



# NDQSA Newsletter

National Dusters Quads and Searchlights Association  
Fall 2009



## Presidents Message

**Bruce M. Geiger - September 9, 2009**

As summer finally comes to a close I have had several weeks to reflect and unwind from the excitement of our annual reunion in San Antonio, TX. The reunion was a huge success with near record attendance of at least 116 members with a total attendance of over 230 including family members and guests. A highlight of the reunion was our bus trip to Ft. Sam Houston where the entire group toured the new Warrior Family Support Center. A small contingent was also granted a visit to Brooke Army Medical Center and the new state-of-the-art Intrepid Rehabilitation Center where we visited with several wounded warriors and staff. NDQSA and its members donated \$3600 toward the purchase of seventy-two \$50 Wal-Mart gift cards distributed to wounded warriors and their families at the hospital and at the Family Support Center.

The reunion also celebrated the completion and distribution of the Association's History Book that was received with overwhelming enthusiasm by the membership. The positive response from so many members has prompted a flood of new book orders and the Board of Directors has approved a second printing that has already been initiated by the publications committee. Congratulations to our Historian, Paul Kopsick, the book committee and editorial assistants for this monumental achievement.

Another major milestone was reached at our annual business meeting on July 4<sup>th</sup>, when the membership overwhelmingly approved the new NDQSA By-Laws, a draft of which had been presented for review by the general membership in the spring 2009 newsletter. Major changes in the governance of the Association include a 13 member Board of Directors (comprised of five elected executive officers, immediate past president and seven elected board members) replacing the former, less formal and loosely defined Executive Committee and officer positions. In addition, the new By-Laws for the first time set term limits for the President and authorize an absentee ballot system for all future elections to include voting by all active dues paying members, regardless of attendance at the annual business meeting elections. I have appointed John Huelsenbeck, an Advisor and original charter member of the Association, as the chairman of the nominating committee to receive nominations and to help formulate the initial absentee ballot procedure.

During the reunion a number of wives requested approval to form an NDQSA Ladies Auxiliary which was enthusiastically granted by the Board and the general membership. In addition to assisting at reunions, the new group coordinated by Mary Severin and others will maintain

email and telephone contact with interested family members and friends, and will assist the Board with recommendations and planning for reunion events. Contact information is available on page nine of this newsletter.

The Association's newly elected Board of Directors held our first teleconference meeting in August and discussed priorities and initiatives for this year. I will be visiting Savannah, GA in a few weeks to negotiate with hotels in preparation for the 2010 NDQSA Annual Reunion. Details will be posted in our next newsletter and on the website as soon as they become available.

A major effort will be started to update and upgrade our website. We are seeking assistance from any members with expertise in this area to help in this endeavor. We hope to include a credit card payment capability to the website for convenience in paying NDQSA dues, merchandise purchases online, pre-registration reunion fees and donations. Anyone interested in assisting us should contact me or Paul Kopsick in order that we may plan and coordinate our efforts.

Lastly and most importantly, it is my sincere desire and foremost goal that our Association achieves significantly larger active membership participation than we have had in the past. Although active, dues paying membership is at an all time high of nearly 350 members, we have a roster of over 2000 receiving newsletters. There is no reason why we should not have at least 1000 active members in 2010! Our \$25 annual dues are lower than most other veteran organizations. We are not getting any younger, and we do not have a pool of new young veterans to draw from as do many other veterans groups. We do however have each other, a proud brotherhood of Vietnam veterans estimated at nearly 20,000 who served in ADA units from 1965-1972. Our bonds are undeniably stronger than most. I call on each and every one of you to stand up and be counted. We will be initiating a telephone campaign to contact brothers, who for one reason or another have drifted away. I urge all of you in this age of free long distance telephone service and computer email to join the effort. Get current on your annual dues and contact everyone you know to do the same. I remain available and look forward to hearing from each and every one of you. Your participation, suggestions and comments are always welcome.



## NDQSA Board of Directors and Executive Officers 2009-2010

**Executive Officers (5):** (serving one-year terms of office until 2010. All serve on Board of Directors. Future elections will be for two-year terms of office).

**President:** Bruce Geiger (A/B-1/44<sup>th</sup> '67-68)  
46 Mohegan Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804  
(914) 576-1050 (914)924-3224 [bmgeiger@aol.com](mailto:bmgeiger@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Bob Lauver (G-65<sup>th</sup> '66-68)  
P.O. Box 276, Selinsgrove, PA 17870  
(570) 374-1699 [rhlauver@juno.com](mailto:rhlauver@juno.com)

**Ist Vice President:** Paul Hanson (E-41<sup>st</sup> '70-71)  
1795 Hillcrest Lane, Aston, PA 19014  
(610) 909-0632 [pdhanson1@comcast.net](mailto:pdhanson1@comcast.net)

**Secretary:** Sam Hopkins (H-4/60<sup>th</sup> '66-67)  
1027 Timothy, Jacksonville, TX 75766  
(903) 586-4488 [sampat1964@suddenlink.net](mailto:sampat1964@suddenlink.net)

**Treasure:** Allan Penwell (C-5/2<sup>nd</sup> '67-68)  
2408 N. Nottingham Ct., Champaign, IL 61821  
(217) 365-4224 [a.penwell@comcast.net](mailto:a.penwell@comcast.net)

**Board of Directors (8):** (serving two-year terms of office until 2011 unless elected to Executive Office)

**Immediate Past President:** Ed Allen (A-4/60<sup>th</sup> '70-71)  
P.O. Box 198, Cynthiana, IN 47612  
(812) 845-2303 [dustered@juno.com](mailto:dustered@juno.com)

Bob Cuce (E-41<sup>st</sup> '70-71)  
7 Karp Dr., Islip Terrace, NY 11752 (631) 277-2893  
[bcuce@esboces.org](mailto:bcuce@esboces.org) or [quadguy57@yahoo.com](mailto:quadguy57@yahoo.com)

Duane Gettler (B-5/2<sup>nd</sup> '66-67)  
806 Stuart St., Adair, IA 50002 (641) 742-3630  
[dgettler@iowatelecom.net](mailto:dgettler@iowatelecom.net)

Paul Kopsick (B-4/60<sup>th</sup> '71)  
4338 Still Meadow Rd, Fairfax, VA 22032  
(202) 262-9560 [dqshistorian@cox.net](mailto:dqshistorian@cox.net)

Clyde Larsen (G-29<sup>th</sup> '68-69)  
353 Dartmouth Dr, Elgin, IL 60123  
(847) 695-7659 [clarsen1168@wowway.com](mailto:clarsen1168@wowway.com)

Dave McCray (E-41<sup>st</sup> '70-71)  
11408 Kingsridge Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73170  
(405) 692-4038 [sooner3@cox.net](mailto:sooner3@cox.net)

Steve Moore (D-4/60, C-1/44<sup>th</sup> '67'68)  
2104 Jacobs Mill Cir, Downingtown, PA 19335 (484)  
593-0467 [lsmooredqs@yahoo.com](mailto:lsmooredqs@yahoo.com)

George Nagelschmidt (C-1/44<sup>th</sup> '66-67)  
233 Syracuse Ave, Oswego, NY 13126  
(315) 343-1528 No Email

### **Appointed Positions**

**Sgt. At Arms:** Duane Harvey (D-71<sup>st</sup> '70-71)  
3489 Ct Rd A West, Janesville, WI 53548  
(608) 754-1377 [bohnr50@att.net](mailto:bohnr50@att.net)

**Chaplain:** Sam Hopkins (H-4/60<sup>th</sup> '67-68)  
1027 Timothy, Jacksonville, TX 75766  
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**Historian:** Paul Kopsick (B-4/60<sup>th</sup> '71)  
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**Reporter:** Richard Shand (D-5/2<sup>nd</sup> '69-70)  
844 Everett Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5A 2N4 Canada  
(604) 421-6103 [rshand@shaw.ca](mailto:rshand@shaw.ca)

**Parliamentarian:** Luke Clark (H-4/60<sup>th</sup> '71)  
1603 West Hawthorne Rd., Leesville, LA 71446  
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### **Advisors**

Joseph Belardo (C-1/44<sup>th</sup> '67-68)  
527 O'Donahue Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080  
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Vincent Tedesco (C-1/44<sup>th</sup> '67-68)  
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Larry LaPrairie (C-1/44<sup>th</sup> '66-67)  
8139 E. Mulberry St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251  
(601) 721-2777 [laprairiepainting@cox.net](mailto:laprairiepainting@cox.net)

Montgomery T. Speir (H-4/60<sup>th</sup> '71)  
3312 Childers St., Raleigh, NC 27612  
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### **Advisors Emeritus**

Victor Hugo (H-1/44<sup>th</sup>)  
1701 Chesterbrook Vale Ct., McLean, VA 22101  
(703) 893-3797

Douglas Mehle (C-1/44<sup>th</sup> '70)  
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(850) 916-4879 [fdmehle@aol.com](mailto:fdmehle@aol.com)

**NDQSA Reunion July 1-5, 2009  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, San Antonio, Texas**



Our Association's ADA Vietnam Veterans came to the reunion in San Antonio primarily to meet old buddies, and left having made many new friends, thanks to the enjoyable planned activities and indelible military remembrances of the occasion.



From the Wednesday July 1st warm opening ceremonies official welcome by the city's mayor pro tem John G. Clamp and Christine Kjosa (Hopkins) a Daughter of the Republic of Texas, to the celebratory Sunday morning recounting of the good times shared together, those who attended this year's reunion expect more of the same when the NDQSA holds its next reunion in Savannah.

A large, new NDQSA emblem banner greeted each person at the reunion registration table. Enthusiastic volunteers supplied members and guests with lots of information about things to do and places to go. At the other end of the hospitality room, a donated tableau respectfully enshrined the memorial list of our former comrades in arms who were lost during the Vietnam War, with a separate listing of those who have left us since our last reunion. In between these

distinctive unit signages were memorabilia displays, NDQSA merchandise sales, and donated items of a Chinese auction. No wonder the hospitality room was the principal hangout for fellowship around circular tables. Refreshments (cokes, beer, and edibles) were provided throughout the gathering to any and all that cared to imbibe with donations covering all their costs.



**Registrations and memorabilia setup**

City sightseeing began on Wednesday evening when three floating barges full of revelers explored the famous tourist attractions on the San Antonio Riverwalk. The reunion director cautioned the nautical explorers to watch out for German U-boats and pirate ships. Everyone returned safely and dry after noting where the many popular restaurants and clubs were open for business with good dining and entertainment.



**River Barge Tour**



**Thurs. July 2: Executive Committee Meeting**

On Thursday AM, after the Exec. Comm. Meeting, two buses totally full of camera toting passengers went to the Alamo, Ft. Sam Houston and Brooke Army Medical Center, and the artisan shops in La Villita.



**Vietnam Memorial Service**

On Friday morning July 3rd, three buses equally full of conventioners stopped at the Vietnam Memorial and then toured the grounds of Mission San Jose. On the way back to the hotel, shoppers were let off at the Old Market to buy souvenirs and eat some of the best Tex-Mex food in America. No wonder the afternoons were spent back at the cool hotel observing siesta time and attending book signing parties, line dancing classes, or discussing Association business when needed.



**Brooke Army Medical Center  
Wounded Warrior donations delivery**



**NDQSA Official Book Release Party**



**Line Dancing Class for family members**



**Annual Business Meeting  
Election of Officers, By-Laws approved and enacted**

Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, started with the annual business meeting and was patriotically celebrated with a bountiful banquet and patriotic speeches. Fireworks filled the night sky as our veterans and families proudly hailed our country's heritage of freedom and liberty. All these experiences made our fraternal ties closer and stronger, and are meant to be shared. We closed the reunion Sunday AM with a gathering and service presided over by Chaplain Sam Hopkins.



**Banquet with POW ceremony and guest speakers  
Col. Mark McGhee and Mrs Kay Brant.**



**Chinese auction of homemade craft items and  
souvenirs raised \$1000**

**Sun. July 5**



**Reunion Thanksgiving, Blessings, and Benediction  
by Chaplain Sam Hopkins**

**Reunion Notes:** The 116 member names in the sign-in book makes this one of the highest attended reunions on record. The pre-registration worked out well and we were able to correctly plan for the barge trip, buses for field trips and the head count for the banquet. We didn't even need to print out tickets and used the honor system at all events. We essentially "broke even" thanks to the Wounded Warrior donations, auction and 50-50's. Thanks to our arrangement with the hotel, on the last day we drew lots and awarded vouchers for a one night's rebate to eight lucky attendees. The people who were there want to do it again. The encore is coming in 2010 when we shall have our next reunion in Savannah, GA. Make plans now to be there then, y' all.

**SAVANNAH HERE WE COME!**



## Sergeant's Corner:

### CALLING ALL SHAKES!

NCOCS grads were in great attendance in San Antonio. Probably the largest get together of classmates since their graduation and undoubtedly the largest consumption of war stories, camaraderie, and libation since leaving Vietnam. Photo albums were in abundance with stories to accompany each turning page. If you missed it, you need to put next year's reunion on your schedule. Many first timers made it to San Antonio and all professed truly enjoying the experience, vowing to return next year.

I have started the gathering of names, addresses, emails, and phone numbers for all NCOCS classes in hopes of gathering a list of each class, who we all were and where we are now, and a short history of the contributions of the "shake & bakes". I have no data on class 1-69 (the first class I think), 1-70, and conflicting data on the others. If you have data on your class or the classes before or after yours please contact me. Pictures and names will be very helpful! Thanks guys. Hope to see you at the next reunion--Paul Hanson--[pdhanson1@comcast.net](mailto:pdhanson1@comcast.net) or 610-909-0632.



**Remembrance Ceremony Table at San Antonio**

## **NDQSA REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY**

210 Names

210 Lives cut short, unspent

210 Comrades, Brothers in Arms, - Reminders to us all  
That There But For The Grace Of God Am I

These 210 Men will die only when they are no longer remembered – We have a duty – A Mission - to insure that they will live on – They will be remembered

Our comrades fell in the Mekong Delta, In the Central Highlands, and in the Northern reaches of I Corps – They left behind Mothers and Fathers, Brothers and Sisters, Wives and Lovers, Sons and Daughters --- And Friends --- They left behind friends

In their ongoing memory – Our 210 - and the memory of all our 58,261 Countrymen, - Brothers and Sisters - that lost their lives as a result of the Vietnam War --- Let us offer a moment of silent reflection ---

As each of these men fell a piece of us fell with them  
As we live our lives - a piece of them  
- is living within us

They will make their presence known at the most unexpected times – A movie – or a song that carries us back – They will be there

When you look a Gold Star Mother in the eye – It matters not the conflict – She will not be seeing you...She will be seeing those within you....

It has been four decades since we left that place... and we have to recognize that the days remaining are numbered – we have to make every one of them count!

Let us live our lives as a reminder of what their lives could have been ---

Let us touch others – and through that touch let those within us influence those lives ---

May everyone live a life in celebration of those who have made our way of life possible

We close with a memory from a British World War Two Memorial in Burma –

“When you go home, - Tell them of us --- And Say ---  
For Your Tomorrow – We Gave Our Today”



### NEW NDQSA MEMORIAL PANELS

NDQSA is pleased to accept a series of panels listing the names of the known DQS casualties in Vietnam. The panels were presented to the Association by Vice President Robert Lauver and his wife Susan. The five permanent panels list the 210 names currently comprising the known list of NDQSA casualties in chronological order. The format mimics the engraved black granite of the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial "The Wall" in Washington, DC. There was also a sixth panel that listed NDQSA members that recently passed.

This gift continues the long standing tradition that charter member and past president Hugh Roberts began. He respectfully brought a large display made from actual wall rubbings of previously identified DQS casualties to prior reunions. Thanks!

### **Highlights of the NDQSA Board of Directors Meeting on 21 August 2009**

Conducted by Joint Phone Conference 11:05 PM EDT, DQS president, Bruce Geiger, began the meeting by announcing the business agenda for the phone conference. The officers who successfully logged onto the joint phone conference to participate in the business discussion included: Bruce Geiger, Bob Lauver, Paul Hanson, Sam Hopkins, Ed Allen, Bob Cuce, Paul Kopsick, Clyde Larsen, Dave McCray, Steve Moore, George Nagelschmidt, John Huelsenbeck. Unavailable for teleconference: Allan Penwell, Duane Gettler, Richard Shand and Joseph Belardo

**AGENDA** (in the order discussed)

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Prior to the phone conference. Allan Penwell electronically submitted a

detailed financial report of the NDQSA accounts. The total assets as of 7/31/2009 were \$57,707.94 with \$15,269.35 dedicated for Operation Gold Star, and \$42,438.59 available for use in the operating budget.

Reunion account reports were:	
2009 Reunion: Receipts	\$ 13,922.70
Expenses	\$ 13,875.94
Profit	\$ 46.76
Reunion Merchandise: Sales	\$3300.00
Shipping Expense	\$ 365.00
Gross Profit	\$2935.00
(Does not include cost of merchandise)	
History Book sales & Covers:	
Sales	\$1859.00
Expenses	\$1606.40
Net Profit	\$ 252.60

### **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**NDQSA HISTORY BOOK:** Paul Kopsick reported that the first book printing has been sold out and that the Turner Publishing Company has no books on hand. The minimum order for a second printing is 150 copies. The NDQSA already has 75 orders pending, with good prospects for future sales. The most feasible and profitable venture for the Association will be to market the books by buying them from the publisher and selling them with covers for \$60 each including shipping (this is the regular price of the standard edition of the book). (See new form for book sales)

Discussion/Actions: After a full discussion about the quantity of the books to be ordered, Paul Hanson moved and Steve Moore seconded that 350 books be purchased at this time. The officers approved the action unanimously. Discounts will be given to members who order multiple copies and on reorders. Paul Kopsick would like some assistance in storing the next book order and handling the purchase requests. Steve Moore will consider handling this responsibility.

The Turner Publishers have returned all the original material that was submitted to them for inclusion in the book. Paul Kopsick has carefully catalogued all the items and has been mailing back all original materials to the members who own them. Non-original material that were submitted to the Turner Company will not be returned unless specifically requested. An announcement to this effect will be publicized in the Fall newsletter. (see page 9)

### **GOOD WORKS COMMITTEE:**

A committee chairman is needed. During the reunion, the NDQSA donated \$3600 in Wal-Mart gift cards to the Wounded Warriors at the Brooke Army Medical Center. Another \$200 was donated to three charities in honor of the San Antonio VVA chapter members, the taps bugler, and the bagpiper who participated in the NDQSA Vietnam Memorial service during the reunion.

The officers discussed in great detail the actions taken during the annual business meeting about utilizing the funds collected for Operation Gold Star. In lieu of any Gold Star mothers being able to travel to Vietnam, the Association is investigating a donation to the Gold Star Mothers' Memorial. An architect and sculptor have been retained for the memorial. Acquisition of property in Washington D.C., requires congressional approval.

The preferred site is in Freedom or Pershing Plaza. The project will cost 1.5 to 2.0 million dollars, and 120% of the funding must be obtained to begin construction. The Vietnam Women's Memorial took ten years for completion. The Gold Stars Mothers Memorial has a long way still to go. The NDQSA could pledge to contribute money once a congressional bill is passed to authorize the project. Ed Allen asked if the original OGS program was closed since Frances Turley had indicated to him that there were Gold Star Mothers still able to travel. Bob Lauver suggested that an Ad Hoc committee, including Ed Allen and Bob Lauver, investigate if any women can still make the trip. The Good Works committee will be responsible for recommending any final disposition of the OGS funds.

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE:** Under the newly adopted By-Laws officer nominations will need to be made in advance of the 2010 annual meeting to allow for absentee ballots from dues paying members. Sam Hopkins recommended that Bruce Geiger appoint a committee chairman in time to announce in the Fall newsletter in order for members to contact the committee with nominations for the 2010 ballot.

**NDQSA CHALLENGE COIN:** Many military and vet organizations have produced metal challenge coins to commemorate themselves. Member John Korzek is very familiar with these coins and has presented information from a trusted manufacturer he has dealt with. The NDQSA could consider contracting for a NDQSA coin to sell to the membership. It would have the circular logo of unit crests and familiar line art used

for the different weapon systems. Production costs would be about \$7 per 2-inch coin (based on a run of 400 coins) with a common design. There is a small plate that can be stamped with individual unit names post production. Steve Moore mentioned that ADA Challenge Coin had been used at the reunion in Ft. Bliss. Bruce Geiger added that the Khe Sanh Veterans developed a beautiful coin with another supplier and will obtain contact info and price quote from them. This business item will be given more consideration during future meetings.

**NDQSA QUARTERMASTER:** Bruce Geiger proposed that the association have a Quartermaster officer to collect and store all organizational owned property. The board members need to identify those items originally donated to the Association, their current location and status. It was requested that Ed Allen research and report to the Board regarding Association property maintained by individual members. The Quartermaster will coordinate the storage and accessibility of these items for reunions and plan for their ultimate preservation. The officers were receptive to the proposal and are to send recommendations to Bruce Geiger. John Huelsenbeck has already sent historical DQS material he had to the Historian for archiving. If any other former officers have any Association related records, communications, albums, etc in their possession please collect them and pass them through the Historian for digitization.

**CONSOLIDATION OF RECORDS:** It was recommended that an effort be made to contact past officers to locate and consolidate any and all documents related to past operations and activities of the Association with the current Secretary and/or Treasurer as appropriate. This would include legal documents, banking records, commitments on behalf of the Association, etc.

### **VIETNAM VETERANS MEETINGS:**

The Indiana Vietnam veterans will meet in Kokomo, IN on Sept. 18-19, 2009 with a number of NDQSA members attending. NDQSA members also attend the Veterans Day observances in Washington D.C. and will stay at the Holiday Inn at Rosslyn in Arlington near the Key Bridge.

There being no further business, the president adjourned the board meeting at 1:25 PM EDT.

-Minutes Recorded by Sam Hopkins, Secretary.

## *Ladies Auxiliary of the DQS Association*

For all the ladies that did not attend the 2009 San Antonio reunion, we are organizing a Ladies Auxiliary of the DQS Association. My name is Mary Severin and I have volunteered to chair the Ladies Auxiliary. The purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary is to help the DQS Association in any way needed, to welcome all new and current members to the reunions and to keep you informed of the planned activities.

If you did not provide me with your email address in San Antonio, you can still do so by emailing me directly or calling. I'm looking forward to the 2010 reunion in Savannah, GA and hope that if you haven't been to a reunion in the past, that you consider joining us in 2010.

Mary Severin  
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## **Return of History Book material sent to Turner Publishers over the years.**

If you sent in any pictures, slides, stories, magazines, or other printed material, they were returned to the Historian for inventorying, archiving and ultimate return to owners. The Historian has completed the inventory and has returned all "original" photos and documents.

To save on processing and mailing, we do not plan to return those materials that are obvious copies or reprints of photos and documents. If you sent non-original material and still want it returned, contact the Historian and he will return them. If you did not receive anything by now, it was deemed a copy and not an original photo or document.

Any material of a literary nature or interesting photos that were not used in the History Book may still be used in future newsletters or on the soon to be revamped NDQSA website.

The following contribution WORDS was submitted by Ron Kaczorowski but not used in the book.

-Paul Kopsick, Historian

## **WORDS**



**- Ron Kaczorowski**

D-Btry, 4<sup>th</sup> /60<sup>th</sup> Arty, Vietnam 1967

I cannot remember them all,  
but this about sums it up.

**FT. BLISS, TX, OAKLAND, CA,  
USNS GORDON, QUI NHON,  
PLEIKU, DRAGON MT., SIN CITY,  
FIRE BASE, FIREFIGHT,  
SAND BAGS, BUNKERS,  
CHOPPERS, M-42 DUSTER,  
40MM, AR-15, 7.62MM, M-60, DOG TAGS,  
MONSOON, MUD, HEAT, SNAKES,  
RATS, BUGS, MOSQUITOS,  
NVA, ARVN, CHARLIE, GOOKS,  
MONKEY, PIGLET, DONKEY, DOGS,  
P-38, C-RATIONS, HOT SAUCE,  
BLACK LABEL, 33, TIGER BEER, JACK IN  
THE BLACK, FATIGUES, BOOTS,  
R-E-S-P-E-C-T,  
RED CROSS CARE PACKAGE,  
LUCKY STRIKES,  
MORTARS, INCOMING, AK-47,  
RPG, CLAYMORES, GRENADES,  
LISTENING POST,  
BOOBY TRAPS, PUNGI STICKS,  
FLARES, CONVOYS,  
MONTAGNARDS, ROK,  
NEWBEE, SHORT TIMER,  
LIFE, DEATH, MISERABLE,  
CARLUCCL, WILLIAMS, JACKSON,  
SMOTHERS,  
DEROS !**

## SILVER STAR RESEARCH PROGRAM

- Paul Kopsick, NDQSA Historian



You would think that there is a list of every Silver Star ever awarded ...well there is not!

The only way our group can identify Silver Star awardees is to have each man identify himself and to present a copy of his citation. We have a vague idea how many there might be, based on the quarterly Battalion Operational Reports and Lesson Learned reports (ORLLs). However even they do not list names, only how many awards were written up and how many were approved. Also towards the end of 1971, when the battalions' operations were winding down, some paperwork was never processed and no ORLLs were generated for the last quarter of 1971.

So if you were awarded a Silver Star and have not already sent me a copy of your citation, please do that. Each newsletter we will post a citation to honor the man and his service.

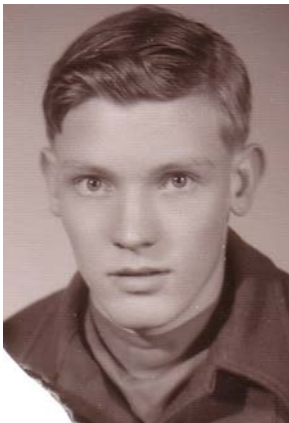
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### **RANDALL WAYNE KING,**

SERGEANT United States Army

BATTERY I (SEARCHLIGHT) 29TH ARTILLERY

Awarded: Silver Star Date action: 22 February 1969



Sergeant King distinguished himself by gallantry in action while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an armed hostile force on 22 February 1969 while serving as a searchlight crewman with Battery I (Searchlight), 29th Artillery, II Field Force Artillery, in the Republic of Vietnam. On this date Sergeant King and his section chief were providing illumination on the eastern perimeter of Long Binh Post. Sergeant King monitored a radio message

reporting rocket flashes and rounds impacting on the southern perimeter. With complete disregard for his safety, he and his section chief headed their open search-light vehicle toward the heavily bombarded south perimeter moving directly through an intense mortar and grenade barrage. Arriving at a bunker, they discovered several wounded soldiers on the ground. At great risk to his own life, Sergeant King assisted in the evacuation of these men to a jeep in the rear, although the area was under peak mortar and rocket attack and intense automatic weapons fire. After the wounded had been evacuated, Sergeant King took up a fighting position on the perimeter and laid down a high volume of suppressive fire. As he continued in his efforts to defend the searchlight position, a mortar round landed near his bunker and metal fragments knocked the weapon from his hands, temporarily blinding him. With his weapon inoperative and the other men in his bunker low on ammunition, Sergeant King volunteered to go for a resupply. On his third trip, he encountered a wounded man and carried the man to safety. He then returned to the searchlight position and proceeded to place effective machine gun fire on the enemy. Sergeant King's gallantry and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.

Randall is an Active Member and currently resides in Wheatland, WY. We saw him and his wife at the Rochester Reunion in 2008.

Silver Star recipient **Robert Lauver** G-65 Quads went down to Washington DC in February to be interviewed by a production company commissioned to prepare a training piece for the Air Defense Artillery School, US Army. The completed interviews can be found at <http://istory.visualeyes.com/ada/>.

As you go through the modules, you will also see NDQSA members **MG Victor Hugo** H-1/44 and Col. **Vincent Tedesco** C-1/44. Bob Lauver retells the events of the first few hours of Tet '68 in Hue city. They messed up on his rank (E-5 not E-7) and the background photo added afterwards shows an improper version of the quad 50 with tombstone ammo cans.

Bob also reports that "on this day I was sick as a dog, 102+ fever and a running nose!"

All three men gave very personal and professional accounting of their ADA experiences and are commended for their service and sacrifices.

**SGT. MANUEL F. MARTINEZ**

**A Promise Fulfilled - Bruce M. Geiger A-1/44<sup>th</sup>**



It had been nearly 41 years to the day that I had left the embattled combat base at Khe Sanh on 14 April 1968. The harrowing and deadly ordeal was finally over, although in the months that followed, new seedlings in my dark forest of nightmares would continue to emerge.

Seven weeks earlier I met Sgt. Manuel Floyd Martinez for the first time since transferring into A Btry / 1<sup>st</sup> Bn - 44<sup>th</sup> Artillery as 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon CO. I had flown into the besieged Marine base in February with supplies and several replacements to take command of the two Duster and two Quad 50 crews that had defended the northern perimeter of the base since the 77 day siege began. Sgt. Martinez was a sharp, confident, 22 year old squad leader who was admired and respected by the men he served with. My instincts told me I could count on this young NCO to effectively lead his crew despite the daily pounding by NVA artillery, rockets and mortars. Along with the other Duster and Quad 50 crews, he would stand fast providing the heavy direct fire support critical to the Marine effort to defend against overwhelming NVA ground forces planning to overrun the base.

After the grueling convoy back to Dong Ha, my men and I got a much needed break before we took on new assignments escorting convoys and mine sweeps and providing fire support for Marine and ARVN operations. Little did I know that exactly eight weeks later on a Sunday morning, Sgt. Martinez would be struck down by a sniper's bullet.

On the morning of Sunday 6 June 1968, Pfc. Morris Johnson was talking with Sgt. Martinez as they waited for word to 'saddle up' at Dong Ha. Sgt. Martinez was supposed to be off duty that morning but had been asked to fill in for someone else. He proudly showed Johnson a small wallet sized photo of his newborn daughter that he had just received in a letter from his wife. As they talked, they heard the music of 'Amazing Grace' being played on speakers by the Chaplain at the small chapel across the road from A Btry. Headquarters. Sgt. Martinez said he would sure like to go to church. At that moment, Lt. Nelson gave the word to mount up and climbed into the commander's hatch as Pfc. Johnson drove the Duster to his position in the convoy. Sgt. Martinez took a position inside the gun turret atop the other Duster.

About halfway between Dong Ha and Gio Linh, the operation took the tracks east off Hwy. 1 into the sand flats and small sand dunes. Not far off the road, they took enemy fire from an old village. As Johnson's track turned their guns to fire over the engine compartment, Lt. Nelson climbed out of the hatch in order to direct their fire. They had walked into a vicious trap, a horse shoe shaped ambush. They were pinned down; the ARVN soldiers in chaos were of little help. Seconds later, their sister track radioed they had taken a KIA. Sgt. Martinez had been sitting in the fold-down seat to the right of the guns when a sniper, tucked behind a mud wall beside a pagoda, fired a shot that struck him in the head, killing him instantly. Morris Johnson listened to the radio message in disbelief.

Lt. Nelson had just moved around to the M60 machine gun when Johnson heard a snap. As he looked up, Lt. Nelson opened his flack jacket to look at his upper chest where a neat, small red hole appeared. He closed his jacket and then fell off the side of the track. Sgt. Davis and Johnson dragged him to the protected area in front of the track where a medic checked him. Johnson was ordered back into the driver's compartment; Lt. Nelson was hoisted onto the front of the track to protect him from enemy fire. His shoulders lay over Johnson's head with his knees over the commander's hatch. Johnson drove the Duster out of the kill zone to an area where Lt. Nelson was unloaded onto a stretcher and medevaced by chopper within five minutes. The sister track, driven by Pfc. Monroe 'Barney' Barron, made its way back where Sgt. Martinez was lifted from the floor of the turret and handed to others on the ground. He was laid on a stretcher with a body bag draped over it. After a brief examination by the medical staff, the bag was zipped closed.

It took three different air strikes to break the attack that morning. F-4 Phantoms dropped napalm, scorching the enemy positions. Cobra gunships strafed and rocketed the area and ARVN prop-driven A-1 Skyraiders dive bombed and destroyed the pagoda and dug-in NVA positions.

Morris Johnson recalled the last words he heard from Sgt. Manuel Martinez were of the love he had for his family, especially his newborn daughter. He was touched by the music from the chapel as they sat and talked early that morning. It was so peaceful. Within a matter of minutes Sgt. Martinez would be dead, leaving behind a young wife and a precious child who would never know her father.

I felt terrible guilt upon learning of the death of my young squad leader. A feeling of helplessness consumed me. The circumstances that placed me with another section that day were of no consolation. If I had only been there the events might have been different; he might still be alive. Most disturbing to me was the fact that I never got the chance to say goodbye. I promised myself that when I returned home I would visit with his family and pay my respects at his gravesite.

Over the years, not a week went by that I didn't think of Sgt. Martinez. I tried to locate his family but was never able to track them down. When 'The Wall' in Washington, DC was being built I visited the site whenever a business trip took me to the area. I remember standing in the rain before the walkway was finished, mud up to my ankles, tears streaming down my face, searching desperately to find his name.

It wasn't until a visit years later that the addition of locator directories led me to his name on Panel 58W, Row 11. I have visited that panel on Veterans Day every year since, to touch his name etched in the shiny black granite and to tell him that I miss him and will never forget him. I will continue to do so for as long as I am physically able. Although I have lost too many brothers in combat, and visit to touch their names on 'The Wall', it is the memory of Sgt. Manuel Floyd Martinez that holds the most meaning for me.

Now 41 years later, I made my reservations to attend the Khe Sanh Veterans reunion in Denver, CO. After an internet search a few weeks earlier, I had confirmed that Sgt. Manuel Floyd Martinez was laid to rest at the Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver. I printed a map showing the location of his gravesite; the opportunity to visit and fulfill a promise I made so many years ago was finally at hand. I was apprehensive but remained determined on that Friday

morning in July when I had hoped to borrow a friend's vehicle to make the ten mile trip from our hotel to the cemetery. Although my plan was to make the trip alone, my Marine friends Craig Tourte and David Tonick insisted on accompanying me on my pilgrimage.



Ft. Logan National Cemetery was much larger than I had expected, with nearly 100,000 internments. It was beautiful and well maintained. After a few minutes of searching we located the gravesite at a peaceful spot beside the shelter of a shade tree. A rush of emotion came over me; I was thankful my Marine buddies were with me. I reached into my pocket to retrieve a shiny new Khe Sanh Veterans challenge coin, protected in a vinyl pouch, to leave as a remembrance. With the help of Craig's pocket knife I dug out a small slit at the base of Manuel's headstone and pushed the coin deep beneath the sod.

We stayed for a while gazing out over the legions of white markers that stood row after row at attention, on the vast green parade ground. We thought of those we served with who did not return and wondered who, if not us, would be there to remember these many thousands of brave men. After all these years I had finally stood at the gravesite of my brother Sgt. Manuel Floyd Martinez, to shed tears for his loss and to honor him for his bravery. I had finally fulfilled my promise.

**Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

MANUEL F. MARTINEZ

## NDQSA MEMBER ROSTER UPDATE

\* NEW MEMBERS \* NEW CONTACTS \*

One of the most important services an Association can provide its members is the ability to contact other members and to find men they served with. The NDQSA Contacts List (aka the Roster) is such a resource. Unfortunately, it takes a lot of work and cooperation to maintain such a resource, even with the advent of the World Wide Web.

The reality is that an individual's contact information is a dynamic thing. Area codes change. Zip Codes change. Addresses change and of course email addresses change.

If you have not paid your annual dues in the last few years, you can be sure that some part of your contact information is no longer correct. Even if you received this newsletter by mail, your address might not be exactly correct, and other facts may also have changed.

### THIS IS IMPORTANT!!!

The Membership Committee plans to try and update all the names in the Roster during April. That is some 2400 names to try and call. You can make that task more reasonable by sending your full address, phone number(s) and email address, if you have one, to: NDQSA, PO Box 2903, Fairfax VA 22031 or emailing it to [NDQSA@cox.net](mailto:NDQSA@cox.net) or [dqshistorian@cox.net](mailto:dqshistorian@cox.net)

Whether you send in your dues or not, **please do this NOW**, or at least real soon. We just want to be able to contact you and to allow for other vets to contact you.

If we can reduce the number of names that require verification of contact information, it will be a big help. The 2010 roster will be as up to date as possible when distributed to active members.

We would also like to confirm which units you served with and when you were in Vietnam, so include your unit(s). If you are looking for someone, if you know of someone that may not be in our list, please provide that information too. We want to be a resource to as many of our fellow ADA vets as we can locate.

Please help us make our Roster the best it can be.  
Do it now, please! - Thank You

Dennis E. Yeast	H-1/44 '66-67	
Charles Blouin	H-1/44 '66-67	
Thomas Kollmar	C-1/44 '66-67	
Morris Johnson	A-1/44 '68-69	Member
Philip Giordano	C-4/60 '68-69	
Stanley Mardula	5/2	
Joe Janetta	C-5/2 '69-70	Member
Leonard Coyle	C-1/44 '70-71	
George Brooks	B-1/44 '68-69	
Ray O'Brien	H/29 '69-70	
Donald Bell	H-6/56 '66-67	
Melvin Crum	G-55 '69-69	
George Bloomer	G-55	
George Brooks	B-1/44 '68-69	
David Revere	D-71 '70-71	
David Letlow	D-71 '70-71	
Daniel Klein	D-71 '70-71	
Tony Goodson Jr	D-71 '70-71	
Gary Hill	H-29 '68-69	Member
Donald Van Dyke	C-4/60 '67-68	Member
Carl A. West	D-5/2	

### RECENTLY PASSED

Randy Rowlett	A-4/60 '70-71 6Apr09
Bill Hubbard	C/H-1/44 '66-67 29Jun09*
Doyle Simpson	1/44 <sup>th</sup> & 4/60 66-67 9Sep09

\*lung and brain cancer related to Agent Orange



### QUAD 50 RESTORATION PROCEEDING!

I am Robert Ratliff, the fellow attempting to reconstruct a quad .50 gun-truck. A little bit about me:

I restore military vehicles as a hobby. In addition, I participate in various historic displays at various venues, including air shows, schools, special events, parades, and other events. Participation ranges from simple displays to total immersion in history.

I also run History Fanatics as a non-profit organization. History Fanatics is just as it sounds - an organization devoted to "Keeping History Alive." You can view the website at [www.HistoryFanatics.net](http://www.HistoryFanatics.net). I invite you to look and let me know what you think.

In order to build (replicate) a vehicle correctly, I need to get information from the actual folks who used the equipment, to honor those men and women who made everything possible.

First off, thanks for all of the help. The time period I am trying to do is 1967 and I chose the 2.5-ton truck. My primary research indicated that the earlier 1966-67 Quads were less modified than later year versions and it would be easier to get and modify a 1967 "deuce and a half" truck. We have been reviewing all the notes I took at the San Antonio reunion, and working on trying to get everything up and running.

I just wanted to thank everybody who took the time to sit down with me and answer my questions. Thanks for the information on the ammo cans. I didn't know the old tombstone cans were not used in Vietnam. Two of the guns will be simulated-firing guns, and two will be dummy. The simulated-firing guns give the sight and sound of firing weapons without the cost and aggravation of actual firearms. As they use propane and oxygen to simulate the firing, a box to hide the bottles in is needed. As for the markings, I don't want to try to portray a particular vehicle, there were so many. It's one of those respect things, like not naming a boat ARIZONA. I was planning on naming the truck "Gunsmoke" and possibly the gun "LBJ's Hired Gun." This is in tribute to a friend who was a LRRP with the 28th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division. I know, not ADA, but he took me under his wing and has taught me a lot.

As for the reporting marks on the truck itself, I was planning on marking for Battery "D," 71st Artillery, which my notes show augmented the 5th Battalion, 2nd Artillery, and served with II Field Force in the III Corps Tactical Zone. However, I am not exactly sure exactly how the markings looked. There are not a lot of photos which show the markings. Hopefully, some of ya'll could help out with that.

Because of your gracious help, the Quad 50 project is steamrolling on. Again, thanks for allowing me to visit with you at your reunion. I hope to have the project finished for you approval at your next re-union in 2010.

NOTE: We will attempt to keep up with Robert and his progress on the project and report back to the group.

## HOW TO TRY AND LOCATE BUDDIES USING THE INTERNET – A PRIMER

As the Historian I often come across copies of orders or other official documents. Usually it has the full name and either the RA or SSN of the person. Sometimes even their former addresses. This information allows me to use various web based directories to try and locate these people.

It certainly helps if the individual has a unique name and is not a Jones, Brown, Gomez or Smith. But with enough information it is possible to locate long lost buddies. But you have to have something to work with, and if all you have is a nickname like "Tex", "Red" or "Ski" is not going to make it.

These are the web sites that I use to search for people: [www.whitepages.com](http://www.whitepages.com) , [www.zabasearch.com](http://www.zabasearch.com). I do not subscribe to any commercial directories and I do not search specifically military web groups. Chances are that if a military guy on these sites is looking for duster guys, he would have Googled "duster" by now and found our web site.

There may be other free people search site out there but most use the same sources of data. Each site has commercial sponsors (like Intellus.com) that offer additional information on a name based on proprietary data they have from other sources. While I do not subscribe to their services I do open their links and see what else they might show for free. Typically they will show you a range of similar names; often the age of the person (I look for guys 57-65+ years old); middle names (really helpful when you have the MI); relatives (if you know the wife's name); and multiple cities of residence (very handy if you have an old hometown, or if known military cities like El Paso show up). After I decide on the most likely candidate(s), I then go back to the first two sites to try and get a good address and/or phone number. I give a call, leave a courteous message or mail them a post card.

If I have the SSN of the individual, I can check and see if he is still alive by checking the Social Security Death Records database. I use [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) and tab down to US Social Security Death Index. Enter in the number and keep your fingers crossed that it does not make a match. If there is a match there could be many such names. You have to look for a reasonable date of birth and a reasonable state for the record to have been posted from.

Please check your holdings for such paperwork, make a list and contact the Historian. He will work with you. Happy Hunting...and take notes!!!

**2009/2010 MEMBERSHIP FORM / ROSTER UPDATE FORM**

(tear off this page and mail the top half in with your up to date contact information and unit history)

**Contact Information (Please print)**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Middle Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: (    )        -  
Alt. Phone: (    )        -

Tertiary Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Location: \_\_\_\_\_  
Grade: Officer: \_\_\_\_\_ NCO: \_\_\_\_\_ EM: \_\_\_\_\_

**Valor Awards**

PH (    ) DSC (    ) SS (    ) BS/V (    ) ACM/V (    )

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you agree to get future newsletters by email or from the website to save on printing and mailing costs?        Yes        No, please mail it

Dues: \$25 per year (make check to NDQSA)

Mail address: NDQSA,  
PO Box 2903,  
Fairfax VA 20031

Circle payment for: (2009) (2010) (2011) (2012)

**Service Information (Vietnam)**

Dates of 1<sup>st</sup> tour (m/yr): \_\_\_/\_\_\_ to \_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Primary MOS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Primary Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Secondary Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

**Look at your mailing address on this newsletter, if you see a four number date, it is the year for which you have paid your dues. If you see no four number date, you are not considered to be in Active status. Remember only Active members get to vote in that year's elections. (contact the Historian if you have any questions)**

We are pleased to report that we are up to 330 Active members for 2009, an increase of 80 members over 2008's numbers. President Geiger says in this newsletter that he wants to triple that amount for 2010 to over 1000 active members. Please try to pay your dues and maintain your Active status. Remember to notify NDQSA if there are any corrections to be made in your name, unit, dates of service, address, phone #s and EMAIL!!!

We also understand that many vets are on fixed and limited incomes. So don't worry if you can't return to Active status, we will still support you in any way we can. Just keep your contact info current and you will continue to get the newsletters. "Brothers then ... Brothers now!"

If you haven't sent in your dues for 2009 yet or if you want to prepay your 2010 dues, send it with your book order.

**(please print) NDQSA HISTORY BOOK ORDER FORM (2<sup>nd</sup> Printing)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Single book \$60 = \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Multiple books \$55 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Reorder \$50 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Total = \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Make check out to: NDQSA

Email : \_\_\_\_\_ mail to: NDQSA, PO Box 2903, Fairfax VA 22031

National Dusters, Quads & Searchlights Association  
P.O. Box 2903  
Fairfax, VA 22031-2903

Forward Service Requested



Air Defense Artillery  
“First to Fire....Last To Leave”

NDQSA Reunion  
Summer 2010

Savannah Georgia  
Date T.B.A.

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### NDQSA HISTORY PICTORIAL BOOK

A 2<sup>nd</sup> printing of 200 copies of our book has been ordered and from now on, all book orders will be through NDQSA and not Turner Publishing. We expect to have copies of the book ready to be shipped in time for Holiday gift-giving '09.

The price of the book will be \$60, which includes shipping and vinyl covers, remaining about the same price as the first printing. NDQSA will offer a pricing schedule that both encourages book sales and reward those that supported the book throughout the long production process. New single book orders will be \$60, and orders for multiple books will be priced at \$55 each. Anyone that bought a book during the first print run can “reorder” additional copies for \$50 each.

NOTE: All profits from the sale of the book will be used to distribute copies of the book to selected places where military history and Vietnam War studies are preserved and taught. Also to select individuals and organizations involved in supporting NDQSA goals. We also wish to make some copies available to those DQS Vets of limited means. Please help us identify places and individuals to gift a copy to. **The new book order form is on the back of this page.**

