



NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER #1 ---2017 REUNION DETAILS---

2017 NDQSA 35th ANNUAL REUNION ALBUQUERQUE, NM May 30 – June 4, 2017

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



Dear Brothers and Families,

At this time my message will be short and sweet!

It looks like New Mexico will be a fun time for all.

Bob and Bruce have lots of events planned. There will be a couple of free days to explore the area on your own. Thursday is our NDQSA Memorial Service and lunch at the New Mexico Veterans Memorial. and then in the evening a Presidents reception. Friday is a bus trip. Saturday is the annual meeting and luncheon. Hope to see all in Albuquerque!

PS: Make your plans now. Call a buddy and get them to attend too!

[John F. Huelsenbeck](#)
President NDQSA

FEATURED STORIES:

Reunion planned activities
Dan Ross B-4/60 '70-71 As I Recall..

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

NDQSA Annual Business Meeting June 04, 2016 Nashville, Tennessee

The minutes from this meeting have not been formally reviewed and accepted by the Board of Directors in a follow-up meeting, therefore they cannot be printed in full in this newsletter. The following excerpts are provided for general information:

Secretary's Minutes The Annual Business Meeting Minutes from the Colorado Springs, Colorado Business Meeting had been placed on chairs in the meeting room prior to the meeting by Secretary Garry Severin. President John Huelsenbeck called for the reading of the minutes from last year's business meeting. Vince Tedesco made a motion to accept the minutes as written with the amendments and Ken Weimer seconded the motion and the membership approved the minutes with the Amendments. Only one dissenting vote was cast

Treasurer's report: Allan Penwell read his report for the 2015/2016 year.

Nominating Committee: Joe Belardo stated that a total of four hundred and seven votes were accounted for with only three hundred and ninety-nine being legal. Seven votes had no signature and one ballot had no vote but did have a signature. All incumbent Board members were re-elected, leaving the current Board of Directors unchanged.

Historian Report. : Paul Kopsick reported that we now have five hundred and fifty one active members.

Good Works Committee (Sam Hopkins, Bob Cuce & Bruce Geiger): Bruce Geiger will present the local Fisher House representative with seventy-five, fifty-dollar gift cards. The organization will donate thirty-five hundred dollars toward this cause and a check for \$750. The Association treasury donated a total of \$2250

toward this cause and our members' donations added another \$2250.

Texas Tech: Former Parliamentarian Luke Clark requests clarification of dissemination of NDQSA information. Vince Tedesco made a motion to form a committee to answer to this topic within six months.

Product Sales: The Board acknowledged Duane and Mary Gettler for their dedication and hard work handling product sales and inventory. Bob Lauer announced that only stock winter and summer weight jackets would be available and special orders would end.

2017 Reunion Decision (Bob Lauer): President Huelsenbeck called for a vote on next year's reunion location. The vote was narrowed down to San Antonio Texas and Albuquerque New Mexico. Albuquerque was selected in a close vote.

2018 Reunion : (John Huelsenbeck) : John Huelsenbeck noted that the board will narrow down to a region, either Southeast or Southwest for the 2018 reunion and the membership will choose a venue. The venues for 2018 are as follows, Cleveland, Ohio, Lawton Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, New Orleans, Louisiana and Norfolk Virginia.

A Motion to close meeting was made by Vince Tedesco and seconded by Ken Weimer and was approved by the membership with no dissent noted.

Minutes compiled by [Garry Severin](#)

2016 TREASURER'S REPORT (QUARTERLY SUMMARY)

NDQSA continues to be financially strong at year-end 2016 with cash of almost \$100,000 and inventory of \$21,000 at cost. The annual reunion is our largest project, and Nashville was a big success last year. Reunion income was \$64,000 and expenses were \$55,000 for a net gain of \$9,000. Members were generous for the reunion as we contributed over \$5,000 in Good Works. Our CPA, Kallembach & Associates, is in the process of preparing a procedural review of our books. I am pleased to report there have been no remarkable comments in previous years. Any active member may request financial information from me, and my contact information is in our directory.

[Allan Penwell](#), Treasurer

MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Richard Clements, 4/60-D '70-71
John Sterbenz, G-29, '68-69 May 2015
Joe Parrish, B-5/2, '71 29Jan17
Robert Sapey, G-65 '70-71 23Sep16
Dorothy Schafermocker, OGS 4Oct16

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



Passing noted: Mrs Dorothy [Schafermocker](#), one of the Goldstar Mothers from the 2011 NDQSA trip to Vietnam. She passed in October of 2016. She joins her son in peace and harmony. We honor them both and pray for all our present and past servicemen and servicewomen and those that supported them. Amen. Aviation Ordnanceman Second Class Michael E. Schafermocker, United States Navy "Seawolves" was serving as a door gunner and crew chief on the UH-1B helicopter "The Delta Mauler".



[Joe Parrish](#) (Sgt) B-5th/2nd has passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his Loving Wife Connie and son Ethan and other family members. John Mowatt recalls: "I was in AIT & NCOCS with Joe at Ft. Bliss 1970. Joe was squad leader on dusters on FSB BLUE when it was overrun in early 1971! He was severely wounded during the attack! Many of you met Joe, Connie and Ethan in Nashville this past years Reunion. He will be dearly missed!"

NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

[Larry Speer](#), 4/60-A
[Leroy Greene](#), 4/60-C '67-68
[Roy Moulder](#), 6/71-A HAWKS '65-66
[Steve Crabill](#), 4/60-H '66-67
John Quin, 4/60-D

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!!

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.

NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES

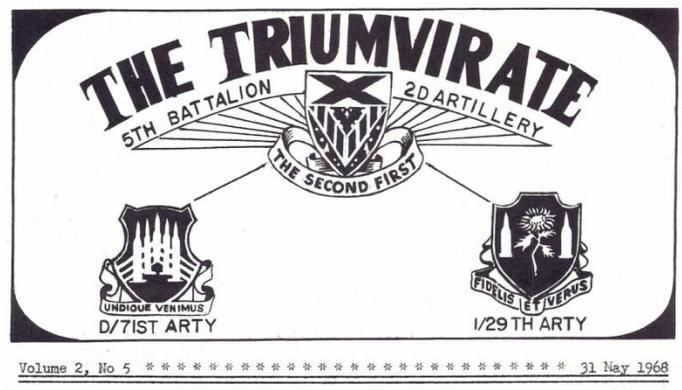
Hi Paul--John Stencil here--just a note to let you know that I found an old 5th/2nd newsletter called "The Triumvirate" dated 31 May 1968 in some materials when cleaning out a box of pictures. If you do not have a copy of it, I would like to mail it to you for the archives. It is 14 pages of great info and lots of names from the Battalion at that time. Would you like for me to mail it you? If so, I will need your address--in Fairfax, VA--right?

John, Eureka!! Yes it is one of a few that I am missing. What were the odds!!! Yes, please send it to me at: Paul Kopsick, 4338 Still Meadow Rd. Fairfax VA 22032

Now I only need a few from the last quarter of 1970 to complete the Triumvirates from the 5/2d. Bravo! I have been using the Triumvirates to create a database of names of men from: 5/2; D-71, I/29 and the VCT. It has been real helpful in helping guys remember men they had served with. I wish there were as good a newsletter for the other Duster battalions.

If anyone else had any paperwork, orders, rosters, newsletters from Nam, let Paul know what you have. You may have a missing piece of your history!!

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SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

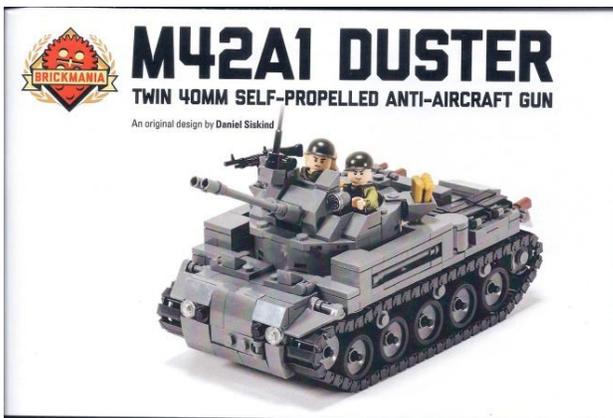
To encourage early submission of NDQSA Reunion Registration Forms, the Crowne Plaza Hotel has offered a dinner-for-two voucher at their 'Ranchers Club' four star restaurant. Every attendee whose NDQSA Registration Form is received no later than April 30th, 2017 will have a chance to win in a special raffle drawing at the start of the reunion.

If you have not submitted your Registration Form yet, do it now! You can always cancel if your plans change.

BRICKMANIA NEWS

David Siskind, the owner and a good friend to NDQSA had re-issued his custom model of the M42 Duster composed mainly of Lego Brand blocks. Originally released in April of 2012 with a limited production run of only 50 units, a new updated version has been created and is appropriately called the M42A1 Duster. They made a very nice FanZine for January 2017 that dealt with “TET” and the Vietnam War. It even listed Joe Belardo’s book as a must read. It should be available at their [website](#).

Unfortunately, it turns out that the new M42A1 model is already “sold out”. They were gone before even I realized it. Only 50 kits were produced and cost \$280 each.



Based on some modifications I had made to my model, David has added a lot more detail to the redesigned model and even figured how to make a front opening hatch! They have also created with their associates at Brickarms, a nice 40mm ammo clip and added it to the package as well as the correct M-60 machine gun.



Improvements to the original release include: new one-piece tracks and new road wheels; opening front and top

hatches; hinged antenna mount; custom speed ring sights; turret mounted ammo racks; tool rack and spare track rack atop mufflers; and exhaust covers. He even added the two storage boxes on the rear deck and a rear tow hook. Another nice touch is the barrel cleaning rods (not visible in the photos).

There might be more things I haven’t picked up on yet as I have not built one of the new kits. The instructions are now in printed booklet form. There is an incredible amount of added detail and with that in mind, comes increased costs.

I have asked David and he has agreed to offer NDQSA members a special edition M42A1 in time for Christmas IF, if we can get pre-orders of 25 (or more) kits. He even offers us a pre-order price break at \$250 each. The box cover will have the words “Special Vietnam Veterans Edition” and if NDQSA Board grants permission, it will show the NDQSA Logo. I will have one model kit to view at the reunion but I will start making a list now. If you want one reserved @ \$250 email me at this link [M42A1 Brickmania Special Edition](#). If we get the required number of orders, I will then contact you on payment options. For Christmas 2017 delivery.

I am trying to get them to consider making a trailer mounted quad-50 kit. I sent them photos of my attempts to make the kit and it is pretty straight forward. No news on that front, but here is a picture of my attempts.



- Paul Kopsick

Note: I still have a few of the [Xenon](#) Searchlight Jeep kits available for \$150 each. Proceeds go to our Searchlight Jeep restoration project funds. Contact Paul if you want one.



35th Annual Reunion

“Operation Land of Enchantment”

May 30th - June 4th, 2017



Tuesday 30 May 2017

Noon - ? Registration opens in Hospitality Room

You are on your own to explore area attractions.

Tickets are available for **Rail Runner Train to Santa Fe: 1 pp free with registration.**

Sandia Mountain Tram: \$17 pp

Evening - Hospitality Room Activities at the Hotel

Hospitality Room closes at ~ 12:00 Midnight

Wednesday 31 May 2017

Registration in the Hospitality Room

You are on your own to explore area attractions.

Tickets are available for **Rail Runner Train to Santa Fe: 1 pp free with registration.**

Sandia Mountain Tram: \$17 pp

Evening - Hospitality Room Activities at the Hotel

Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 Midnight

Thursday 1 June 2017

The New Mexico Veterans’ Memorial

All Activities, Admissions & Lunch: \$40 pp

8:45 AM Gather in Lobby - Buses leave 9:00 AM

9:30 AM Memorial Service

10:30 AM Tour the Grounds

12:00 Noon Lunch

1:15 PM Buses Leave for the Hotel

Presidents Reception ‘60s Night – Compliments of NDQSA

5:00 PM – 9:30 PM Hotel Grounds

Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 Midnight

Friday 2 June 2017

The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

8:30 AM Gather in Lobby - 8:45 AM Buses Leave

9:00 AM Tour the Museum, Visit Exhibits and Shop

11:00 AM Traditional Native Dances Exhibition for NDQSA

12:00 Noon Pueblo Harvest Café Lunch

1:00 PM Buses Depart for the **National Museum of Nuclear Science & History**

All Activities, Admissions & Lunch: \$60 pp

3:30 PM Buses Depart for the Hotel

Evening - Hospitality Room Activities at the Hotel

Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 Midnight

Saturday 3 June 2017

9:00 AM—11:00 **AM Annual Business Meeting**, Room TBD

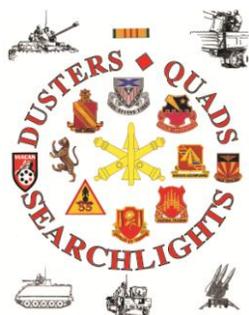
9:00 AM—11:00 **AM Women’s Cont. Breakfast in the Hospitality Room**

12:00 PM—3:30 PM NDQSA Luncheon Banquet, Guest Speakers and Awards: \$40 pp

Evening Auctions and Raffles—Don’t miss Event! Hospitality Room

Sunday 4 June 2017

9:00 AM **Chaplain’s Service in Hospitality Room** followed by cleanup and out by noon.



35th Annual NDQSA Reunion

"Operation Land of Enchantment"

Albuquerque, NM

May 30th - June 4th, 2017



NDQSA is pleased to announce that our 35th 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>



Direct Hotel Phone Reservations:

Call Tony Ration (weekdays 10am-4pm MST)

1 (505) 998-6405

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: [NDQ hotel link](#)

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**



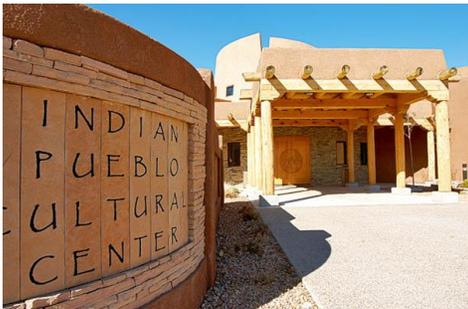
Sandia Peak Aerial Tramway



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!

2017 NDQSA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE READ EVERYTHING CAREFULLY AND MAIL THIS FORM TO THE TREASURER – SEE ADDRESS LABEL BELOW

35th ANNUAL NDQSA REUNION, Albuquerque, NM MAY 30th - JUNE 4th 2017

Crowne Plaza Albuquerque Hotel 1901 University Blvd. Albuquerque, NM 87102 1(505)884-2500 http://www.crowneplaza.com/albuquerque	Use Group Code: NDQSA Reunion Room Rate: \$84 + tax single/double **Special NDQSA Rate 3 days before & after: \$69 + tax Direct Hotel Phone Reservations Weekdays: Tony Ration 1(505)998-6405 Online Hotel Reservations Link < NDQ hotel link > Room Rate includes Free Parking & Buffet Breakfast!
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Name: _____ Spouse: _____

(print)

Cell Phone Number: _____

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

May 27 28 29 **30** 31 June 1 2 3 4 5 6 7

S Su M Tu W Th F S Su M Tu W

Remember to make your hotel reservations ASAP to insure room availability.

If you have already made your reservations, check this box [].

If you are local or not staying at the reunion hotel, check this box [].



To help planning reunion activities including buses & meals, please pre-register now and send fees for the following activities.

As always, should unforeseen circumstances occur and you are unable to attend the reunion, you will receive a full refund.

Activity times are tentative and subject to change as plans are finalized.

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, May 30th Setup/Registration in Hospitality Suite Open Day Sightseeing On Your Own <u>Tickets Available</u> Train to Santa Fe: 1pp free@registration Sandia Mtn. Tram: \$17pp Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight	Wednesday May 31st Registration in Hospitality Suite Open Day Sightseeing On Your Own <u>Tickets Available</u> Train to Santa Fe: 1pp free@registration Sandia Mtn. Tram: \$17pp Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight	Thursday June 1st New Mexico Veterans Memorial 8:45am in Lobby 9:00am Buses leave 9:30am Memorial Svc. 10:30am Tour Grounds 12:00 Noon Lunch All Activities: \$40pp 1:15pm Buses Leave for Hotel 5:00pm Hotel Grounds Presidents Reception '60s Night Compliments of NDQSA Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight	Friday June 2nd The Indian Pueblo Cultural Center 8:30am in Lobby 9:00am Tour Museum Visit Exhibits & Shop 11:00am Traditional Native American Dance Exhibition for NDQSA 12:00 Noon Lunch in Pueblo Harvest Café 1:00pm Buses Depart to National Museum of Nuclear Science & History All Activities: \$60pp 3:30pm Buses Leave for Hotel Hospitality Room closes at ~12:00 midnight	Saturday June 3rd 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Annual Membership Business Mtg. *Members required to attend 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM Ladies Continental Breakfast in Hospitality Room 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM Annual NDQSA Banquet Guest Speakers, Awards & Presentations: \$40pp Evening Activities, Auctions & Raffles Hospitality Room
				Sunday June 4th 9:00 AM Chaplain's Farewell Svc.

Select & Pay for Activities

	No. of Persons	Amount
Tuesday, May 30 th : Registration - Train trip to Santa Fe (see free above) or Sandia Mtn. Tram	(\$17) x _____	= \$ _____
Wednesday, May 31 st : Registration - Train trip to Santa Fe (see free above) or Sandia Mtn. Tram	(\$17) x _____	= \$ _____
Thursday, June 1 st 9:00 AM Bus to New Mexico Veterans Memorial includes Activities & Lunch	(\$40) x _____	= \$ _____
Friday, June 2 nd 9:00 AM Indian Pueblo Cultural Ctr, Lunch & Nuclear Science & History Museum	(\$60) x _____	= \$ _____
5:00 PM - 9:00 PM President's Reception: 'Land of Enchantment 60's Night': *Compliments of the Association*		
Saturday, June 3 rd 12:00 Noon - 3PM - Luncheon Banquet, Guest Speakers & Awards	(\$40 per person) x _____	= \$ _____
Voluntary donation to 2017 NDQSA Reunion Good Works Service Project Fund (any amount welcome)		\$ _____
Reunion Registration Fee: Make sure you add it into your total. (\$20 individual / \$30 per family)		\$ _____
Total >>>>>>>		\$ _____

Allan Penwell, NDQSA
1501A Theodore Drive
Champaign, IL 61821

Make your pre-registration check payable to **NDQSA** and mail to NDQSA Treasurer:
 ← Cut out this address label and tape it to your envelope.

Tear off this page, fill it out and mail it in.

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 1st 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

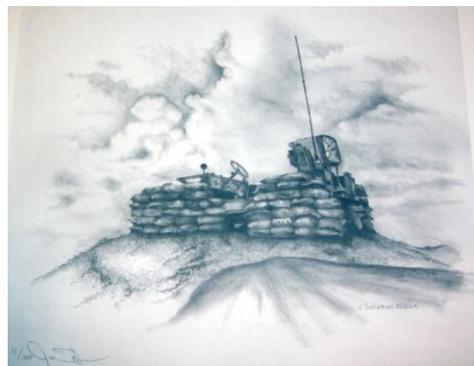
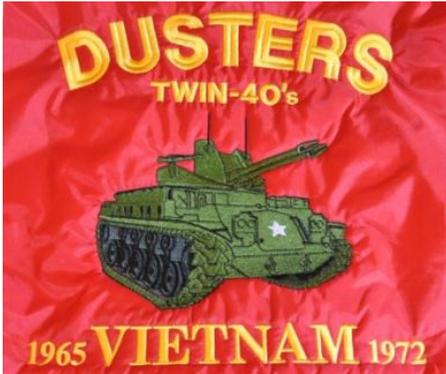
TOTAL \$ _____

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.

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

HISTORY FANATICS and the NDQSA

This is an invitation to you to come up to Hops & Props at the Fort Worth Aviation Museum on April 29, 2017. The event itself is the fundraiser for the aviation museum. It is also a celebration / welcome home for Vietnam Veterans. And, a celebration for the Centennial for World War One.

All wars and re-enactors are welcome. I just ask that you are correct your impression, and that it is tasteful. The public is invited and encouraged to come.

Justin Jolly is coordinating the World War One stuff, and I am doing the same for Vietnam.

One of the features we are trying to include is a Veterans' Village as well as a "firebase." I'd like to have something resembling a timeline, and will coordinate with the different entities to make it happen.

Both the TCU ROTC and UT Arlington cadets will be participating with us to make this a most extraordinary event. In addition, we are working with the 14th Artillery, USMC, to participate with several (possibly 3) of their Vietnam issue 105mm howitzers.

Something we are planning for are firing/weapon demonstrations. At present, it is planned to have one demo in the morning and one in the afternoon. NO LIVE ROUNDS. Safety checks are mandatory. You will be checked several times. This is for your safety as well as the public.

For those who plan to bring vehicles, there is plenty of space to unload. I plan to have my gun truck there (and hopefully a couple other vehicles). The North Texas MVPA groups will be present as well.

Security - the location is on airport property behind fences with 24 hour security. Police officers (uniformed and undercover) will be on the property on Saturday. In addition, I plan on sleeping with my gear at the site. If anybody else wants to do the same, you're welcome. Otherwise, there are several good hotels in the area, as the Fort Worth Stockyards are just a few blocks south.

Ice & Water for participants - I have been informed that is being worked on. The re-enactors are considered volunteers, and will get certain perks.

Restrooms - there are restrooms (male & female) in the museum building (which will be open). In addition, there will be port-a-johns.

Equipment / Track / Aircraft rides - I have been informed that this is okay, but that the museum folks will need more info about what is planned.

This is a one day event (Saturday only). I plan on being on site on Friday, and leaving out on Sunday.

Also, as this is the fundraising event for the museum, they will have a live band, a bounce house for the kids, food trucks, and (at last count) 11 craft breweries donating their sales to the museum. The gates open to the public at 9AM, with alcohol sales beginning about 1PM. It is planned to be over at 5PM.

If anybody has any questions, please direct them to me, and I will get the questions answered. Also, if you know of anybody that might be interested, please have them contact me. I am trying to provide a list of possible participants to the museum. - Robert Ratliff [History Fanatics - Home](#)

[Robert Ratliff](#) www.historyfanatics.net [Texas Memorial](#)



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AS I RECALL...VIETNAM

Daniel Ross, B-4/60 1970-71



The First Lottery for the Military Draft 1970

Nothing can prepare a 19-year-old for the onslaught to every sense and every emotion brought about by serving in a combat zone: certainly nothing in my upbringing in the strong, Catholic-centered home where I grew up with my parents Fred and Mary Ross and my 10 siblings. As the youngest son of six, I graduated from St. Edward's High School in June of 1969.

We were all aware of the war, my brother Fran was already serving in the Air Force in Guam. Another brother, Pat, was stationed in Taiwan. I had considered signing up, but was working as an apprentice millwright with my father and my oldest brother Tom. In January of 1970, the very first Draft Lottery was pulled; my number was 145. Only a short month and a half after the first lottery, I received my draft notice. I reported on April 2nd and was told I was deferred because I had a lazy left eye. I went to a private practice eye doctor, who checked me and wrote a note stating that the eye should pose no problems to my serving my country in the Army. With his letter, the Army agreed to take me.

On May 12th I was sworn in at the Federal Building in Cleveland and on May 13th, I boarded a bus to Fort Campbell, KY for basic training. After basic training, I went home for two short weeks before I was off to Fort Sill, OK. The Army had decided my best area of skill would be Artillery, training in use of the 175s, 8" guns, and the 155s, 105s howitzers.

As I finished that training, I had planned to try to get into the 101st Airborne. But scuttle around the base was that they were deactivating in Vietnam and bringing all airborne members back. That's when I went to my Master Sergeant and volunteered to go to Vietnam. He couldn't understand. The majority of people were doing everything they could to NOT be sent there. I think part of it was my upbringing—serve God; serve your country. Every other member of our training class went to either Korea or Germany. I was sent to Vietnam.

Pleiku—Artillery Hill

My first and only assignment was with the B Battery 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery Group in Pleiku Province, in the

mountainous central highland region of the country, running parallel with Cambodia and the Ho Chi Min Trail—the main supply route for the North Vietnamese Army (NVA).

Arriving in Vietnam Pleiku Province—LZ Oasis



Arriving in Vietnam Pleiku Province -Landing Zone Oasis. On September 30, 1970, I received orders to report to Duster Track B122 located at Landing Zone Oasis, Southwest of Pleiku and about 10 miles from the Cambodian Border.

A M-42 Duster was a Twin 40mm Self - Propelled Anti - Aircraft Gun. A crew consisted of 6 men but we usually operated with 4 men. Prior to this, I had never heard of or seen this type of weaponry and, to be honest, I did not see the manuals until I went to my first reunion. I was trained on the 40mm Duster by the person I was replacing. I had the choice of any position, and I chose to be the gunner.



The shortage of manpower was so great we were shipped to our new units without going through the mandatory in country indoctrination. The majority of the crewmen were finishing their 12-month stint in November. We trained all new arrivals as they came to the unit.

As to how I could be placed onto a piece of weaponry on which I'd never trained, the Army brass had recommended that when a shortage of 16F personnel exists, personnel with a

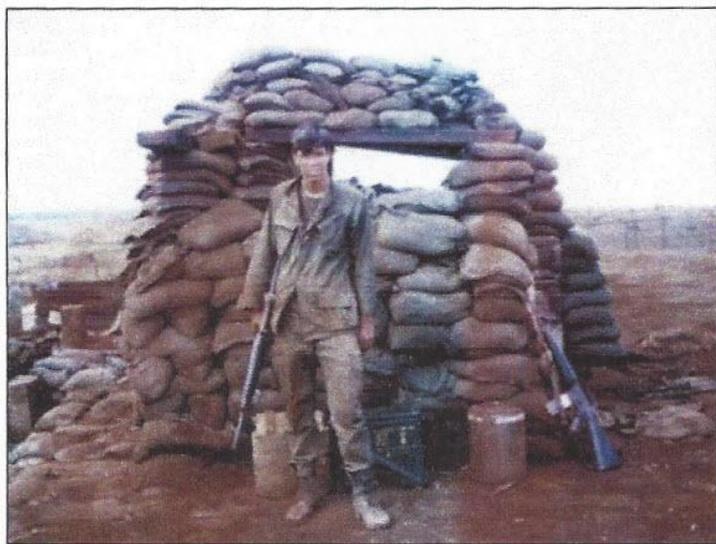
13A MOS, such as I had, can be trained as air defense crewmen with excellent results.

The Dusters were all Army surplus from World War II and Korea that were shipped in from National Guard bases, one of which was in Mansfield, Ohio. Many of them had been built in my home town at the Cleveland Allison Tank Plant.

In Duster hierarchy, the last man to arrive becomes the loader—a job that provides little protection as the loader is standing out in the open from the waist up. I was the loader for the first 60 days. While training, we also spent a lot of time clearing and burning foliage, burning human waste, doing routine maintenance and nightly guard duty. Our track's hooch was on the perimeter with our bunker mounted on top.

All hell broke out

On the dark and moonless night of October 29, after a full month of virtually no enemy activity, I was on guard duty. A seemingly quiet night turned quickly into an unholy hell within just a few seconds.



The trip-flares were set off in front of our bunker. I operated the M60 and fired toward the flares. They returned fire with a barrage of B40 rockets, mortars, and live bullets. Explosions were everywhere inside the compound. The enemy had breached the perimeter, and hell had truly broken out. While exchanging gunfire, a B40 rocket hit the left corner of my bunker, damaging it and the M60.

Facing the enemy

I grabbed my M16 and ran toward the edge. As I was about to jump, I glanced back and saw the flash of an explosion. I flew off the roof and almost landed on a few of my squad members. "What's happening," they shouted. "We're being hit with mortars and the enemy has penetrated our perimeter," I yelled back. Next I attempted to run toward our Duster, and

I spotted two figures on the other side of the road. I paused a second because they were wearing what appeared to be army issue flak jackets. I glanced at Spec. Richard Price who was to my left. He shook his head to indicate they were not ours, so we took aim and let loose with our M16s. I got up and started running toward our Duster. I reached the center of the road with small arms fire landing all around me. I dove to the ground and returned fire. We had effectively stopped those intruders from entering but multiple others were fast approaching and our Duster was between us and the enemy. There was a standoff. We stopped their progress but we couldn't advance either. I was told some years later that in the corner in which we were penetrated there was an unmanned foxhole.

The NVA, with a superior force both in numbers and weaponry, fired every weapon at their disposal, even directing artillery fire upon us. I sought cover behind an empty 50-gallon drum and continued exchanging gunfire with my M16. The rest of the squad was able to get behind a sandbag wall, a more defensible position. I heard someone yell out for me to get back because I was exposed to enemy fire power. He shouted that when we return fire I was to move. When the firing started, I maneuvered through the shooting to rejoin the squad. Within seconds of jumping behind the sandbags, I heard a loud explosion from the other end of the hooch, and then a voice shouting for help. I immediately entered the interior of our hooch which had been heavily damaged. I moved slowly through the dark and rubble where I found Pvt. Paul Ruhl. He was lying against some debris with what appeared to be a shrapnel wound to his chest. To relieve the tension, I reassured him that I was there to help. I ripped open the front of his uniform to give him some relief and I noticed a piece of scrap metal about the size of a silver dollar burned into his chest. At this point I was operating on pure adrenaline rush, which drove me through the rest of the night.

PFC Dennis Murphy entered the area and reported that he heard someone in the next bunker shouting for help. Without hesitation, I grabbed my M16, ran past Murphy, and told him to keep an eye on Ruhl. Then I passed through the entrance and never stopped until I reached the next bunker. At first glance of the bunker, I didn't know what to think. It was completely collapsed. How could anyone have survived? I knew where the entrance to the bunker should have been, so I went to that area and heard a voice. I cleared debris from the entrance, reached in, grabbed hold of someone, and pulled him out. Taking him by his shoulders, I started back to my hooch while keeping low to avoid the intense heavy explosions and gunfire.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a shadow between us and the wire. I stopped and wrapped my body around the wounded man and closed my eyes. We waited for what seemed like a lifetime, but when nothing happened, we moved on.

When I reached my hooch, I laid him down and made him as comfortable as possible. I realized then that his legs were missing from just above his knees. He was not bleeding much and the wounds appeared to have cauterized themselves. He was conscious and seemed relaxed. I calmly asked if there was something he needed, and he asked for a cigarette. PFC Murphy provided one. I gently told him I was going for help and that I would be right back.

I got up and walked to the entrance. It was very dark. All I could see and hear was heavy weapon fire and explosions everywhere—and I mean *everywhere*. A look toward the bunker line showed that they were taking heavy damage.

These two soldiers and all of the wounded needed swift medical attention. I had only arrived at Oasis one month prior. I knew where the field office was, but had only been there during the day. Swift action needed to be taken, so without hesitation, I made my way towards where I recalled the field office was located.

The enemy was pounding us with everything they had, but I made it. Outside, there was a captain and a sergeant that had just killed two sappers who had tried to breach the Command Center. I needed the medic and informed the captain, but he replied, “The medic is dead.”

I recall that it seemed to me that both the captain and the sergeant were visibly shaken. If the two enemy combatants had cut our communication, the site was considered overrun. The base would be destroyed along with everyone in it. I told the captain that the bunker line had taken a heavy hit and that there were numerous casualties. He asked what portion and I said, “There is no bunker line anymore.” He paused, as if in disbelief, then turned to the sergeant and told him to get two men and a stretcher to assist me.

We were told to bring the wounded to a staging area for helicopter evacuation. For the rest of the night, while amidst the constant explosions and continual sightings of shadowy figures moving about, we retrieved the wounded and the dead. It was a gruesome and heartbreaking duty going to the bunkers, assessing, retrieving the wounded, and leaving the dead until later.

During the evacuation, it was still dark so we assisted the landing of the helicopters. Each time a helicopter would come in, we formed a circle big enough for them to land, as we

stood with our arms outstretched in the air holding flares. After the wounded were evacuated, we gathered the dead.



The next morning, BCO Captain F. Gordon Zophy and Master Sergeant Resse Worlds arrived by jeep. After they were given a report from our base Captain and our squad leaders, I was asked to report. I was winding down; I was tired and the night seemed like a blur. I gave them a report as best I could, which wasn't much. To this day, I know what I did and what went on, but back then it seemed so surreal. The battle lasted five hours. Despite the enemy's superior forces and weaponry and completely overrunning our compound, we held our ground. NVA losses were sizeable.

As for the rest of the squad, I can't recall what happened with them since I didn't meet up with them until dawn and everything had calmed down.

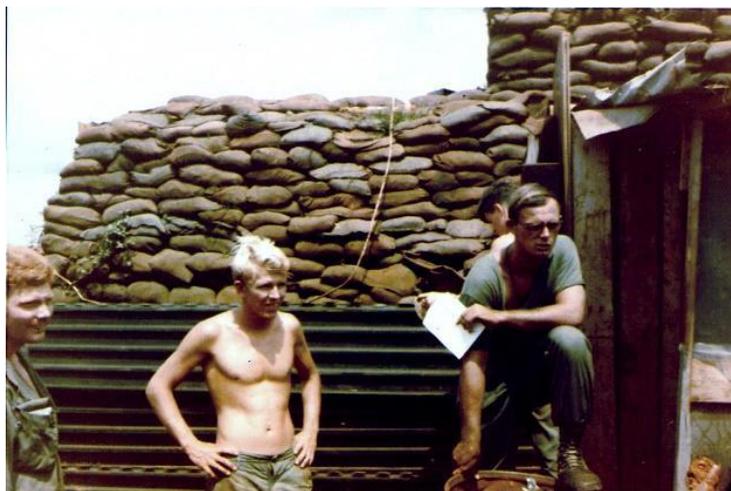
Captain Zophy and Sergeant Worlds both told me that I would be recommended for the Silver Star. Even though I didn't receive an award, I received something that a medal could never match. I knew in my heart that I had been able to save several lives. I was personally thanked for saving the lives of their friends by every C/6/14th personnel that I ran into or who sought me out. I can't pin that memory on my chest, but I proudly wear it on my heart.

There was a question asked by a general that still bothers me to this day. The morning after, the general flew over Oasis and wanted the body count. I didn't understand, but someone explained that he wanted to know the number of enemy killed. I asked, “What about ours?” He just shrugged his shoulders. It made me feel that our lives didn't matter. Our deaths didn't even rate a number count.

Looking over the pictures I never realized the extent of the damage that was inflicted upon the base. It's a miracle that I survived the battle as we rapidly moved about the base. To this day, I'm still haunted by flashing shadows.

There was a detailed map of all the building locations found on one of the dead NVA. They found the locations by following the footsteps that someone paced off during the day. They were marked off according to priority.

Ron Almon went to NCOCS class at Fort Bliss with SSG Larry Yarger and SGT. Robert Byrne at the time he was stationed at LZ Blackhawk. Ron wrote a letter and the following is what he had to say about the battle for Oasis.



PFC Murphy, Sgt. Byrne, SSG Yarger

“I was stationed at LZ Blackhawk that day and was listening to the radio as the battle started and continued thru the event. I could see gunships working in the area from Blackhawk. There was a constant stream of tracers that filled the sky. It was a moonless night as you wrote about. I can also verify the devastation that occurred that night. Late that night or very early the next morning I received a radio message from Capt. Zophy ordering me to get to Artillery Hill the first thing in the morning. Having no idea what this was about, I caught the first chopper out of Blackhawk and as soon as I arrived on Artillery Hill was greeted by Capt. Zophy and was told he wanted me to drive him and Sergeant Major Worlds to Oasis. We rode in a convoy to Oasis where, upon arrival, we immediately went to both Duster placements to survey the damage and check on all the crew members. I remember standing next to one of the artillery bunkers and saw a dog run into the bunker and in a couple of minutes it came out with part of a human leg or foot. I knew then the horrors that you all went through that night. I will never forget the events that took place that day.”

A few years ago, at our annual reunion, I met a man who served with the two Quad 50s who had taken over our squad’s perimeter duty after our departure from LZ Oasis. He came over and vigorously shook my hand. He said that up until that point he always thought that there had been no survivors from our squad because of the unbelievable devastation his crew saw.

At our reunion in Nashville, E6 Larry Yeager (Shake) was attending for the first time. Larry was our Platoon Leader, but we didn’t serve together long and didn’t know each other that well. While talking about Oasis, I began telling about assisting an artillery soldier from C/6/14 (the soldier with the missing legs—who I have thought about every day since then). Before I could continue, Larry mentioned that he heard a story about a Duster soldier who went to the aid of an artillery soldier while he was wounded. Larry didn’t know it was me until I related my story and the two stories matched!

That night, I was able to aid many soldiers, but rescuing that one soldier was much more personal. I interacted with him more and, as mentioned above, I’ve thought about him daily, doubting but wondering if he could have survived with the extent of his wounds. Yeager informed me that not only had he survived, but that he is married and has three children.

There hasn’t been a day that I haven’t thought about this soldier, and it often brings me to tears. I wounded, maimed and killed many North Vietnam Army soldiers while servicing in Vietnam and I find myself questioning whether I was justified. I have been seeking closure for what I did in Vietnam knowing that it was my job to do whatever possible to defend the lives of the soldiers under our protection. If I could meet with him, maybe this would bring about the closure that I seek.

NOTE: Within a few months, Dan Ross would be at the center of another important battle at Phu Nhon and the last great Duster battle of the Vietnam War.

Click here [\[Oasis\]](#) to see the story with more photos.

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“PERSONALS”

Leroy Greene: C-4/60th Hi I am looking for anyone that may remember me from Vietnam in 1967, we arrived they in late Feb or early March at PHU CAT Airbase. Please contact me if you served in Vietnam during that time frame. Our commander was Capt Leroy M. Metz. Leroy Greene, 1200 E. Algonquin Road, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 Tel 847 700 2044

leroy.greene@united.com Never blame a day in your life, Good day s gives “Happiness.”, Bad days give “Experience”

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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.