

NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION, Inc.

NEWSLETTER – August 2026

President's Message - Joe Belardo

Dear Brothers, Sisters and Honorary Members,



I hope this finds you well. I wanted to take a moment to express my heartfelt appreciation for your active participation. Your valuable feedback and insights are crucial in helping us improve our services and better meet our members' needs. Your constant updating of your membership dues and roster information is greatly helpful keeping NDQSA alive, functioning, and hosting our yearly reunions.

Your commitment in sharing your Vietnam experiences in our newsletters does not go unnoticed. They are shared with all our members and listed on our website. Remember your Vietnam stories are recorded in the ADA history and Texas Tech's Vietnam History Library for all history buffs to enjoy.

In our continued efforts to enhance our NDQSA members support and keep everyone better connected, starting with this newsletter, every active member will automatically receive a USPS mailed hard copy of the newsletter. If you opted on our dues and roster update form, to receive an emailed newsletter, you will receive both. Hopefully, like me, you too are looking forward to having the "Old School" printed copy and the "New Generation" emailed copy with all its interactive hyperlinks to even more news.

There are no words that can express how wonderful it is been to be your President. Elections will be at this year's Louisville Reunion, and I know the members running for office are fantastic and will continue to do a exceptional job for NDQSA. You have no idea how really hard these men have worked keeping ours the number one veterans organization in the world. I was and still am blessed how they have helped me and supported me and made me look like a good president. I am serious when I say that, without their constant help, support and devotion to our group, I could not have accomplished or done much for our association. To Rick, Richard, Allan, Barry, Bruce, David, Paul, George, Roger, Gary, Bob C. , Bob L., Phil, Vincent, Alphonza, Luke, Peter and the blessing from Samuel ... I thank you all from the bottom of my heart for all your help and understanding. These brothers are really the driving force and backbone that keeps NDQSA at their best. "Thank You."

I've been on the board since I got my first call from John "Tank" Huelsenbeck when he created our organization. Tank and I were always the best of friends and great combat brothers always protecting each other's backs. In his Indiana low and slow voice, he said "Joey help me start this club". Tank and I were always having a great time and the rest is history.

So, my brothers, if you a truly dedicated NDQSA member, please keep participating, paying your dues, sending in your Vietnam stories and attending our reunions. Remember, the Board of Directors isn't NQDSA, "YOU ARE." We are just your elected officers.

See you all in Louisville,

Joe Belardo



NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS & SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION, INC.
NDQSA Annual Business Meeting Minutes
June 7, 2025 San Antonio, Texas

The chairman, 1st vice-president Rick Liebendorfer, opened the 2025 annual membership meeting of the National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association, Inc. at 9:02 a.m. EST on Saturday, June 7, 2025, in the Holiday Inn Riverwalk Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. President Joe Belardo was unable to make the reunion due to temporary medical travel restrictions. The meeting began with The Pledge of Allegiance. The secretary conducted a membership rollcall, and fifty-seven (57) members were present at the meeting.

Secretary's Minutes: The 2024 annual membership meeting minutes were provided to all members in the March 2025 newsletter and are on the website. These were approved by last year's minutes committee. There were no corrections to the minutes offered from the floor, so they stood as written and approved of by the special committee. After soliciting for member volunteers, the minutes approval committee for 2025 will be Phil Hosey (chairman), Dave Byers, and Eddie McCann.

Treasurer's report: Allan Penwell gave the treasurer's report. Last year was an amazing year in terms of financial progress and planning. We ended the year with \$91,000 in the bank and established the NDQSA Trust for preservation of our monuments at Fort Sill, OK. The Trust had over \$16,000 invested in securities, and that figure has climbed to \$25,000 since the beginning of the year. The trust invests in two Charles Schwab securities: a Vanguard U.S. stock dividend fund and a Vanguard U.S. stock large cap fund. Our members were generous last year with \$4,800 in general donations, \$2,700 for our reunion Good Works project, \$11,000 in donations to the Trust, and \$21,000 in dues and life memberships.

Good Works Committee: Bruce Geiger reported that every year NDQSA donates reunion collected money to some military veterans' type organization. This year a charitable \$3000 donation is going to the Joint Base San Antonio Fisher House at Brooke Army Medical Center.

Membership Committee: Richard Burmood reminded the meeting that, in accordance with the By-laws, dues are legal obligations and by policy are required to be paid by 1 January to remain active. That is the date he changes member status from active to inactive if their dues are not paid. Every year there are a lot of late payments as members see they have become inactive when they get their first newsletter. You do not want to be in that group come 1 January because the biennial roster will be published and mailed only to those who are active on 1 January 2026. So, pay your dues ahead.

Future Reunions: Rick Liebendorfer announced that next year's reunion would probably be Louisville, Kentucky.

- Bruce Geiger reported that it is getting very difficult to make arrangements for the kind of hotel venue we need. In addition to Louisville, he is looking at Pensacola, Florida. Choosing a location is influenced by a lot of factors, including having a major airport, weather, local attractions, and of course cost. Locations are moved around to give members the opportunity to drive.
- There was objection from the floor that the membership did not get to vote on location anymore and that the wives were not consulted. Bruce reflected that the time for recommendations cannot be during the meeting because of how long it takes to put a successful reunion together, so please contact him any time with suggestions for future sites. San Diego was suggested with some membership enthusiasm, so could be a possible future location. Most would have to fly, and a good deal might be hard to get. There were questions about dates and time of year for the next reunion. The board affirmed that planning was aiming at fall 2026, probably September or October. The membership will be kept informed. By a show of hand, an overwhelming majority prefer to drive to reunions.
- Richard Burmood obtained the floor to clarify that the policy of NDQSA is that reunions are the glue that holds this organization together. There are a lot of other moving parts, but what makes all this work is getting together once a year, seeing each other, telling stories, and sharing our friendship. This all started with six men in a living room and if it ends up with four in a living room, it is still going to be like a reunion. He advised them not to walk out thinking that we only have

a few years left, because that is absolutely not true. The important thing to take away is that we are going to have a lot more reunions and the association will operate for a lot more years. Reunions may not all look like this one or the next one, but they will be someplace we get together with each other in the spirit of Together Then – Together Again. To resounding applause, Luke Clark, who is 93, put out the challenge that he would attend the last reunion.

Nominating and Election Committee: Dave McCray was the committee chairman and read the teller’s report to the membership. It is entered into the minutes as follows:

Number of votes cast 254

Necessary for election (Bylaws require 10% of active membership) 43

Votes received: Bob Cuce 209, Bruce Geiger 233, Roger Giza 184, Paul Hanson 211, Phil Hosey 161, Gary Severin 185, Ed Tidwell 176, Raymond Villanueva 159, George Walko 150

There was one write-in vote Lionel Morales

illegal votes seven invalid ballots – voted for more than seven candidates.

Chairman, 1st vice-president Rick Liebendorfer, announced the results of the election. The seven directors for 2025-2026 are Bruce Geiger, Paul Hanson, Bob Cuce, Gary Severin, Roger Giza, Ed Tidwell, and Phil Hosey.

Luke Clark moved that the ballots be destroyed. Motion was seconded and approved by voice vote.

Old Business: Because of last year’s annual meeting discussions, Joe Belardo prepared some information about “What to do when a Veteran Dies who is Receiving VA Benefits” and it is available as a handout up at the front table after the meeting. Bob Lauver reinforced how important it is to put together a plan with your wife for what to do when you pass away. Information on this sheet goes a long way in providing that structure. There was discussion by the membership about how valuable CHAMPVA is in providing wives of 100% disabled veterans with lifetime medical and pharmaceutical care at doctors of their choice. Approval can take up to a year right now.

New Business: Rick Liebendorfer introduced the membership to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) *In Memory* program. The *In Memory* program enables the families and friends of those who came home and later died the opportunity to have them be forever memorialized. That someday will include all of us, so get yourself registered. More information is available on their website <https://www.vvmf.org/In-Memory-Program/>

Meeting Closure:

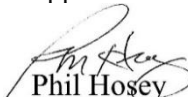
- First-time meeting attendees were recognized. Don Pryor B-29 SLT (68-69), Max Hill C/1/44 (66-67), Ken Aldrich D/1/44 (67-68), and David Byers A/1/44 (68-69).
- Paul Hanson moved to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded and then approved by the membership.
- The NDQSA 2025 annual business meeting ended at 10:34 a.m.

Minutes compiled by:



Richard Burmood
Secretary, NDQSA

Approved: 25 June 2025



Phil Hosey
Chairman, Minutes Approval Committee

G – Battery 29th Artillery “Searchlight” 1967-1968

Written by John W. Wagnon

This Story Honors John who sadly passed away February 27, 2025

It was the first week of April 1967. We were finally going to move out to our assigned areas. I was in Larry Killian's section assigned to Hill 41 with Ron Poe, Dale Borger, Doug Jewel, and myself John Wagnon. We were in a convoy with our platoon commander Lt. Graham and Ron Lindstrom's section assigned to Hill 65 with John Staton, Jack Kelly, and another guy whom I can't remember his name. We were to follow a Marine Lt to Hill 41 then he would take the others to Hill 65. About halfway to Hill 41 we came upon an overturned ARVN duc and a half. It had gone off the road and rolled over in the rice paddies. We stopped to see if there was anything we could do. There were three or four dead and about six in bad shape. The Marine Lt. said he would radio for medevac. We got back in our vehicles and headed for Hill 41. When we turned off the main road and started up to the hill, we could see black smoke rising out of the jungle about a mile or so from the hill. No one paid much attention to it at the time. We found out later Golf 2/4 Marines had a ten-man patrol ambushed. They killed eight but two got away. The eight men were stacked in a pile and set on fire. This wasn't the last time I would see this happen.

After Lt Graham and the others left for Hill 65, we set up in a supply tent till we could set up our own the next day. Later that night Golf's commanding officer (CO) came into our tent. He had had a drink or two, which is understandable. He said we might get hit that night and if we did, he was taking every man on the hill and going after them. He wasn't going to screw around anymore. We didn't receive any enemy fire that night, but we were ready if we did.

So, that ended my first day in the field. Hey, I only have 350 plus days left. It's like we would say later on to the new guys coming in "Who'd you kill to get so much time" Sin Loy Shit Head (the phrase translates to "Xin lỗi" in Vietnamese, which means "sorry" or "excuse me"). Ron Poe and I sometimes would go on patrol with the Marines. We would ride on an am-trac or tank any time we wanted. The Marines told us they could always use the help as they operated short-handed most of the time. One night after Marine India Company 5/1 came to Hill 41 we started taking fire from the village to the east. The next day the CO went down and told the village chief not to let the VC in his village and shoot us. That night we started taking even more enemy incoming, so the CO dropped 20 rounds of 60mm and 81mm mortar fire on them. We never took any more fire from that village.

A few weeks later Hill 22 was overrun, and the next day India's CO sent a platoon of Marines with two tanks, Poe and me to secure and hold the area until they could get another company out there. On the way out our convoy was stopped by something in the road up ahead of us. There were some kids alongside the road. As I looked ahead out of the corner of my eye, I saw something running at us. I looked to the right and saw a kid, maybe 9 or 10. He was running at us with a mortar round in his hand. As I stepped out of the vehicle, I leveled my 60 on him and flipped it off safe. But something didn't look right the round was all white, not OD like an HE round. I could also hear people yelling, "Don't shoot", "Don't shoot", it sounded as if they were far off in the distance. I put my 60 back on safe and lowered the barrel. I found out from the



Marines they paid the kids money to bring in rounds that were duds. The round turned out to be an illumination round that I had never seen one before. I am glad I paused for that one extra second.

We spent the next two nights on Hill 22 with not much action. I was using an M-14 with an infrared scope but didn't have any clean targets. On the way out the tank behind Ron and I ran over a mine and blew the tread off it. They said the reason we didn't set it off is that the VC had it set up for a heavier target. Maybe a truck or a tank. I'm glad I didn't weigh as much then, as I do now. It was early morning a few days after we got back from Hill 22. Ron and I were talking to Sgt. Dorsey the forward observer for India Company when we heard an explosion down by the water tank. We could see a cloud of gray-brown smoke where the pump was located. The gooks had booby-trapped the pump and when the Marine pulled on the rope to start the water pump motor he was killed. Sgt. Dorsey hurried down there but he was already dead. Sadly, this poor Marine had just been pulled offline for some light duty, because he only had about three weeks left in the country.

That afternoon India 1/1 was doing a company sized sweep up one of the small valleys not far from us. One of their platoons stopped off to pick up some ammo and to drop off a captured VC. Which was odd because these guys were known for not bringing anyone in. As this one Marine was taking the VC up to the company CP, Ron noticed that the guy with this VC was a friend of his from Stockton, California, where they were both from. Ron took a couple of pictures. Then I walked up to



the CP with the Marine and the VC. There were about fifteen or twenty guys waiting for us by the time we got to the CP, they were pissed off about what had happened that morning. This VC was getting slapped around pretty good. They tied his wrist to his ankles and blindfolded him. One Marine was taking his K-bar and drawing it slowly from ear to ear across the VC's throat. You could see the thin white line on his neck from the blades path. Then he would take a bullet and rub it on the VC's face. Another Marine would put the barrel of his M-16 to the back of his head pull the operating rod back and let the bolt slam shut, pause a second or two then pull the trigger "Click". After four or five times of this the VC started shaking uncontrollably. All I'll say is when things started getting medieval, I left and never went back.

In a few weeks I was transferred to Hill 65 and assigned to Lindstrom's section. On Sept 6, 1967, Lindstrom, Staton and I were on duty with India 3/9 out on Liberty Bridge. Kelly had been left back on 65 with the other vehicle and one of the replacements from our base camp in Da Nang. At about 2300 hours I was talking with a Marine named Tom Leary from Elsinore California, a town not too far from where I grew up. As we were talking, you suddenly heard the scream of an incoming artillery shell and then a massive explosion. The enemy artillery shell took out a large section of the bridge about 30 feet from us. Telephone pole size pillars were shot in the air like match sticks. Luckily no one was injured by all that falling wood and other debris. We were cut off from the rest of the company but had no further contact that night.

A couple of weeks later I was in Japan for R&R. I went to see my older brother Mike who was in Japan. Mike who would later that year be in Nam and assigned to the 25th Infantry Division. After returning I was assigned to the Crow's Nest with Crespo. We humped to the top where there was a squad of Marines. I spent two weeks there and then was choppered off to our base camp and then back to Hill 65. I spent the rest of my time operating off Hill 65, mostly around Dia Loe, known as the Arizona Territory, which was situated about 22 miles southwest of Da Nang. U.S. Marines called it the "Arizona Territory" because its

lawless, hostile network of dense tree lines, hidden bunkers, and rice paddies felt like the wild-west American frontier badlands.



On December 25, 1967, there was a cease-fire for Christmas. I noticed a lot of Marines going up to the south bluff overlooking the river. On the other side of the river stood three North Vietnamese Regulars. No one was saying a word. You could see the red bandanas around their necks. These guys had some balls. Funny though I didn't see them standing there on the 26th, so they had some sense. TET broke out in late January 1968. There was supposed to be a cease-fire so when we started taking mortar fire Staton, Jourdain and I thought it was the grunts throwing hand grenades. We were just having a little party for Buddha; it

was his birthday. Then we heard someone yelling "incoming". We took cover but luckily we didn't take a lot of rounds. Just enough to blow your high and keep you awake all night.

On February 6, 1968, a platoon of Marines left Hill 65 to assault a tree line not far from us. A few hours later they came back all shot to hell. Charlie was dug in and ready for them. The next day my friend Cpl. Mike Miley of H&S Company 3rd AmTrac, 1st Marine Division was told to build machine gun emplacements on top of his three Amtracs as there weren't any tanks on the hill. Miley told me I couldn't go this time. Then as they were getting ready to pull out Jourdain went up and asked if he could leave with them. Miley told him the shit was going to get deep and he shouldn't go. Late that afternoon the three tracks came back with one man on each one. Mike Miley, Jim Laffen and Nick Turner. Mike said it was really bad. John Surgalski was killed outright. Richard Dorsch was hit badly but alive. Hutchinson was hit in the arm, and Bevel had his eye blown out. Nick told me the dead and wounded were stacked inside the tracks like wood before they dropped them off at the battalion aid station. (The Marines liked our Searchlights so much they mounted them on their four wheeler called a "Mule".) But they took the tree line that day. Everyone wanted to get some pay back.



The next day I rode over to battalion with Miley, Latten, and Turner to see if we could get some word on Dorsch and the other guys and to mail some letters. One of the letters was from Dorsch to his wife who was expecting or just had had a baby. At first, we didn't know if we should mail it but decided too. We

walked down to where the wounded were being kept at the aid station and asked about Dorsch. The corpsmen we talked to said Dorsch had died during the night. God Damn Nam. At least his wife got her letter. Too bad Dorsch isn't here. He was one crazy Marine. Hutch was going to be all right, and Bevel was already in the hospital in Da Nang. On March 4th I was pulled back to base camp to rotate home on the 8th. I flew from Da Nang to Cam Ranh Bay. The next morning, I was standing in formation for police call, I looked to my left and one guy over stood my best friend Danny from my hometown. He had seen me off when I left for Fort Sill, OK from LAX over a year ago. Danny had been with the 173rd at Oak To and was going home also. We were on the same plane, and both assigned to Fort Bragg N.C. He was going to the 82nd Airborne and I was going to "K" Battery 29th Artillery with the 18th Airborne. Now that's the way to end your tour.

Friends remembered: Richard Noelke, Richard Burns, Calvin Lewis, Dom Corona, Arnold Palmer, Andrew Mc Curry, Waylen Powell, Clarence Robinson, Stephen Bartels, Richard Dorsch, John Surgalski, and Jackson. Walk slow boys so us old guys can catch up.

John

From Your Website Committee

During the Vietnam War, US soldiers customized their combat and transport vehicles with personalized names and nose art to boost morale, express personal identity, intimidate the enemy, and court good superstition and luck. Duster and Quad crews painted these unique designs across various high-visibility areas, including the driver's hatch and twin Bofors gun shield of M42 Dusters, the front shield of Quad .50-caliber gun mounts, sometimes the rear cargo tailgates of their 2 ½-ton and 5-ton trucks, and occasionally on searchlight covers. In a harsh and unpredictable combat environment, this widespread tradition allowed isolated crews to make standard-issue military hardware uniquely their own, transforming cold steel machines into fierce psychological statements and protective good-luck charms.



There are several unofficial websites or YouTube videos where collectors have scraped the internet for pictures and show nose art for entertainment. A good example is this video we shared with those who follow us on Facebook. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-4zHZpCVjvc> It is well done, but we can and should do better.

We want to memorialize your historically accurate Duster, Quad, and Searchlight nose art on the website. Right now, the intent is to only use what you submit specifically for this project. A picture of you with your equipment - nose art visible. Identify as much as possible about; who is in the picture, where, when, unit assigned, bumper #, and anything personal you want to share about the picture. We will copyright mark it with NDQSA and your name, so it is preserved as your heritage. These need to be your pictures, not something you found on the internet. Having you in the picture is evidentiary. Depending on how many participate, we will build a video, and a special nose art heritage page on the website. We expect this will take six months for the word to get out and members to respond. Please submit your picture and information to the website email: ndqsaprojects@gmail.com Richard Burmood is your POC

Mr. Leland Dwane Chandler

January 3, 1923 ~ June 12, 2026 (age 103)

The National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association honor our member Leland Chandler for his service to his country. Leland Chandler is an honorary member of NDQSA. We welcome you home Brother and thank you for your friendship. Together Then - Together Again

Mr. Leland Dwane Chandler, 103, of Galesburg, Illinois, died at 6:57 a.m. Friday, June 12, 2026, at the Hawthorne Inn in Galesburg, Illinois.

Obituary: <https://www.h-p-w.com/obituary/MrLeland-Chandler>



He was born on January 3, 1923, in Table Grove, Illinois, the son of Ward and Jessie (Wright) Chandler. He enlisted in the United States Army at the age of 18 near the beginning of World War II. He was stationed in Corregidor, an island of The Philippines, and was subsequently captured there by the Japanese, along with 400 others. The group were Prisoners of War for 3 ½ years, working in the Yodogawa Steel Mill in Japan, until the remaining 53 prisoners liberated themselves by stealing a train and taking it to American territory.

Leland Chandler's story is documented in a heritage scrapbook posted on the NDQSA website.

<https://ndqsa.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Leland-Chandler-scrapbook-20250307.pdf>

This scrapbook contains several interviews and news articles over the years where he tells his story. It also has historical material about the siege of Corregidor, the POW transport ships, and the POW Yodogawa Branch Camp in Osaka Japan. One of the articles is about his visit to the Air Defense Artillery Training Support Facility, at Fort Sill where NDQSA members first met him when he was 101 years old.

Sergeant Leland Chandler was one of the original 'First to Fire' air defenders of Corregidor. Assigned to H Battery, 60th Coast Artillery, he defended the sandy beaches of Corregidor Island. For six months he fought against the onslaught of Japanese aircraft and used his three-inch



M3 gun display at the Air Defense Artillery Training Support Facility, Fort Sill, Oklahoma (ADA TSF)



Leland Chandler and Rick Liebendorfer 2024. Presentation of Honorary Membership when the family came to see the completed Leland Chandler Memorial Bench that is now at the ADA TSF.

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.

On May 28, 2026, two weeks before he passed away, Leland was interviewed by a local TV station. We have made a video of that interview to share:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1q_hneVPXU

Reunions

Together Then - Together Again

In the 2025 reunion annual meeting the membership acknowledged that our reunions are the glue that holds this association together and we would continue to meet for as long as possible rather than finding a convenient time to fold the tent and quit.

We are all getting to a time in our lives when action is tougher and there is competition for where to spend our money. Maybe it is our health or that of our loved ones. After all, the first paragraph of this article said that there would be plenty of time and another year. Except that statement was really about commitment and a promise to the men we served with to be there for them when they struggle with the same doubts.

One of the stories the website editors brought over from the old website was a 1998 story by Lou Block, C 1/44 (67-68), about coming to his first reunion. It is a compelling account about the healing power of veterans getting together.



It can be read in full at: <https://ndqsa.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/My-First-DQS-Reunion.pdf>



Some excerpts to ignite that spark and join us in Louisville.

"After 30 years I am reunited with my brothers in arms. It was a most uplifting experience for me. Even now over a week later I am still feeling lightheaded. I think it was almost a little too much for me. It has been thirty years since the 12th of July 1968, when I was medevac'd off of the Rock Pile and away from my brothers in arms. Such a long time, not knowing what happened during that one year of hell, thirty long years ago."

"As I looked around the room I did not recognize anyone right away, I had to look. I had to look deep into thirty years of

loneliness to see if I could remember a time and place when I was young and whole. I had to look deep into the faces of aging men to see if I could find myself in their past." ... "The wounds of war are deeper than any one person can tell. But I know the pain of the heart is much more painful than the shrapnel in my flesh. How happy to remove some pain! The road home is not always easy, but it must be taken. Both Joe and I have walked separately on different roads to get to the same place. We meet back together with our brothers in arms. I could not think of a better reunion between two brothers."

Members Reports of NDQSA Board of Directors Meetings

The NDQSA Board of Directors meet several times a year, usually via telephone conference calls. Official minutes of these proceedings are maintained by the secretary in accordance with the NDQSA Bylaws. These members' reports capture and condense the most relevant information. They are shared in the newsletter and are also posted to the website, which affords another opportunity to keep the NDQSA membership informed about the business of the association. With the change in newsletter policy, the website becomes even more important to the regular members who are in inactive status.

Members Report NDQSA Board of Directors Meeting May 5, 2026

The association remains financially strong. The Schwab market value of the Memorial Trust is \$59,000.

Rusty Price was invited to be an associate member. His grandfather is the World War II soldier on the website quad that had 30 airplane kills. Rusty is the president of the American Legion post in Oklahoma that is going to get a Duster for display from Fort Sill if approved by the Department of the Army.

Reunion hotel reservations are lagging behind contract room night commitments. We will need those commitments if we have to put pressure on the hotel to stand behind any of their contract pricing. If members even think they might come to the reunion, they should make reservations now, because they can be cancelled later without cost. The Louisville, Kentucky reunion hotel flyer is in the newsletter and on the website at the top of this page.

The newsletter policy was clarified. Whenever, during the current year, members decide to pay their dues and become active again, their newsletter mailing (USPS or email) starts the next time they are published. This is an important clarification because a newsletter is published in one batch not single printings. Make sure you stay current with your dues, so you don't miss a newsletter.

Ballot packets for the next election will be mailed out around 1 July to all active members of record. If someone pays their dues and becomes active between then and the annual meeting, a ballot packet will be prepared and mailed to them by the secretary. Active members who could not vote by mail-in ballot may vote at the annual meeting.

Saint Barbara and Molly Pitcher Award ceremonies are held during the annual reunion banquet for current year recipients and prior year awardees who missed their first ceremony. Any current year recipients who missed their ceremony will have their awards held over for the next reunion. If a recipient has not been able to attend during that two-year window, their award may be mailed to them after the second reunion.

Members Report NDQSA Board of Directors Meeting July 7, 2026

The association remains financially strong. The value of the Memorial Trust is \$62,000.

The Board of Directors, in their continued effort to enhance the association's support of active members and keep everyone better connected, has decided that every active member will automatically receive the hard-copy print version of the newsletter sent directly to their home via USPS. If you previously opted for email delivery on your dues and roster form, you will also receive a digital copy in your inbox. This gives you the best of both worlds: a handy print copy for reading and sharing, and a digital version packed with interactive hyperlinks to expanded information.

Reunion hotel reservations are about half of the contract room night commitments. The Louisville, Kentucky reunion hotel flyer and the reunion registration form are in the newsletter and on the website at the top of this page.

This year, whatever Good Works donation is made to a local veteran's charity, a matching amount will be deposited from treasury funds into the NDQSA Memorial Trust fund. See the July/August newsletter for more information about the Trust.

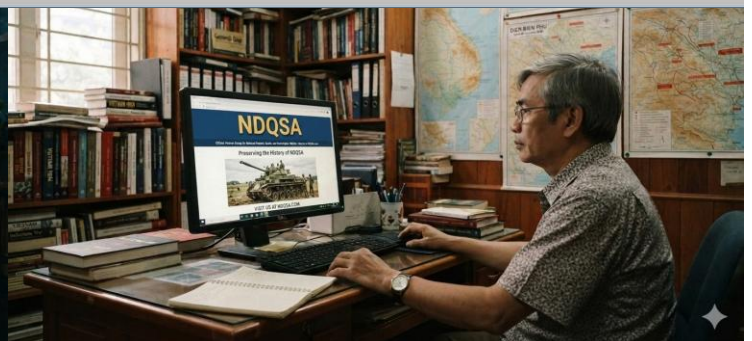
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VIETNAM VETERANS

SPC4 Jackie D. Carver, SGT David E. McCray and MAJ Lance Clark
dedicate this bench to

SGT JOHN HUELSNBECK FOUNDER OF NDOSA
and in honor of all ADA Veterans, past and present.

TOGETHER THEN – TOGETHER AGAIN – BROTHERS FOREVER



NDQSA Memorial Trust Fund Mechanics

We have run several articles in the newsletter talking about the NDQSA Memorial Trust. The preceding page was designed to catch your eye and show some of the heritage assets protected and preserved under the Trust's directives. It also depicts the sustainment activities of wreath laying twice a year and upkeep of the website where families can find your heritage stories and future historians can read personal accounts and find historical pictures of Air Defense in Vietnam.

The money in the Trust will be used for maintenance, repair, or replacement in the event of damage, whether cause by an act of nature or man-made like vandalism. Mechanically, the Trustees have the authority to act with their own judgment within the parameters laid out in the Trust document. This includes events that we might not have even considered when drawing up the Trust in 2024.

Your editors want to talk a little about the mechanics of Memorial Trust fundraising. NDQSA members have donated generously when they renew their active status. Many Dues and Roster update forms include \$25 or \$50 directed to the Trust, and the association thanks you. This newsletter makes a special plea to our 125 lifetime members, because you are not routinely filling out the Dues and Roster form to renew your active status. We know from your Lifetime membership decision that you are committed to our objectives and purposes. Please consider stroking a check to the NDQSA Memorial Trust when you make your decision about what charitable donations you make each year.

TAPS

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PASSED

Name	Unit	Yrs	Date	Loc
Reynaldo Canas	H-29 SLT	67-68	6/24/22	TX
Jacky Blackburn	4/60-C	68-69	9/29/22	KY
Robert Almond	1/44-A	69-69	2024	WA
Arthur Johnson	5/2-D	67-68	4/18/26	TX

<https://www.evergreenfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/arthur-johnson-sr>

Diane Carlson Evans	na	Assoc mbr	5/20/26	MT
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<https://www.simplecremationmt.com/obituaries/diane-evans>

Leland Chandler	na	Honorary	6/12/26	IL
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<https://www.h-p-w.com/obituary/MrLeland-Chandler>

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



Diane Carlson Evans,

The Veterans' World has lost a great person and dear friend to all veterans, especially my Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association. We were one of the fund raisers for the Women's Memorial and given the honor of unveiling this magnificent memorial on the day of the dedication on November 11, 1993, as well as being one of the keynote speakers.

- Our members have spent years on Veterans Day telling our stories during their "Story Time" at the Women's Memorial.

- Many of us have fond memories of dancing with Diane and the other Vietnam nurses at the old DMZ to Delta Dances.

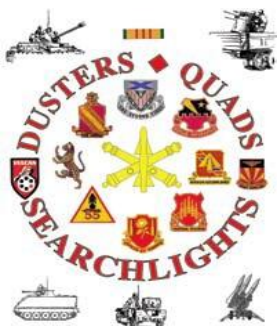
- We have been blessed to be part of this fantastic heritage.

I've known she was ill for a very long time and spoke to her only a few months ago.

God Bless You My Friend. Rest in Peace - You will be missed,

Joe Belardo





43rd Annual NDQSA Reunion

“Operation Grand Slam”

Louisville, KY

Sept 30th – Oct 4th, 2026



NDQSA is pleased to announce our
43rd Annual Reunion at the
Holiday Inn Louisville East
1325 S. Hurstbourne Parkway
Louisville, KY 40222
(502)426-2600
<https://www.hihurstbourne.com>



Room Rate: King or 2Queens \$119++
 (Sales Tax:17.66%)

Complimentary Parking

\$15 Hot Buffet Breakfast (Ask for Coupons@Checkin)
NDQSA Group Rate 3 days pre/post (9/30/26 - 10/4/26)
Based on hotel room availability!!!

Reservation Cutoff Date: Sept 14, 2026!!!
Phone & Online Reservations Must Mention:

[NDQSA Reunion](#)

Online NDQSA Reservation HotLink:

[NDQSA 2026](#)

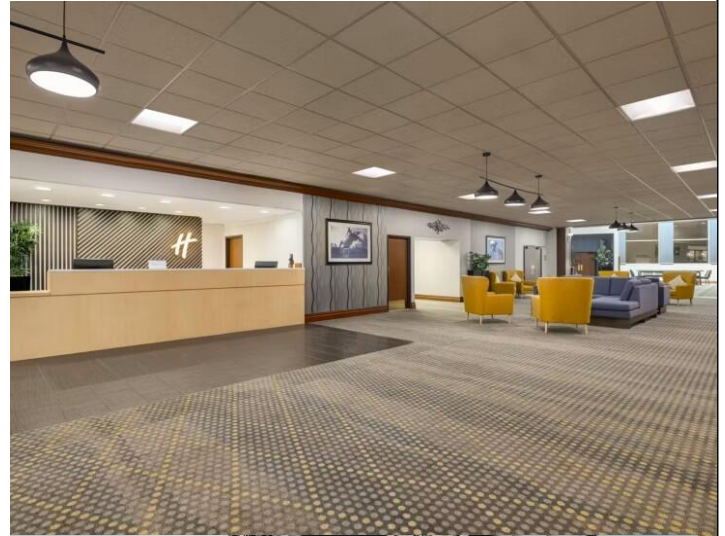
Holiday Inn Louisville East Reservations:

[Group Code: NDQSA](#)

Problems (502)426-2600 Ask for Group Sales
Office hours only: (Monday-Friday 9am–5pm Eastern)

[Book Your Hotel Reservations ASAP!](#)

[Registration Form for Reunion Events to Follow!](#)



2026 NDQSA REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

43rd Annual NDQSA Reunion, Louisville, KY Sept 30th – Oct 4th, 2026 'Operation Grand Slam'

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

Holiday Inn Louisville East
1325 S. Hurstbourne Parkway
Louisville, KY 40222
(502)426-2600

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Holiday Inn Louisville East Reservations: Group Code: NDQSA

Problems (502)426-2600 Ask for Group Sales

Office hours only: (Monday-Friday 9am–5pm Eastern)



Name(print): _____

Spouse or Guests: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

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

Sept 27 28 29 30 1 2 3 4 5 6

Su M Tu We Th F Sa Su Mo Tu

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

Wednesday, Sept 30th

Setup/Registration
10am-4pm
Hospitality Room

Sightseeing on your own
Don't Miss:

Louisville Slugger
Factory & Museum
Downtown

NDQSA
Board Of Directors Mtg.
4pm-6pm

Evening Activities
Hospitality Room
closes at ~12 midnight

Thursday, Oct 1st

10am-3:00pm
Bus Trip to
Churchill Downs
Museum & Guided
Racetrack Tour
(est 5 hrs)

\$50pp

(Lunch 'Derby Café')

2:30pm board buses
to Holiday Inn Hotel

Evening activities
Hospitality Room
closes at ~12 midnight

Friday, Oct 2nd

Sightseeing on your own

Don't Miss:

Louisville Slugger
Factory & Museum
Downtown

Hotel Ballroom
5:30 PM-10:30 PM

NDQSA Dinner
Banquet &
President's Party

Guest Speaker, Awards &
Presentations

DJ Music/Dancing/Cash Bar
\$65 pp

Hospitality Room
closes at ~12 midnight

Saturday, Oct 3rd

9:00am to 11:00am
Annual Membership
Business Mtg.

***Members required to**
attend!

9:00am to 11:00am
Ladies Continental
Breakfast

in Hospitality Room

Afternoon Sightseeing
On Your Own

7pm Evening
Activities, Auctions
& Raffle

Hospitality Room
closes at ~11 pm

Sunday, Oct 4th

9:00am
Chaplain's Farewell
Svc.

Safe Travel Home

Hope to See You
Next Year at Our
44th Annual
Reunion!

Select & Pay for Activities

<u>Select & Pay for Activities</u>	<u>No. of Persons</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Thursday, Oct 1 st 10am-3:00pm Bus Trip to Churchill Downs Museum, Racetrack Tour	(\$50) x 	= \$ _____
Friday, Oct 2 nd 5:30pm-10:30pm NDQSA Dinner Banquet & President's Party (DJ & Dancing)	(\$65) x 	= \$ _____
Voluntary donation 2026 NDQSA Good Works Project:	(any amount welcome)	\$ _____
Reunion Registration Fee: <u>Make sure you add it into your total.</u>	(\$25 individual / \$30 per family)	\$ _____
Total >>>>>>		\$ _____

NDQSA
PO Box 149
Savoy, IL 61874

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.

National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association
Membership Dues and Roster Update Form

First Name: _____

Middle Name: _____

Last Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Name of Spouse or significant other: _____

Mailing Address: print or attach your return address label.

Street or PO box: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ - _____

Email (please print legibly): _____

Primary Phone # for roster: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Vietnam Service:

Dates of Tour: from (m/yr.): _____ / _____ to (m/yr.) _____ / _____

Primary MOS: _____

Primary assigned ADA Unit with Battery: _____ 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: _____

New NDQSA policy: All active members will automatically receive a print version of the newsletter sent directly to their home or P.O. box via USPS. If you would also like to receive a digital copy please check here. **Email** _____

Dues and donations:

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, the NDQSA website, and other projects: _____

Total Enclosed Check: _____

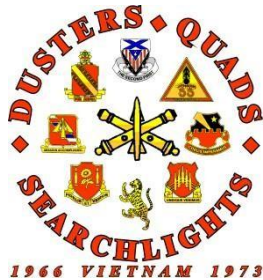


Mail Check to: **NDQSA**
PO Box 149
Savoy, IL 61874

Membership status questions or roster information updates without dues may be emailed to: **NDQSA_secretary@outlook.com**

NDQSA
PO Box 149
Savoy, IL 61874

Forward Service Requested



First to Fire...Last to Leave

August 2026 Newsletter

Reunion Hotel Flyer
Reunion Registration Flyer
Member Stories
Annual Meeting Minutes 2025
Memorial Trust Mechanics
Webmaster's Update
TAPS for Our Members

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 headquarters 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 Huelsensbeck 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.

NATIONAL DUSTERS QUADS SEARCHLIGHTS ASSOCIATION

"Together then ... Together Again"

DUSTERS **QUAD 50s** **SEARCHLIGHTS**

VULCANS **HAWKS**

U.S. ARMY VIETNAM 1965-1972