

# NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION NOVEMBER 2016 NEWSLETTER #3 ---2017 REUNION UPDATE---

## 2017 NDQSA 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL REUNION ALBUQUERQUE, NM May 30 – June 4, 2017

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear Brothers, Sisters and associated Friends and Families

It seems like the Nashville reunion was just yesterday. Like always the summer has come and gone.

I hope you all had as good as summer as I had. As usual I didn't get everything done I planned but happy with what I did.

Looking forward to Albuquerque in the spring. Bruce and Bob tell me it is an exceptional value and a great place to visit and have our reunion. Santa Fe is close by commuter train and would be a great day trip.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all in the "Land of Enchantment". Tell your buddies and families and we will see you in the southwest.

Thank you  
John F. (Tank) Huelsenbeck

PS: TELL A BUDDY  
[John F. Huelsenbeck](#)  
President NDQSA

### SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

The Executive board held a meeting on June 7, 2016. Due to editing constraints to get out this newsletter, it is not included in this newsletter, but it will be included in the January 2017 newsletter.

### 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.

### 2016 TREASURER'S REPORT (QUARTERLY SUMMARY)

Treasurer [Allan Penwell](#) gave his quarterly report for 2016. As of September 30 2016 the association had cash balances of ~\$98,000 and an inventory of \$19,000 with no liabilities. NDQSA made a profit of ~\$10,000 in 2016 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:

**Honor Flight & Searchlight Found**

**Tributes and Remembrances**

## MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Thomas Glover, H-4/60 '67-'68 Apr2015 TX  
Michael Hopkins, 5-5/2 '67-'68 16May16 KY  
Daniel Managan, B-29 '68-'69 28May16 VT  
Robert Harper-Luttrel, C-1/44 '68-'69 Aug16 OH  
Carole Ward, wife of Frank Ward D-1/44 2Oct16 DE  
Tommy Glass, B-5/2 9Oct16 KY  
Paul Conley, C-1/44 '67-'68 31Oct16 MA

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

## NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

[Alan Buzz Bazzini](#), A-1/44 '66-'67

[Thomas Welch](#), H-5/2 '68-'70

Arnold Eckelman, H-6/56 HAWKS 68-'69

[Joseph Welly](#), G-65 '66-'67

[John Biggio](#), A-5.2 '66-'67

[Steve Schwalbendorf](#), B-6/71 HAWKS '66-'67

Harry Wade, C-4/60 '70-'71

[Dan Smallwood](#), G-65 '68-'69

[James Kelly](#), D-71 Quads '66-67

[Jerry Park](#), H-5/2 '67-69

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!!

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Do you remember what you were paid in Nam in 1970?

Specialist 4 and 5 rank:		
From the web for 1 Jan 1970	<b>E4</b>	and an <b>E5</b>
base pay for under 2 yrs.	\$231.60	\$275.40
Hostile Fire Pay of	\$65.00	\$65.00
Foreign Duty Pay	\$13.00	\$16.00
for a grand total of	\$309.60	\$356.40

## 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!!!

## 2017 Membership Rosters

The 2017 membership rosters will be printed and mailed out as needed with updated contact information. When you get your roster there will also be your 2017 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.**

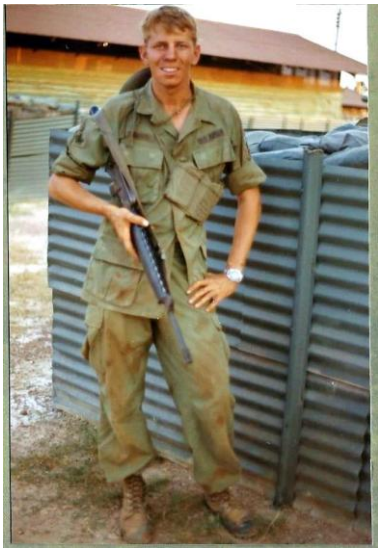
## SECURE YOUR NDQSA ROSTERS!!

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.



## **NDQSA member on Honor Flight**

### **James Varcho, H-5/2 '68-'70**



An **Honor Flight** is conducted by non-profit organizations dedicated to transporting as many United States military veterans as possible to see the Washington DC memorials of the respective war(s) they fought in, at no cost to the veterans. Currently these organizations are focused on bringing veterans of World War II

to the National World War II Memorial, and any veteran with a terminal illness to see the memorial of the war they fought in. Organizers plan to "naturally transition" their programs to focus on veterans of the Korean War, the Vietnam War, and subsequent wars as the veterans of those wars get older.

For our flight of 15 Sept 2016, the organizers were "Honor Flight of the Quad Cities" and we were sponsored, principally by HyVee (our big grocery store/stores; they have sponsored 8 of the 37 flights from the Quad Cities). This was the first Vietnam Veterans flight (men and women) although we had a few WWII and Korean Veterans within our number of 96 veterans and a total of around 160 personnel in all. I am indebted to Dave Ochs, a Navy friend, who sent me the application with some of it filled out and a stamped addressed envelope for its return when NAM veterans became eligible!

I arrived at the QC Airport at around 5:30 AM and was greeted by a cast of folks but mostly military personnel in Army dress. Again Two Star - ASC Major General Edward M. Daly was there to greet us and shake hands expressing his thanks for the nation. I met Gracia and Doug (my escorts) and we proceeded with the boarding details indicating we would be on the blue bus on the arrival in D.C. We were each given a neck security pouch where we could carry our boarding pass

for both the departure and return, along with a picture ID. So that we could be hands free, we also received a "fanny bag" or shoulder pouch for cameras or collectables. I choose the shoulder pouch (pouches were red, white or blue marked, depending on the bus we rode on. The buses had the color identification by the doorway. The airplane was a 737-800 flown by Sun Country Air Lines with three seats on each side so we got to know the folks around us.

We landed at the Washington Dulles International Airport right on schedule, actually all of our stops and departures were on the schedule provided. Again were greeted and thanked for our service by service men & women as well as people from all over: this greeting became a norm! The buses were there and waiting for us. Ours was the black bus and would always be last in line. The National Air and Space Museum, Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, was our first stop. We had adequate time to do a quick tour by ourselves, or elect to have a guided tour by a professional tour guide as we did.

Although we did not stop at Iwo Jima Memorial (reported that there are too many tripping hazards in/on the walk way and the tour has a history of fallen veterans), we did make a slow circle around the monument. Our bus driver made many comments about how grateful he was for our service, but he now explained that at this memorial our tour would be escorted by the United States Park Police and for the next hours until dark we would find that traffic would be stopped at intersections and we would have parking places as close to all the monuments as possible.

The Vietnam Memorial (the wall) near the Lincoln Monument and the Korean Memorial was the a special place for all of us! Although we disembarked the buses at The Wall, we were directed to go to the Lincoln Memorial for a group picture and a special flag ceremony for one of our Quad Cities very own. There are two pictures from this location, one of the QC veterans and the other from the veterans' point of view of the folks who supported us. There representatives of the three local TV news casts joined us and the cast did live broadcasts thought the day of interviews and happenings. The news cast from Channel 8 was on the



blue bus so we got to see them in action most particularly. Note: I had three names that I wanted to locate on the panels of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, two from my home town and the third from a Duster crew who was killed while we were in Cambodia. I belong to the National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association and e-mailed the association historian, Paul Kopsick, indicating that I would be at the Vietnam Wall and was wondering if he could add names to list I had of our unit/units. His reply was: "Jim, there are so many names. I will meet you there. We have 211 names on the wall." Paul did meet me/us and gave an ad hoc presentation of President Obama's Presidential Proclamation on Vietnam Veterans Day. Paul presented us with 50th year anniversary pins and buttons.



I spent a considerable amount of time at the wall locating panels/names. The Memorial Wall is made up of two 246 feet 9 inches (75.21 m) long black gabbro walls, etched with names. I did rubbings of the names from my home town, BERNARD LEE FRANKE & MEADOW JOHN OLSON. They weren't only from my small town, but I knew them! The folks I was with gave me time to think/recompose as they moved away to

the background; needed it! There are about 58,272 names on the wall!

Gracia and I were looking for the Women's Memorial when we passed the bronze statue named The Three Servicemen (sometimes called The Three Soldiers). We had been there before, but so was everyone else. This time there was no one around it and I got a good picture of the three soldiers and myself looking at the names of their fallen comrades on Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

We were unable to find the Women's Memorial on our own. Hard to believe, but I asked a Park Ranger for its location. Turned out that the memorial was The Vietnam Women's Memorial dedicated to the women of the United States who served in the Vietnam War, most of whom were nurses. We lost track of time and arrived back at the buses with no time to spare. Actually we were the last to arrive.

The United States Air Force Memorial is located near Arlington National Cemetery and the Pentagon. On the way to the memorial, we passed the Pentagon and our bus driver explained the plane crash of 9/11 and pointed out the location on the building. The Air Force Memorial has 3 spires of triangular stainless steel ranging in height of 201 to 270 feet high (it reminds me of the Arch in St. Louis). It is said that the spires are at an angle to each other of 120 degrees and represent the bomb burst maneuver. It has only 3 spires to represent the missing man formation of the 4th spire used at Air Force funeral fly-overs. While walking around the memorial, I noticed a place I recognized: Piqua, Ohio. That is where my wife, Jane, is from. Airman First Class William H. Pitsenbarger was 4 years older than Jane and not in her high school yearbooks;

missed it by a year. He was initially posthumously awarded the Air Force Cross, which was later upgraded to the Medal of Honor. He was the first enlisted recipient of the Air Force Cross medal. There are many accounts of his actions of 300 rescue missions in Vietnam. Bill Pitsenbarger risked his life almost daily during the war rescuing downed soldiers and fliers. In the last account I saw, it was reported that he had cabled down into the jungle and rescued eight army soldiers, staying behind to render medical aid to those who could not be lifted out.

The Women in Military Service for America Memorial is right outside the gate to the Arlington National Cemetery. It honors women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. In our veterans group we had two woman veterans. I only know about Gabriel Dena. She was a nurse and interviewed by one of the local news channels for a TV broadcast at this memorial. It was jokingly said that there were fifty women's restrooms and they never have to wait in line, and that there are only two for the men.

We were fortunate to be able to see the 5 PM changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery. The guard change is very symbolic, but also conducted in accordance with Army regulations. Because of our Honor Flight, the guard change had an extra drag of the shoe that could be heard only if you were aware it was coming, but not noticeable to the eye. Following the Changing of the Guard, we were honored in attending the lowering of the flag. It is the most precision and symbolic lowering I have ever seen. At the conclusion of the flag ceremony, we were able to interview one of the guards with questions and praise!

Our last stop was at the National World War II Memorial. There are 56 pillars and a pair of small triumphal arches. This is interesting: each pillar is inscribed with the name of one of the 48 U.S. states as of 1945, as well as the District of Columbia, the Alaska Territory and Territory of Hawaii, the Commonwealth of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. I stood by the Iowa pillar for a photo. This memorial is located at the eastern end of the Reflecting Pool and you can see the Washington

Monument looking east and the Lincoln Memorial looking west. We knew it was west because the sun was close to setting as we were leaving.

As we arrived at the Quad Cities Airport, it was said that we would have a welcome that we missed when coming home from Nam. (Note: when I came home from Vietnam and ended up at Ft Dix, NJ, I had finished my tour of Vietnam and my enlistment in the Army. On the way home we only had military clothes that had just been issued to us, class A complete uniform, and an airline ticket to home. Just like when going, we traveled alone on the way home. In the closing remarks before leaving the post, a Captain said something like this: "When you get to the airport, don't expect a hero's welcome home; it is just the opposite. Don't be alarmed if there are derogatory remarks about you and you may even be spit upon. Just ignore them and go on your way home.")

I expected a few people to welcome us, but this was way above my expectations. After all, it was past 10 PM. First we were met by soldiers right as we departed the plane and a cup of Whiteys Ice Cream. In the unrestricted part of the airport, were an estimated 1,500 people all wanting to shake our hands and give us hugs indicating their thanks for our service and saying "welcome home." There were more signs than I could read with the theme of welcome and thank you! It was surprising I knew so many of the people there. My biggest surprise was our Boy Scout Troop 203 from Long Grove, IA. There were so many and all were dressed in their class A uniforms and among them were their parents and my family! This welcome home was after we received letters on the plane from school children, family, friends, and in my case, Boy Scouts, indicating thanks and gratitude!



I am so thankful for this and I appreciate the time and effort of everyone to make it happen!

Proud to have served, Jim Varcho

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



I took the “Widow Maker” to the Houston Veterans' Day parade. At least 10,000 people viewed the truck, plus coverage from all the networks and news agencies in Houston. We received great reviews.

The newly acquired (anonymously donated) 50 cal guns are on the truck. These are excellent reproductions and can be updated to simulate firing. Hope to have them ready for 2017.

The only problem we encountered was that the rear main seal decided to blow on the return leg, filling the cab with smoke and oil. So, the truck is currently down until I can make repairs.

I'm about to enter my maintenance season, so I'll get the rear main repaired, fix the ‘little joe’ generator (again) – fortunately we figured what the problem is, and finally to get the mount wired for simulated fire. Way cool!

As for the jeep, I'm working on it right now, pulling everything off to have it water blasted. A little body work, new wiring harness, some paint, and it'll be up and running.

We are making good progress on our M151A1 jeep. The fuel tank (covered in dust) is off the vehicle, as is the air cleaner. Most of the old wiring has been pulled. A new wiring harness has been acquired and will be installed after the jeep is painted. New tire (with tubes and flaps) are on the way to replace the dry-rotted tires on it now. The grill is off and will be water-blasted the same time as the body and windshield frame.



There's more work to be done. I have to finish removing the wiring harness, drop the drive shafts, and pull the engine/radiator/transmission assembly. Then the jeep can be water-blasted. Then primed and painted. Everything that was taken off is then put back on (including the engine/radiator/transmission assembly - after it has been thoroughly gone through, cleaned, primed, painted, new hoses, etc.

Once everything's back in place, a few accessories will be added - radio with antenna, wire cutter, machine gun post (helps keep me from getting crushed should the jeep flip), siren (for parades), bottle opener, etc.

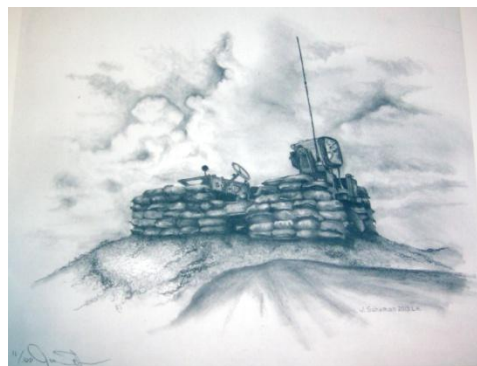
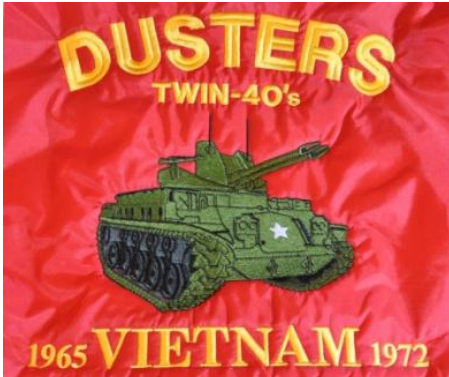
I am hoping to have the jeep ready to go by the next convention. The truck should be ready by January.

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

# NDQSA PRODUCT ITEMS 2017

## 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 \$12 @**  
**NDQSA Pin Set \$8 @**



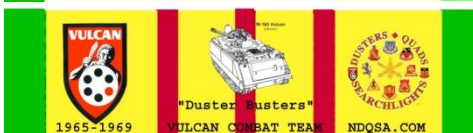
Lucite Coin \$25



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

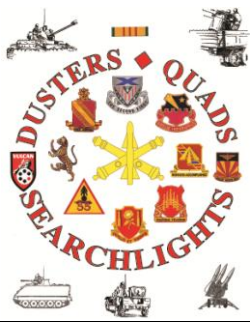
(Duster) (Quad 50)  
 (Searchlight)

**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**



# 35<sup>th</sup> Annual NDQSA Reunion

## “Operation Land of Enchantment”

### Albuquerque, NM

### May 30<sup>th</sup> - June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017



NDQSA is pleased to announce that our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion will be in Albuquerque, NM. Bruce Geiger & Bob Lauver have made an incredible deal with

**Crowne Plaza Albuquerque Hotel**

**1901 University Blvd**

**Albuquerque, NM 87102**

**1 (505) 884-2500**

<http://www.crowneplaza.com/albuquerque>



Phone Reservations: 1 (844) 356-6178

Use Group Code: **NDQSA Reunion**

**Room Rate: \$84 + tax single/double**

Room Rate includes: Free Parking & Buffet Breakfast

**Special NDQSA Rate 3 days before & after: \$69 + tax**

Online Reservation Link: NDQSA Reunion

Shuttle service from Albuquerque Sunport Airport to

Crowne Plaza call Sunport Shuttle (505)883-4966

Taxi or Uber service is also available(5.4 miles).





# Activities & Area Attractions

## NDQSA President's 'Back to the '60s Party (Thursday p.m.)

**NDQSA Memorial Ceremony  
Albuquerque Veterans Memorial**



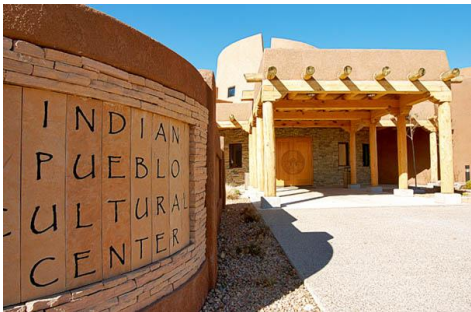
**Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway**



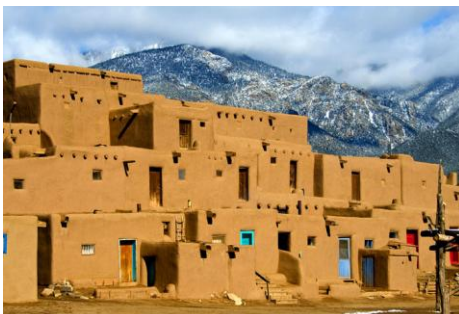
**National Museum of Nuclear History**



**Indian Pueblo Cultural Center**



**Indian Pueblos**



**Santa Fe Rail Runner Train**



**Old Town Historic District**



**Nob Hill**



**Balloon Fiesta Park**



**Albuquerque BioPark Botanic Garden**



**New Mexico Museum of Natural History**



**Albuquerque Museum of Art & History**



**Petroglyph National Monument**



Plan to arrive early or stay after the reunion to take advantage of the wonderful sights, sounds and history that is ALBUQUERQUE!

D-  
/ /17 # \$  
Q- S- E- P6

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape  
to envelope

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

**2017 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 (2017) (2018) (2019) (2020)

**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.

## TANK FARM OPEN HOUSE 2016 BIG SURPRISE! READ ON!

We had great weather for this year's Open House. Last year it had to be cancelled at the last minute due to hurricanes. Again, our good friends at the "Tank Farm" had brought out as many of their tanks and vehicles as possible for the re-enactors to set up next to and for the public to enjoy. NDQSA was again represented with over a dozen member families in attendance.



This year they were focusing on the Vietnam War as part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary commemorations. I set up the NDQSA booth next to the M-19 which is the Korean War version of the M42 Duster.



Marc was unable to get one of the Dusters to run due to a fuel line problem. The other Duster was set up near the display field because it was going to be running as part of their field demonstrations. Several of the NDQSA

members in attendance were able to go for a ride around the course to the cheers of the appreciative public. A great thrill for us Dustermen to get to ride on it one more time.

NDQSA Associate Member Bobby Harrison, who owns a Xenon Searchlight Jeep came up from North Carolina and set up with us. We planned to light up the searchlight that evening as a surprise to the re-enactors staying overnight in the field, but to our surprise, the light would not operate. The trailer ride must have loosened something.

Fortunately we had a searchlight mechanic visiting this weekend, Julian Davenport G-29<sup>th</sup> (1968-69) and on Sunday he checked it over.



We noticed the top of the black bulb cover (where the bulb is inserted from) was squashed downward (note screw by Julian's cap brim). Also the lower bracket bent (not square) and possibly interrupting with the proper rotation of the cover. We seemed to make the corrections but the light still failed to light up.

What happened next is EXTRAORDINARY! Julian was looking at the data plates on the side of the lamps bracket and saw that the serial number was 102. He then said, "I know this number!"

When Julian was a SLT mechanic for G-29 he had to order parts for all the SLTs in his platoon. He repeatedly wrote their numbers on all the requisition forms and remembered that he had units 100, 102, 114 and others.

We are now researching the possibility that we have found a searchlight (mount at least) that was actually used in Vietnam by G-29th. This would be a remarkable find!



What we have is a 1967 Ford Mutt M-151 jeep (4B4276) with a GSS14/GSS14B searchlight (mount) that has a serial number of 102A.

The lower data plate is much more corroded and originally had only 102 stamped into it and the letter A was later 'squeezed' onto that data plate.

We need to find out if there are any records that might show which 23" Xenons were sent to Vietnam with any of the SLT batteries.

Also what (and when) was the transition of the GSS14 to GSS14B and what did those modifications entail?

Are there two modifications going on here, with the 14 to 14B and the 102 to 102A? I am pretty sure there was an electronics upgrade somewhere along the line.

We have never confirmed that any of the Dusters, Quads or Searchlights were set home from Vietnam. We know the HAWKS were redeployed and the Vulcans were returned to the US, but we have yet to hear of or locate an 'in-country' M42, M55 or Xenon SLT...until now?

If you were in any of the SLT batteries in 1971 and have any knowledge of any SLT equipment being prepared for return to the US, please contact Paul. If you have any paperwork or personal recollections of the serial number(s) on any of the SLTs you used in Vietnam, contact Paul. If you have any photos that show the jeep vehicle lettering on the hoods of the jeep, please send them to Paul.

[Bobby Harrison](#), at 445 White Road, Mount Ula, NC 28125. Still needs help in getting the light to work. If you have any ideas please contact him at Cell: (704) 202-3301

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS!

Does anyone know about the history of the electronic upgrades made to the lights by the Army?

For all the G-29 guys, do you know of any SLT that were actually destroyed (and/scrapped) while in Vietnam, presumably due to combat?

Oh...one more thought, since the light housing could be different from the original one that came with the mount, do the lights have individual numbers (serial/parts/other) that could be used to identify its history?

More as things develop. This is very interesting and potentially very important historically.

Paul Kopsick

## DQS Men pay homage to fallen comrades



John Huelsenbeck, James Smith, Bob Lauver, and Sue Lauver met at Knollcrest Cemetery in Arcadia, Ohio on 16 July 2016 to pay their respects to fallen brother-in-arms James Lee Tweed. SGT Tweed was killed by small arms fire while engaged with NVA Forces in Quang Tri Province, RVN on 9 September 1967. Jim was a squad leader with Battery G, 65<sup>th</sup> Artillery, a Quad Fifty unit. Lauver and Tweed had trained together at Oro Grande, New Mexico. They went to Vietnam aboard the USNS Hugh J. Gaffey in October 1966. Bob and Jim had gone on R & R to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia just a few weeks before Jim was killed. The DQS Men placed flowers upon the grave and installed a Purple Heart Flag Holder at the site. A donation was left at the cemetery for the installation of a brass flower urn. Words and Memories were shared by all. Our Fallen are not Forgotten.

NDQSA members at Ft. Sill on Veteran's Day 2016



R. Russell, The Clark's, D. McCray

## LT. Steve Moore, C-1/44 remembers



I pay tribute and wish to honor Billy Watson, Roger Lewis, Larry Weigert, and Juan Valenzuela, Dustermen of First Platoon C-1/44. KIA 8/21/67

Now I wish to honor and share my pride for the men I remember who came to the ambush from The Rockpile. Tank, (John) who supplied us with the needed ammo and carried the KIA and WIA from the site back to camp. LT Drennan who was shot through the jaw, Don Wolf who was on the Duster when Marine Col. Ripley said "these are RPG magnets", then grabbed Dons' M-60, jumped off the Duster and headed into the grass towards the enemy. Cleve Lanier, and the others who were there. Again, please let me know who else was there. The action from The Rockpile is recorded in the Marine book "The Marines in Vietnam, No Shinning Armor".

I have not seen any reports about the two Dusters that came up to the south of the ambush from Calu. I have added a short version of it but want to honor and share my pride for these men also. I remember some but want to hear of the other men in this conflict. On the Duster I was with, the squad leader was Sgt Triola, Joe Musso who I was handing up extra ammo that the driver was bringing out of the underside storage. Does anyone know who else was there. The second Duster I believe Johnny Towns was the squad leader.

Marine KIAs from the 3rd Marines in the same ambush were Isidro Baca - Mike Co; Benjamin Romero-De-Jusus - Lima Co; and Ronald Salmon, Noble B Smith, Frank E Williams - Kilo Co. At the 3rd Marines reunion in DC, we walked Isidro's sister down the Wall and helped her etch his name.

In this ambush, Marine Lenard Budd was taken as a POW, finally being released in 1973.

There were two Marine Tanks along with us. We were on a Med-Cap at a nearby village when the call for help came in from the ambushed convoy. Because of our closeness, we arrived quickly and immediately came under fire. For the next six hours we were heavily engaged with the NVA. I spent many hours on the

ground to hand up ammo and in hand to hand combat to keep the enemy from getting up on our Dusters. One Marine was severely wounded by an incoming mortar round and was placed under my Duster for safety until we could head back to camp. This round also peppered me with hundreds of tiny metal shrapnel pieces which set off metal detectors upon my return to the USA. I just carry it in me all the time. I was flown home in February '68 after the Jan 24 Battle.

So, I honor these men and pray for their families as I am sure this day returns to them as it does to all involved.

New joyful memories come as I meet the replacements of men lost or shipped home. Joe Belardo, Lou Block and several others that continued to carry on in the outstanding manner that all of my men had learned. Brotherhood that will never be broken.



### **August 21, 1967**

August 21, 1967, one of the days that is etched so deeply in my mind and plays over and over at the slightest sight or sound, reminding me of this day.

On this day, I was forced to experience another new emotion. I had always been accustomed to either standing in the Duster or on top of it while firing the 40mm guns and my rifle, easily taking out the enemy. I liked using my M-16 best because it was easier to sight the enemy and watch him fall. It reminded me of being at a carnival standing at the rifle booth and shooting at moving tin targets. The prize you won depended on how

many targets you hit. The way that the Department of Defense was keeping track of just how we were winning was by keeping track of body count. As I shot one of the enemy I was mentally taking a body count of how many bodies I was hitting. I was winning in this game.

The men on the Duster began to yell 'ammo up, ammo up'. This meant that they were beginning to run low on ammo and needed for me to get the ammo out of the center of the Duster and hand it up to those in the turret. The driver crawled into the belly of the Duster to pull out the ammo cans stored inside. As he brought them forward I would then take them, place them on the ground and loosen the lid. Now I would either hand up clips of four rounds or better yet swing a full can weighing around 100 pounds up to the top of the Duster as the crew member would then grab the can and open it up.

My M-16 would get in the way so I left it in the Duster because I did have my side arm, my trusted .45 and my bayonet. This was working well until the enemy ranks seemed to swell to an incredible number. It was as though they were coming out of the hills like ants, never stopping. How many were there I thought as my men and I just kept taking them out. The Marines were doing a good job of keeping the enemy at bay so they could not destroy my Dusters.

Then it happened. My life was about to change. While in basic training and in OCS I was taught the method of fighting hand to hand and how to kill with my hands. I always thought this was not necessary since I had such fire power at my command and never would be that close to the enemy. I was wrong. I had just handed a can of ammo up to the cannonier and turned around to get some more 40 MM ammo. There in front of me stood a small young NVA with his rifle slung over his shoulder.

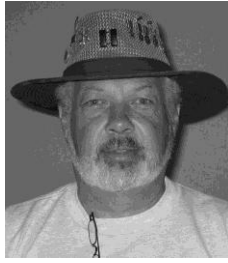
I know we both were startled at this quick meeting. The next few moments seemed like minutes even though it was just a matter of seconds. His face was filled with hatred toward me and my men and there was great determination by him to climb onto my Duster so he could kill my men. My eyes filled with rage and I know burned right through him. Here I was, face to face with possible death, face to face with the enemy. I had no time to draw my 45 or bayonet and did not have my

M-16 handy. The only weapon available for me was my hands. The hands that were trained long ago to take a life.

I was never trained to accept this type of fighting and process the effects it would have on my life. Now a critical decision was to be made in a split second. I knew I had to stop him and was now only given one option. Our eyes were fixed on each other and the last thing on earth that he would see was my face. He was close enough where I just reached out, quickly taking his life. He fell instantly to the ground in twisted form. I looked down at him then looked at my hands, the hands of death. This was an either me or him situation and I was faster. Now all of a sudden the war became personal. I wasn't just killing the enemy for body count; I had just taken a life with my hands. One who's eyes met mine, one who had a human form that I felt. A person who was fighting for his country and I, fighting for my country to win. Face to face with death, face to face with a fellow man, face to face with "the enemy."

This is a face that now would haunt me and become a nightmare for the rest of my life. I hurt inside, mainly for myself. As time would go on, I would question my actions and ask, 'how could I do such a thing'. I now went back to the front of the Duster to get my Thompson sub-machine gun so I would be better prepared. I slung the gun over my shoulder and continued to hand up ammo to the men. Once again an NVA soldier appeared and split second decisions were to be made. This time he was farther from me but close enough so I could reach him with my arms. With the palm of my hand I hit his face with great force breaking his nose and as he began to fall backwards I drew my .45 and accurately hit him with two rounds. Several more times an NVA got close enough to me that my hands of death were put into action.

On this day as I was now standing on the ground, face to face with the enemy with only my .45 sidearm. I could not feel the protection of the Duster, since it was no longer my stronghold. The open space began to close in very tightly and I really didn't know how to respond. One thing became so strong in my mind now. They were not going to get me. They were



all going to die. My fighting tactics were at an all-time high.

When will it stop! Where are they coming from? When will one of them shoot me, or even possibly kill me? What will happen to the men if I am killed? For a brief moment you began to realize that there was a very good possibility that I may get wounded or even killed. Panic wants to take over, but I must win the fight within myself, not letting panic win. There is no time right now to contemplate any of these questions, feelings, or events; only time to fight; only time to kill some more.

NDQSA at The Wall Veteran's Day 2016



"How we celebrated Veterans Day. Girl Scout Co-leader Milly and Brownie Petra joined with the Boy Scouts and helped place flags on graves of Veterans at Sunset Cemetery near Berkeley. We were impressed that we found a number of very old graves of women Veterans. It made us appreciate our freedom and those who served our country. One interesting thing was that Petra was not familiar with the Roman numeral 2, as in World War II. She read it as World War 11 (eleven). Thank heaven that is not the case. And, Paul, I thought of you and thank you for your service and for all you have done for Vets. Love, Milly"



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Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Vulcans & HAWKS  
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35<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion  
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<http://www.ndqsa.com/>

Winter issue November 2017

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 2016 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.

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## 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 about 600 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.