

NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

NEWSLETTER – January 2025

President's Message – Joe Belardo

Dear NDQSA Members,



I want to thank all of you for voting me as your new president. It will be a very difficult task to follow in the footsteps of my predecessors. Their years of hard work for our association have made NDQSA the most efficient veteran organization in the country. Every officer and board member has selflessly dedicated themselves to our betterment. From just a combat type club, we have evolved into a family type club. Over the years, each battalion has gotten to know each other, their wives, ladies, children and grandchildren. Each year, we look forward to attending our reunion and seeing each other again. I personally want to thank all who attended this year's Operation Welcome Home DC reunion.

I hope all of you had a fantastic time seeing your old or should I say "still young in your eyes" combat brothers and their families. I apologize for not spending time visiting each table and combat unit and chatting for a few minutes.

Hopefully you all enjoyed the bus trips and our banquet and that wonderful young historian and keynote speaker Zach Wood and The Fabulous Hub Cap Band. The visit to The WALL is always moving, especially having John "Tank" Huelsenbeck's daughters Amy and Heather lay our wreaths. We can all thank Bruce Geiger for arranging the seating and wreaths.

As always, I enjoyed being your banquet MC and being the emcee.

I only wish I had more time than a day and a half to see and speak to all of you. Sadly, after working hard arranging this DC reunion, I was only able to attend for a day and a half at our members' business meeting, banquet and visit to The WALL. I want to personally thank Bruce Geiger for all his help in putting this reunion together and taking over in my absence. I also want to thank all my other board members for making DC another very successful reunion. Hope you all had fun.

Bruce Geiger is already working on our 2025 River Walk Reunion in San Antonio, TX, June 4th to 8th.

Hot Links in Your Newsletter

Technology has given us the ability to share information far beyond the capability of print-on-paper media. Your newsletter editorial staff provides the web address used to locate the resource on the internet. If you receive your newsletter through the USPS as a paper copy, the hotlinks are printed but would be hard to type because they are so long. We now provide those URL hot links on the **news page of the NDQSA website**. In the web browser's address bar on your phone or computer type: <https://ndqsa.com/news/> and hit enter. Halfway down the page you will find a link to the digital newsletter and right below are active hot links associated with the various URLs for the paper newsletter readers. Thank you –Newsletter Editor

Can you name this Duster Crew?



Searching for the names of this Duster crew. Please contact NDQSA historian:

josephbelardo@yahoo.com

Reunion 2024 Memories

By Allan Penwell and Richard Burmood

The NDQSA 41st annual reunion, “Operation Welcome Home,” was held in Washington DC November 8th–12th, 2024. We all may have gotten older and slower, but we still see each other through the eyes of young men. Enjoy these memories, and hopefully those who missed the reunion this year will be reminded of how much fun this family has when they are together and signup for 2025 reunion in San Antonio.



Above: Group photo taken in the lobby of the National Museum of the United States Army, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.



Left: Allan Penwell with his family commemorative brick honoring their service to this country.



Right: Richard Burmood with the unit tribute plaque to the 528th Special Operations Support Battalion (Airborne) that he commanded from 1994-1996



Friends get together

Left: Phil Pettice and Pat Johnson outside the hospitality room



Right: Noncommissioned Officer Candidate Course classmates –friends for life: John Mowatt, Eddie McCann, and Tom Mahoney.



Left: Camaraderie over scrapbook memories in the hospitality room: Paul Peters, Barry Willever, and Pete LaBarre.



Right: Annual business meeting



Veterans Day Ceremony at The WALL

Left: Phil Hosey, Dave McCray, Paul Hanson, Zach Wood, and Joe Belardo



Right: NDQSA participates in wreath laying ceremony

Allen Penwell reunion video: <https://video214.com/play/YT3v0x28yQx3Mhv5Saq0Aw/s/dark>

Night of the Banquet

History teacher Zach Wood was guest speaker and accompanied the members throughout the week. His speech is linked at: <https://youtu.be/v2MHSnrE1cY>

An article about his experience with NDQSA is in his hometown paper The Weekly Talon: <https://theweeklytalon.com/8161/news/history-teacher-zach-wood-gives-speech-at-vietnam-veterans-reunion/>

He conducts and records oral history interviews with combat veterans -- their life before military service, during their combat experience, and life as a veteran. These interviews can be found at:

<https://www.youtube.com/@zachwood1218>



Left: Joe Belardo presents a bronze eagle sculpture to outgoing president Dave McCray in recognition of the accomplishments made under his stewardship.

Right: Dave McCray presents the Presidents Award to Jackie Carver for his years of service to NDQSA, most recently exemplified by his work installing the 212 memorial bricks to the fallen at Fort Sill.



Introducing the NDQSA Memorial Trust

The National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association is unique among veteran organizations. You represent the most highly decorated army artillery outfits in Vietnam. Your lineage includes the only ADA unit with a Medal of Honor recipient, Sergeant Mitchell Stout, C/1/44th Dusters as well as a Distinguished Service Cross recipient, Staff Sergeant Jeffery Jarman, Quad-50 Squad Leader, Delta 71st ADA. You were awarded presidential and meritorious Unit citations, Silver Stars, Bronze Stars for Valor, and over 1,000 Purple Hearts. Tragically, 212 ADA warriors lost their lives during the Vietnam War. Your combat skills were

in demand, firing over four million 40 MM rounds, ten million .50 cal. rounds, and a million miles of illumination from the DMZ to the Delta. NDQSA was founded in 1981 by John Huelsenbeck and others. It grew to a strength of over 4,350 members because you found each other and banded together. You knew that what you had together was stronger and better than being alone. In those early days, you assured each other that what you did in Vietnam meant something - "together we are somebody" - and that the ultimate sacrifice of your fellow soldiers was not in vain. That special brothers-in-arms relationship was so valuable that you established your official motto as

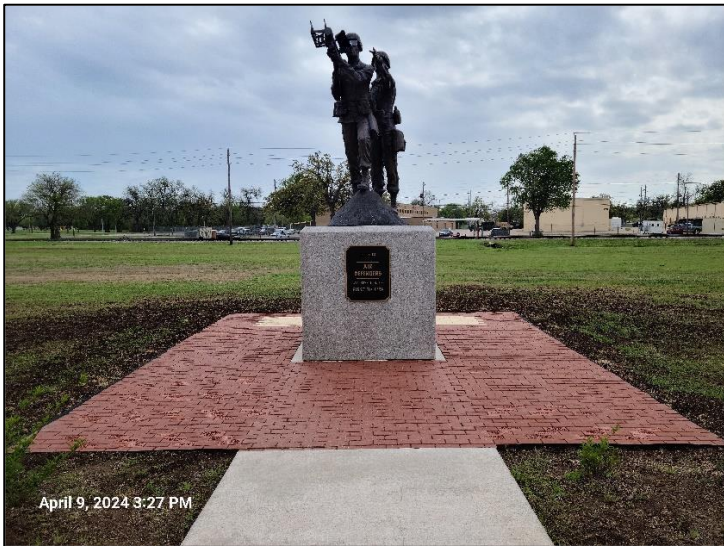
"Together Then – Together Again."



Year after year you reached out to each other, met at reunions, participated in ceremonies honoring the fallen and fellow veterans, and lived your lives making things better for those you loved. Many of you have been haunted by the war, endured lasting pain from war wounds, and suffered from the ravages of the effects of Agent Orange. Overcoming adversity is a hallmark of the NDQSA membership. On August 9, 2013, you completed a massive undertaking at Fort Sill, Oklahoma to build a memorial to the ADA soldiers in Vietnam and to honor the fallen. The marble eagle was purchased in Vietnam and donated by Luke Clark, but everything else was paid through donations or selling the bricks that surround the monument. The memorial also includes the granite panel engraved with the names of the fallen, and the

contemplation benches facing it. Vince Tedesco cleared the regulatory hurdles because nothing can be built on a military base without lots of paperwork that includes giving it to the Army. Full disclosure – the government takes possession but assumes no responsibility for care or maintenance. Almost from the beginning Vinny began to warn us about the weather hazards of Oklahoma with dire and graphic descriptions of tornados and flying eagles which was concerning. A crack in the eagle's pedestal reminded us that the Army was not going to pay for repair of "our" memorial.





Fast forward to the NDQSA annual business meeting on November 13, 2021. It was there that Dave McCray presented information about the Air Defense Artillery Association's (ADAA) memorial brick program to raise funds in support of the newly constructed ADA Learning Center. He proposed that we, as an organization, somehow take on the heritage preservation project of obtaining a brick for each of the 212 men who lost their lives while assigned or attached to our ADA units in Vietnam. There was no debate about whether this should be done, only about how to raise the money. In March 2024 this project was completed through donations and installation help from the ADAA with labor. These memorial bricks

are a fitting tribute and in a great location, right outside the ADA Learning Center. Young soldiers and visitors will pass by every day and reflect on the sacrifice of these Vietnam heroes. During this same time, we began to talk about how to honor Mitchell Stout. NDQSA had installed a stone marker and planted a tree where he is buried in the Virtue Cemetery at Farragut, Tennessee. It seemed appropriate to do something at Fort Sill, especially if it could be somewhere where ADA soldiers could feel the impact of their heritage. Inquiry led to invitation and a marble bench dedicated to him and his sacrifice was installed on June 11, 2024, right outside the entry doors to the ADA Learning Center and Museum.



So back to Vinny and funnel clouds and our memorials. The Air Defense Artillery Association maintains financial trust as a funding mechanism for their scholarship program. Vinny is on the ADAA board of directors. Long story short – he and Dave McCray put together the concept and legal structure that resulted in the NDQSA Memorial Trust. It will provide perpetual care, which includes maintenance, upkeep, and other such reasonable care, of all our physical memorial structures and fixtures at Fort Sill whose care

is currently being provided by the NDQSA. When we are gone, the Trustee becomes the Air Defense Artillery Association. Because our heritage is also being preserved through stories and pictures on the NDQSA website, the Trustee is also responsible for maintaining the NDQSA official website (<https://ndqsa.com>) and will continue to house it on the ADAA server for an indefinite period. Heritage is also about tradition, so the Trust ensures that a commemorative wreath is laid at the memorial every Veterans Day.

The money in the Trust is held in a Charles Schwab account managed by The Trustmont Advisory Group in Greensburg, Pennsylvania so that it continues to grow until needed.



There is a lot of legal content in the Trust, but bottom line NDQSA has established a mechanism that will preserve in perpetuity our heritage of being Air Defense Artillery men in Vietnam. Our families, historians, and future visitors can continue to visit our website to read our stories and see how we honored those who we served with in Vietnam. Young soldiers can see and understand their ADA lineage in the memorials at Fort Sill. We may pass away, but our tradition of laying a wreath on

Veterans Day does not die with us. This Trust provides the physical and financial method of preserving our heritage and respecting our fallen in perpetuity. The Air Defense Artillery Association understands their responsibilities and readily accepts this obligation.

Donate

If you want to be part of this and are financially able to contribute, a new line has been added to the Membership Dues and Roster Update Form at the back of the newsletter. You can now designate a tax-deductible donation to the NDQSA Memorial Trust to provide perpetual care of our Fort Sill memorials. Make your check out to the NDQSA and on the “for” or “purpose” line write, “donation to the NDQSA Memorial Trust.”

Tax-deductible donation information: NDQSA is a 501(c)(19) war veterans organization (EIN 27-1983456). You will receive a letter as written acknowledgment of your charitable contribution, if the donation meets IRS threshold standards, with verification that no goods or services as defined by the IRS were provided for these contributions. Your donation may/or may not be deductible depending upon your particular tax status so please consult a tax advisor before filing.

TAPS

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED

Name	Unit	Yrs	Date	Loc
Robert Horn	Hq/1/44	66-67	1 Feb 2024	VA
Hank Sanders II	B/4/60	69-71	30 Jul 2024	TX
Theodore Harris	G-65 Quads	67-68	6 Jan 2024	TX
Henry Cole	G-65 Quads	68-71	3 Jun 2020	DE
Kenneth Sellers	D/5/2	68-69	20 Apr 2024	ID
Robert 'JB' Byrne	B/4/60	69-70	2023	TX
Thomas Stark	C/1/44	70-71	6 Nov-2024	PA
Charles Vickers	Hq/1/44	67-68	13 Dec 2022	PA



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

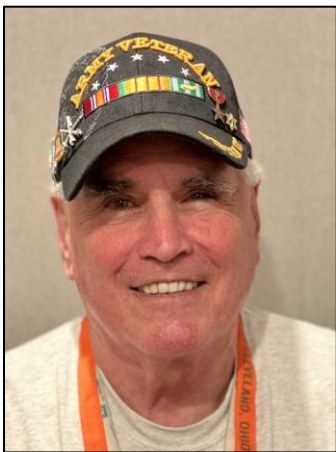
Candidates for Director Positions

Your nominating committee has solicited the membership for candidates interested in serving on the NDQSA board of directors. Ballot packets go out 90 days in advance so make sure your 2025 dues are paid before then. These nine members are the qualified candidates currently identified by the nominating committee for the seven open positions in the 2025 election. Collectively they reflect years of experience and dedicated service as members of the NDQSA board of directors, as well as new talent seeking the opportunity to serve. The nominating committee is proud to present these 9 candidates in alphabetical order.



Robert Cuce
E/41 Quad

Bob Cuce served as a Quad 50 gunner in E/41 during 1970-71 performing convoy operations and perimeter security mainly in the Central Highlands at a variety of Fire Support Bases. He retired after 30 years working for New York's Eastern Suffolk Board of Cooperative Education Services as a database manager. He has been a member of NDQSA since 1998, progressing from being a director, to both vice president positions and ultimately president from 2018-2022. He is chairman of the steering and heritage committee guiding the association forward in our waning years so that we legally meet all responsibilities as an veteran 501(c)(19) nonprofit incorporated in the state of Indiana.



Bruce Geiger
A&B-1/44th

Bruce Geiger served in Vietnam '67-'68 with both A and B batteries 1/44 Artillery attached to 3rd Marine Division and later 108th Artillery Group. He was the OIC of Dusters & Quads with the 26th Marine Regiment during the 1968 siege of Khe Sanh. After discharge he had a 25-year career as a corporate sales and marketing executive and then 11 years as a NY City elementary school teacher. He is a past president of NDQSA and continues to serve as the reunion committee chairman. He participated in our Operation Gold Star in 2000 and 2004, escorting Gold Star Mothers to Vietnam, to the area of operations in which their sons served and died. He preserves our heritage as coordinator with the Vietnam Archives at Texas Tech.



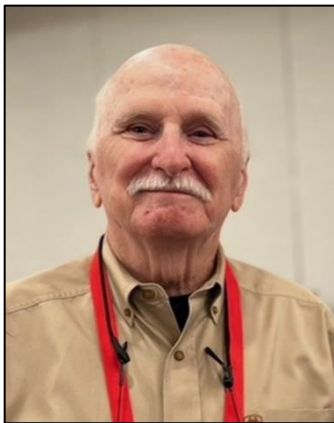
Roger Giza
4/60 ADA

Roger Giza was drafted and served in Vietnam 1970-71 with 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery (AW)(SP) twin 40mm "Dusters." His duty locations include LZ Whisky Mountain and then later at LZ Weight-Davis where he fought in what is known as the "last Duster battle." He worked as a union mason for 36 years, 10 years with his tools, three as foreman, and 23 as an estimator with a large commercial masonry company. Roger has been a member of NDQSA since 2010. He is chairman of the membership committee helping to identify and recruit new members and overseeing membership rosters for the president. He also serves on the publications committee supporting all association printing and mailing requirements.



Paul Hanson
E/41 Quads

Paul Hanson served in Vietnam from December 1971-72 with E-Battery, 41st Artillery Quad and then F Co, 50th Infantry in DaNang. He remained in the military, rising through the ranks to Command Sergeant Major after 20 years in a variety of key assignments. He has completed a doctor's degree in history and is currently teaching American History for Neumann University. Paul is a past president of NDQSA. He is currently chairman of both the finance committee and the election committee for the executive officer elections. He also serves on the steering and heritage committee where his long term experience in the association helps guide future requirements.



Phillip Hosey
E/41 Quads

Phil Hosey is a Noncommissioned Officer Candidate Course graduate and served in Vietnam during 1971 with E/41 Quads. For 26 years he worked in Human Resources management at Chevron Corporation. He recently retired as Branch Director of the Mississippi Department of Employment Security, where he coordinated the complex actions of matching qualified individuals to employer needs. Phil serves on the publications committee, helping produce the newsletters that keep the membership informed about the activities of their association, and telling their Vietnam experience stories to preserve our heritage.



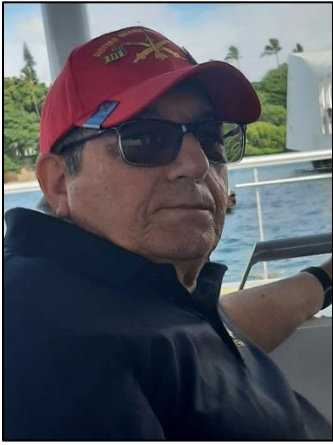
Garry Severin
D/71st Quads

Garry Severin was in Vietnam with D/71st Quads from July 1970 until his ETS from the Army in September 1971. He was stationed at a variety of locations, to include Bu Dop, Song Be, and Hobo Woods. His squad provided the full spectrum of Quad capabilities including fire base perimeter security, convoy operations, and fixed site security support. After his Army service, he was a production coordinator and final assembly mechanic for Ford Motor Company in Cleveland, Ohio. Garry has been a member of NDQSA since 2006. He served for many years as the secretary for the association before becoming one of their directors. He and his wife Mary helped organize and coordinate event activities for the 2023 reunion.



Ed Tidwell
I/29th Searchlights

Ed Tidwell served in Vietnam during 1967-1968 as a 17E40 Sergeant E5 Crew Chief assigned to I Battery, 29th Artillery Searchlights which was attached to the 5th Battalion 2nd Artillery. He and his searchlight teams were attached to The 25th Infantry Division with their base camp at Cu Chi. During part of his tour he provided searchlight support to the Long Binh, the largest Army base in Vietnam. He is the recipient of a purple heart for his wounds and is a Life Member of NDQSA. He is also a Life Member of both the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post #1267 and the Disabled American Veterans Post #6 of Sacramento, California. He has attended many reunions and often helped out whenever and wherever there was a need.



Raymond Villanueva

D/1/44 Artillery, D/5/2 Dusters, and D/71 Quads

Ray Villanueva served in Vietnam from 69-71 on Dusters with D/1/44 and D/5/2, and then later with Quads in D/71. He has been a member of NDQSA since 2013 and is now a Lifetime member. He spent 12 years in the Army in Air Defense Artillery and was discharged in 1980. Ray worked as a welder in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard until its closing in 1995. He then went to work as an assistant manager at WORLD PAC Auto Parts warehouse for 20 years, retiring in 2016. He has been married to his wife Patricia for 52 years. Ray always supports NDQSA with its annual wreath laying at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (the Wall) in Washington DC on Veterans Day.



George Walko

B-29th Searchlights

George Walko served in Vietnam from Jan 1967 to 1968 with B-29th Searchlights doing searchlight repair. He later was assigned as a searchlight operator attached to the Republic of Korea White Horse Division. Following his discharge from the Army, he earned a degree in finance and investments and for several years worked in banking as vice president of commercial loans. George later owned his own company providing software and computer services. He is very involved in Florida Vietnam Veterans of America. George is currently on the board of directors and is actively involved with several committees. He serves on our website committee as a webmaster, helping tell the stories that preserve our heritage.

Members Report NDQSA Board of Directors Meeting November 8, 2024

A regular board of directors (BOD) meeting was held on November 8, 2024, in conjunction with the NDQSA annual reunion in Arlington, Virginia.

William Oakeley, Vietnam 1969-70, who at one point served as the D/4/60 Battery Commander, has joined the association. Sergeant Leland Chandler, WWII Corregidor air defense veteran and POW was designated as an honorary member of NDQSA.

The 2025 reunion was supposed to be in Savannah, Georgia but attempts to find reasonable rates at any of the suitable hotels, with dates that would be acceptable to our membership, have proven impossible. The board voted to drop Savannah as an option. The reunion committee will turn its effort towards San Antonio, Texas.

A Family Outreach Program has been established for NDQSA. A co-chaired committee of directors and wives/surviving spouses has been established to carry out its mission of insuring that wives and families can have access to NDQSA and its activities even after their husband or father has passed away.

The board of directors continues to work funding and management procedures for the NDQSA Memorial Trust that will provide perpetual care of our memorial property at Fort Sill. The Air Defense Artillery Association will be briefed on their role as successor trustees and sign an acknowledgement letter of understanding.

Leland Chandler – Honorary Member

Sergeant Leland Chandler is an honorary member of NDQSA and as of January 3rd he was 102 years old. This article introduces Chandler to those of our membership whose only linkage is through your newsletter. Sergeant Leland Chandler was one of the original 'First to Fire' air defenders of Corregidor. For six months he fought against the onslaught of Japanese aircraft and used his three-inch anti-aircraft artillery gun in a direct fire role to sink enemy barges assaulting the island. Eventually Chandler and his fellow artillerymen were reduced to close-quarters battle and even hand-to-hand combat with the enemy until ordered to surrender. Taken to Osaka, Japan on one of the infamous "Hell Ships", he endured 3 1/2 years as a POW suffering disease, starvation, and extreme cruelty until released at the end of the war. Of the 400 sent to Osaka only 53 survived. He is one of only a handful of living veterans with three Presidential Unit Citations.

The following article was written by Vila Gingerich and published in the Jamesport Missouri Tri-County Weekly on December 04, 2024. She has given us permission to use it. Her article has been edited for space and our pictures have been added to complete the story. Our website (<https://ndqsa.com>) will soon have a scrapbook telling more of Chandler's story. It will contain more pictures of his visit to Fort Sill and expand on his wartime story with historical information about the battle of Corregidor and the Osaka POW Camp #3-D where he was incarcerated.

Engraved Bench Purchased in Honor of Veteran and Former POW Leland Chandler

By Vila Gingerich — Jamesport Tri-County Weekly — December 04, 2024

On Saturday, Leland Chandler traveled from his home in Galesburg, Illinois, to the Country Heritage Furniture store in Jamesport. The purpose of the visit was to receive an engraved maple bench dedicated in his honor, a bench which will be moving on to its permanent home in the Air Defense Artillery Museum at Fort Still, Oklahoma. Chandler, who turns 102 next month, was accompanied by his daughter Lynn Woodworth and his son Alan Chandler and wife Memory.

Rick Liebendorfer of Lock Springs, Missouri, an Air Defense Artillery veteran and member of the NDQSA (National Dusters, Quads, & Searchlights Association), helped arrange the purchase of the bench. He and Steve Hostetler, owner of Country Heritage Furniture, were on hand to meet Mr. Chandler and listen to his stories.



3-inch anti-aircraft gun M3 with crew in ADA museum Fort Sill, OK

Leland Chandler was born January 3, 1923, in central Illinois. He enlisted in the Army in 1941, at the age of 18, volunteering for the Coastal Artillery, now known as the Air Defense Artillery. He was sent to the Philippines, where he served as a crewman on a 3-inch anti-aircraft gun M3 with H Battery, 60th Coast Artillery, on the sandy beaches of Corregidor Island.

“When we got off the boat, the American dependents were getting on,” Chandler recalls. “The women and children were being evacuated from the island. We knew that meant we’d soon be fighting the Japanese.”

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, Chandler's division faced months of combat from Japanese aircraft. The Japanese eventually landed on Corregidor Island, and hand-to-hand combat began. On May 6, 1942, the American and Filipino forces were outnumbered and forced to surrender. Chandler, then 19, was taken to Japan as a prisoner of war with the rest of the surviving military personnel and forced to work in a steel mill camp in Osaka.

Chandler and the other POWs spent the next 3½ years as captives, working twelve-hour days in order to receive a daily handful of rice. "After that, I never wanted to see rice again," Chandler declares with a laugh and a shudder.

The guards forced the prisoners to speak Japanese, or risk punishment. "My number was 385," Chandler says, then repeats the number in Japanese. "It took me a while to catch on that every time someone fell out of line, everybody's number changed. The guards slapped me around when I used the wrong number, so when I finally caught on what was happening, I learned real fast how to count in Japanese!"

Due to hard work, grueling conditions, and little food, the number of prisoners kept dwindling. Chandler's weight dropped to under 90 pounds. One night, he was awakened by the sound of a voice speaking.

"I thought it was the guard telling us it was time to get to work," he says. "But then I knew the Good Lord had sent an angel down to tell me I would make it out of there." After that, Chandler held onto the hope of someday going home.

One day an American bomber flew over. "These guys had never seen one," Chandler's daughter Lynn says. "And when the bomb bays opened up, they thought they were getting bombed by their own people." Instead, the bomber dropped barrels of fruit cocktail, clothes, and chocolate. "They kept the Hershey chocolate and gave the ex-lax chocolate to the guards," Lynn says, laughing. "The guards didn't know what ex-lax was, but the Americans sure did. Dad says they didn't see a guard around for three days!"

Japan surrendered to the Allies on September 2, 1945, thus ending World War II, and Chandler and the other POWs were liberated. "Out of 400 POWs," Chandler says, "Only 53 of us came out."

They made their way north to where they knew American troops were stationed. When they arrived, a band was playing "California, Here We Come." "That was the first contact we had with America in four years," Chandler says.

The newly liberated soldiers were able to send telegrams home to their families. Chandler's parents had been informed of his capture and his release, and they received an occasional form letter from the camp, but this was the first time they had heard from him personally.

Eventually the group was sent home to the States, traveling on a destroyer that was not equipped for such a large group of starving passengers. "We started to run out of food and water," Chandler says. "So they really had to push it hard to make it to Hawaii."

Once home in Illinois, Chandler met and married a young lady named Ruth. He was told he would not be able to father children, due to injuries inflicted by the Japanese guards. "I have three boys and two girls," he says. "I proved them people wrong."

Chandler's daughter Lynn looks across at her father and smiles. "Growing up with this man has been nothing but an adventure," she says. "We have always camped, traveled—we even lived in Turkey for two years—and we've lived a full life."

After honorable discharge from the Army, Chandler worked as a firefighter until his retirement.

Chandler had long wanted to visit the home of the Air Defense Artillery, formerly the Coastal Artillery, in which he had served. In August 2024, he traveled to Fort Sill with his wife, three of his children, and several grandchildren.

During this visit, the family donated Chandler's service mementos to the Fort Sill Museum. The memorabilia included Chandler's service dress uniform; awards and decorations, including a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts; and a scrapbook made by his mother and aunt throughout the years of his service and capture. The family also donated the telegrams his parents received from the Army when Chandler was captured and liberated.



ADA School visit by Leland Chandler, WW War II veteran Aug 12, 2024



Leland Chandler on his bench that is now in the ADA Learning Center and Museum

"We knew it would be far too hard to try to divide Dad's stuff up between all of us children," his daughter Lynn says. "We all agreed it wouldn't be right to split it up, so we decided to keep it all together and donate it to the museum."

Please consider donating your memorabilia to the ADA Learning Center or the Vietnam Center & Sam Johnson Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech if you have not made other arrangements for preserving your history. Talk it over with your family. Make your best decision. Both organizations archive artifacts, papers, books, films, audiotapes, and photographs.

The staff at Fort Sill were delighted to get the artifacts. "I shook hands with ten generals that day," Chandler says. "And they all asked questions." "Everywhere we went," Lynn says, "they were coming out of the offices, they were coming down the halls, standing there wanting to shake my hand."

While touring the museum, Chandler and his daughter noticed there was no place to rest. Four of the Chandler children, Ann Duff, Alan and Memory Chandler, Lynn and Gordon Woodworth, and Andy and Julie Chandler—decided to purchase a special bench in their father's name, which will make tours of the Fort Sill Museum more doable for visitors with mobility issues.

Rick Liebendorfer heard about the honor bench during a board meeting of the Air Defense Artillery Association. He told the other board members that he knew of a furniture store in his area that might be able to help. He contacted Steve Hostetler, and soon the bench was ordered and delivered to Country Heritage Furniture in Jamesport, Missouri.



Chandler still lives alone and cooks his own meals, with one of the children checking in on him every day. “The doctors say my heart isn’t good,” he says, “that I could go at any time. So I just keep on living my life naturally.”

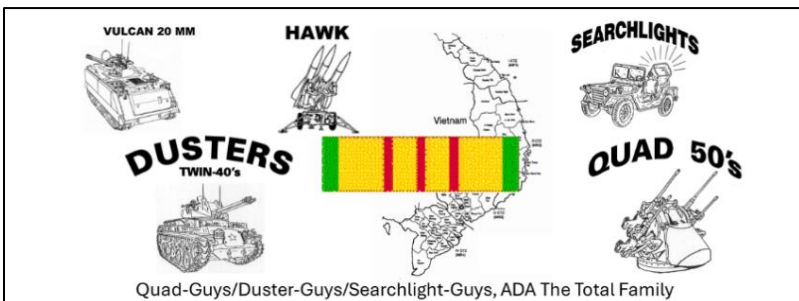
He is the last survivor of the 60th Coastal Artillery and one of the last survivors of the of ex-POWs from Bataan and Corregidor. He’ll turn 102 on January 3. “I’ve had a good life,” Chandler affirms. “I was married to a good lady for 75 years. I have great children who look out for me. I think I’ve done okay.”

Leland Chandler has done more than just okay. From a young man who felt the call to serve his country, to a POW who never lost hope, to a father who gave his kids a full and adventurous life, Chandler has inspired many to live their best lives.

Picture right: Chandler is presented with his NDQSA Honorary Membership Certificate by Rick Liebendorfer

A Facebook Social Page for You

Are you interested in joining the Facebook page **Quad-Guys/Duster-Guys/Searchlight-Guys, ADA The Whole Family**? You may have heard about this page from another member of NDQSA. Do you want to gain more



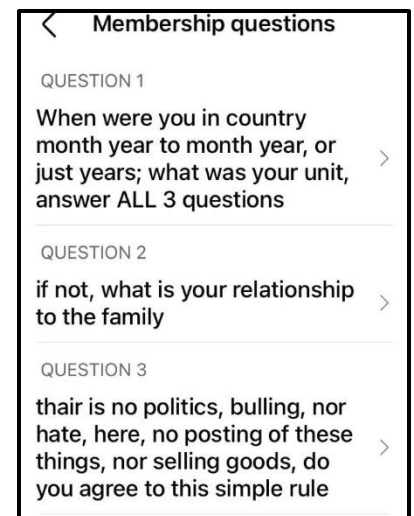
confidence in your social media interactions with your Vietnam Brothers who also served our country? It is a small Private FB Group that you must join to become a member and participate. Private Facebook groups help protect you from scams and most of the unpleasant reasons people avoid social media. It operates with the rules of no hating or bullying of what other people say or post,

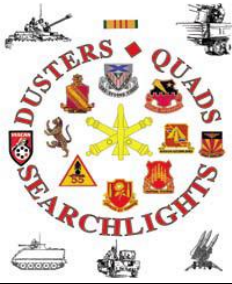
no spam is permitted, and we respect everyone as an individual. The page has an active Administrator who serves as a gate keeper and monitors activity for appropriate behavior.

To find us is very simple just search Facebook for “**Quad-Guys**” or “**Duster-Guys**” or “**Searchlight-Guys.**” When you find the page, it will look very familiar. It is not the official NDQSA Facebook page, but you will feel at home here. There is a button on the right side where you ask to join. Answer the questions (see screenshot) which are for the Administrator to use to determine that you should be allowed to join. Once you complete all the basic questions, you will be accepted into the group by the Administrator. If you don’t answer all the questions, you will be declined. In a few cases NDQSA members have wanted to join but did not answer the questions because they did not understand Private FB Groups. Don’t be that person and miss the camaraderie.

Looking forward to having you join us,

Gayle Lucas, Administrator





42nd Annual NDQSA Reunion

“Operation Riverwalk”

San Antonio, TX

June 4th – 8th, 2025



NDQSA is pleased to announce our
42nd Annual Reunion at the
Holiday Inn Riverwalk Hotel
217 N. St. Mary's Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210)224-2500

<https://www.holidayinn.com/sat-riverwalk>



Room Rate: King or 2Queens \$139++

(Tourism District Tax:1.25%=\$141+Sales
Tax:16.25%=\$164)

\$20/Day Discounted Overnight Self-Parking

\$20 All Inclusive Discount Buffet Breakfast

10% Discount Hotel Restaurant

NDQSA Group Rate 3 days pre/post (6/04/25 - 6/8/25)

Based on hotel room availability!!!

Reservation Cutoff Date: May 15, 2025!!!

Phone & Online Reservations Must Mention:

**“National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights
Reunion”**

Online NDQSA Reservation HotLink:

[https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/san-](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/san-antonia/satrw/hoteldetail?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=SATRW&qGrpCd=NDQ&setPMCookies=true)

[antonia/satrw/hoteldetail?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=SATRW&qGrpCd=NDQ&setPMCookies=true](https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/us/en/san-antonia/satrw/hoteldetail?fromRedirect=true&qSrt=sBR&qIta=99801505&icdv=99801505&qSIH=SATRW&qGrpCd=NDQ&setPMCookies=true)

Holiday Inn Riverfront San Antonio Reservations:

Must mention our Group Code: NDQ

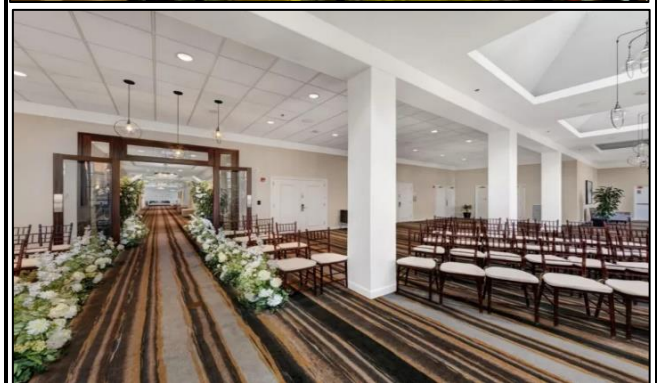
Problems (210)224-2500 Option 2

Ask for Group Sales

Office hours only: (Mon-Fri 9am-5pm Eastern)

Book Your Hotel Reservations ASAP!

Registration Form for Reunion Events to Follow!



National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association

Membership Dues and Roster Update Form 2025

First Name: _____
 Middle Name: _____
 Last Name: _____
 Nickname: _____
 Name of Spouse or significant other: _____
 Mailing Address:
 Street or PO box: _____
 City: _____
 State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____
 Email Address: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Cell Phone: _____



Vietnam Service Information:
 Dates of 1st Tour: (m/yr.): _____ / _____ To _____ / _____
 Dates of 2nd Tour: (my/yr.): _____ / _____ To _____ / _____
 Primary MOS: _____
 Primary Battery and Unit: _____
 Attached to: _____
 Additional Units if transferred or reassigned: _____
 Names of Combat Bases and major operations: _____

Rank (highest grade while in Vietnam) - Officer: _____ NCO: _____ EM: _____
 Valor Awards: PH _____ DSC _____ SS _____ BS/V _____ ACM/V _____ OTHER: _____

Dues \$25.00 per Year - Enclosed: 1 Year _____ 2 Years _____ 3 Years _____ 4 Years _____ 5 Years _____
 Lifetime Membership Dues \$250.00 _____

Donations may be designated
 NDQSA Memorial Trust donation to provide perpetual care of the Fort Sill memorials: _____
 Donation to the association to support newsletters, websites, and other projects: _____

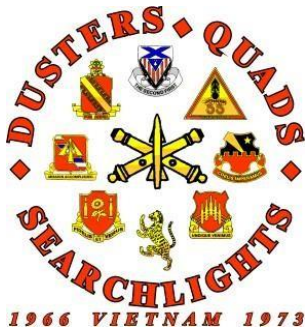
**** **Total Enclosed Check:** _____

Preference to receive your NDQSA Newsletter – **Check One: Email _____ USPS _____

Mail Check to: NDQSA
PO Box 149
Savoy, IL 61874

NDQSA
 PO Box 149
 Savoy, IL 61874

Forward Service Requested



First to Fire...Last to Leave

January 2025 Newsletter

- Election 2025 – Directors Bios
- Reunion Hotel Room Registration
- Introducing the Memorial Trust
- Leland Chandler Corregidor POW
- Pictures from 2024 Reunion

NDQSA Mission Statement

The National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association™ (NDQSA™) is the original, official representative, and holds the longest, continual and official annual reunion for ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam. NDQSA is the only organization of Vietnam ADA Veterans officially recognized by the Air Defense Artillery Association headquartered in Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. As a tribute to the memory of over 220 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 Huesenbeck et al 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 veterans organization and is incorporated in the State of Indiana. We welcome and encourage all ADA Veterans who served in Vietnam to join NDQSA and to share the fellowship, mutual support, and continued service to our Nation on behalf of all military veterans and active duty personnel.

