

**NATIONAL DUSTERS, QUADS and SEARCHLIGHTS
ASSOCIATION**

VULCANS

HAWKS

[2010 REUNION - LZ BROWNING](#)

Savannah, Georgia

July 7 - 11th, 2010

Savannah Marriott Riverfront Hotel

100 General McIntosh Boulevard

Savannah, GA 31401

<http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/savrf>

**Attendees call (912)233-7722 or (800)285-0398
anytime to make their room reservations.**

Be sure to mention "NDQSA Reunion" for guaranteed reunion rate.

Book early to guarantee rate for early arrival or late departure (July 4th - 13th).

Reservation must be made prior to June 7, 2010 cutoff.

**Reunion rate: \$99 per day plus taxes (13% + \$1.00 city occupancy fee) single or
double occupancy (addn'l person 18 years or above is \$20).**

Discounted Self Parking: \$10 per day

Discounted Breakfast Buffet: \$15 per person - tax & gratuity included.

This is a great rate at a top hotel during a major holiday.

For hotel info and services via internet ([click here](#)).

**Shuttle Service: Between the Savannah Airport and Savannah Riverfront
Marriott by KShuttle: \$34 per person, round trip. Note: All passengers arriving
into Savannah Airport must have a pre-arranged reservation.**

Phone: 1-877-243-2050 or <http://www.kshuttle.com/>

Reunion Events Schedule (see page 2) Pre-Registration form (see page 16).

**This year's theme LZ Browning honors all Quad 50 Batteries: D-71, E-41, G-55, G-65.
Everyone is of course urged to make plans, so contact your buddies and start planning
for Savannah. Make this our best reunion ever...be there!**

Tentative Reunion Schedule

Wednesday July 7th

Hospitality room setup
Reunion registration* and product sales
Evening hospitality

Thursday July 8th

Daily reunion registration* and product sales
Group bus tour 'Historic Savannah Experience' [Including
Lunch at Paula Dean's & Afternoon Wine Tasting \$89 per person]
Alternate Historic Savannah Trolley Tour \$20 per person
Board of Directors Meeting
Evening hospitality

Friday July 9th

Daily reunion registration* and product sales
Bus trip and Memorial service at Ft. Jackson & Ft. Pulaski \$10 person
Evening hospitality

Saturday July 10th

Daily reunion registration* and product sales
Annual business meeting & election of officers
Luncheon banquet and guest speaker \$35 per person
Evening Hospitality
Chinese Auction and Fundraising

Sunday July 11th

Morning service and farewells
Breakdown of hospitality room

* There is a onetime reunion registration fee of \$10 per family to cover incidentals.

Trip availability on first come basis, be sure to pre-register ASAP to guarantee a place. The hospitality room will be set up with chairs, tables and audio-visual equipment. We will provide beer, soda and snacks (donations accepted) and will hold a 50/50 fundraiser for the Quad-50 restoration project each night. Try to bring a home-made item, patriotic item, or "re-gift" something you've gotten that's nice but can't use for the Saturday night auction.



NDQSA Newsletter

National Dusters Quads and Searchlights Association
February 2010



Presidents Message

Bruce M. Geiger – February 20, 2010

After an enjoyable holiday season respite the officers and board members of the Association have been hard at work. We have achieved many of the goals that were set for this year and continue to put forth our best effort on behalf of NDQSA. A second printing of the NDQSA History Book has been delivered and we are currently shipping new orders at a brisk pace. We have designed and ordered a beautiful NDQSA challenge coin and pins which will be available for purchase at our reunion this summer. Extensive paperwork has been completed to update our non-profit 501(c)19 status with the IRS and we are awaiting final approval for Federal Trademark Registration of all Association names and logos.

It is inevitable as we get older that our organization will lose some members due to illness and inactivity, however we continue to be a vital and active Association. Our membership is at an all-time high and we continue to actively seek new brothers who have not previously been members. The addition of 40 new members since our last newsletter is confirmation that we are having some success. We are also reaching out to prior members who for one reason or another have drifted away from the Association. I am hopeful that many of them will respond to our recent accomplishments by returning to renew past friendships and reactivate their Association membership. We have endeavored to achieve an all-inclusive Association, welcoming participation and respecting the ideas of all its members.

In accordance with provisions of our new bylaws adopted last July our nominations committee, chaired by founding member John Huelsenbeck, has been screening potential candidates for our first ever national election. Under the old 'Constitution' only reunion attendees were permitted to vote for Association officers and other elected officials. The new bylaws now call for a national mail-in ballot in order for all current dues paying members to have an opportunity to vote for their Association leadership.

The Board of Directors has approved a recommended slate of officers which will appear on the ballot along with any additional nominations received and space for write-in votes. The ballot will be mailed in May to Sam Hopkins, Association Secretary and will be opened and counted at our annual business meeting July 10, 2010 in Savannah, GA. **Nominations remain open however since John Huelsenbeck has been nominated I will now be the one to accept any new nominations from current paid members. Please pay your annual dues ASAP so you may participate in this election process.** Dues paying members will also have the option of voting by ballot at the reunion. Bylaws dictate that this year's election is to include all five executive officer positions, with elections for seven at large Board members to take place in an alternating year (2011). Mail-in ballots postmarked no later than June 15, 2010 will be collected and opened at the annual business meeting.

The reunion committee is feverishly working on plans for our Annual Reunion July 7-11, 2010 at the beautiful Marriott Riverfront Hotel in Savannah, GA. We are committed to making this reunion the biggest and best yet! Not an easy task after the great event in San Antonio last year. The hotel is located in the Historic District within walking distance to many restaurants, shops and attractions. The riverfront promenade is only a two block walk, and there is a free bus that routes throughout the Historic District. There is a wide variety of individual and group tours available. Reservation information is available in this newsletter and on our website. Group activities including optional tours are currently being finalized, and a **Pre-Registration form** has been included in this newsletter so that we can plan for group bus transportation and banquet commitments required in advance. Please take the time to submit this form early as it is very difficult to accommodate last minute arrangements. Should you be unable to attend the reunion due to unforeseen circumstances, we will refund any prepayments.

I look forward to hearing from you and to seeing y'all this summer in Savannah.

Revised 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-1/44th '67-68)
46 Mohegan Place, New Rochelle, NY 10804
(914) 576-1050 (914)924-3224 bmgeiger@aol.com

Vice President: Bob Lauver (G-65th '66-68)
P.O. Box 276, Selinsgrove, PA 17870
(570) 374-1699 rhlauver@juno.com

Ist Vice President: Paul Hanson (E-41st '70-71)
1795 Hillcrest Lane, Aston, PA 19014
(610) 909-0632 pdhanson1@comcast.net

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

Treasurer: Allan Penwell (C-5/2nd '67-68)
2408 N. Nottingham Ct., Champaign, IL 61821
(217) 365-4224 a.penwell@comcast.net

Immediate Past President: Ed Allen (A-4/60th '70-71)
P.O. Box 198, Cynthiana, IN 47612
(812) 845-2303

Board of Directors (7): (serving two-year terms of office until 2011 unless elected to Executive Office)

Bob Cuce (E-41st '70-71)
7 Karp Dr., Islip Terrace, NY 11752 (631) 277-2893
bcuce@esboces.org or quadguy57@yahoo.com

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

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

Clyde Larsen (G-29th '68-69)
353 Dartmouth Dr, Elgin, IL 60123
(847) 695-7659 clarsen1168@wowway.com

Dave McCray (E-41st '70-71)
11408 Kingsridge Terrace, Oklahoma City, OK 73170
(405) 692-4038 sooner3@cox.net

Joseph Belardo (C-1/44th '67-68)
527 O'Donahue Ave., South Plainfield, NJ 07080
(908) 754-5129 fishpopjoe@yahoo.com

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

Appointed Positions

Sgt. At Arms: Duane Harvey (D-71st '70-71)
3489 Ct Rd A West, Janesville, WI 53548
(608) 754-1377 bohnr50@att.net

Chaplain: Sam Hopkins (H-4/60th '67-68)
1027 Timothy, Jacksonville, TX 75766
(903) 586-4488 sampat1964@suddenlink.net

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

Reporter: Richard Shand (D-5/2nd '69-70)
844 Everett Crescent, Burnaby, BC V5A 2N4 Canada
(604) 421-6103 rshand@shaw.ca

Parliamentarian: Luke Clark (H-4/60th '71)
1603 West Hawthorne Rd., Leesville, LA 71446
(337) 239-4193 lukeclark@yahoo.com

Advisors

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

John Huelsenbeck (C-1/44th '66-67)
10657 E 300 N, Avilla, IN 46710
(260) 347-2898 sjfarms46710@gmail.com

Vincent Tedesco (C-1/44th '67-68)
144 Ridge Ave., State College, PA 16803
(570) 748-2428 vince.j.tedesco@imco.com

Larry LaPrairie (C-1/44th '66-67)
8139 E. Mulberry St., Scottsdale, AZ 85251
(601) 721-2777 laprairiepainting@cox.net

Montgomery T. Speir (H-4/60th '71)
3312 Childers St., Raleigh, NC 27612
(919) 787-5448 mspeir@mindspring.com

Advisors Emeritus

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

Douglas Mehle (C-1/44th '70)
1407 Champions Green Dr., Gulf Breeze, FL 32563
(850) 916-4879 fdmehle@aol.com

Highlights of the NDQSA Board of Directors Meeting on 27 January 2010

Conducted by Joint Phone Conference 11:00 AM 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, Allan Penwell, Ed Allen, Bob Cuce, Paul Kopsick, Clyde Larsen, Dave McCray, Steve Moore, George Nagelschmidt, Duane Harvey, John Huelsenbeck. Unavailable for teleconference: Duane Gettler, Richard Shand and Joseph Belardo.

AGENDA (in the order discussed)

CHANGE OF DIRECTORS: The board members accepted the medical retirement of board director Steve Moore and approved his appointment for service as an advisor to the association. The board members approved the appointment of Joe Belardo to fill the remainder of Steve Moore's term as a board director.

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 12/31/2009 were \$51,130.04 with \$15,269.35 dedicated for Operation Gold Star, and \$35,860.69 available for use in the operating budget.

The association is in good shape financially. The ByLaws require an annual audit which may be more exhaustive and expensive than the NDQSA actually needs to be publically accountable. Lesser forms of auditing such as a compilation or a review might be sufficient. Bruce Geiger requested that the treasurer seek a bid for an affordable full audit to satisfy the ByLaw requirements (which may have to be amended at a future date to permit compilations or reviews). Sam Hopkins has filed the Texas sales tax exemption report for the Association's reunion expenses in San Antonio during 2009.

CORPORATION STATUS: The IRS has acknowledged that they have received the NDQSA Form 1024 Application for Recognition of Exemption to bring our 501 (c) (19) tax exempt nonprofit status up to date. Ed Allen reported that on 1/19/2010 the IRS told him by phone that the NDQSA still had its tax exempt status. There was some discussion about the necessity of reapplying as has been done, and the conflicting

statements from the IRS about our NPO tax exempt status. In related matters, the Indiana Secretary of State has acknowledged the updating of the NDQSA articles of incorporation and the Indiana annual business report has been filed. The U.S. Trademark application request for additional information has also been met.

ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE:

NDQSA CHALLENGE COIN: We have contracted for an official NDQSA Challenge Coin using our logo as the primary design. We are shooting to have the coins available at the Savannah Reunion.



Some members would like to purchase the old style jacket designs with the individual weapons system of their respective units. Recommendations were made about buying embroidered designs instead of silk screened jacket designs. Bob Lauver will contact vendors like Greenridge Graphics in Mifflinburg, PA, for price estimates and minimum order requirements. Ed Willmarth has made an inventory of NDQSA T-shirts that are in storage at his location.

REUNION COMMITTEE: Bruce Geiger is handling the hotel arrangements including the hospitality room and banquet details at the Marriot Hotel. Sam Hopkins will conduct the remembrance program on Friday the 9th, at Fort Jackson. A Friday bus tour is planned to Ft. Jackson and Ft. Pulaski. There is a riverboat excursion that could be taken on an individual basis, during the reunion. The Association will try to get discount coupons for members who attend the reunion. Mary Severin and the women's advisory group are assisting in planning family oriented activities for the reunion schedule. In so far as is possible, the final schedule will be completed in time to include a reunion pre-registration form as part of the next NDQSA newsletter to be published in February.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT:

Paul Kopsick enumerated the approximately 30 gift copies of the NDQSA book that have already been distributed, including the Operation Gold Star Mothers

who have each been given a dedicated personal copy. He invited more recommendations for further book donations. A draft copy of the February newsletter would be sent by e-mail to board members, with requests for more articles to fill the pages. Printing of the 2010 membership directory will be held off until after the February newsletter is published to allow for more members to pay their dues and update address changes. The NDQSA website has been renewed and is operational, but needs updating and some redesign. Contacts are being made with website knowledgeable members to get assistance with this project.

GOOD WORKS COMMITTEE:

A committee chairman is needed.

There is discussion of coordinating and facilitating donations for the restoration of a quad-50 gun truck. Robert Ratliff of History Fanatics is undertaking the project which is expected to cost about \$35,000 to acquire and assemble the needed parts. Anyone wishing to donate to the project can add an amount to their annual dues payment and it will be directed to that effort. If all goes as planned, the Gun-truck will be a feature at upcoming NDQSA reunions.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The nominating committee has made its recommendations for the following candidates to be placed on the 2010 ballot:

President -- Bob Lauver
Vice President -- Paul Hanson
1st Vice President -- John Huelsenbeck
Secretary-- Dave McCray
Treasurer- Allan Penwell

A ballot including any additional nominations received will be mailed to all dues paying members on May 15, 2010 along with a stamped return envelope addressed to the NDQSA Secretary who will hold the sealed ballots until the votes are counted at the reunion. Absentee ballots must be mailed and postmarked by June 15, 2010 to be counted in the election. Members may, if they choose, hand carry their ballots to the annual business meeting election at the reunion.

If you are an active member and want to nominate yourself or someone else for any open office, mail your written nominations to Bruce Geiger ASAP.

OPERATION GOLD STAR:

Bob Lauver reported that there are two Gold Star Mothers who may be fit enough to travel with NDQSA

escorts to Vietnam in 2010. A third mother is interested but might not be strong enough to make the trip. Bob & Sue Lauver, John & Sally Huelsenbeck, and Steve Moore have expressed an interest in serving as escorts for the group. The membership will be invited to join this "last call" trip back to Vietnam in the next newsletter to enlist a large enough travel group to afford a comfortable bus for touring in-country. We will also solicit NDQSA members to determine if there is any interest in organizing future group trips to Vietnam. (see additional info on page 7)

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.

RECORDS REPOSITORY / QUARTERMASTER

Contacts have been made with former NDQSA historian, Leon Johnston, to ascertain what donations of materials/memorabilia have been made to the Association in past years that need to be recovered for the organization. John Huelsenbeck and Jim Smith will contact and visit former president Hugh Roberts to collect any Association property that he might have in his possession. Past president Ed Allen has also been contacted about returning Association records, historical documents and all materials/memorabilia that have been held by him on behalf of the Association; however nothing has been transferred as of this date. A Quartermaster officer still needs to be appointed, and a permanent storage space designated for all property owned and received by the Association.

There being no further business, the president adjourned the board meeting at 1:30 PM EST.

-Minutes Recorded by Sam Hopkins, Secretary

I REMEMBER...

PFC BILLY L. STRICKLAND B-1/44 Hendersonville, NC

January 24, 1968 is a long time ago. I was part of B-Btry 1st Bn/ 44th ADA and our battery was located across the road from the 1/44th ADA Battalion Headquarters at Dong Ha.

It's a bit after 3 PM and my crew and I were in the motor pool doing maintenance, just trying to get through the end of the work day.

My Platoon Sgt ran up to us and told us there was a fire-fight down the road and to get my track to the main gate and wait for the rest of the reaction force to form. My track was the first track to arrive at the gate so we became the lead track in the reaction force.

It normally takes six men to properly man a duster, at that moment my crew complement was: me, SSgt. Vincent Desantis as Squad leader. My driver was James Carr, the gunner was William Swartz, but I still can't remember the name of the azimuth tracker.

I would usually be the right gun loader, but at that moment we did not have anyone to load the left gun. At that time, the battery was a bit understaffed.

As my track moved to the main gate, I saw a large group of soldiers assembled there. We stopped at the gate and I told Carr to shut the engine down to save fuel. The radios were on but we heard no radio traffic related to the incident.

We were the lone track at the main gate. Since we were one loader short, I made eye contact with a soldier and asked him if he was a duster man; he said he was.

I told him I was short a loader and asked if he wanted to join my crew. He said yes.

I helped him onto the track and when he was in the tub we did a hand shake. I told him I thanked him for joining my crew. He told me his name was Strickland.

[PFC Billy L. Strickland, a duster crewman, had been recently injured along with three others on 14Jan68 when their transport hit a landmine on the way to replace a crew at Cam Lo.]

I remember vividly that Strickland had a great smile. He was very brave man to join my track that day; he did not know me or any of the guys on my crew. I told him I did not know where we were going or what we were going to do but we did know we were going into action. He simply said "OK, Sarge" and took the left loader seat behind the gunner.



After a while the reaction force left the camp and headed west. For whatever reason my track was directed into the center of a massive ambush on Rt 9 north of Camp Carroll. We pulled off the road into a small clearing and began to take enemy fire. I felt a sting in my back and realized I was hit by a sniper round. I directed Strickland to man the M-60 machinegun and to fire into the wood line. My idea was with Strickland firing the machine gun into the tree line to protect us; the azimuth gunner and I could load the 40MM and get the guns back into action. I was about to direct the azimuth guy to rotate the tub around when an RPG hit the gun tub just above the driver's position.

The explosion was deafening. A bright light and the fire ball filled the tub. I felt the heat of the fire ball on my arms. After the fire ball burned out, I checked myself to see if I was in one piece. There was no panic from the gun crew. I called out to the crew, the gunner Swartz said he was ok, the azimuth tracker said he was ok. I looked across to Strickland, he was sitting on his loader seat very still, and his head was down. I reached over to him said his name and shook him twice... he was dead.

Unable to man the guns those of us able to move left the track and returned to the road and back east out of the kill zone.

To this day, not a day goes by that I do not think of Billy Strickland. God bless him.

-[Vincent DeSantis](#), B-1/44th '67-68

We would like to have your remembrances of buddies during the war so we can honor them in the newsletter. Please contact the historian and record your tributes to them. dqshistorian@cox.net 202-262-9560

DO YOU WANT TO REVISIT VIETNAM?

First Call, Vietnam Duty Station Tours

NDQSA is looking to collect the names of individuals who would be interested in making a trip to Vietnam for the purpose of tourism. The emphasis of this trip would be to revisit those sites of interest to the attendees. Where and what would be visited would depend on who is attending and when they served.

This concept is in the preliminary stages of planning. This trip would be at a time subsequent to the final Gold Star Mothers trip. Please contact Bob Lauver at rhlauver@juno.com or (570) 374-1699 to express interest. Include information about those sites of most interest to you.



Last Call Operation Gold Star

NDQSA is attempting to organize a final trip to give Vietnam Era Gold Star Mothers the opportunity to walk in the final footsteps of their sons or daughters. Three Mothers have expressed an interest in making the trip with the possibility of more. It is anticipated that this mission would begin in Saigon (Ho Chi Minh City) with the first casualty site at the Cambodian border in the Mekong Delta (Moc Hoa). The other sites are in the area of Da Nang and Quang Tri. The trip is tentatively scheduled for no earlier than March 2011.

NDQSA is in need of escorts for this trip. Please contact Bob Lauver at rhlauver@juno.com or (570) 374-1699 to express interest. You will never regret the trip and treasure the experience forever.

information of the HAWK missile battalions that departed Fort Bliss, TX for Vietnam. They had little or no information on the units. Next he contacted The National Archives, Air Force Historical Research Agency and many other agencies and many had no information or very little information of the battalion.

So he decided that the deeds, hardships, and history made by this battalion need to be organized, cataloged, and written for those are still alive and for history. On June 2, 2008 John designed and published the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery (HAWK) webpage - <http://6thbattalion56thartillery.com>

John will be contributing stories to future newsletters on behalf of the HAWK Battalions and would like to serve as a point of contact for all HAWK Vets.

Operation Western Pistol C- Btry 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery.

Landing Zone Oasis was a major fire and support base for Headquarters of the Fighting 4th Infantry Division's operations in western Pleiku Province near the Cambodian border SW of Pleiku.

The 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery (HAWK) was the only HAWK missile battalion to be attached to an Infantry Division in combat. The 23d Infantry Division (Americal Division).

In April 1969 Charlie Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery, HAWK Radar Detachment (less missiles) deployed to LZ Oasis under a (SECRET) MACV directed joint Army/Air Force project code name "Operation Western Pistol." Western Pistol was a program to attempt identification of Soviet helicopters operating in Western II CTZ. The US HAWK radar unit so close to the Cambodian border and the "Ho Chi Minh Trail" became a major threat to the enemy and LZ Oasis became a high priority target.



HAWKS Research Project 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery

**Mission: Collect, archive,
preserve, the history of this proud
unit.**

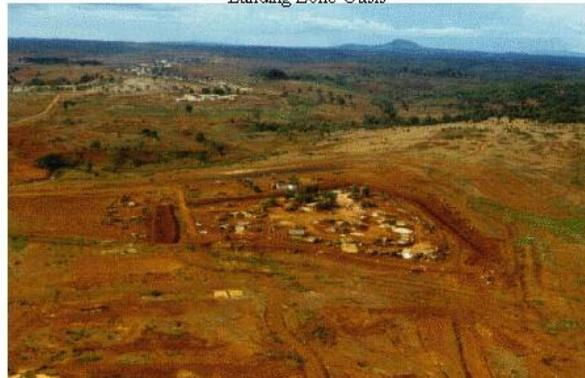
This is an unofficial project of a former member of this unit. Any records, maps, pictures, battle reports, unit orders and any other items pertaining to the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery would be greatly appreciated.

John A. Mayfield, SFC, U.S. Army, Ret.
Email: john@6thbattalion56thartillery.com
Telephone: (661) 266-1776 Fax: (661) 206-9490
Unit Webpage: <http://6thbattalion56thartillery.com>

Bio John A. Mayfield

Mr. John A. Mayfield has been researching the history of the 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery for more than 12 years. In 1995 he contacted the Fort Bliss Museum, at Fort Bliss Texas to request

Landing Zone Oasis



LZ Oasis

LZ Oasis Mother's Day 10 May 1969

It was a typical dark night in Vietnam, so dark you could not see your hand in front of your face. Only the drone of generators filled the air.

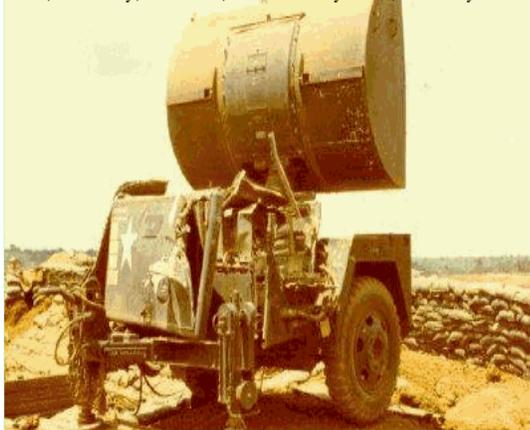
At 2:00 a.m. the stillness was shattered by the sound of the first round impacting the area. All who heard it knew it was "incoming". During the night 364 rounds of incoming 60mm mortar, 82mm mortar, and B40 rocket fire was directed at LZ Oasis, SW of Pleiku and about 10-miles from the Cambodian border.

Ground probes were made on three sides of the perimeter by an estimated NVA battalion working with sapper company.

Artillery support from Delta Battery, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery situated at the Rock Quarry at Weigt-Davis had their 155mm howitzers pounding a ring around the perimeter.

Throughout the night, D-Battery, 4th Battalion, 60th Artillery dusters, fired into the perimeter. Air Force C119 and CH117 gunships also joined the fight.

Btry C, 6th Bn, 56th Arty, LZ Oasis, Mother's Day 1969. Photo by Eddie Donato



Btry C, 6th Bn, 56th Arty (HAWK) motar hit on CWAR radar on Mother's Day, 10 May 1969 at LZ Oasis, Photo by Eddie Donato

Sergeant Clifford Wippel, Communication Sergeant with C-Battery, 6th Battalion, 56th Artillery under an intense mortar, rocket and ground attack, realizing the seriousness of the situation, with complete disregard for his personal safety, braved the hostile fire as he moved to each bunker position along the perimeter to insure that communications links were operating property. He then established communications with the command bunker, and took part in the instrumental successful defense of the base. Sergeant Clifford Wippel was awarded the Army's Commendation Medal with "V" Device.

At approximately 5:00 a.m., contact ceased on the perimeter of LZ Oasis. The first light of dawn told the gruesome story. Forty-five NVA soldiers lay inside the wire in their attempt to overrun the camp but they still inflicted considerable damage to the targeted HAWK radar equipment. One HAWK radar unit was destroyed by a direct hit and other equipment sustained damage.

Friendly casualties were considered to be light but they included two Dustermen who died at their guns: **(SP4 James Tankersley D-4/60th Taylor, MI and PFC John McLaughlin, D-4/60th Scranton, PA).** They were credited with holding off part of the attackers allowing the rest of the camp to mobilize and repel the enemy forces. (See page 40 of NDQSA book)

Results of the 10 May 1969 action at LZ Oasis:

US LOSSES:

Personnel:

10 killed in action (KIA), 1 died of wounds (DOW), 16 wounded in action (WIA), 3 missing in action (MIA)

Equipment:

1 M151A; 1 50 Caliber Machine Gun; 1 Radio Beacon; 1 Water Truck; 1 Fire Truck; 3 5/Ton Trucks; 1 Pulse Acquisition Radar (C/6/56th Arty HAWK); 1 Continual Wave Acquisition Radar (C/6/56th Arty HAWK); 1 High power illumination radar (C/6/56th Arty HAWK); 1 Battery control (C/6/56th Arty (HAWK)); 1 Conex, 3 M151A1; 3 M37; 1 V-100; 2 GP Medium Tents heavily damaged; 5 GP Medium Tents lightly damaged.

ENEMY LOSSES:

Personnel: 103 KIA

Equipment: 5 Packs; 1 SKS; 1 Field phone; 4 AK-47 magazines; 1 Radio case; 3 B-41 Rockets; 41 Increment charges; 3 Pith helmets; 8 Blocks of explosives; 3 US type signal pistols; 4 Unknown type booster charges; 3 Pounds quinine; 2 B-41 Rocket launchers; 1 B-40 Rocket launcher; 3 AK-47's; 6 B-41 Rounds; 1 9mm Pistol; 14 Satchel charges; 1 60mm Round; 5 Pull charges; 3 RKG-3; 2 US watches; 6 M-79 Rounds; 1 NVA Wire spool w/100 feet wire; 15 50 Caliber ammunition cans full of rice; 27 Pair undershirts; 38 Pair pants; 49 Shirts; 21 NVA Mess kits; 650 Rounds AK-47 ammo; 18 B-40 Rounds; 46 ChiCom grenades; 1 MS Grenade; 40 Stick grenades; 8 Fuze assemblies 85 X-shaped charges; 30 Pounds rice; 82 Small C-4 explosives charges; 2 Picks; 18 Shovels; 2 Pounds black powder; 67 Blasting caps; 4 Canteens.

John A. Mayfield, SFC, U.S. Army, Ret.

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.

I am looking for volunteers to help with the sign in tables and selling of shirts, hats etc and tickets for the Chinese Raffle. I'm looking for volunteers with or without scrapbooking experience. I'm also looking for volunteers to help type or proof read and do internet searching. If you can help with any of these activities, please email me at meshad@windstream.net or maryseverin55@yahoo.com. NOTE, when emailing me please put DQS in the subject line.

To keep you up to date on the Savannah Reunion, I have been working with a tour company in Savannah to arrange for a true Historic Southern Experience.

On Thursday I have arranged for a city tour, with lunch at Paula Dean's Lady and Sons restaurant here you will have a delicious "Southern Lady Buffet". After lunch we will have a tour of the Owens Thomas House and a private tour of the John Duncan Home and Antique Store followed by a wine reception in this lovely home. Our group will be intrigued with Mr. Duncan's charming stories about Savannah, as he is a well-known historian in the area and was part of the "Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil" phenomena.

Just a reminder, we need prize donations for the Chinese Raffle. Try to bring a home-made item, patriotic item, or "re-gift" something nice you got but can't use for the Saturday night auction. Proceeds will go to the restoration of the Quad 50 gun truck or other association causes.

Mary Severin
38414 Avalon Drive
North Ridgeville, OH 44039
Home: 440-327-4909 Cell: 440-773-8713

Sergeant's Corner: CALLING ALL SHAKES!



Hope to see you at the next reunion. I am trying to identify and locate as many NCOCS class participants as possible, please contact me, Paul Hanson 610-909-0632 pdhanson1@comcast.net

NDQSA HISTORY PICTORIAL BOOK

A 2nd printing of ~230 copies of our book has been received and from now on, all book orders will be made through NDQSA and not Turner Publishing. NDQSA have already sold and shipped ~106 copies of the 2nd printing of the book and we expect to sell any remaining books at the 2010 reunion. **If you cannot make the reunion and are considering getting a book at some time in the future...DO IT NOW!** We do not know if there will be enough demand for a 3rd printing.

NDQSA is offering a pricing schedule that both encourages new book sales and rewards 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. The price of the book includes 1st Class shipping and vinyl covers, which was about the same price as the book during the first printing.

NOTE: 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. A copy of the book was sent to each surviving Operation Goldstar Mother. 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.

Use the roster update form on the back page to make an order or use the form from the website:
http://www.ndqsa.com/2nd_printing_order_for_m_revised.pdf

SILVER STAR RESEARCH PROGRAM

- Paul Kopsick, NDQSA Historian



SP4 Horace Humphries D-1/44th

July 7, 1949 - January 8, 2010

“For gallantry in action while engaged in conflict with an armed hostile force in the Republic of Vietnam: Specialist Fourth Class Humphries distinguished himself by exceptionally valorous actions on 7 April 1970 while serving as

a squad Leader on a twin 40mm antiaircraft weapon, track mounted, providing perimeter security for Fire Support Base La Son. In the early morning hours, Specialist Humphries detected movement in the perimeter wire in front of his position. He immediately fired a hand flare, which exposed enemy soldiers who began to fire on his position. With total disregard for his own safety, Specialist Humphries quickly dashed through the intense enemy small arms and automatic weapons fire in an effort to alert his crew members and the remainder of the camp. After alerting the camp, he led his crew back to the track, again exposing himself to withering hostile fire, and began directing devastating suppressive fire on the fanatical enemy. At this point Specialist Humphries was wounded in both legs by shrapnel from an enemy rocket which impacted near him. Refusing medical attention, he continued to direct retaliatory fire. Specialist Humphries courage and outstanding leadership contributed to the repulsion of the enemy force. His heroic actions while under fire were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.”

-John D. Gard, AGC, Adj. Gen.

James Ballowe writes: Horace served with me almost his entire tour of duty in Vietnam. He was seriously injured in the attacks on LZ Anzio which took place only 6 days after I left. He took my place as squad leader. He was my gunner for my last 5 months in-country on D-222. He was the best! Our track won a 1/44th Battalion “shoot-off” at Dong Ha in February 1970. As a result, I was given a 2-week early out. I left on March 31st. If I had not left early, I would have been there the night they tried to over-run Anzio! I have always felt really bad about that chain of events and apologized to Horace and Bob Althoff (my cannoner) years later when I got in touch with them in the US.

Horace was the most compassionate soldier I ever met. It never interfered with his actions or



judgment, it was just that he wanted to make sure everyone (even the locals) were taken care of.

On Saturday Jan 9th 2010 I talked to Bob Althoff (who

was with Horace at LZ Anzio) to let him know that Horace had died. Bob recounted that when he saw Horace in the Phu Bai hospital after he was wounded at Anzio, Horace was more concerned about him than he was himself! Horace was a really great friend and soldier!

In his past few years, Horace had been volunteering for his local DAV. The event that caused him to be hospitalized this time occurred on Christmas Eve. Horace was a truck driver and had just gotten back from a long haul. At the truck terminal he ran into a fellow trucker that had no way home and it was starting to sleet and snow. Not only did Horace give the guy a ride, he stopped at the local Chicken franchise and bought the guy his dinner and Horace ate a couple pieces of chicken with him. Horace got salmonella from the chicken and found himself in the hospital two days later. Horace was a diabetic and actually died from diabetic complications as a result of the salmonella. Horace died the way he lived...still trying to help others.

The funeral service was held at the Floyd Creek Baptist Church with burial immediately afterwards in the adjacent church cemetery. The large church chapel was completely filled and Horace’s funeral was attended by the Rutherford County Honor Guard who provided a beautiful grave-side ceremony and a 21-gun salute! His wife, family and friends were very appreciative.

Horace was a common man of uncommon character, courage, and generosity. He was my best friend in the most difficult time of my life and I will always admire him and miss him!

He was also a fellow soldier whom we can all be proud of, in both his military service and his civilian life!

The NDQSA presented a wreath of Red and White Roses accented with a large Blue ribbon.

[Obituary link](#)

-[James Ballowe](#) D-1/44th ‘70

*** NEW MEMBERS * NEW CONTACTS ***

[Joseph Kotarba](#), G-55 '70-71 Member
Danny Lackey, C-1/44 & 4/60 '66-67
[James Jones](#), H-1/44 '69-70
Ed Kerkorian, 3rd AAA, 1951 Member
[Lou Block](#), C-1/44 '67-68 Member
[Pete Alvarado](#), C-4/60 '70-71 Member
[Randolph "Hippy" Brown](#), D-71 '69-70
[Jim Reihel](#), H-6/56 '69-70
Willie Ware, E-41 '70-71
William Greer, D-4/60 70-71
Michael Grabo, D-4/60 '70-71
Billy Hill, D-4/60 '70-71
Jay Henderson, B-29 '70-71
Clarence B. Meadows, I-29 '67-68
Rudy Mull, I-29 '67-68
[Elvis Adcock](#), A-1/44 '69-70
Jerry McWaters, D-1/44 '66-67
[Arthur Swanson](#), D-4/60 9/70-1/71
[Charles Wilson](#), A-6/56 '69
[Danny Owens](#) B-6/56
[Steven \(Danny\) Wade](#) A&C-6/71 '66-68
[Hector Castaneda](#), B-5/2 '69-70 Member
Robert Lee, G-55 '67-69
Drew Myers, 4/60 '70-71
Charles Richter, D-4/60 '68-69
Clark Murry, 1/44
[James McCullough](#), B-6/56 '67-68
[Don Wright](#), C-6/56 '68-69
David Capshaw A-6/56 '67-68
Dennis Smothers, D-4/60 '67-67 Member
Darrell E. Calebro HAWKS
[Jim Tyner](#), E-41 '69-'71
[Clarence Meadows](#)
Art Gray 4-60
Bob Wombell, H-1/44 '66-67
[Ralph Roberts](#), D-71 '69-69
Ronnie Curry, D-71 '68 Member
Delmar Rogers, E-41 '69-70
Jeff Murphy, A/B-4/60, '70-71 Member
Robert Hunter Jr, C-1/44 '68-69
Kenneth Phillips, A-1/44 '67-68
[Johnny Barton](#), A-4/60 '70-71
[William Rollins](#), A-6/56 '67-68

We are very pleased that each month we continue to locate and bring into our Brotherhood, new members and contacts.

We honor and mourn those that have passed.

RECENTLY PASSED

Jay(J.U.)Henderson B-29 70-7125 Sept 29-July 84 TN
Billy(B.F.)Hill VA C-4-60 70-7110 Mar 47-15 Feb 95
William Greer D-4-60 70-7130 Jan 45-3 Jan 07 IN
Michael Grabo D-4-60 70-7122 Mar 52-9 Mar 07 MI
Willie J. Ware E-41 70-7116 Jan 48-15Sept 07 MS
Anthony Cruze, Vulcan C-5/2 '68-69, 16Nov07 AZ
Larry Burns B-1/44 '67-'68 SS Aug2009
[Horace Humphries](#) D-1/44 '69-70 SS Jan 2010
James Throckmorton B-4/60 '71 Jan 2010
[George Scott](#), B-1/44 '66-67 SS 9Jan2010
[James Shea](#), D-5/2 '66-67 14Feb10 CA

NDQSA MEMBER ROSTER UPDATE

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.

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

QUAD 50 RESTORATION PROCEEDING!

"I have good news and bad news to report."

Hi, 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. I invite you to look and let me know what you think.

I had two investors who were going to help with the cost of the quad mount, but they backed out. And, I lost out in acquiring a lower priced truck. That's the bad news.

A replacement truck has been located closer to my location. I have also found painting facilities and a maintenance barn with indoor storage. Both the truck and facilities are in Houston.

The quad mount is still up for grabs. The guy wants \$16,500 for it. It is complete with trailer but no guns. It also lacks some of the smaller details, such as sights. But, it does have the generator (which works!). It is located in Colorado.

We decided on getting 2 gas guns and 2 dummy guns for the time being. The gas guns run a whopping \$2,700 each. The dummy guns are about half that at \$1,400 each.

I am working hard at getting folks to invest in this project, but keep meeting the same brick wall. I am curious if the NDQSA would be interested in a fiscal sponsorship. I can send you more information on it if you want. It would solve a few problems for the time being, and might even open up some new opportunities for building a searchlight jeep (I found all the parts to build one). Let me know when you get a chance.

I have continued to gather up the incidentals which help tell the story, such as flak jackets, helmets, etc. I use these when I go to schools to teach a day in the life. It lets the kids get a glimpse into some of what you had to deal with.

I am still hoping to have the truck completed to make it to your reunion in July. I have already been figuring mileages, mpg's, stopping points, etc. It's just over 1,100 miles. And, at a top speed of 53 mph, it should take me about 3 days to get there.

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

If we can make this happen, I am sure there are a few Texicans who would be willing to make the trip. Much better would be to find a flatbed and semi to transport it. Sounds like an adventure to me, riding a Quad-50 gun truck from Houston to Savannah. Anybody got a "sugar daddy" out there or knows of a foundation that could help? It is only 5 months away.

NDQSA is offering to allow you to make a donation for the Quad-50 restoration with your 2010 dues payment. That will save you a check and a stamp. Simply enter an amount in the space provided on the dues/roster form and add it to your total. We will make sure it gets to Robert ASAP!

ALTERNATE QUAD-50 PRIME MOVER -Paul Kopsick, Historian

4. Diagram of crew loading the mount M55:



We all know that the M-55 quads were a trailer mount that could be ground deployed or put on the back of a 2.5 or 5-ton truck. Well in 2006, the model company AFV Club came out with a model of a Vietnam Era Quad-50 mounted on a version of an APC.



My research back then uncovered a poor quality photo on page 52 of the **Concord** book “*Armor of the Vietnam War*” that was the original design for the model. In fact **AFV Club** used this picture as reference for the decal sheet which included the vehicles number and name “Snap Fox” as shown in that photo. I believe that the name “Snap Fox” on the M548 is supposed to read as “Swamp Fox” a reference to Francis Marion a Revolutionary War patriot from South Carolina. The rest of the decals did not give a clear identification of the unit that the tracked cargo carrier came from.

Since I saw this model I have been asking for any information or photos of unusual ADA configurations. No one from the Quad-50 units attached to Duster battalions had any recollection of this type of quad mount. The only information we had on this was when a Quad from E-41st was mounted atop a standard M-113 style APC. It was a test configuration and was called “The Leprechaun.” I have yet to locate a photo of it and although it was an ungainly adaption, it saw some action. Tragically, within two weeks of construction, it was targeted by a command detonated mine on April 2, 1968 with the loss of three lives including two men from E-41st, PFC Tom Woodland and PFC Pablo Sanchez.

I was very surprised when I got Mel Crum’s photos to archive and found a 1968 photo of a G-55th Quad mounted on the M-548!



Quad mounted on M548

Photo by John Marsh from Mel Crum, G-55th

Note: John Marsh was from North Carolina

It looks different from the photo of the “Snap Fox” version as Mel’s photo shows the front canvas top and a gun ring with a .50-caliber machine gun. Unfortunately the two photos are of opposite sides so we cannot see if it has the “Swamp Fox” name on it.

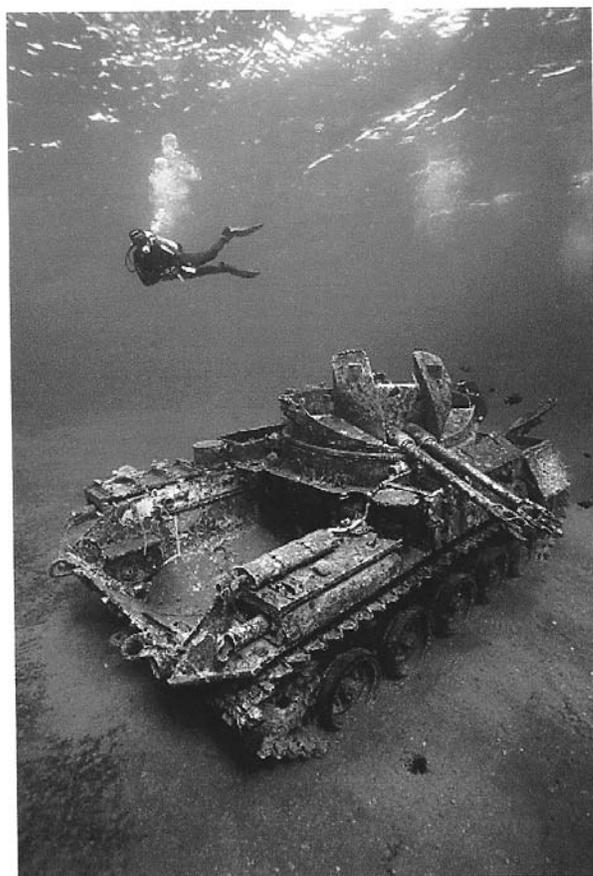
We are still trying to find out more about the circumstances for G-55 using the M-548 as a prime

mover. Mel believes that this was the only time one of their quads was configured on the M548. G-55 was not attached to a Duster battalion like the other three quad batteries so it must have had a different command structure and utilization. This is probably why we did not learn of the adaption until now. The G-55th was based out of the coastal city of Chu Lai attached to the 23rd Inf Div (Americal) and the 11th and 14th Artilleries.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

We have previously included on page 10 of the [November 2008 newsletter](#), a list of locations around the US that had Dusters and related ADA equipment on display. At the bottom of the list was a mention of a duster sunk as an artificial reef and recreational diving location off the coast of Aqaba, Jordan. We thought that the guys without computer access would like to see that photo. Here it is!

You will notice that the powerpack was removed so as not to pollute the water.



M42 Duster tank in Aqaba Jordan 2002

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
LZ BROWNING

Savannah Georgia
July 7-11, 2010

WWW.NDQSA.COM

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM - 2010 NDQSA ANNUAL REUNION - SAVANNAH, GA

To help in planning for reunion activities please pre-register now and send in fees for the following activities:

The Thursday historic tours (#2 and #3) are an either/or choice (see page 10 for details). Only sign up for one. Everyone going to the Friday memorial services is expected to sign up for the bus transportation.

- | | | |
|--|---------|----------|
| 1) Registration fee (per family) | # | \$ 10.00 |
| 2) Thursday Historic Savannah/Paula Dean Bus Tour (\$89 per person) | x _____ | _____ |
| 3) Thursday Historic Savannah Trolley Tour (\$20 per person) | x _____ | _____ |
| 4) Friday Bus transport Ft. Jackson memorial service (\$10 per person) | x _____ | _____ |
| 5) Luncheon Banquet with Guest Speaker and Awards (\$35 per person) | x _____ | _____ |

Please return this page with payment if you plan on attending Total \$ _____

We are expecting our largest turnout ever this year and we do not want turn away people from any of the events. Seating will be assigned on a first come basis, so please pre-register to help us plan accordingly. The luncheon menu has not been finalized but will take into consideration typical dietary options. Should something unforeseen happen and you are unable to attend the reunion, you will receive a refund.

Make your separate pre-registration check payable to NDQSA and return to: NDQSA, P.O. Box 2903, Fairfax, VA 22031-2903. Also make your hotel reservations ASAP to insure room availability.