

# NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION

## JULY 2016 NEWSLETTER #2

### ---2016 REUNION RECAP---

## 2017 NDQSA 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION ALBUQUERQUE, NM Dates to be determined

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear Brothers and Families,

I would like to say that I really enjoyed the reunion in Nashville. It was good to see so many new guys and families. The river boat trip on the General Jackson was enjoyable and very entertaining.

The trip to Fort Campbell was great, and it was neat to see the demonstrations of today's ARMY. The food and service in the dining facility was also great. Things are quite different from our time in the Army. The memorial service was again an excellent tribute for our fallen brothers. A little hot but we survived. A good day for all.

Hope everyone enjoyed the Grand Ole Opry as much as this country boy did. It was cool when they honored NDQSA and we appreciated the response from the rest of the audience. I hope everyone enjoyed the food and drinks that was served before the show.

Thanks to our guest speakers Chris Noel on the times she spent in Nam and Dave Christensen the historian for the US Army Air Defense Artillery School at Fort Sill.

Many thanks to all the men and ladies that worked the tables and did the daily things that keep our reunion going smoothly. Also to the board members that help with all the events for the reunion. THANK YOU!

Hope to see all in NEW MEXICO. Bring a Buddy.

Welcome home brothers!

[John F. Huelsenbeck](#)

President NDQSA

### SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

Board members participated in one conference meeting during the 2016 reunion in Nashville. It was largely to go over the management of the reunion.

The 2016 annual business meeting was held with 100 active members present. The present Executive Board was re-elected for another two-year term. Albuquerque NM was selected for the location of the 2017 reunion.

### 2017 NOMINATIONS

It is not too early (or late) to start thinking about the 2017 slate of officers up for vote by the membership. Next year the seven Directorship positions are open. If you have a strong desire to be part of the great team of men (and supporting spouses) that make NDQSA what it is today, please contact one of the board members.

### 2015 TREASURER'S REPORT (SUMMARY)

Treasurer [Allan Penwell](#) gave his report for 2015 at the Nashville reunion. As of December 31, 2015 the association had cash balances of \$89,000 and an inventory of \$16,000 with no liabilities. NDQSA made a profit of \$9,000 in 2015 which is similar to previous years. We are a 501(c) (19) tax-exempt veterans' association incorporated in the State of Indiana. Annual tax reporting is made with the IRS and with the state of Indiana. The CPA firm of Kallembach & Associates prepares a report for the board every year which validates the reconciliation of net worth and tests bank statements and approval of expenses. Our CPA report for 2015 had no remarkable comments. If there are any questions, Allan's email address and phone are in our roster.

### FEATURED STORIES:

**Nashville reunion recap  
Cambodia II**

## Summary of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meeting June 1, 2016

**DRAFT: To be amended with subsequent information as needed.**



### **Reports of Officers:**

*President, John Huelsenbeck;* A motion was made to accept the minutes as written and was seconded. Several minor edits were suggested and approved pending finalization. No dissention was noted and the motion passed unanimously.

*First Vice President, Bob Cuce:* No comment.

*Second Vice-President, Paul Kopsick:* No comment.

*Secretary, Garry Severin:* No comments

*Treasurer, Allan Penwell -* Allan read the financial report and stated that the latest financial statement was sent out to BOD members, and we are on par with last year's numbers. A motion was made to accept the financial report; it was seconded and passed without descent.

The majority of this Executive Board Meeting focused on aspects of the ongoing reunion logistics and activities. Turnout is very good. People are happy.

Motion to close meeting was made and the members returned to the reunion.

**Next Board of Directors meeting has not been set.**

## Summary of NDQSA Annual Meeting June 4, 2016

**DRAFT: To be amended with subsequent information as needed.**



The official minutes have not been processed as yet and will be reported on in the next newsletter. The major items to report were the results of the elections for the Executive Board and the choosing of the 2017 Reunion location.

### **2016 Election Results:**

President	John Huelsenbeck (2 <sup>nd</sup> term)
1V. President	Robert Cuce
2V. President	Paul Kopsick
Treasurer	Allan Penwell
Secretary	Garry Severin (asst. McCray)

### **2017 Reunion Location**

Following spirited discussion and multiple levels of voting, the members present (100 men) have designated the city of **Albuquerque New Mexico** as the site of the 2017 reunion. The Reunion Committee will assemble again and work to secure the best dates and rates available for the group.

Another issue of note discussed was the plan to catalogue all NDQSA historical items and to plan for the ultimate location of NDQSA materials, records and archives.

Motion to close meeting was made, and the members returned to the reunion.

## MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Joel Wohlman, C-1/44 '69-70 June 2016, NJ  
Clark Losey, G-29 '70-71 14Jul15, MI  
Richard Noyes, C-4/60 '67-68 17Apr16, ME  
Victor Barraclough, D-71 '67-68 9Sep15, NY  
Michael Farquhar, C-5/2 '68-70 Jul2015  
Roy Nab, B-5/2 '69-70 Sept2015 NM  
Thomas Aragon, A-5/2 '68-69 5Apr95 NM  
Douglas Shuptrine, H-6/71 HAWK '67-68 27May10 ID

They will be missed and we give honor to their service,  
their lives and their families.

## NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

Houston Otley Sr., G-29 '68-69  
[Ken Dowdy, 4/60 '69-70](#)  
[William Nelson, 6/71 HAWK '67-68](#)  
Karl Talley, B-29 '68-69  
Allen Kirschbaum, H-1/44 '69-69  
[Amada Gary Jr., A-4/60 '67-68\\*](#)  
[Dwight Hutchinson, D-1/44 '67-68](#)  
John Hardin, C-6/71 HAWK '65-66  
[Kenneth Morse, B-1/44 '69-70](#)  
[Lemuel Cox, A-4/60 '69-70](#)  
Robert Bilderback, H-6/71 HAWK '65-66  
Edward Pace, A-5/2 '67-68  
Richard Rowe, C-4/60  
[Douglass Hemphill, MACV Team 56 '70-72](#)  
[Michael Hately, D-5/2 '70-71](#)  
[Richard Smith, H-5/2 '68-69](#)  
Ernest Boone, B-1/44 '68-69  
Charles Sperow, Korea '52-53  
[Larry Freppon, H-1/44 '67-68](#)  
[Robert Buelow, A-1/44 '68-69](#)  
[John Quin, D-4/60 '70-71](#)  
[Alan Cox, B-1/44 1969](#)  
[Edward Leitch, A-5/2 '68-69](#)  
[Bill Posey, D-71 1971](#)  
[John Goeb, B-6/56 HAWK '65-66](#)

If the name is blue and underlined, you can click on it and send a message to the new member. Maybe he knows someone you served with? **Send him an email!!**

*\* Sir My dad was part of a duster group and is looking for some of his men that he was with. He was in 67 to 68. He was in 4<sup>th</sup> 60 artillery Duster A112. Most of his time was in Phan Thiet. His Name is Amada Gary Jr. (337-329-4302) address is 1401 S Lake Arthur Ave, Jennings Louisiana 70706. He can also be reached by email to me [rpgary@stgeorgefire.com](mailto:rpgary@stgeorgefire.com). I would love to get him some good news about his group.  
Thanks in advance Ricky Gary.*

## DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

**NOTE: For some reason I cannot email to anyone with an embarqmail.com account!** Two pieces of contact information that frequently change are cell phone numbers and email addresses. Typically there are about a half dozen emails sent out each year to every member with a valid (current) email address on record with the Historian. If you (or a spouse) have an email address and you have not received any emails from the Historian, it is time for you to record your email address with him. Simply [click here](#) and identify yourself clearly (full name). You might as well confirm your telephone numbers in the same email. When an email is sent to a bad email address, the Historian tries to contact the member by phone to determine their status. This is a time consuming effort, but it does give him a chance to talk to members.

## CELL PHONE NUMBER UPDATES

We have a lot of families that routinely change cell phones or move away from land-line phone to only cell phones. Also many inactive members have not had any contact with the historian in many years, and we do not know if your addresses and phone numbers are correct. **Soooo...please take a moment and email the historian with your current contact info.** If you do not have a computer, use the multipurpose form and just fill out the personal info side of the form and mail it in. PLEASE!!!

## 2016 Membership Rosters

The 2016 membership rosters will be printed and mailed out as needed with updated contact information. When you get your roster there will also be your 2016 membership card.

**Look through the first few pages of your roster and see if you recognize any of the names there. We do not know which units they were in or we lost contact with them. Contact the Historian if you have any info on them.**

## SECURE YOUR NDQSA ROSTERS!!

When you are ready to discard your old NDQSA Members Roster, please handle it as CONFIDENTIAL information. Please shred it or otherwise destroy it so it can not end up in the hands of an identity thief.

## REUNION RECAP



### Nashville 2016, the reunion that almost hasn't!

We almost could not get any hotel in Nashville to meet our terms for our reunions. It is a little known fact that Nashville is one of the top three vacation destinations in the country. The operative

word here being 'country' as in "Country Music." That is partly why we called our reunion "Operation Music City." This year we had some professional artwork produced for the reunion T-shirts and they were a big hit. More so than any other year.



The students from Dubois Business College, PA were presented awards for submitting designs for the "Operation Music City" Logo on 6.8.2016. The winning design was submitted by Janna Whitling. The BOCES students in Long Island also raised money by having a bake sale at school, and a check for \$426 was presented to Fisher House by Bob Cuce on their behalf.

Even with the late start and the early date for the start of the reunion, we had a very strong turnout. About 150 men plus their family members made the commitment and found their way to Nashville. If anyone did not have a great time, it was not the fault of the organizers. Each

day afforded us a wonderful trip or entertainment option. The weather could have been a bit more accommodating but a little rain never hurt anyone. Unfortunately there was a lot of rain at times, and not only in Nashville. Towards the end, several people had to leave early to try and get home as severe storms were ravaging points west and south. We hope they all made it safely.



We had a large meeting room, and it was filled to the brim each evening. The faithful volunteers maintained the registration tables and the product sales. The Women's Auxiliary once again managed the auctions on Saturday night, and Joe Belardo handled the microphone with all the skill of a great auctioneer.



Daytime activities included a lunch and show on the paddle wheeler SS Jackson and trips to downtown Nashville, and the Hermitage Museum.



We held our Memorial Service while visiting Fort Campbell, TN (which is mainly in KY). There we met with modern day Air Defenders and got to swap stories with today's fighting men and women.



This year's banner saying is "We are still soldiers...and still fighting!" It is testament to the fact that many if not all Vietnam Veterans have already, are currently or may

yet be fighting with the consequences of our service in Vietnam. The old stories of battling the VC have been replaced with stories of battling the VA. The scars from shrapnel have been replaced with scars from heart surgery and chemotherapy. Brothers then, patients now!

On a lighter note, we had a great turnout for the trip to the Grand Ole Opry on Friday night. In spite of the rain and traffic, we got some 250 people into buses and had one great evening of entertainment and consumables. A light brunch and drinks were provided beforehand by President's decree as we settled in our seats for the evening's performances. NDQSA nearly filled up the entire back level of the main floor. When we were announced as a group, the rest of the hall rose and saluted us in unison. We were pretty loud too!



Saturday was the Annual Business Meeting and the Ladies' Brunch in the morning. At noon we held our Awards banquet with two guest speakers. The speakers and other awardees are discussed on later pages.



Bruce Geiger presented over \$750 in Wal-Mart gift cards to Phil Barnett - President, Middle Tennessee Fisher House Foundation as part of this year's Good Works Project. Thank you all that donated!

Unfortunately, severe weather to the west forced a number of members to cut their reunion short in order to check on their homes. They missed a great auction! We hope they had safe travels and all was well at home.

In the evening we had our Fun' Raising Auction. Members were very generous this year with the many, many items donated, big and small. The skill and handiwork of several members were particularly evident.

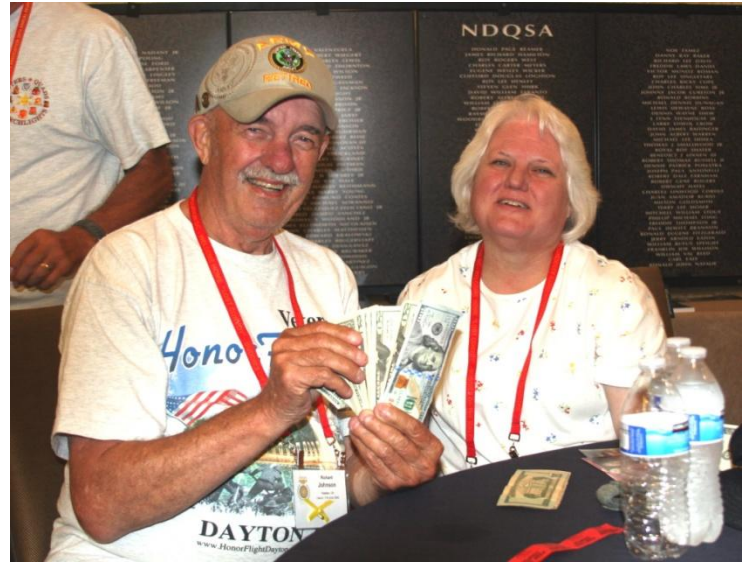


[Sharon and Steve Belt](#) who is battling cancer and goes for a bone marrow transplant later this year could not attend. However as they have done now for many reunions, have a ceremonial sword created for place in the auction. Click his link and send him your best wishes. The saber this year was purchased by [Jack Ryan](#) of A-5/2 and is particularly meaningful when you read his story later in this newsletter.



Thanks to Sue Thrunherr and the rest of her group for working the 50-50 crowd. Also Sally Huelsenbeck and Nancy Belardo for managing the auction and all the young ladies that assisted. We sincerely appreciate your

participation. Richard and Bettie Johnson were the fortunate ticket holders for our biggest 50-50 drawing ever. Overall, the accounting numbers were good, and we were in the black for the reunion as a whole.



Sunday morning we held our traditional farewell gathering under the NDQSA Chaplain Robert Scholten and his wife Cheryl. A great ending to a great reunion.



Thanks to Sue Lauver for making available many of the photos used in this newsletter. Look for yourself in the album folder using the following link.

REUNION PHOTOS LINK [\[HERE\]](#)

Hope to see as many of you as possible in Albuquerque next year. We hope to have tentative dates in the Fall newsletter. Be well and stay safe...Paul Kopsick

## SANTA BARBARA & MOLLY PITCHER AWARDS

The following men were respectfully honored for their long-standing and continued service to NDQSA and the general ADA community with the Santa Barbara Medal: Robert Lauver; Bruce Geiger; Paul Kopsick; Pete Labarre and John Huelsenbeck. Each of these men has been in long service to NDQSA and it is fitting that they be honored together.



Similarly, four outstanding women were presented with the Molly Pitcher Medal for their unselfish and critical support of NDQSA at our reunions over the years: Diane Cuce; Pat Labarre; Sally Huelsenbeck; and Sandi Smith.



Remember all these people are volunteers, their collective love and dedication to NDQSA and all its members is evident in the success of each reunion and the continued growth of our association. We thank them for their continued service to NDQSA and the ADA community in general. "Brothers (and sisters) forever"

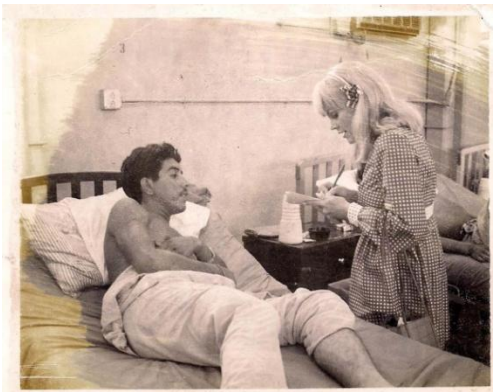
## 2016 PRESIDENT'S AWARD



President John Huelsenbeck presented Robert Lauver with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award at the Annual Banquet in Nashville. Bob cleaned up this year as he was also presented with the ADA Santa Barbara Award and the Four Chaplains Legion of Honor Humanitarian Award which is given in recognition of a lifetime commitment to selfless service and societal advancement that has demonstrably affected the quality of life in the community, state or nation, service without regard to faith or race. The selection process for this award is rigorous.

Bob is a cancer survivor and former President of NDQSA and is very active in regional veteran groups in the northeast. He helped coordinate the last of the Gold Star Mothers trips to Vietnam in 2011 and serves on any committee where his skills are needed, like the Reunion Committee. His wife, Sue Lauver, regularly provides photo documentation of the reunions for the newsletter.

Bob was quite taken by all the focus on him this year and was very contrite when he pointed out that like he, all the men that make up and support the NDQSA Board of Directors are not "in it for the awards." Each of the awardees stand with Bob in those sentiments, we all do it for the men and their families.



## GUEST SPEAKERS

### DAVID CHRISTENSEN, ADA MUSEUM



We were pleased to have had Mr. [David Christensen](#) and his wife attend our reunion. He deftly presented a current overview of how the ADA Branch in 2016 is still providing ground and aerial security

to our and many other nations forces on the field of battle. The quote I remember most is that the current Air Defense branch has 58 percent of its forces are forward station/forward deployed; to which includes 11 nations and Guam. (See Vinny's note of 1/44<sup>th</sup> current deployment)

The weapon systems are much more sophisticated than back in 'Nam, but the mission is still the same, PROTECT! The modern ADA soldiers are now male and female, their weapons requires a higher degree of training and skills than us "gun bunnies" of old. Yet we are still fighting the same types of threats: bombs, mortars and rockets. We salute the new ADA!!!



### CHRIS NOEL, VETSVILLE

[Chris Noel](#) turned 75 this month and the week before the reunion was MC at Rolling Thunder in WDC. She is ailing from many of the

same maladies the rest of us 'Nam vets are suffering and was visibly slowed during her visit with us. Nonetheless, she trooper'ed on the best she could and gave one of the most stirring and patriotic speeches which literally brought grown men (us) to tears. She was also here to support her charity [Vetsville Cease Fire House](#). She got to meet with NDQSA Member Alfredo Leos and his wife whom she once visited in a hospital in Vietnam. We thank her for coming to Nashville and for supporting NDQSA and all veterans this past 50 years. Lov' Ya!



D-  
/ /16 # \$  
Q- S- E- P6

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape  
to envelope

**NDQSA**  
**PO Box 890130**  
**Oklahoma City, OK 73189**

**2016 MEMBERSHIP INVOICE / ROSTER UPDATE / PRODUCT ORDER FORM**

(Tear off this page and mail it in with your up to date contact information and unit history)  
This version supersedes any previous forms as certain options are not available.

**Roster Contact Information (Please Print)**

Are you a new or existing contact?

(New) (Existing) circle one

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Addtn'l tour (m/yr): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Primary MOS: \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Battery/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Attached To: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of bases:

Names/hometowns of buddies you knew:

Rank (highest grade while in Vietnam)

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

Valor Awards

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

If you want to get the newsletter only by email and forego  
the paper mailed copy, please check this box. ( )

If you want to switch back from email to paper mail, please  
check this box. ( )

**DUES - DONATIONS – PRODUCT ORDERS**

Make check/MO payable to NDQSA

Shipping is included in the price of all items.

Dues: circle payment(s) for (2016) (2017) (2018) (2019)

**DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations: Quad 50 restoration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Searchlight restoration \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Searchlight Print (\$60 min) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Quad-50 Print Sold Out**

Product: NDQSA Emb. Patch \_\_\_\_ @ \$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NDQSA Logo Decal \_\_\_\_ @ \$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Bumper Sticker \_\_\_\_ @ \$10 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT)(HAWK)(Vulcan)

Challenge Coin: \_\_\_\_ coin @ \$12 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*\* Lucite Challenge Coin: \_\_\_\_ @ \$25 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

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

.50-cal bottle opener \_\_\_\_ @ \$14 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NEW NDQSA HAT \_\_\_\_ @ \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NDQSA T-shirt (black)(grey)(green)

Size: \_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_ @ \$15 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

NDQSA Polo Shirt (black)(white)(green)

Size: \_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_ @ \$30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(regular) (tall)

NDQSA Lightweight Embroidered Jacket

Size: \_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_ @ \$145 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Circle (Duster)(Quad)(SLT) (HAWK)(Vulcan)

(Lrg) (XL) or (XXL) only

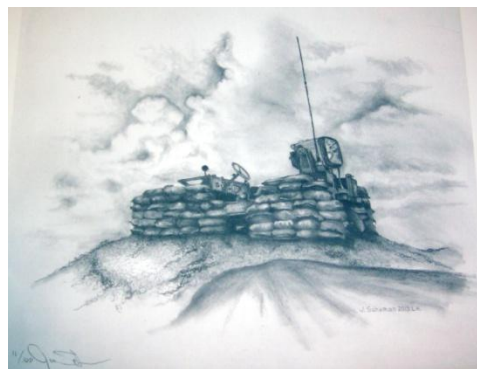
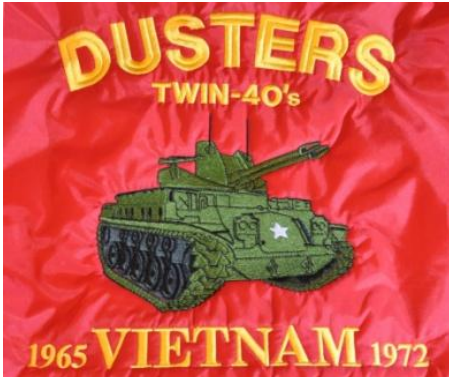
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

# NDQSA PRODUCT ITEMS 2016

## Duster, Quad & SLT Embroidered Jacket Artwork

HAWK artwork now available!



**Searchlight 50 Print (\$60 min)**  
**Quad .50 print Sold Out**



Logo Patch \$5



Logo Decal \$5



**NDQSA Challenge Coin \$10 @**  
**NDQSA Pin Set \$8 @**



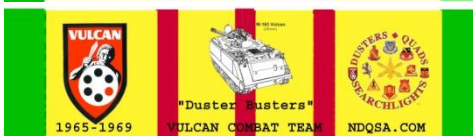
Lucite Coin \$25



50-cal bottle opener \$14



**NEW NDQSA Cap \$15 Made in the USA**



**NDQSA BUMPER STICKERS**  
**\$10 each**

## New Products Size Chart Subject to stock on hand

Give 1st & 2nd choice on color

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

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

**Embroidered Jacket:**  
 Large  
 \$145 XL  
 XXL

(Duster) (Quad 50)  
 (Searchlight)

**NDQSA is no longer offering to have personalized embroidery on the front of the jackets. You will have to do it locally on your own.**

We will only be stocking light weight jacket model. Use the multipurpose form in the newsletter to order these items. HAWK jackets by special order only, allow 30 days.

**NDQSA HISTORY BOOKS ARE SOLD OUT**

**Contact Paul Kopsick if you want one of the Lego Searchlights or Dusters**

## TANK FARM OPEN HOUSE 2016



The dates have been set for the 2016 Open House at the [Tank Farm](#) near Quantico, VA. Plan on **September 24-25** (weather permitting)!

This year, in concert with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Vietnam War recognition, they plan to focus on Vietnam and Vietnam Veterans. They plan to try and again work with the local WDC Vietnamese community to bring Vietnam Veterans together with the former South Vietnamese soldiers and citizens that were forced to leave their homelands. This is like we (NDQSA) did at our 2014 reunion.



That means that the two Dusters will be up and running. There will be a good chance that Duster vets will have a chance to be up close and personal with a running Duster and maybe even

go for a spin around the field. There is also the Korean War version of the Duster, the M-19 twin 40MM AWSP. On right in photo above.

We also have a Quad-50 mount that we might try to set up on a deuce-and-half or as a ground mount. And we have a Xenon searchlight that is the focus of our STL restoration project. We hope to raise enough funds to secure a good M151A1 jeep to get it operational again and for the future.

So make your plans, set the dates, grab the Grand Kids, and come to Nokesville, VA (near Quantico) and relive the sounds and smells of the field. See re-enactors from many countries and reacquaint yourself with the people we fought to protect.



These are the only days that the Tank Farm is open to the public. They do ask that you fill out a registration form [[FORM](#)] so they can gauge potential attendance. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary group has been invited to attend and set up a booth.

They are still raising funds for [The Museum of Americans At War](#) to be built near by off I-95. Check out their [[NEWSLETTER](#)] for info on the Museum and the Open House. Their *Voices of Freedom* oral history project will be set up to record personal stories from Veterans. If you are interested in participating contact:

[gpass@nmaw.org](mailto:gpass@nmaw.org) or visit their [web page](#).

NDQSA is proud to be affiliated with NMAW and VMMV (the Tank Farm) as they are dedicated to preserving the stories, weapons and histories of us, the Air Defense artillery units of the Vietnam War.

## CAMBODIA Part II

– [Jack Ryan A-5/2](#) '69-70 remembers

Jim Varcho's article in the last newsletter on his experiences in HHQ 5/2 during May 1970 awoke many memories of that time and place. Like Jim said in his article, I don't remember much detail. This much I do remember.



As soon as I was assigned to Alpha Battery 5/2, I was delegated as payroll officer. The story told to me was that my predecessor, also a LT named Jack, stepped off a helicopter, payroll cash in hand and dropped it. MPC all over the place. So, BOOM! I was immediately elected to be the new payroll officer. In early May 1970 there was a supplemental payroll due to a pay increase. I was making my rounds from the Battery Headquarters in Phu Loi, to Phouc Vinh (my platoon HQ) to Quan Loi, to Nui Ba Den to Bu Dop and any other FSB de jour. I would hitch a ride from place to place from whomever I could, Jeep, Truck, Huey, Sikorsky or Bronco. Whatever!

I hated Bu Dop, the village came right up to the perimeter of the FSB and I always felt like anybody could just walk right in. I spent too many days and nights there.

Wherever I was, I was contacted and told to get to Phu Loi (I think) to prepare a resupply mission of parts, crew, and supplies. I did and was sent a huey to carry me and supplies back to Cambodia (1<sup>st</sup> trip). Upon arrival in Cambodia, after we unloaded the huey, I was sent back for more supplies and parts. As a 1LT I was more likely to get what we needed than lets say a PFC. No disrespect to all PFCs. The huey had a

mechanical problem on return to Vietnam and I had to scrounge a ride from a 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (I think) huey. We loaded up and off to Cambodia again (2<sup>nd</sup> trip). Yes, you guessed it, needed another run for parts. On liftoff from Cambodia we took small arms fire and the huey was hit. Lost hydraulics. The pilot did a great job and got us back to Vietnam. I asked him how it was flying without hydraulics. He said, "it was like

trying to parallel park a Cadillac without power steering." (Remember the size of the 1969 Caddy?) Finally, I got my (3<sup>rd</sup> trip) last ride back to Cambodia. Parts, and supplies in hand. Upon arrival, SSG Manuel Nuñez (California) was now the section leader sitting on the barrels of the track. I said to him "Well SSG Nuñez you're there so I'll take the rear track." He was all a 'holes and elbows' off the track and he said to me "You da leader...you ride the lead track." And I did.

Later, in this long day – still in Cambodia, a detachment of the 5<sup>th</sup> ARVN Regiment was right down the road from us maybe ¼ to ½ mile away and they were in one hell of a fire fight. I mean all hell breaking loose. You know what its like. It is dark now and we moved out. I was on the lead track; SP4 Gary Rutledge (Wichita Falls, TX) was driving. He reaches over to me, beer in hand, and says, "LT want a beer?" I'm half scared to death and I say NO! Gary said to me "it might be your last one." I took the beer.

I'll almost wrap this up telling you about another time with SSG Nuñez section. I had 6 days left in-country and had to move this section to a new location. As I approach the tracks ready to go, SSG Nuñez says to me, "LT, I'll take the lead track." I let him.

On May 7, 1970 I found myself in Cambodia paying section A231 A232. In particular I remember [SP4 Ronald Eugene Fitzgerald](#) (we called him Tennessee). He was sitting in the gunner's seat in the turret and asking me about his allotment to his mother. He was a short timer. He wanted his money to go to his Mom so she would have it when he got home. I remember the sun was shining bright, and I had to shade my eyes as I looked at him atop the Duster. I assured him his allotment was going through. I moved on from Cambodia, don't remember where. That evening, track A121 took a direct hit from an RPG on the gun shield and Tennessee was killed immediately.

The following morning LTC Childress BN Commander, CPT Grady Marshall A 5/2 CO, A 5/2 1stSgt SGM Jack Lemon and others were on site Cambodia. I was told that LTC Childress himself carried Ronald's body off the Duster and away from the scene.

Finally, I tried looking up where SP4 Ronald Eugene Fitzgerald was buried. Might get to visit him someday. But his records showed that he was drafted out of Auburn, WA with home of record Auburn, WA. Didn't make any sense, we called him Tennessee. Further investigation uncovered that he is buried in our National Cemetery Nashville, Tennessee. Am I going to the NDQSA Reunion in Nashville.. you bet!

Ronald is buried in the Nashville National Cemetery where I visited him while in Nashville for the 2016 Reunion. It was the first time I've "seen" him since the day he died in Cambodia. Left a ADA cap and flowers at the grave. He was only 19 years old and had 60 days left. Too sad. You are not forgotten Brother!!!

Here is Jack Ryan at Fitzgerald's grave.



The other participants into Cambodia from A 5/2 were:

<b>Grady Marshall, CPT</b>	<b>Jack Lemon, SGM</b>
<b>Manuel Nuñez,, SSG .d</b>	Chester Jones, SSG
John Kelly, SGT	<b>Lloyd Barrett, SGT</b>
David Richards, SGT	Roger Green, SGT
David Davis, PFC	<b>Daniel Dunlap, E4 .d</b>
<b>Walter Foulks, SP4 .d</b>	Richard Yauch, PFC
Rufus Neeley, PFC	John Anthony?, SP4
<b>Ansel Kisner, SP4</b>	Adolfo Vega, SP4
<b>Duane Courser, SP5</b>	Ronald McBroom, E3
Gary Rutledge, SP4 .d	Glenn Baker, SGT
Charles Tiliman, SP4	John Wright, PFC

Names in bold are NDQSA members, (.d) indicates that the person has passed.

Jack Ryan Alpha Battery 5/2 '70-'71

## ADA Association Report

Brothers,

Last Friday, I went to Ft Hood to see the men and women of 1-44 off as they deployed to the Middle East. What a great bunch of soldiers!!

I am proposing that those brothers of 1-44, G-65 and G-29 consider joining me at Ft Hood when they return. It would be a way to show that that we are all brothers and sisters. They will return in March of 2017. We will not know the exact dates until some time in February.

Please pass this to all the brothers that I don't have email address for!

PS: I strongly recommend you read the article in this month's American Legion Magazine about Vietnam!

"The Vietnam War, reconsidered" By William Stearman

<http://www.legion.org/magazine/233034/vietnam-war-reconsidered>



Remember. You can sponsor a brick at the new memorial at Ft. Sill. [adaassoc@hotmail.com](mailto:adaassoc@hotmail.com)



TEXAS TECH  
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### THE VIETNAM CENTER AND ARCHIVE [The Oral History Project](#)

In 1999 the Vietnam Center and Archive initiated the Oral History Project (OHP). The history of the wars in Southeast Asia is not complete without the inclusion of the voices of those who were in some way involved. To that end, the mission of the OHP is to create and preserve a more complete record of the wars in Southeast Asia by preserving, through recorded interviews, the recollections and experiences of all who were involved in those wars. There is no political agenda in the development of the Archive or the Oral History Project. Anyone can participate, whether an American veteran, a former ally or enemy of the U.S., an anti-war protester, a government employee, a family member of a veteran, etc. The more breadth and depth the OHP has in its participants, the better and more authentic the collection and preservation of the history of the wars will be.

If you would like to participate in the Vietnam Archive Oral History Project, please select and complete the questionnaires below, and send them to the Vietnam Archive. If you download the questionnaires, please feel free to send them as an email attachment to [vnca@ttu.edu](mailto:vnca@ttu.edu), or by regular mail to:

Oral History Project  
The Vietnam Center and Archive  
P.O. Box 41041  
Special Collections Library Room 108  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, TX 79409

## HISTORY FANATICS and the NDQSA sponsored gun-truck – “The Widow Maker”



This is what we (The History Fanatics' crew - Daniel T, Mike L, Elbert R, Ric D, and yours truly, Robert R) did at the Fort Worth air show this past April at a celebration for Nam Vets.

The video was done by the NAS Fort Worth JRB PAO. They helped us out, pointed us in the right direction, and smoothed out bumps. They all deserve a hearty handshake, a pat on the back, and a Big THANK YOU!!  
[http://www.historyfanatics.net/recent\\_events/fort\\_worth\\_air\\_expo#Next](http://www.historyfanatics.net/recent_events/fort_worth_air_expo#Next)

I also want to thank the United States Marine Corps for helping us out. In the photo of the gun truck, those are real Marines.

Elbert, Mike, Ric, and I were outside the hangar. Daniel was inside with his superb medical display. Two US Navy Corpsmen (Devil Docs) made Daniel an honorary Corpsman (Doc) due to his display. Of course, to us he is known as "Probie." So now, Daniel is "Doc Probie."  
[https://youtu.be/Yu6Twfil\\_FA](https://youtu.be/Yu6Twfil_FA)

[Robert Ratliff www.historyfanatics.net](http://www.historyfanatics.net)

## The Widow Maker in 1968-69



Here is a photo of from 1968-69 of “The Widow Maker” of G-65<sup>th</sup> Arty. It was provided by member Frank D’Antonio G-65 ’67-’68.

Frank tells us that the man in the center, holding the beer, is SP4 Peter M. Teofrio. We are not sure of the other two.

Tragically, Peter died in a vehicle crash not long after completing his tour of duty in 1969. He was a very good friend of Frank and he wanted to share this photo and memory with the group.

Frank, seen on “Great Eve of Destruction” below is the President of the POW\*MIA Sarasota Florida Chapter.



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**Alberquerque, NM**

<http://www.ndqsa.com/>

Summer issue July 2016

Face Book : [Dqs historian](#)

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. (2016, 2017 or beyond)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2015 and below, we have not seen a dues payment from you in a while. If you can't afford the dues, we fully understand so do not worry about it. We only ask that you update your status and verify your contact information, **phone numbers and email address**. Just mail in the info using the multipurpose form or send an email.

2016 Rosters are printed out when your form is submitted and will contain the most up to date information. So please make any updates or changes ASAP!

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

To be sure you get the newsletter via email, tell your email program to accept emails from dqshistorian@cox.net.

## MISSION STATEMENT

The National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association™ (NDQSA™) is the original, official representative for ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam. NDQSA was founded in 1981 by John Huelsenbeck et al, holds annual reunions and has grown to over 605 active members with a directory of over 2200 ADA Vietnam Veterans and supporters.

NDQSA is an IRS 501(c) (19) non-profit veteran's 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.