



THE GHOSTRIDERS NEWS
189th Assault Helicopter Company
Association
August 2010

Greetings: GhostRiders friends and family members. Summer is here and in full force as most of you are in extreme heat waves day after day. Our 109-111 with low humidity seems mild to your 90 plus degrees with high humidities giving you a heat index in some case over 110. Yes cooler weather is on the way in another month or two and some of you will wish it was summer again.

Reunions: The VHPA reunion has come and gone with only one known attendee from the 189th. Perhaps there were more there, but never found the 189th hospitality room. More by Steve in the Pilot's Perch. The 52d CAB and 170th AHC joint reunion will be held 16-20 September at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in St. Louis, MO. For more information go to <http://52dcab.org/reunion.htm> or contact Vern Gano at 636-219-3216. I am not sure about other unit's reunions within the Battalion.

189th AHC Reunion October 2011: We signed a contract with the Hotel Arizona in Tucson for the next 189th reunion. This is a great hotel located downtown across from the Civic center. I believe this is the best hotel we have ever selected and you will get more for the buck. Room rates will be \$92.00 and include A Full American Breakfast, full fitness privileges to the YMCA, wireless high speed internet access, and copy service for our guests, and a daily newspaper. We have not worked on a schedule of events yet, but if you have ideas we would welcome them and if you would like to come and meet us in Tucson and work the details out we especially welcome that. "We need your help."

PILOT'S PERCH, by *Steve Schmidt* Howdy to all those 189th guys who attended the 189th mini-reunion in San Diego in July. It was in conjunction with the Vietnam Helicopter Pilot Association (VHPA) annual reunion. Bill Holland was the 189th mini-reunion host and he reported that both went well because he was able to find each room - the one for Friday and the one for Sunday. However, he did not make contact with any other 189th guys. Not even any from our flight class. But, just like any other reunion, Bill met some fine folks and enjoyed himself.

You know that I schedule the 189th mini-reunions with the VHPA annual reunion because they have them all over the country and usually with coverage in the newspaper. Some wife is always sending her Vietnam pilot husband to the reunion because “he will know someone there” – and we get to welcome them into our 189th association and they are happy to be “home” with us. So let me tell you of my friend Bill.

Someday I will write about my friend Bill Holland (Cornhusker, Rhodes Scholar, father, helicopter pilot, etc) because he is a person that I would love to write about. Who else says: “I’ll organize the mini-reunions without you!” That is how he responded when I realized that I could not make the trip to San Diego and approached him for help. And that was after I had not seen him since the 1995 VHPA reunion in Kansas City. And you may already know that he is the acclaimed author of the book entitled Let a Solder Die which seemed to be based on the 189th AHC and some of our colorful compatriots – but he claimed it was fiction. (I wonder which character was me.)

Regards, Steve (“Silver Lead” – 1st A/L Platoon)

Kontum Orphanage Update



Early last winter we started to collect funds to build a building to serve as an administrative, classroom and dayroom building at one of the Vinh Son Orphanages, the location we call VS6. As of today, because of the 189th, we have built the building at VS6 and we have also contributed funds with Terre Des Hommes, from Canada, to build a security wall around VS3.

I will be posting pictures on the Internet shortly of what we have accomplished. The sisters and the kids are most thankful for the 189th! Our donations have been critical in making a reality of much needed projects. Thanks to all who contributed and offered encouragement

The primary focus of Friends of Vinh Son is to provide for supplemental food, medicine and education. The funds from the 189th are being used to improve the physical environment. We try to manage our funds carefully. 100% of all your donations goes to the kids. All administrative and travel expenses are paid by board members themselves. Other projects I am working on are:

Bicycle Repair..we are trying to establish a bicycle repair shop at VS4

Computer education ...we would like to establish a computer literacy / education program at VS1.

Believe it or not there are internet cafes in Kontum. In order for these kids to have a shot at higher education they will need computer literacy.

Library for kidswe would like to start libraries for small children at all 6 locations. Many of the kids who come to the orphanages from the remote villages are way behind their peers. We want to give them fun books to read, in Vietnamese, to encourage them to catch up.

Play Area for toddlers....all the infants and toddlers are brought to VS1 for nursery care until they are old enough to go back to the VS location that serves their village. There are few toys to help the children develop. We would like to stock a "toy chest" for them.

I have learned in my brief experience that none of these projects happen overnight. First we make sure we have the funds. Then the Board reviews the project in detail before it is approved. Then we need to find time and resources in the local area to execute the plan. Then we audit it to make sure the end result is what we funded.

Please send your contributions to:

Friends of Vinh Son Orphanages

PO Box 9322

Auburn, CA 95604-9322

Remember to put 189th AHC Project VS4 on your check. Also note this is tax deductible.

To find out more about what we are doing please see our web site www.friendsofvo.org

Pat Leary

Avenger III

Membership: The GhostRiders Newsletter is supported by the membership of those who donate and become a member to the Association. Not everyone that received the newsletter is a member. As of this date we have 78 regular members and 11 Life Members. We mail out 406 plus copies of the newsletter counting family members. In the coming months I will be working on drafting bylaws for our association. You are also welcome to submit what you think our bylaws should be. We need to incorporate our association as soon as possible. It has been suggested to me that we go ahead and do this before the reunion. To do that we will need an interim board of officers. I would like to hear your thoughts on this matter. If you would be interested in serving as an officer of the 189th I first think there be a few prerequisite, and that would be that you have attended a minimum of two reunions and have donated or paid dues for the same. I feel that anyone who serves our organization needs to have a little bit of history behind them. So now it's your time to sound off. We are not accepting any more Life Memberships until we get our Association accepted. Your input is welcome.

Gerry's Travels: This summer Bobbye and I have spent a lot of time at Loma Linda Medical University Hospital. Both of us have had medical problems and a lot of appointments. Finally we have a break and both of us are doing much better. They tried a nerve block on Bobbye in lieu of surgery and she did not respond very well. At this time she is in a wait and see mode. It's amazing that doctors these days do not listen to everything you tell them until you get their attention. I finally found out why I was having vertigo and staying dizzy. Very simply: Too much blood pressure medicine. After passing out several times and thousands of dollars of test and new doctors I lowered my blood pressure medicine. This problem started in January and went to July. We did get to make a quick (10 day) trip to Oregon to see our middle son and his family. Just as we got back to Loma Linda from Oregon my Niece called to say that my brother had passed away, so we caught the redeye for Birmingham and attended his funeral. I am now the only living member of my immediate family. A lot of weight has now fallen upon me as I have a host of Nieces and nephews. We had planned on spending a couple of weeks in Alabama this summer, but that is now out. As we finish this we are just back from a conference in Phoenix and then in another few days back at Loma Linda then I hope we can go to the ocean for a week or so and cool off and relax for a few days.

Bobbye and I will return to Tucson in November to work on the outside events. We will mail out a list of possibilities for us to select from. From all indications that I have received from emails and phone calls everyone wants to go to Old Tombstone. I am sure that can be worked out. The Boneyard is closed on Saturday so Tombstone will have to be on a Saturday which may make Saturday a very long day. We have talked to some friends to put on a special presentation for our banquet this year that is very moving that each one will enjoy. At this time I do not plan to have a speaker as the presentation will speak for it's self. We hope everyone will make plans to attend. Tucson has a lot to offer and 3 days is not enough time to see and do it all. At this time I do not advise you to plan on going into Mexico from Tucson. If you want to go into Mexico plan to come home with Bobbye and I and we will take you down on the Baja side about 20 minutes from Yuma. It's clean and safe.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer, as you know Fall is just around the Conner, then comes old man winter.

Change of Address and Emails: Please: *If you change your address or email please send me a change. Each newsletter I received 15-20 newsletters back that have moved. Once in a while the post office will give me your new address. Email address. If you change it I have no way finding out your new email. Every so often there is a need to send out an email with important news. Especially death notices which happen to often. Please note that I have a new phone number. My direct number 24 hours a day is 928-304-8878. Bobbye's number is 928-344-5613. Yes we are still tied at the hip. I no longer have the San Diego cell phone number and both numbers are Verizon cell phones.*

Brothers Forever,

*Gerry Sandlin
9559 E. 38th Lane
928-304-8878 928-344-5613*



**189th ASSAULT HELICOPTER COMPANY ASSOCIATION
Membership Application**

Name: _____ DOB: _____

Nickname: _____

Name of Spouse: _____ DOB: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ / State _____ / Zip _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell: _____

E-mail Address: _____ @ _____

Dates in 189th _____, 604th _____, 6th Signal _____ 519th Med _____ ?
Please circle

Dates/Units _____

Other Units: _____

Crew/Position: _____

CALL SIGN: _____

If you still are working, please list the name of the business:

Work Phone: _____

Donation for Membership Dues for two year. \$25.00: _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

Please make the check out to the 189th AHC Assoc., and mail to:
Gerry Sandlin
189th AHC
9559 E. 38th LN
Yuma, AZ 85365

If you have any questions, please contact Gerry 928-344-5613 or
cell at 928-304-8878 Email: Gerry.sandlin@gmail.com