitude for keeping the memories alive for future generations to see!

SEARCHLIGHT AND JEEP

Thanks to Joe Belardo, we have made some progress in getting a Xenon 23" searchlight donated to the VMMV holdings at the "Tank Farm" near Quantico Virginia.

Joe identified a VVA Group in Pennsylvania that is finally willing to transition over a searchlight and possibly even the M151 jeep to NDQSA and/or the group at VMMV.

Last fall Joe, LT Steve Moore, Paul Kopsick and his son Chris coordinated the transfer of a single Xenon SLT on its mount to the VMMV facility. The hope was to follow up with a jeep in the future.



THE GOOD NEWS: We now have a commitment from the VVA Group for a complete M151 Jeep and SLT this coming spring, BUT we have to return the SLT they already gave us. It appears the Army still keeps track of these items and matches the SLT to the Jeep on their inventories. So, whatever it takes, we will comply, and with any luck we will have a SLT/ Jeep set-up at the next open house at the Tank Farm (August 17-18, 2013).

THE BAD NEWS: The Jeep needs some major repairs and parts to run and we are not sure we will be getting all the parts necessary to run the light. Sooooo...we still need donations for this project. 1) To cover the transportation costs to move the items, 2) to get the Jeep running safely and 3) to try and get the light to operate.

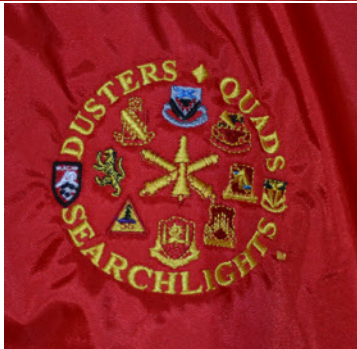
All NDQSA SLT members are urged to support this active restoration project by making even a small donation. If you live in the DC area we will also need help in the wiring and electronics of the light.

Do you believe it! 2 Dusters, quads and now a SLT!!!

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 - 2013



NDQSA Cap



Light Jacket Embroidered with Logo and Weapons \$85 each



Patch Coins and Pin Sets

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



New Product 50-cal

Bottle opener \$12 each



NEW NDQSA BUMPER STICKERS
Duster- Quad-50-SLT-HAWK-Vulcan \$10 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.

HISTORY BOOKS ARE SOLD OUT

2013 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)

The 2013 form supercedes any previous forms as certain items are no longer available.

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 1st 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.

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

Line 1: _____
Line 2: _____
Line 3: _____
Line 4: _____

(18 characters per line maximum)
brick sales closes April 1st 2013

DUES – DONATIONS – PRODUCT ORDERS

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

Circle payment(s) for: (2013) (2014) (2015) (2016)

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

Donations: *Operation Eagle* \$ _____

Quad-50 restoration \$ _____

Searchlight Restoration \$ _____

*31st Reunion Good Works Project * \$ _____

NEW * Bumper stickers: @ \$ 10 _____

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

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 _____

ADA Memorial Brick _____ \$80 each _____

TOTAL _____

Mailing Label →
Cut out
Use tape

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



31st Annual NDQSA Reunion Oklahoma City, OK & Ft. Sill “The Eagle has landed...”

August 2013, dates to be determined



It is very unusual for NDQSA to not have everything figured out by now for the next reunion. The NDQSA reunion committee works very hard every year to come up with great hotels, great venues and great activities for our deserving membership. Tacoma was simply wonderful and we wished that more members had been able to participate.

Everything has been and still is ‘up in the air’ with respect to the 2013 reunion. Especially because we really feel that this can be our *most important reunion* to date and we could have our greatest turnout ever!

While Oklahoma City does not generally bring to mind thoughts of great attractions and entertainment, what this year’s reunion will focus on is the dedication of the NDQSA’s ADA Memorial at Ft. Sill, the new home of the ADA Branch.

Considering we only started raising funds for Project Eagle at the last reunion, we can proudly report that we have essentially raised enough funds to complete the initial design of the memorial. We have collected nearly \$60,000 in only 6 months! There are less than 100 memorial paver bricks still available for sale. The contracts for stonework and construction are ready to be finalized, and can be completed in just a few months. BUT...BUT! We are awaiting the last approval step in the process (sign off by the Department of the Army) before we can formally proceed.

This uncertainty has required us to hold off on finalizing the hotel and dates for the reunion.

We have narrowed down the timeframe to the 2nd or 3rd weekends in August. So start to block out the dates Aug 8-11th or 15-18th. As soon as we get things confirmed we will send out another notice.

We have been assured that Oklahoma City will have any number of fine activities for the group. However, our biggest event will be at Ft. Sill, requiring a group bus trip.

The BIG event will be the formal dedication of the ADA Memorial. Now we are talking major pomp and ceremony by the Army! A full day affair on either a Thursday or Friday.

If you live in the central part of the country, this will be your best shot at a reunion. If you are sponsoring memorial bricks for the memorial, this will be the chance to see the dedication of the monument. If you are new to the NDQSA or if this will be your first reunion ever, then you have picked a great time.

So stay with us! Remain flexible with your schedule. Keep the first half of August open for our 31st Annual Reunion.

For a special treat, the restored Quad-50 guntruck from Houston, TX will be brought up and put on display. Thank you Robert!

So please do what ever you can to attend the 2013 reunion. So many of us are working as hard as we can to make this a truly memorable event for us all.

See you in OK City.....

....the Eagle HAS LANDED!

PROJECT EAGLE

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

The response to our most ambitious project to date has been nothing short of phenomenal. Who would have thought that one man's idea a few months ago could come to fruition with such broad financial support by the NDQSA members?

Well, WE DID IT! That is we are ready to do it...as soon as we get the final sign off by the Department of the Army. It appears to only be a formality but since there is always a chance that something could blow up (it is the Army), we have to hold off making final plans. This means that everyone will have to hold off making their travel and vacation plans. We are shooting for early August for the reunion, but once we get the go ahead for the memorial it will only take a few months to complete the construction.

We will need to close out the memorial brick portion of the fundraising by April 1st. Any orders received after that will have to be returned. There is a very good chance that our allotment of bricks will already be gone by that time. So if you forgot or are still planning to sponsor a brick for yourself or another, DO IT NOW!



VMMV OPEN HOUSE

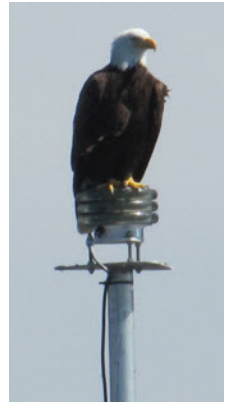


VET'S DAY WREATH LAYERS





TACOMA REUNION IMAGES



* 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.

James Criswell, NCOCS '70-71
[Sgt Charles Bothwell](#), 5/2-? '68-69
SP4 [Andrew Szumanski](#) 6/56-C '67-68
[Sgt Richard Russell](#), G-55 '70-71
[Robert Elizando](#), 5/2-B, '67-68
Rodolfo Zavala, D-71 '67-68
[Sgt Richard Jackson](#), D-71, '67-68
Richard Cochran, 4/60-C, '68-69
Joseph McGuire, 4/60-B, '69
[SP4 Ruben Garcia](#), 1/44-?, '70-71
[Robert Christy](#), 4/60-?, '67-68
1LT Charles Swank, 4/60-B, '70-71
SP4 [John Kursinsky](#), 4/60-B, '67-68
[William Zieser](#), H-29, '67-68
SSG Clarence Pople, E-41, '67-68
SP4 [Howard Egeland](#), 1/44-B, '66-67
Sgt Barry Saturley, 5/2-A, '69-70
SP4 [Lawrence Fair](#), 1/44-B, '66-67
[Anthony Demasi](#), 2/174
1LT John Evans, 4/60-A, '70-71
[SSG Michael Foukes](#), 4/60-D '70-71
SP5 Paul Gillespie, 1/44-H, '67-68
SSG James Ellison, 4/60-C, '70-71
Walt McAuliffe, 5/2-?, '67-68
[Sgt Jerome Lutzenberger](#), 1/44-B, '66-69
Vincent Hornbrook, 6-71-?
Daniel Francey, NCOCS, '71-72
[SP4 Allen Moser](#), 1/44-C, '70-71
[SP5 Loren Coppenberger](#), 1/44-A, '68-70
[Sgt Raymond Villanueva](#), 1/44-D, '69-72

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.

The 2013 Roster will have all the latest names and updated contact information. It is sent out to all active (dues paying) members.

+ RECENTLY IDENTIFIED AS PASSED +

Frank Proulx (VA) B-29th '66-67 Dec2012
Paul Mitchell (TX) B-1/44 '66-67 26May12
Emmett Sims, (TN) H-29th '67-68 19Jul12

Frank Bassarab () H-29th '70 2009

Tom Benedict (NY) D-1/44th '67-69 15May12

Leon Ramirez (TX) A-4/60th '68-69 23Jun72

Clinton Pulley () C-1/44th '66-67 Aug12

Leslie 'Red' Dietze (IA) C-1/44th 24Oct12

Dennis Hall (OK) C-5/2d '69-70 13Jan13

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

If you know or hear of any other brothers passing please contact the historian.

40MM PROJECTILE POINTS AVAILABLE FOR SALE



Historian Paul Kopsick acquired and restored a number of 40 mm projectile points 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.

Sorry no more brass shells available.

Make your check, written out to Paul Kopsick, and send to: Paul Kopsick,

4338 Still Meadow Road,
Fairfax VA 22032.

[Paul Kopsick email](#)

IN MEMORY - DENNIS HALL, 5/2-C 1969-70



Dennis was not the only Vietnam Era veteran to have never had a chance to visit The Wall. I am sure we have many within our own membership facing similar hardships who would like to visit The Wall. What Dennis's story shows, is that people can and do make a difference. They made the improbable happen and Dennis got to not only visit The Wall and to honor fallen comrades, but he also got visit the Tank Farm and put his hands on a Duster one last time thanks to NDQSA Historian Paul Kopsick.



A Vietnam Veteran from Bridgeport, OK whose dying wish was to see the Vietnam Veterans Wall in Washington D.C. has passed away, but 64-year-old Dennis Hall's dream came true thanks to friends and family.

Hall, who had been battling an aggressive brain tumor for several months, died peacefully in his sleep Sunday morning January 13, 2013.

News 9 first told you about Dennis Hall last August. Hall's granddaughter emailed us about a bake sale the family was having. They were trying to scrape together money to get Dennis closer to his dream.

Not even five minutes after our story aired August 9, Oklahomans from all over the country stepped forward and offered money to help the Hall family. By the following day, more than enough money was raised to send Dennis and three family members to Washington D.C.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Founder and President Jan Scruggs gave Dennis and his family a personal tour of the Memorial grounds. Hall's family tells News 9 since the family's return from Washington D.C. Mr. Hall kept his spirits up, while his physical condition deteriorated.

Monday afternoon, Vietnam Veterans Wall Founder Jan Scruggs sent News 9 this statement,

"I was truly honored to meet and briefly get to know Mr. Hall. His personal story, and the generosity of the Oklahomans who made his journey to The Wall possible, touched me deeply. It was a pleasure to greet Dennis at the monument and to spend some time with him. Farewell, Dennis. Thank you for your service to America. And... Welcome home."

There are several Internet links to related [videos](#) on Dennis Hall and his [Facebook page](#) is still being maintained.

Dennis's next goal was to recover enough to attend the 2013 reunion in nearby OK City, and visit once more with fellow Duster-Vets. But that was not to be. We have invited the Hall family to attend in his place so we can pay our respects. They hope to meet other men from 5/2-C.



My name is [Richard "Fat Rat" Russell](#). I spent over 22 years in the United States Army all of that time with Air Defense Artillery.

I was drafted into the Army in January 1966 and had my AIT training at Fort Bliss Texas on Dusters. After that I was assigned to A Battery 517 Artillery (Panama).

I spent two years there and ETS on January 7, 1968 as an E5. From 1968 to 1970 was in the Army reserve. I had a son with Down's syndrome, so my wife and I thought for medical reasons we should go back in the Army. I talked to a recruiter and he said that my MOS was critical and I could go back in the Army at the same rank as I got out. So I went back to Ft Bliss Texas and was assigned to the Duster Battalion. After a couple of months, orders came down for me to go to Vietnam. When I got to RVN, I was assigned to G-Battery 55th Artillery, 23rd Infantry Division.

They assigned me as a squad leader of a quad 50 crew that was at LZ Bayonet. Listening to the radio I would hear the after action reports and some of those were from Hill 270 and they were not good. One day I got a call from the section chief to send one of my men in to be reassigned to Hill 270. Not long after, my section chief came to LZ Bayonet and informed me that I was going to move to Hill 270 to take over the crew. When I got to Hill 270 the old squad leader was already gone. It seemed that he couldn't do the job. I can't remember the names of anyone in my crew. We stayed there until July 1971. The crew was very good and we shot a lot of bullets, we killed some VC, we got medals, and we got pats on the back.

In July they deactivated G-55th artillery and then reassigned some of the gun crews to different units in the 23rd Infantry Division. Our crew along with some of the other crews were assigned to division artillery HQ Battery. The Battery Commander was the former Commander of G-battery 55th artillery and my crew were sent to Sugar Mill Hill. The 23rd Infantry Division stood down in November 1971 and I was put in charge of turning in the last of the quads. I remember that all of the quads had unauthorized art work on them. The battery commander came to the motor pool and informed me that I would have to paint over all that art before they were



turned in. I said okay and as soon as he left the motor pool, I got 5 gallons of OD paint and a big paintbrush and painted over all the art. About an hour later the battery commander came back with his camera and said "I didn't mean right away!" I said "Too bad."

When I left Vietnam and went to Fort Bliss. They asked me if I wanted to be on the Vulcan? I said yes. So I was retrained on the Vulcan. Years later I was assigned to the first training brigade as the Chief instructor for the Vulcan.

Then the Army came out with a new weapon that was going to be tested, and I got reassigned to be the project manager for the Sgt. York air defense gun. It was twin 40 mm cannon mounted on the M60 tank chassis. I said "This looks like the 'son of duster'". I was on that weapon system until they eventually canceled the program. I was then sent Germany to a Patriot missile unit for two years after which I retired from Army.

Below is a picture of the maintenance crew and operators that were trained by Ford Aerospace, manufacture for the Sgt York. I was the only former duster quad 50 operator trained by the manufacture to operate the system and to be an instructor. Later on I became the chief instructor for the weapon system. I was later given the job the operations Sgt for the project manager office in El Paso and I was also the 1SGT for all the support personnel. When you look at the picture I'm in the second row on the right-hand side of the turret wearing dark glasses.

I am looking to reconnect with any of the guys that remember me from G-55, our my times with Vulcans, Ft. Bliss and Sgt York. I will be at the reunion in Oklahoma City.

-Richard J. Russell, MSG USA(ret)



FROM THE GREATER WEB ARCHIVES:



It is great to hear from other ADA / SLT vets that served in current and former wars.

We have heard from Korean vets in the past, but now I will introduce you to a WWII SLT vet who recently contacted NDQSA. His name is Gustave 'Gus' Dubbs and he is the Secretary for the 762nd SL AAA Battery. (232nd Searchlight Battalion)



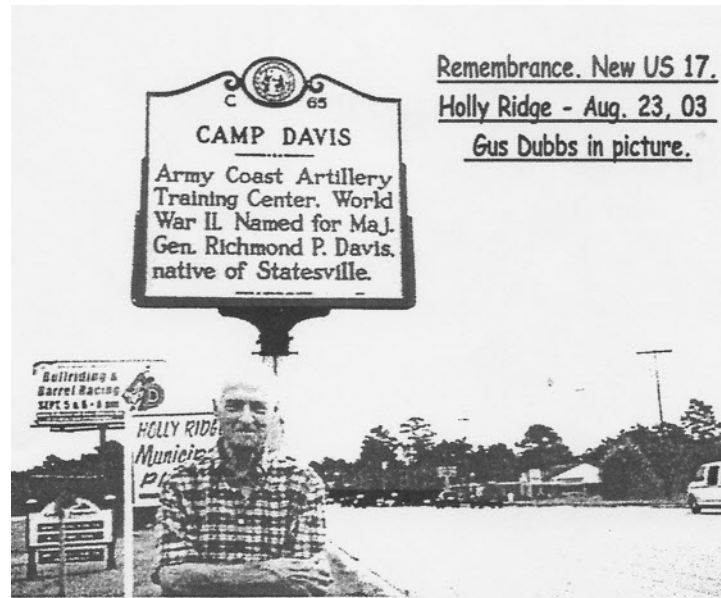
It is nearly 70 years ago, that Gus and his buddies came from all parts of the US to train on the shores of North Carolina in Coast Artillery and Anti-Aircraft weapons, equipment and tactics. Airplanes and bombers were the 'weapons of mass destruction' of their day. Reigning terror from above. Their jobs were to try and listen form them, shine a light on them and then blow them from the skies!



Here is a big GE searchlight of the era from another SL Battalion. (F. Dorsey A-225th SL BN)

After their initial training with the 232nd, four SL batteries were created. A-Btry 763rd was sent to Oahu, HI, with the other three being sent to the Panama Canal Zone, the European Theater and North Africa.

As you might expect, the mortality rate amongst searchlight operators was pretty high as enemy aircraft made them their highest priority!



Gus has been putting out a small newsletter on his own for many years. The last one dated July 12, 2012 (when we were in Tacoma for our 30th Reunion) showed a picture of Gus in the hospital and not looking good. Next to it was another photo of him in February looking much better for a guy in his 90's. At the end of the newsletter he wrote:

For the past 20 years, I have been sending out the Newsletter. This is the first time I have received no response from anyone.

Unless I receive some encouragement to continue the newsletter, this will have to be the LAST ONE.

I have enjoyed doing it and will miss keeping in touch. I realize that our ranks are thin (only six remain). However many of you wanted to continue receiving it as a relative of one of veterans.

LET ME HEAR FROM YOU.

I propose to all NDQSA SLT vets, take a few minutes, find a scrap of paper or a note card, and send Gus a letter of general thanks. Thank him for his service to his country. Thank him for his service to his unit. Thank him for his dedication to preserving the name of his unit and the history of its service all these years.

Mail your notes to: (941) 341-9191

Gus Dubbs
6409 Kylie Creek Way
Sarasota, FL 34240
drgdubbs@gmail.com

**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”**

**31st Annual Reunion
“THE EAGLE WAS LANDED”**

**AUGUST 2013, TBD
OKLAHOMA CITY OK**

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.** (2013, 2014, 2015 or 2016)

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 is 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 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 and 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 500 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”