

NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER # 3 – DECEMBER 2018

2019 NDQSA 37th ANNUAL REUNION MOBILE, ALABAMA Dates: May 14-18, 2019

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Brothers and Sisters



I want to wish everyone in the NDQSA a happy, sober and safe Holiday season.

We have made a decision on the Hotel for the Mobile reunion. Bruce Geiger and Bob Lauver have done their usual fine job in that matter. The dates will be May 14-18th 2019.

We are thankful for Dave McCray taking on the role of heading the Project Eagle repair and we are still waiting for more info from the monuments person in OK before we go ahead with the repair.

Robert "Bob" Cuce
President NDQSA

FEATURED STORIES:

Board Meeting Minutes
Long Lost Friends
Paradise Lost

NEW MEMBERS/CONTACTS

Larry Miller, G-29, '67 WV
Doyle Vance, 4/60-C '68-69, MO
Charles Catillo, B-29 NJ
Earl Fokken, 6/56-H '66-67
Ron Gibson 6/56-A

If the name is blue or 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!!

MEMBERS THAT HAVE PASSED

Gilbert Friend Jr., 1/44-C '66-67, MD
Gary Stucky, 4/60-C '68, May2010
Wells Whited, 5/2-B '66-67, July2010 OH
Clarence Mayo, 5/2-D, '66-67, 11Feb15, TN
Clarence Meadows Jr., I-29th '67-68 12Aug16, NY
Walter Stayvas, 5/2-C '70-71, 21Jul17, NJ
Jimmie Beltz, 1/44-C'68-69, 15Nov17, PA
William Kartman, B-29th '66-67, 17May18, CA
Russell Szymanski, 5/2-B '69-70, 21Aug18, IL
Charles Dattilo, Jr., 5/2-D '66-67, 28Oct18, IL
Kenneth Weimer, 4/60-B '70-71, 30Oct18, KS

They will be missed and we give honor to their service, their lives and their families. Use the above hyperlinks for more information and links to obituaries.



MRS. LYNETT CLARK, 2NOV18, LA

Obituary for Lynette Claire Himel Clark

A graveside service for Lynette Claire Himel Clark was held at 2:00 pm. on Friday, November 9, 2018, at the Central Louisiana Veterans' Cemetery, 3348 University Pkwy, Leesville, LA 71459 under the direction of Jeanne's Funeral Service.

Mrs. Clark was born on August 14, 1934 in Franklin, LA and passed away on November 1, 2018, in Houston, TX at the age of 84 surrounded by her family. She lived life to the fullest. Her outgoing personality ensured that she never met a stranger. It was also one of the many qualities that helped her become an outstanding military spouse as she supported her husband, Luke, while he served in the Army. No matter where the Army sent them, Mrs. Clark created a loving home for her family and one where friends were always welcome. She was an active member of the Leesville Garden Club where she served as secretary, the Officer's Wives Club, and served as a Den Mother for the Cub Scouts. Most of all, she loved her family and supported her children throughout countless hours at sporting events and band concerts, marching competitions, and music performances. Once her granddaughters arrived, they became the lights of her life.

Mrs. Clark was preceded in death by her parents Milburn David Himel and Jeanette Marie Himel, son John David Clark, and brothers Nicholas Charles Himel and Mark Himel.

Left to cherish her memories of her are her husband of 66 years Luke Clark. Son: Douglas Matthew Clark and wife Carrie, daughters Kaysie and Kaitlyn all of Liberty, MO. Daughters: Carrie Ann Hitt and husband James, daughter Jennifer all of Houston, TX and Rose Sharon Arnold and husband Jeffery, daughters Karissa and Taylor all of Centerton, AR. Sister: Judy Stone of Jacksonville, FL Brothers: Timothy Himel and wife Linda of Ragley, LA and David Michael Himel and husband Tim Theriault of Orlando FL.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the MD Anderson Sarcoma Cancer Center.

NDQSA was represented by President Bob Cuce, he reports: I attended the grave site service at a small VA cemetery in Leesville near FT POLK.

It was a very moving and emotional service that was well attended by Lynette's family friends and neighbors.

I was moved by the fact that in attendance were the very young to the very old which speaks well of ones life that so many were touched by her of many ages.

I also visited with Luke most of the next day and Luke is in good spirits and has strong support from his family, he will be just fine. Lynette was on the last Gold Star trip and very instrumental in making the eagle statue available for the NDQSA memorial at Ft. Sill, OK.

DO YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS?

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 dqshistorian@cox.net, 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.

**** BOARD MEMBERS WANTED ****

It is time for some new blood. Next year we will be voting on the six boardmember positions that comprise the 11-man executive board that manages this association. Nominations are open (and you can nominate yourself) for one of these two-year positions. If you are interested in joining the management team and bringing your skills to the group, contact Paul Kopsick via phone (202) 262-9560 or [email](#) to record your nomination. If you expressed interest at the reunion, please make your nomination formal at this time.

NOTE: If you previously contacted Paul, please do it again to confirm your intentions (he forgot to write down all the name!).

Catching up on Board Meeting Minutes

Minutes of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meeting June 6, 2018

President: John Huelsenbeck
1st Vice President: Bob Cuce
2nd Vice President and Historian: Paul Kopsick
Secretary: Garry Severin
Treasurer: Allan Penwell unavailable
Immediate Past President: Paul Hanson
Director: Joseph Belardo
Director: Bob Lauver
Director: Bruce Geiger
Director: George Nagelschmidt
Director: Duane Gettler
Director: Alphonse Martin unavailable
Director: James Smith
St. Barbara , M.P. Comm. Vince Tedesco
unavailable
Assistant Secretary Dave Mc Cray

Reports of Officers:

President, John Huelsenbeck; the Board meeting started with The Pledge of Allegiance. John spoke on the health problems both Luke and Lynette Clark are going through.

First Vice President, Bob Cuce: Bob spoke on his Gun Club's fund-raising efforts and 50-50 raffle's, their receipts will be turned over to the local Fisher House.

Second Vice-President, Paul Kopsick: No report

Secretary, Garry Severin: Requested a vote to accept the meeting minutes from the May 15, 2018 Board Meeting, A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Joe Belardo and Seconded by Duane Gettler and no dissention was noted.

Treasurer, Allan Penwell – Was not available for this year's reunion but sent in the Financial Report which was read by Bruce Geiger.

Next are discussions to *Standing Committee Reports* (note they are not necessarily in order of discussion):

Paul Kopsick reminded the Board that a venue for the 2019 reunion needed to be decided upon, the mid-south or southeast, Mobile, Pensacola, or possibly Savannah Ga. were proposed. And Diego Calif. Was mentioned but summer costs would be out of line for the membership, this could only be feasible in the fall, when motel costs are more reasonable

Heritage Committee: No report

Membership Committee (Joe Belardo, Paul Kopsick):
No report

Nominating Committee (Paul Hanson, Bob Cuce, and Garry Severin, Paul Kopsick): No report

Legislative Committee (Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver): No report

Good Works Committee (Sam Hopkins, Bob Cuce & Bruce Geiger): This year's donation which normally goes to a local Fisher House may be diverted to help defray the Monument repair costs.

Publications/Historian Committee (Paul Kopsick): The question of getting the History book reprinted was brought up and the Board will give this to the membership to decide. Paul Kopsick has already contacted Turner (the original printer), He will try again as there was no response to his first inquiry. This would be a short run only.

Reunion Committee (Bob Lauver, Bruce Geiger, Mary Severin, Paul Hanson): Bob Lauver spoke on the need for bus monitors that will be the same both days, which he promptly got and also a crew to disassemble our memorial and move it for our presentation. Bob will also handle the tip money for the bus drivers as they will be the same for both days Bob also presented the timetable for all trips and we will be providing handicap accessible busses so that anyone that wants to go will be able to go.

Products Committee (Duane & Mary Gettler, Bruce Geiger, Paul Kopsick & Bob Lauver): Duane Gettler presented the new shirts, which were accepted by the board, these will only come in two colors, black and grey Duane also proposed a new jacket with only the three weapon system's embroidered on back and the NDQSA logo on the front, no custom embroidery will

be available. Joe Belardo will also check on jacket vendors near his home to get a price for this item. The Secretary also proposed that the Gettlers handle all jacket orders, starting with a form for jackets only to avoid any order mix ups.

Website Committee (Bob Lauver, Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger); No report

St. Barbara & Molly Pitcher Committee (Vince Tedesco, John Huelsenbeck & Suzanne Tedesco); No report

Special Projects – Restoration Notes – Other; No report

Next Board of Directors Meeting; A BOD meeting date and time has not been set, Incoming Presidents prerogative.

A motion to close the meeting was made by Bob Lauver and seconded by Duane Gettler

Minutes of NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers Meeting

October 17, 2018

Members Present

President: Bob Cuce

1st Vice President: & Historian Paul Kopsick
unavailable

2nd Vice President Dave McCray

Secretary: Garry Severin

Treasurer: Allan Penwell unavailable

Immediate Past President: John Huelsenbeck

Director: Joseph Belardo

Director: Bob Lauver

Director: Bruce Geiger

Director: George Nagelschmidt

Director: Duane Gettler

Director: Alphonse Martin

Director: James Smith

St. Barbara, M.P. Comm. Vince Tedesco
unavailable

Advisor: Paul Hanson

Reports of Officers:

President, Bob Cuce: Bob suggested that the Good Works funds be diverted to the Eagle repair project.

First Vice President, Paul Kopsick Unavailable
Second Vice-President, Dave McCray: Dave stated that he has been in contact with, Gragg Monuments concerning his evaluation of the repair procedures to the base of our monument at FT. Sill OK. The evaluation to repair the base of the monument would involve sealing the monument base and covering it with granite plates, which would cover the cracks in the base. Removing the Eagle from the monument is not recommended as it would most likely cause damage to the Eagle. The plates involved in the repair would not cover any of the engraving. The cost for this endeavor would be much less than the twelve to fifteen thousand dollar quote we previously had received. The idea of consulting with the Army Corps of Engineers didn't work out as they were not involved in the original project, they don't want the responsibility or liabilities involved. Bob Lauver suggested that any further decision on this project be tabled until the Board receives a more complete report on the repair process. The Board agreed. Dave McCray will now place fresh flowers at the monument on Memorial Day and Veterans Day instead of plastic flowers, thus eliminating a second trip to remove the plastic flowers.

Secretary, Garry Severin: Requested a vote to accept the meeting minutes from the June 06, 2018 Board Meeting, A motion to accept the minutes as written was made by Dave McCray and Seconded by George Nagelschmidt and no dissention was noted.

Treasurer, Allan Penwell: Was not available for this meeting but sent in the third quarter Financial Report. A question on the costs

involved in printing and mailing of the newsletter was raised by George Nagelschmidt, Bruce Geiger answered the question, breaking down the costs involved. Also noted was the loss in revenue compared to the 2017 reunion. It was stated that a loss was expected because of the entertainment costs. A Motion was made by Joe Belardo to accept as written the financial report and was seconded by Dave McCray there was no dissention and the motion passed
Next are discussions to *Standing Committee Reports* (note they are not necessarily in order of discussion):

NOTE: In Celebration of Veterans day Bruce Geiger, Bob Cuce, Paul Kopsick, Alphonse Martin will lay a wreath at The Wall.

Heritage Committee: No report

Membership Committee (Joe Belardo, Paul Kopsick): No report

Nominating Committee (John Huelsenbeck, Garry Severin, Bob Cuce) and Paul Hanson as possible Alternate: No report

Legislative Committee (Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver): No report

Good Works Committee (Sam Hopkins, Bob Cuce & Bruce Geiger): Bob Cuce stated that he is working with an associate at his school to design a t-shirt logo for next year's reunion.

Publications/Historian Committee (Paul Kopsick): No report

Reunion Committee (Bob Lauver, Bruce Geiger, Mary Severin, Paul Hanson): Bruce Geiger and Bob Lauver have been in contact with hotel's that meet our criteria as of this date no final decision has been made.

Products Committee (Duane & Mary Gettler, Bruce Geiger, Paul Kopsick & Bob Lauver): No report

Website Committee (Bob Lauver, Paul Kopsick, Allan Penwell, Bob Cuce, Bruce Geiger): No report

St. Barbara & Molly Pitcher Committee (Vince Tedesco, John Huelsenbeck & Suzanne Tedesco): A question was raised as to whom recommendations for these awards should be addressed to. Vince and Suzanne Tedesco are the members that serve our unit, address your recommendations to them.
(vintedesco@me.com)

Special Projects – Restoration Notes – Other:
No report

Next Board of Directors Meeting: A BOD meeting date and time has not been set, Incoming Presidents prerogative.

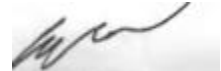
A motion to close the meeting was made by Dave McCray and seconded by Duane Alphonse Martin

Minutes compiled by



Garry Severin
Secretary, NDQSA

Minutes approved by



Bob Cuce
President, NDQSA

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Check out this video of two Dusters in action during the battles near Hue in 1968. Duster 12H330. Do you recognize anyone from 1/44th? Actual field firing!
Wow!

<https://www.facebook.com/realwarhistory/videos/2171933493131200/?t=14>

VETERAN'S DAY 11NOV18

NDQSA continued our long tradition, started by Joe Belardo in 1992, of presenting a wreath in honor of the ADA units that served in Vietnam on Veteran's Day at The Wall.



Presenters this year included: Joe Belardo, Bruce Geiger, Al Hansen, Paul Peters, Rick Liebendorfer and Dee Stayvas in honor of her late husband Walter Stayvas (C-5/2) who passed following his battle with cancer in 2017.



During the evening vigil the night before, members of our group along with good friend Ms Dibby Clark (ARC Donut Dolly) and Khe Sanh Marine vet Michael Corcoran.



At Ft. Sill, OK, NDQSA was represented by Richard Russell, Pat McLaughlin and Dave McCray for a similar wreath laying at the NDQSA Air Defense Artillery Memorial (Project Eagle).



VIETNAM WAR RELIC ... OR NOT?

I never know what ADA artifacts I will find when on eBay. Over the years I have bought photos, pins, patches, 40mm rounds and other ephemera. My last find is an actual M42 data plate, reportedly from a duster destroyed in battle in Vietnam. Now getting a true Vietnam era artifact from an ADA weapon is rare. Guys have brought home presentation rounds, head-space and timing gauges, tools, kill flags awarded to their tracks and captured enemy items. But an actual piece of a duster or quad, that would be cool. Way cool!

The story goes that it was originally the property of a duster vet and it shows 'shrapnel damage', inferring the duster was destroyed and this part salvaged as a memento. Unfortunately after I bought the item, the seller was not the original owner and the story could not be backed up with any information on whom the family member (since deceased) was. So I have no information on which of the three Duster Battalions he was with or when he served. Then there is the condition of the data plate itself. While it definitely shows severe damage, it is curious

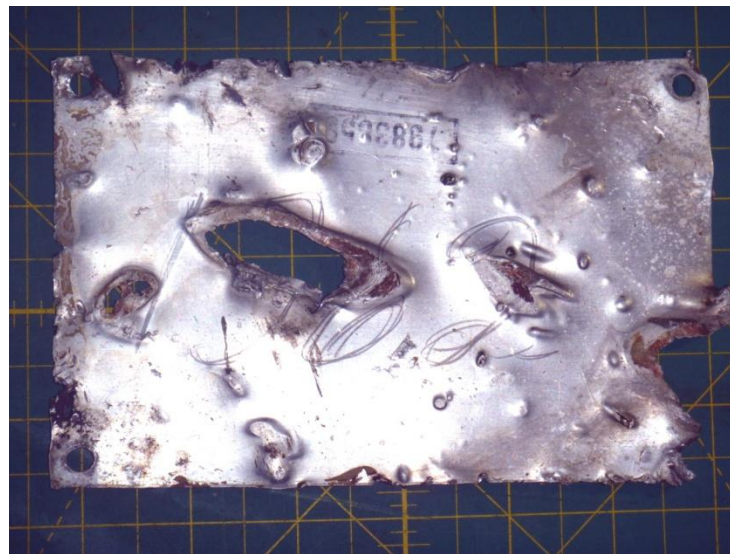
that it does not show any discoloration from smoke or fire. It is really clean, other than the physical damage. So I really do not know what I got here.



The date of manufacture of this M42 from the Cadillac Motor Car Division is (8-56) or August 1956 and the serial number is 2073. Curiously on the back of the plate hand written in pencil is

"1962". This would have to have been on the

plate when it was originally installed in 1956 so what this number represents is not clear. Another number on the back reads "7893859". One more curious marking is on the lower right hand corner. The letters "A" and "S" are followed by



a specific metal stamp similar to the eagle shield of the president of the US. This one has three arrows and three stars. Ideas anyone?



D-
/ /19 # \$
Q- S- E- P

Mailing Label ->

Cut out and tape
to envelope

NDQSA
PO Box 890130
Oklahoma City, OK 73189

2019 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 NDQSA 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 (2019) (2020) (2021) (2022)

DUES ARE \$25 PER YEAR \$ _____

Donations: Quad 50 restoration \$ _____

Searchlight restoration \$ _____

Searchlight Print (\$60 min) \$ _____

Operation Eagle Repair \$ _____

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)

Size: ____ # ____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

NDQSA Polo Shirt (black)(tan)

Size: ____ # ____ @ \$30 = \$ _____

(regular) (tall)

No more jackets being produced

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 2019



Logo Patch \$5



Logo Decal \$5



NDQSA Challenge Coin \$12 @
NDQSA Pin Set \$8 @



Lucite Coin \$25 50-cal bottle opener \$14



NDQSA Cap \$15 Made in the USA



New Products Size Chart Subject to stock on hand

Give 1st & 2nd choice on color

T-shirt: Medium
Black Large
Gray XL
XXL (Tall)
\$15 XXXL (Tall)
XXXXL

Mens Polo: Small
Black Medium
Tan Large
XL
\$30 XXL (Tall)
XXXL (Tall)
XXXXL
XL Tall
XXL Tall



Searchlight 50 Print (\$60 min)

Quad .50 print Sold Out



Brickmania Lego kits are sold out pending orders already received.



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

PARADISE LOST - 8NOV18



The following is a series of Facebook post between me and Lynn Wood (E-41st Quads '70-71). Edited for content and context.

20Nov18: Lynn Wood responds on Facebook to a posting about housing for veterans.

He indicates that he has been living in Paradise CA for several years. I contacted him and asked:

Hello Lynn, I was wondering if any of our members were affected by the wildfires in California. I am glad you are safe. Please let me (us) know if we can help you out. Is your house gone? My records last show you living in Minnesota. What's up?

Oh I moved there some four years ago to help out my sister and found the climate good for my lungs; I have not caught pneumonia since being here. The house I lived in was the house of my nephew where I had a room.

The following is a relative timeline of events and postings by Lynn Wood.



As I set out the garbage (~7:00 AM 8Nov18) I spotted the small plume of smoke to the east. Less than two hours later, I was driving for my

life through a fire storm on Skyway road! It is 2:15 AM 9 November 2018 and I am parked in a rest stop on I-5 trying to nap sitting in my compact car. I am in shock fleeing the fire, cold, stiff, sore, smoky, confused, grateful, sad and despondent, knowing some did not survive. Each phone call on a dying cell charge brings news of friends that made it and those that did not.

Having to depart Paradise California I am now typing from Chico, CA. I do not yet know if all my neighbors got out. The most frightening set of circumstances I have ever encountered in my life. Take care all. Everything you have can truly be gone in an instant.

The fire was so hot in some places that it incinerated all fuel, the fire formed many vertical vortexes.

I escaped unhurt, there was no time.

Everything has been incinerated. My nephew and his family and all four legged pets are safe. 90 to 95% of the town of Paradise is simply gone, consumed in fire vortices in less than three hours. There are many other associated hamlets, villages and unincorporated towns completely burned out, more than half of Magalia. People often had to flee with no chance to even grab their "bug out" "emergency" or "pain" bags.

Hundreds if not thousands of professional firefighters are in the canyons and draws in a desperate effort to keep the fire down.

While in line at the FEMA disaster assistance site in Chico I hear heart rending tales. Tent cities, thousands not yet under solid roofs. The local communities, citizens, churches, fraternal organizations, national aid organizations, government entities, all are working hard, yet the fire still burns.

11Nov18: Not the way I thought I would observing the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day (Veterans Day) as a homeless refugee in my own country, but in a way, just as solemn. So many lives lost.

The news is ghastly and heartbreaking.

Those canyons and draws will become incinerating kilns later this evening when the winds come up to 30 to 50 mph tonight. Tonight will see wind direction align with the axes of the canyons and draws and so directed toward Chico and Oroville.

Cal Fire is concerned that the fire will escape and run to Sacramento, which may be what it takes to cause the State government to deal with the mismanagement of forest lands and natural resources of the state.

The grim search of the now declared crime scene continues, law enforcement, forensic search teams, trained amateurs, military resources, sifting the ashes of the area searching for any fragment of a human being that may have survived the often literally incinerating fire. Sometimes only teeth of a person are left. There is legitimate fear that a person who had no teeth, who had dentures, may have left no evidence of their existence. The intensity of the fire was so great.

Update: 11Dec18 - Status report

Me, well, I am just highly inconvenienced. Others are in much more dire straits left with only the clothes on their backs, no job, no place to go back to, sometimes not even a vehicle to drive and responsible for other people dependent upon them. Me, because I am retired, my income arrives every month (knock on wood) and not responsible for minor children or dependent adults. All my relatives here escaped without physical injury and are covered by some level of insurance, meaning they will

have something to work with. But so many have been left with nothing.

People and organizations from all over the nation have come here to help, some have dug in for the long haul, but the immediate shock has dissipated, the long and often forlorn drudge work is left.

What hurts most for many is the loss of the community. It is all gone.

I am out of my possessions, my woodworking tools, my hobbies, my living quarters where I could leave the window and door open year round, the fresh air, pure water, clean and fresh food and produce of California's great orchards and farms. I just never thought of insurance.

Well for me, it is back to the Midwest, to icebox Minnesota. It is not that I am not welcome here, but there is no place here, some 40,000 people were made homeless instantly and that is cascading into further disruption of intact communities. The rebuilding process will take years, a minimum of two, more likely four at least to just actually start.

So, this is the conclusion of another phase of my life. I hope that in some years hence I can return to here, the climate is much more agreeable to my physical health.

Meanwhile, the never ending job of listing an inventory of what was lost from my nephew's household. I plan to fly away from here back to Minneapolis - St Paul just after Christmas.

My great great grandfather, my mother's paternal grandfather survived the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. He went on to be a Methodist minister, serving briefly in Pecos, Texas, amongst many other spots across the Southwest, retiring to downstate Illinois.

"The Camp Fire was truly the most horrifying event I have been in." Take Care, Lynn.

FRIENDS LEFT BEHIND...

My name is Jesse Gump. I served in Vietnam from Dec. 1967 until Feb. 1969. For 12 of those months I was assigned to the Korean 9th ROK Infantry for field illumination and border security as a searchlight operator with B-29th Arty.



Immediately after my electronics training in Pittsburgh, PA., I was hired by Honeywell EDP, trained as a computer technician. I only had four months direct experience before I was drafted. I figured with my training I would end up in a computer room at best or the signal corps at worst. I was wrong! At the end of basic, they offered me a chance to go to OCS if I extended my tour of duty to 3 years. I declined. I wanted to do my tour of duty and go back to my career. They sent me to Ft. Polk, Louisiana for Advanced Infantry training (11 Bravo). At some point, I don't remember when, an officer asked if I would like to be cross-trained on the M40 106 recoilless rifle. I had no idea of what that was and he asked if I wanted to ride in jeep or walk with the rest of the grunts. It was an easy decision; I would rather ride in a jeep. That training changed my MOS from 11B to something else, even though I left AIT wearing a blue shoulder braid.

When I arrived in Vietnam, they didn't seem to know what to do with me. I spent a couple of weeks near Saigon, filling sandbags, then I was transferred to Cam Ranh for a week or so, then to Qui Nhon for a week or more, and then to Tuy Hoa where I stayed for a little over a week. I had been attached to Bravo Battery 29th Artillery, a searchlight unit. At Tuy Hoa, I was told I would be assigned to the Korean 9th ROK infantry (White Horse Battalion) operating out of a small town called Ninh Hoa to run a searchlight to provide perimeter security and field illumination - and I would get to be in a jeep. I ended up in a compound with about 20 other Americans from the Army, Marines, Navy, and Air Force who were coordinating fire-power between us and the Koreans.

My welcome to Ninh Hoa was the Tet offensive in 1968. They NVA were aiming at the TOC (tactical operation center) right above our quarters. It was a less than fun welcome.

I worked nights (obviously). When I had a second man to help, I did get a few days off every week. It's not easy to adjust from a day person to a night owl in a short period of time. Between that and the heat and humidity, I didn't sleep much during my tour. The Koreans did allow local Vietnamese to come on base to take care of things like laundry and general clean-up. Because of my day/night schedule, I became friends with a couple of the workers

who came onto the Korean base in Ninh Hoa to do chores like doing laundry and general cleanup. I had always wondered what had become of my friends and thought to one day return to Ninh Hoa to see if they survived the war and aftermath.



Fast forward about 50 years, I went back to Vietnam in the spring of 2013 to Ninh Hoa to see if the old Korean base still existed in any form and if any of the local Vietnamese people I knew survived the war. To make a long story short, I spent a couple of days in Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) before traveling to Nha Trang, which is the nearest town to Ninh Hoa. We hired a driver to take us to Ninh Hoa. The base was totally gone

but remarkably, it took us less than an hour to locate where my old friend Ba lived. The flier I had printed with pictures of my friends was invaluable in our search.

I wasn't sure what to expect when we arrived at her house. I told my wife and grandson stay near the car



while my driver and I walked up to the front door and knocked. When the door opened, I knew immediately it was my old friend Ba. Apparently Ba recognized me, too. She looked like she had just seen a ghost. It took her a moment to recover from the shock. She spoke briefly with my driver then went back inside her house. A minute later, she returned with a man. My driver said the man was Ba's husband. Her husband proceeded to use a small machete to open fresh coconuts and pour the juice into cups, which

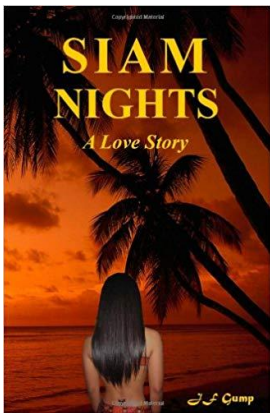
were served to us.



I showed Ba the flier I had with me and asked about her coworker, Tai. Ba spoke to the driver and he left in his car and quickly located and brought Tai to us. I was shocked to find them both, and they were more shocked to see me after all those years. It was an experience I will never forget. I was so happy to know they had survived.

I was surprised that my friends remembered me after all the years that had passed. Our reunion was awkward because of the dreaded language barrier, but it was an experience I will never forget. For a couple of hours, my old friends and my family were the most popular item in the small village. There was a continuous stream of locals passing by the house to get a peek at the foreigners. It was all good.

I highly recommend looking for any old friends you may have known in Vietnam. I had only been able to contact only one of my former searchlight partners, and he died of lung cancer a few years back.



By the way, years later I worked in Thailand during a steel mill construction project. I have written three novels on my Thailand adventures which you might find interesting. “Even Thai Girls Cry” (aka: Siam Nights) is probably the best. It’s available in print and as an E-book (“Siam Nights” as a paperback in the

US). I write under the name of J.F. Gump. Please buy a copy so I can make one more visit to SE Asia before I die. Thanks. I can be contacted at jesse45039@yahoo.com.

I LET MYSELF REMEMBER!

I just finished reading the last “NDQSA” newsletter and this is the first time I’ve seen anything about the ADA HAWKS in the many you’ve sent. Since serving in Vietnam and being discharged after two tours in the Army, this was the first time *I let myself remember*.

Just for the record, after reading about the Vet who almost left the 2018 reunion, I thought I might mention some facts about being a Vietnam Vet that I learned. But surely not every Vet has these problems.

Originally I planned to retire from the service as my father did. As a Nam-vet, many of us were looked down on by the senior officers. They called us names and said we all were insubordinate drug addicts. One even mentioned the likes of Lt. Calley and most reminded me that we lost that war. Even once I left the Army I heard the same from the old soldiers in the VFW and American Legion.

Sure most of us kept our history in the past. I lost two Nam-Vet friends who decided that ‘suicide by cop’ was their only choice. Two others died from cancer and Agent Orange problems.

I survived Tet ‘68 while in Long Binh and all the other chores the Army gave us. We went on ammo convoys and served guard duty in strange outposts hidden in the jungle. We never got a CIB or even a thank you.

I have tried to remember the names of some of those who I served my first tour with (6/56th ADA) but I cannot remember any from my second tour. We came into Nam, one-at-a-time and left the same way.

Anyway, I had to vent a bit and I apologize. You are appreciated and I want to thank you. Please write more about the HAWKS and other ADA units like the Red-Eye and “trash can on a tripod”. Again I apologize.

Thanks

Michael L Cooper, 6/56th HAWKS 1967-68

TANK FARM OPEN HOUSE SEPTEMBER 22-23, 2018

Our good friends at the Virginia Museum of Military Vehicles and Allan Cors of the Americans in Wartime Museum ([NMAW](#)) had their 2018 "Open House" in Nokesville, VA near the Quantico Marine Base.



There is a lot of work that goes into getting the grounds and equipment into shape for the annual two-day public event. A lot of volunteers and retired veterans just know to show up days before (weather permitting) to do whatever is needed. From mowing the fields (my typical job) to setting up fencing and signage to moving and staging the 50+ vehicles from the storage areas to positions in the open fields. It is an awesome logistical feat and most guys know what to do without even having to ask Marc for instructions.

This year was going to be problematic. The weather was going to be a big concern. The fields need to be dry(ish) to be able to mow the grass and for the hundreds of personal vehicles to be able to park. The tanks can traverse the fields okay, but you can't have them tear up the ground with their tracks.

Weather forecasts had concluded that it was going to be clear on Saturday but it would rain all day Sunday. The decision was made that 'the show would go on. The vehicles were staged, the vendors and re-enactors set up and the

volunteers made it all work...at least for one day...Saturday. Actually Saturday was beautiful day weather wise. The crowds came, the programs were run and it was great!



NDQSA set up our display next to and on the surviving M42A1 duster in the collection. Marc indicated that the 'second' Duster in the collection was sold to a big tank museum in Montana. They kept the one that has confirmed attribution to being used at Ft. Bliss with the early training groups (1/44 and 4/60), and it was the one that started up reliably. It would be used as part of the field demonstrations and gave an opportunity for several Duster vets in attendance to go for a ride in the open turret of the Duster. Buster Wise came up from Florida again and Lionel Morales spent days on the train from the west coast to attend the event.



Jim McCoy and two NDQSA vets (sorry forgot names) got to go for a ride around the field to the appreciation of the respectful crowd.



Our good friend Bobby Harrison and his wife drove up from NC with their beautiful M-151 searchlight jeep. This year we were fortunate that we could get the light to operate. It was striking for me to see it in operation like it was used in Vietnam: on the firebase, shining white light into the tree line. I personally never saw a jeep SLT in operation when I was in Nam. We did have a big light at Artillery Hill in Pleiku and I remember it very well when on guard duty.



NDQSA member Jim Kurtz, H-29th (dark shirt) meets with Bobby Harrison (light hat) and Julian Davenport and Cotton Manning of G-29th.



[BRICKMANIA](#) NEWS

David Siskind, the owner of Brickmania and a good friend to NDQSA, brought his crew to the Tank Farm Open House and set up the USS Missouri display and showcased their product line. I took the opportunity to show him and his model developers one more ADA related Lego brick model I was working on. It is of the HAWK missile system. Specifically the various radar units. I did not have the skill to mock up a version of the actual missile launcher or carrier, but that is something they are very good at. I also gave them schematics of an early plastic model to help them try to make a Brickmania version of the system.

I did not get any commitment from them (yet) but I hope they will come up with a Brickmania HAWK kit sometime in 2019. That leaves the Vulcan as the last of the five Vietnam era ADA systems that can be built using Lego bricks. Brickmania has already done an APC and BrickArms has a minigun that can be adapted, so a Brickmania Vulcan is also possible.

I will continue to work with them and when and if they make a general release of these kits, I will be sure to ask them to make a special release for NDQSA members.

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Searchlights Association
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Dusters, Quads, Searchlights, Vulcans & HAWKS
Air Defense Artillery
“First To Fire...Last To Leave”

37th Annual Reunion
Mobile, Alabama
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<http://www.ndqsa.com/>

Issue #3 December 2018

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. (2018 or beyond)

However, if you see the number 0000 or 2018 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.

Current 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 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 is the **only** organization of Vietnam ADA Veterans officially recognized by the Air Defense Artillery Association headquarters in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. As a tribute to the memory of over 200 ADA Warriors who lost their lives during the war in Vietnam, NDQSA members have funded, constructed and dedicated a magnificent monument in the Memorial Park at Ft. Sill.

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.