



River Currents



VOLUME 33, NUMBER 3
Fall, 2024

A PUBLICATION OF
THE MOBILE RIVERINE FORCE ASSOCIATION

Message From the Radio Shack



Harry Hahn

Breaking News..... we now have a date for the Premiere of the documentary "Mobile Riverine Force"! Thank you for your patience as this has been a long-concerted effort!

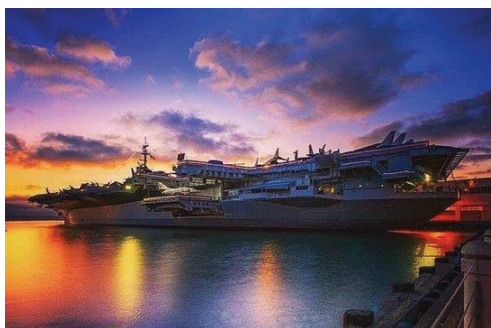
Arballo Productions has committed to having our documentary completed and Premiered on March 25th, 2025. What is also great news is that the U.S.S. Midway Museum, the floating museum in San Diego Harbor, has been secured for this event. The exact start time and details will be forthcoming. More info is in Arballo's column in this newsletter. We will try to schedule other events around the Premier date, including a trip to the Vietnam Unit Memorial on Coronado. This Premiere event is downtown San Diego. I have secured the LOEWS Coronado hotel as a place for us. There are a limited number of rooms available so sign up soon. A sign-up form for free attendance is in this newsletter. Midway itself will have as many as 1100 chairs available on the flight deck and a 40-foot screen, so allowing many attendees will not be an issue. Attempting to forecast how many MRFA people can make this event will be a real challenge for me!!!

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"The Mobile Riverine Force" on the Big Screen!



We are beyond thrilled to share that the **WORLD PREMIERE** of the Mobile Riverine Force documentary will take place on the flight deck of the historic USS Midway in San Diego on March 25, 2025. This incredible milestone has been a long time in the making, and we can't wait to share this special evening with all of you.



While there's still a lot of work to be done over the coming weeks and next couple of months, we are deeply grateful for the journey that has brought us here. For those interested in supporting our post-production efforts, tax-deductible donations can still be made to the Mobile Riverine Force Association. If you do not have the use details, please feel free to reach out directly and we'll be sure to share those important details. If you're a business owner considering corporate sponsorship, please reach out—we'd love to share how we are able to recognize your support, including promotion through KPBS/PBS Advertising.



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Your membership expiration date is printed on your River Currents just above your name and address.



Like us on Facebook

The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam Page. After you send a request to join the group, Bob Pries will approve your request to join the group.

Contact Changes

Please send Frank Jones any changes in address, phone number or e-mail addresses so that he can keep our database updated.

His address is:
9 San Marino Parkway,
Fenton, MO 63026

Frank's e-mail address is
mrfatango48@gmail.com



Contact the Editor

If you have questions, stories, or comments for "River Currents," please e-mail Terry Sater, at terry.s8er@yahoo.com Not all stories can be published. All must be family friendly. We want a good balance of Army and Navy stories, so please participate!

Message From The Radio Shack

continued from page 1

Also, as reported last issue, through a very generous benefactor, we announced that our September 2025 reunion in St. Louis will be free to MRFA members and their spouse/significant other (first guest). The hotel lodging and incidentals are on you, but we are covering the reunion fee for members. This will include our "Banquet of Heros" on the Saturday night of our reunion and finger food receptions like the last reunion. A form for signing up for the reunion is attached to this newsletter and is also available in a fillable form online, on the MRFA website. You must sign up by April 1, 2025, to get free attendance. This allows us to better plan and organize the event. Please sign up soon and make your arrangements with the hotel for your stay. Again, this is free to members and their spouse/significant other.

Our focus for this and our next Newsletter will be on the Premiere date(s) for our documentary. Once we have more details available, we will be blasting them out in emails to those of you that are signed up on our email list and in a special mailing in February!!!! So please make certain you get signed up for these events as the opportunities are presented to you! If you are not on our email list, please email and I will add your email. Send your request to SparksRivRon13@AOL.com

Lastly, we wish you a very safe and wonderful holiday season. We are so fortunate to have returned from that distant war to be here with our families during the holidays and to enjoy what liberty and God given rights we have all fought for! Being able to celebrate Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years with those you love is what it is all about and becomes more and more important as we count our many years!

Harry Hahn, President, SparksRivRon13@aol.com

On the Big Screen!

continued from page 1

Please know that we'll be working hard to have the Blu-Ray/DVD duplication produced and available in time for the premiere.

Save the Date for Television Broadcast!

Alongside this remarkable premiere, we're also excited to announce that Mobile Riverine Force will broadcast on KPBS on Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29, 2025.

Thank you for allowing us to tell your stories.

We are incredibly honored by the support and hospitality of Admiral Craft and the USS Midway, and we couldn't be happier to present your story in San Diego.

Details will follow in the near future.

See you on the flight deck!

Jeff and Shannon Arballo



Send your questions, comments, or stories for River Currents to the Editor, at:
terry.s8er@yahoo.com



2025 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division Reunion
Registration Form
9/18/25 TO 9/21/25
(PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY)



Name _____

Unit in Vietnam (1 unit only) _____ Dates _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-Mail _____

Member's Polo Shirt Size [] [] [] [] []
M L XL 2XL 3XL

Name - Spouse/Significant Other _____ City _____ State _____

Woman's T- Shirt Size [] [] [] [] [] []
XS S M L XL 2XL

Name - Additional Guests _____

City _____

State _____

Send my registration form to me by e-mail Yes [] No [] First reunion []

Registration is for member and 1 guest (Does not cover lodging, food or drinks)

MRFA Member Registration FREE to member and spouse/significant other if registered prior to April 1, 2025

\$ 0
\$0, 75 or \$100

After April 1, 2025 \$75 for Member - Nonmember Registration \$100

ON SITE/LATE-REGISTRATION FOR MEMBERS: (\$125) NON-MEMBERS: (\$150). MUST PAY WITH A CHECK!! NO CASH!! THURSDAY AND FRIDAY 1PM TO 2PM. PLEASE SIGN UP AT CHECK-IN TABLE.

Total number of other guest(s) _____ x \$ 25 ea. Guests under 12 are free \$ 0

Grand Total Enclosed \$ 0

Shuttle to Soldier's Memorial, Gateway Arch, St. Louis Zoo and Old Town St. Charles on a first come, first serve basis. Shuttles will operate on Friday (10am to 4pm) and Saturday (1pm to 5pm)

Please send this form with your check or money order payable to the MRFA. Mail to MRFA 2025 Reunion, C/O Frank Jones, 9 San Marino Parkway, Fenton, MO 63026 before 9/1/2025

Full refund for cancellations will be made until 9/1/2025. After this date NO REFUNDS will be made. Returned checks will be charged a \$25 processing fee.

Note: You will still have to pick up your name tag and lanyard at the check-in table. There will be no admission to hospitality rooms without your name tag and lanyard. NO EXCEPTIONS! CHECK-IN WILL BE OPEN ON THURSDAY, SEPT. 18, 9AM TO 5PM AND FRIDAY, SEPT. 19, 9 AM TO 1PM.

Only activity on Sept. 21st is breakfast and checkout!

ONLY SEND THE FLIGHT FORM IF YOU ARE DISABLED AND NEED ADA TRANSPORTATION! Please fill out the 2025 MRFA Reunion Flight Form and send to Frank Jones

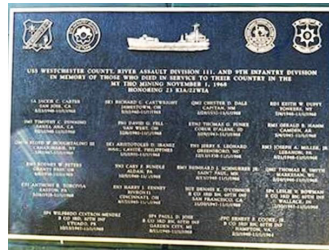
Tribute to the KIA/WIA of the Westchester County

The Westchester County LST-1167 shipmates and the MRFA created four bronze plaques to honor the memory of twenty-three sailors and soldiers killed in the mining of the ship November 1st, 1968, while attached to River Assault Division 111. Shipmates also recognized the extraordinary efforts of the ship crew, Mobile Riverine Craft and soldiers that saved lives and prevented what would have been the only loss of a commissioned ship the Navy would have sustained, due to enemy action, during the Vietnam War. As it was, seventeen sailors and six soldiers were killed, along with fifteen wounded, representing the greatest single combat loss of US Navy lives in the war.

One plaque was dedicated in June at the National Vietnam War Museum in Weatherford TX. On November 1st, three were dedicated on the 56th anniversary of the mining. One on the Trail of Honor at the Lasdon Park Museum in Westchester County NY. A second at the Door County Museum in Sturgeon Bay WI where the ship was built, and one at the Vietnam Unit Memorial in Coronado, CA.



Nolan Nelson presenting remarks on the Dedication of the plaque attached to the stern of the CCB at the Coronado Vietnam Unit Memorial.



Now Hear This!

Vietnam Unit Memorial Coronado – USS Westchester County

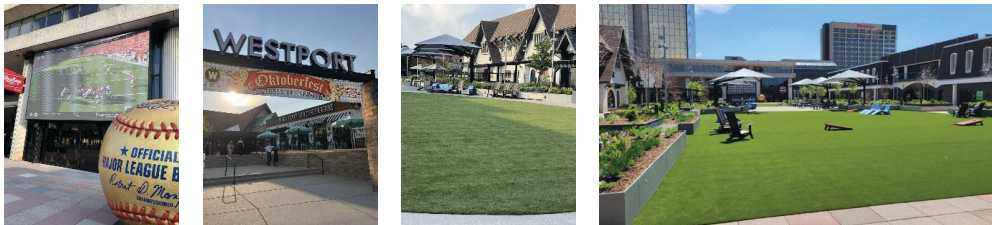


Most of you are aware of the fact that we have a Memorial Wall dedicated to those who were KIA in the Brown Water Navy TF-115, TF-116, TF-117, and TF-194 in Vietnam, located at the Coronado Amphibious Base, Coronado, CA. What you may not realize is the amount of upkeep that is required for the three boats that are located there, the wall, and the grounds. The crew that is responsible for the upkeep is headed by our own Tom Matyn. Tom is putting out a request to any member, member family, or any party who may be interested in assisting in the upkeep, and not afraid to get their hands dirty. Please contact Tom to assist in this ongoing effort. Tom's phone number is 760-458-0439. His email is tmatyn@sbcglobal.net, or get in touch with Steve Watson swatson9@outlook.com, or Chuck Chowdakis, 619-895-3096, chuckc50@netzero.com

The Memorial is the site for all Special Warfare graduations of US Navy SEALs, SWCC's and for change of command ceremonies. Recently a ceremony was held at the Memorial to place a new Bronze Plaque on the stern of the CCB boat in memory of those who had died in the mining of the USS Westchester County.

We will be visiting the Memorial on March 26th as part of our San Diego/Coronado Premier of the documentary "Mobile Riverine Force". More information is in that column.

2025 MRFA REUNION SEPTEMBER 18TH to 21ST!



Please start thinking about the 2025 reunion in St. Louis! Make your hotel reservations and send in your registrations. The hotel is filling up quickly! To get your free shirt and wife's or significant other's shirt, you must register by April 1st!

There will be a free bus ride to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Perryville, Mo. On Friday, 9/19 at 10:00 a.m. Make sure to let me know if you want to go on the bus. **You won't be able to sign up for the bus at the reunion!**

The area around the Chalet has been remodeled. New Restaurants, an ice cream shop and other venues are now open! There is a large movie screen at one end of the open plaza!

Looking forward to seeing everyone!



Frank Jones
Reunion Coordinator

FREE SHIPPING
ON ORDERS OVER \$60

NEW
MRFA GEAR LOCKER
www.mrfa.org

Cotton Hats

Cotton hats with embroidered patch on front. Adjustable back.

\$25.00



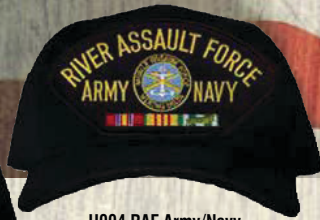
H001 MRFA Vietnam



H002 9th Inf Div Vietnam



H003 RAF TF-117



H004 RAF Army/Navy



H005 Old Reliables
9th Inf Div Vietnam



H009 39th Infantry Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/39th, 3rd/39th, and 4th/39th 9th Inf Div)



H010 47th Inf Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/47th, 3rd/47th, and 4th/47th 9th Inf Div)



H011 60th Infantry Regiment
w/black 6"x3" patch on black cap
(covers 2nd/60th, 3rd/60th, and 5th/60th 9th Inf Div)

Mesh Back Hats



H017 Combat Infantryman



H018 Purple Heart



H019 9th Med Bn Dong Tam Vietnam



H020 Combat Medic Vietnam



H022 Silver Star
w/black 6"x3" patch on mesh back
black cap



H021 U.S. Navy Corpsman Vietnam



H023 Bronze Star
w/black 6"x3" patch on mesh back
black cap

Service Award Hats

Service Award hats are available in five styles on an olive drab base. All cotton, washable with pewter finish clasp.

\$25.00



H012 MRF PUC



H015 9th Inf. Div. Vietnam
SVC Ribbon



H013 MRF Svc Ribbon



H016 MRF CAR Vietnam

**FREE
SHIPPING**
ON ORDERS OVER \$60

MRFA GEAR LOCKER

ORDER FORM

Qty	Model Number	Size	Unit Price	Amount
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
				\$
			Subtotal	\$
			Shipping <small>(If order subtotal is over \$60, Shipping is FREE)</small>	\$ 8.00
			Grand Total	\$

Ordering is as easy as 1-2-3.

1. Indicate your choice of item number (be sure to include size, if applicable), with quantity, and total amount. Add amounts for grand total to enclose.
2. Make check or money order payable to: MRFA. The MRFA does not take credit cards.
3. Mail Gear Locker Order Form and check to MRFA, PO Box 271, Lake Villa, IL 60046.
Email Harry Hahn at SparksRivRon13@AOL.com for questions.

**Products
Chairman
HARRY HAHN
President**

Name _____

Shipping Address _____

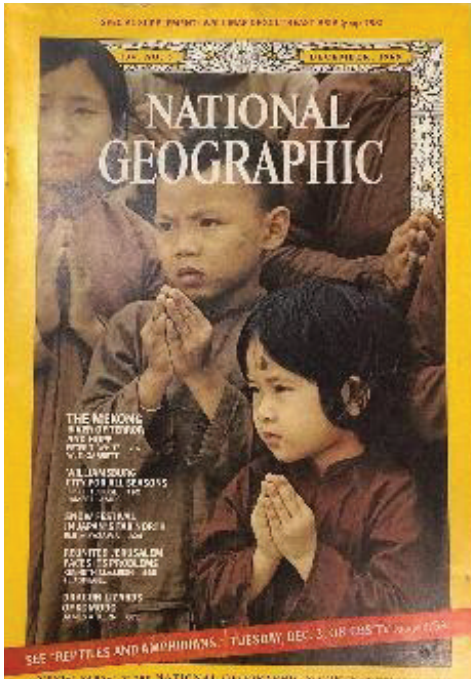
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

“The Mekong – River of Terror and Hope,” Excerpt from the December, 1968 National Geographic

continued from Summer Issue of
River Currents



A major said the island was heavily booby trapped. “They use captured grenades or shells that were duds. Do you know what a daisy chain is? Grenades strung along a trail. The point man trips one, and they all go off, so the men behind him get zapped too.”

I rode aboard the monitor that ran the operation. The radio room buzzed. Our first element to land had run into fire. The skipper beached the monitor, to steady the guns.

From the island: “Every time we move we receive fire.” The colonel in the monitor: “Don’t spread out in there; we can lose a company that way.” The island: “Search party ambushed.” Near us, a helicopter lifted the first casualty.

Said a Vietnamese liaison officer aboard: “The people call this Coconut Island. Full of VC, hard core.”

A chopper took me to the island. It took back a man wounded by a booby trap. He smiled. He was safe.

There were sharp, fast cracks from our

infantrymen’s M-16 automatic rifles, and the booming of rifle grenades. We all crouched. Then quiet. We walked gingerly among the palms. And banana plants. I thought of daisy chains.

Capt. Wayne Greene, commanding Bravo Company, had a radio too. It reported 30 to 40 VC farther down, with AK-47’s; those were their automatic rifles. The captain said; “One guy is firing at you, and you feel like it’s fifty.”

It was hot. My steel helmet and my jacket of nylon armor made me hotter. An explosion sent a blast of air into my face. Our engineers had blown up a booby trap.

“Don’t bunch up!” the captain kept repeating. “There could be VC in bunkers ahead. They let us walk in, and when they see enough of us, they’ll open up. It happens all the time.”

We came to a thatched house, empty, and searched. The bed, a wide board, rested on mud walls a foot thick. It was a shelter-from bombs, from shellfire. The captain said, “Shelters like this are a way of life here, as you and I have a bathroom.” On the dresser stood a plaster Madonna.

Outside stood a bunker of coconut logs. Deeply carved and painted into a tree was the VC flag, blue and red with gold star. A shield said “Long Live the National Liberation Front.” That is what the VC call themselves.

Sweat ran on my glasses. We hit irrigation ditches by the dozen, each about 10 feet wide. I slid down the banks, slogged through black mud and soupy brown water, and struggled up, over and over again. I reached for a branch. It had two-inch thorns. A trooper gave me a hand. I cursed irrigation.

We crouched and rolled into a ditch. Sniper. About 100 yards? The M-16’s went to work. Silence again.

In my three hours we had encountered only a handful of people. They walked behind us, with a Vietnamese from the Special Branch of the National Police. He would interrogate them later. How could he tell a VC?

“A man with soft hands is no farmer,” he said. “If his face and hands are pale, he operates at night and sleeps by day. Perhaps he carries mortar shells, or messages. That girl, she is from the Women’s Liberation Association.” Her voice was soft and high-pitched – a girl of good family. Some VC mortar squads were made up entirely of women.

I was wrung out when we came to a stream with a bridge – a thick bamboo trunk with a thin bamboo rail to steady myself. I’d never make it. I’d swim across. I lurched in.

Trang, who was still with me, shouted: “Stop!” VC put booby traps under these bridges!” They think the big Americans with all their equipment are so heavy they might crash down.

A trooper calmly said, “Wait. I’ll go first and make sure.” A brave young man. How could I let him do it? I floundered back out, and somehow I made it across that cursed bridge. I don’t remember how; I just remember feeling scared to death the whole day.

There is something else I cannot forget. We had picked up an old man with a medal of the Blessed Virgin around his neck, and then we came across a body. The old man looked down on the bloody corpse. He said, “He is my son-in-law. He has five children.”

He stood up straight. His face was frozen, with a little tear in each eye. He said, “He was not VC. He was not VC.”

Wasn’t he? I don’t know. The report of the operation on Thoi Son Island includes him as on VC KIA-killed in action.”

Gathering of the Troops San Diego/Coronado March 2025

The MRFA documentary Premier is on the USS Midway March 25th evening. The **LOEWS Coronado Hotel** is available for those that need a room. There is **NO CHARGE** for attendance at hotel or USS Midway for MRFA members.

The preliminary schedule is as follows:

March 24th Arrival at hotel – Bay Front gathering room open (after 3 PM)

March 25th late afternoon – Bus to USS Midway for Documentary Premier from Hotel

March 26th Bus to Vietnam Unit Memorial Service

Exact times to follow. We plan to have finger food available on the 24th and 26th in the Bay Front suite. Food and drinks will be available on the USS Midway at the Premier on the 25th. Although there is a form for you to send us to let us know that you will be attending, **you must get your hotel reservation directly with the hotel.** To make reservations you may go to this website <https://www.loewshotels.com/coronado-bay-resort/group-mobile-riverine-force-association-2025> or call the hotel directly at (619) 424-4000 and mention

Name: **Mobile Riverine Force Association**

Code: **MFR324**

That will get you your room rate of \$199. There is a mandatory resort charge of \$20 for use of the resort facility, so your total charge will be \$219 per day plus tax. We have negotiated a special parking rate for those who are driving, otherwise Uber or cab from airport to hotel.



2025 MRFA & 9th Infantry Division
Coronado Gathering and
Documentary Premier
Registration Form
This is NOT your Hotel form. make Hotel Reservation separately



March 24th, 25th, 26th 2025 - Loews, Coronado, CA

Name _____

Unit in Vietnam _____ Dates _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ or Cell _____

E-mail _____

Send my registration confirmation to me by email Yes No

No guests First reunion

Name(s): Spouse/Guest(s)	City	State
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Registration fee: NO CHARGE

Number of people for bus to USS Midway on March 25th _____

Number of people for bus ride to Vietnam Memorial on March 26th _____

You must make your hotel reservation separately.

LOEWS Coronado is **\$199 per night plus a \$20 per day resort fee.** Parking is extra.

Address: **4000 Coronado Bay Rd, Coronado, CA 92118**

Phone: **(619) 424-4000**

MRFA room block code is **MFR 324**

Please send this form to:

Frank Jones
9 San Marino Parkway
Fenton, MO 63026
314-303-2730
mrfatango48@gmail.com
by March 1st, 2025

Note: You need to check in at the **MRFA Bayside gathering room** to receive your name tag. **Your name tag is your admittance to bus rides and USS Midway!**

Reflections: Veterans Day 2024

My Vietnam Vet brothers from the Mobile Riverine Force - 9th Infantry Division, a Donut Dolly sister, friends, and family members gathered in Washington, D.C., from November 8th through the 11th to celebrate Veterans Day.

I have traveled to D.C. for forty-one out of the last forty-two years during this time, and this year felt particularly special—though I can't quite pinpoint why. There seemed to be more laughter, deeper emotions, and an even stronger sense of connection among us than ever before.

Over the four days, I enjoyed the company of familiar faces who attend every year, a Donut Dolly, some first-timers, their family members or friends, and my daughter and granddaughter.

Perhaps it was this wonderful mix of people that made my time in D.C. so special.

Perhaps I needed the opportunity to interact with my brothers more than ever this year.

Perhaps it was having my daughter and granddaughter by my side for our wreath-laying ceremony at the Wall on Veterans Day.

Perhaps it was simply being with my brothers from Vietnam again—men I trusted with my life, and who in turn, trusted me with theirs. We faced



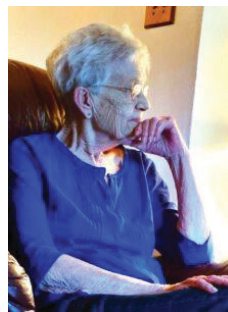
incredible challenges together long ago, and being with them again filled my heart with happiness.

Whatever it was—a combination of all these elements and more—it made for a fantastic four days that I will always cherish.

Although I returned home exhausted, I can't help but smile as I reflect on my time with these amazing individuals.

My heartfelt thanks and love go out to everyone who made my time in D.C. extraordinarily special. Bravo Zulu!

Bob Pries



Sara Lavinia Isaac Moore

Sara Lavinia Isaac Moore passed away on November 8, 2024. It was her 83rd birthday. Sara is survived by Albert Moore, her husband of 43 years. Albert served on the USS Benewah (APB-40) and IUWG-1 from April 1967 to April 1970. He played a key role in founding the Mobile Riverine Force Association in the early 90's. Albert Moore served 25 years as our president.

TAPS Tribute to a Fallen One



Larry Dale Venenga

Member Larry Dale Venenga passed away on April 27, 2024. While in Vietnam he served

with Alpha Company, 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from May 1966 to May 1968. Larry is survived by Audrey, his wife of 57 years.



Mark Tracy Boatwright

Member Mark Tracy Boatwright passed away on January 8, 2024. While in Vietnam he served with the 9th MP Company,

9th Infantry Division from March 1968 to November 1968. Mark is survived by Virginia, his wife of 60 years.



Patrick Joseph Boffa

Member Patrick Joseph Boffa passed away on September 18, 2024. While in Vietnam he

served with River Patrol Flotilla FIVE – River Division 552 and 535 from February 1970 to February 1971. Patrick was preceded in death by, Stephanie, his loving wife.



Dallas Michael Abbott

Member Dallas Michael Abbott passed away peacefully at home on May 3,

2024. While in Vietnam he served with 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from June 1967 to June 1968.



Brian E. Colledge

Former Member Brian E. Colledge passed away on June 14, 2024. While in Vietnam he served with River Assault Squadron 11 – River Assault Division 112 as the Engineman onboard T-112-11 from February 1968 to February 1969. Brian was preceded in death by Betty, his wife.



Pedro A. Vasquez

Member Pedro A. “Pete” Vasquez passed on March 14, 2024 as a result an Agent Orange cancer. While in Vietnam he served with River

Assault Squadron 11 – River Assault Division 111 onboard T-111-4 from August 1967 to July 1968. Pete by Andrea, his wife of 43 years.



Patrick M. Hughes

Member Patrick M. Hughes (LTG USA Ret.) passed away on October 5, 2024. While in Vietnam he served as a Sp5 Combat Medic in

1965. Later he was commissioned as a 2LT. and served as Platoon Leader of D Company, 4th Battalion, 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division in 1969. After Pat became a Captain he returned to Vietnam as a Province Advisor for the Phoenix Program and a Province Intelligence Advisor on Advisory Team 49. After his stints in Vietnam, he became Intelligence Director for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and also the 12th Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) from February 1996 to July 1999. Pat was a true “Soldier’s Soldier” and he

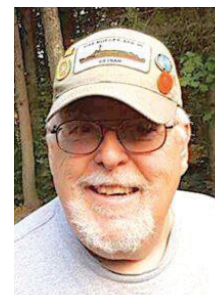
was well respected throughout the military and veteran communities.



Richard E. MacCullagh

Member Chaplain Richard E. MacCullagh (Captain, USN Ret.) passed

away on October 12, 2024. While in Vietnam he served as a Chaplain with Commander River Assault Flotilla One – River Assault Squadron 15 from June 1968 to June 1969.



Richard D. Bittle

Member Richard D. Bittle passed away on April 10, 2024. While in Vietnam he served onboard the U.S.S. Nieces (APB-40) from June 1968 to April

1969. Richard is survived by his wife, Patricia, of 27 years.



Joseph Madison Welch

Member Joseph Madison “Joe” Welch passed away on February 24, 2024. While in Vietnam he served

with 4th Battalion, 47th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division from May 1967 to May 1968. Joe is survived by Judy, his wife of 34 years.



Larry Wayne Hidbrader

Former Member Larry Wayne Hidbrader passed away on November 4, 2024. While in

Vietnam he served onboard the USS Benewah (APB-40) from November 1966 to December 1967. Larry was preceded in death by his wife Rebecca.

Find us on Facebook

Hey Brothers, check out our Facebook page, "The Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam" Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/195572170458597>

Our Facebook Group is dedicated to all Army and Navy men who served with pride and distinction in a place called the Mekong Delta. Be it on water or land, they all served their country. Whether they were on a Monitor or making a helo assault, setting an ambush on a lonely, quiet, dark night, walking through waist-deep water in a rice paddy, riding a tango boat up a narrow canal, or at anchor in the middle of a brown-water river for long hot hours. Places like Dong Tam, Tay Ninh, Snoopy's Nose, the Cross Roads, Ambush Alley, My Tho, Rach Kien, Plain of Reeds, Parrot's Beak, Tan An, Nha Be or Ben Tre and names like Colleton, Washtenaw, Windham, Benewah, Westchester, Satyr, Askari, PBR, and Swiftboat are names and places we'll never forget.

This group is to preserve a living memory of all those who served in the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division Vietnam.

Many friendships from days past have been renewed because of our group page. It is a great place to make connections with others who served with the Mobile Riverine Force and 9th Infantry Division.

A few rules are in place to keep order in the group. They are:

1. Politics and religion are the fastest way to start an argument and cause hard feelings and absolutely have no place on this page.
2. We expect members to treat each other with respect.

We hope you enjoy the group.

In Brotherhood,

Doc Pries - MRFA Vice President and Group Admin



Meaning of "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

"*Fair Winds and Following Seas*" is a gesture of good luck to those we will miss and sailors who have served with honor and courage. The combination of phrases implies that a vessel will have good winds, and not have to pound into the waves. The phrase can be used as a toast or salutation between mariners. It is often used at a "beginning" ceremony such as a commissioning ceremony, as well as in retirement, change of command, or farewell ceremonies.

Following seas are defined by Bowditch's American Practical Navigator as "*A sea in which the waves move in the general direction of the heading*" and can be dangerous if the winds and sea are too strong. But the mariners' traditional blessing implies that both are comfortably rolling in the same direction as the boat.

(Sources include the former Naval Historical Center and Wikipedia)

In Memory Of

Wendell Affield for Buddha Ed Thomas, Boat Captain Tango 112-11 (02/68-02/69)

Ron Baker In memory of BM2 William Comer KIA 2/68

Serena Barnes for Michael Barnes 2nd Brigade 3rd/47th 9th Inf.

David Wilson 2nd/60th KIA 08/05/69, Timothy Shelton 4th/39th KIA 06/25/69, Steven Murray 4th/39th KIA 05/26/69, Harvey Crabtree

2nd/4th Arty KIA 06/19/69, and Dennis Mattox 1st/501st 101st Abn KIA 08/23/69

Donut Dollie Emily Strange by Bill Dabel C-1 3rd/39th

Orville "Lee" Daley for Roger Valentine CSI USS Askari ARL 30 (1967-1968)

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3rd/60th KIA 03/03/68

Bill Frede for BM1 Guy Dail, BM3 Johnny Maness and SN David Flamburis T-112-2, 1967

Patrick Haggerty in memory of CDR Charlie Cox., CO, RivDiv 111 (11/67 to 11/68) and Capt.

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John Smith for Paul D. Jose B Co. 3/60 KIA 11/01/68

Charlie Thompson in Memory of Doyle E. Templeton 2nd/39th 9th Inf.

Jim Towe for Jack Steinman who saved many lives 5/14/69 thru his heroic actions. RIP Brother.

In memory of my Brothers B Co. 2nd 39th Infantry, 9th Infantry Division



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