

ANIMAL DEN OCCASIONAL BULLETIN #21

11 NOVEMBER 2013

MEMORIAL DAY

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ANIMAL DEN OCCASIONAL BULLETIN #21

VETERANS DAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2013

We are especially thankful, grateful, to have Ron Slaughter and Bill Riggs back with us. This was one time when I was really glad my research took me to the wrong person—Ronald B. Slaughter from Kansas City instead of Ronald H. from Camdenton, Missouri, who is our Ron Slaughter. Ron and I recently reminisced about the good local shrimp and boiled crab and lobsters from local waters, all marinated in Agent Orange. (Excuse my touch of dark humor, but ignorance was bliss in those days.) Ron and Garza provided us with many good suppers of grilled chicken and steak outside by the dayroom. Ron was the first man in the squadron I met when I landed at the Bien Hoa Resort and Rocket Range (BHRRR for short—but the “eH” is silent) on 17 July 1968.

Bill Riggs belonged to the music band that Rich Moyle had with Larry Honaker and one of the other Animals. They played on the revetment out by the dayroom, and at some of the clubs/bars at Bien Hoa. Bill and Larry had gone home by the time most of you got to Nam. Wayne "Guru" Dail later played the tom-tom when Rich played guitar. (The tom-tom was an empty potato-chip can.) Do any of you remember that a number of squadrons had their own small private bars so their men didn't go to the regular service clubs? This was especially true of some of the jet-jockey officers' compounds, but some NCOs & enlisted men had their own clubs, too.

Again I ask, somebody to please remember Airman Perry's first name! He was a cook and some of you must have worked with him. He was on the quiet side, but friendly and a nice young man. See his picture below.

It was two years ago, Veterans Day 2011, that I found Ron Mahar's name on a list looking for Nam buddies and I contacted him that night. Shortly thereafter we found Rich Moyle. Since then, our list of current contacts has grown and I am thankful for every one of you, and to be in touch again. Welcome home, boys!

It seems like it might be a good idea if you gave me your snail-mail addresses and telephone numbers. Sometimes e-mail addresses get changed and we forget to update everybody. This information is only for us and would not be shared—out of school.—(I have some of them, but not all.)

I had the pleasure of visits from Phil and Carol Duty on 1 September, and from Rich and Kris Moyle on 25 & 26 September. Tony and Karen Cardullo came by on 22 May 2012 and are due for a visit this year. I hope all of you are in touch with anyone who lives close enough for a personal visit. There was supposed to have been a reunion for the 3rd Tactical Fighter Wing this September in Ohio, but I haven't heard anything further and don't know if it came off.

Here are the names of some friends who are gone. We remember them with affection—I'm sure they're saving a place for us where they are.

ANIMAL DEN MEMORIAL LIST, VETERANS DAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2013

Isbell, TSgt. Charles Edward “Iz” Jackson, Tennessee, and Sarasota, Florida

26 October 1931 – 12 October 2010

Honaker, Larry Wayne "Larry": Kingsport, Tennessee
1945-1987

The photo at left below is a publicity shot of Larry for Little Alvin & The Velvetones, the band he played with in the early & mid 1960s, before he joined the Air Force.

Bottom Row: Francisco Garza, Bill Black, Larry Honaker;
Middle Row: Lou Triolo, Ron Mahar, Shindell;
Top: Dennis Blair. Animal Den, Bien Hoa AB,
RVN, before Tet 1968 (Look, Ma! No sandbag revetments!).

Kinser, Harold Edward – "The Kid", Kenai, Alaska
21 May 1947 – 28 November 1998

Monteverdi, Denis L. – "Monte", New York City
4 December 1947 – 19 May 1990

Munger, John Robert – "Bear", Puyallup, Washington
26 October 1949 – 31 October 2011

Payne, Gordon William – "Gordon", Alameda, California
24 June 1946 – 24 October 2011

Stewart, MSgt. Kenneth A. – "Stew", First Sergeant; Bronx, New York, & Pelham, Alabama
5 July 1936 – 17 December 2008

Whitaker, Col. J L – "Sir", El Paso, Texas
15 March 1924 - 13 April 2000

Witanek, Chester Lawrence, Jr. – "Larry", Cheshire, Massachusetts
7 April 1947 - 25 July 68.

KIA, Hua Nghia, RVN, III Corps, Co. A, 506th Inf., 2nd Btn., 101st Airborne Div. Cheshire, Mass. Larry grew up with Ron Mahar and often stayed in the hut when he was in from the field.

Workman, Robert Mason – "Rob", – "Robby", Huntington, West Virginia, & Fort Walton Beach, Florida
18 July 1947-9 January 2009

Since we only recently learned of Robby's death, I'm posting his obituary:

Herald Dispatch, Fort Walton Beach, Florida, 11 January 2009

ROBERT "ROBIN" MASON WORKMAN

(Jan 11, 2009) ROBERT "ROBIN" MASON WORKMAN, 61, of Ft. Walton Beach, passed away Friday, January 9, 2009. He was born July 18, 1947 in Huntington, West Virginia. Robin moved to Florida in 1969. He served in the USAF and was a Vietnam Veteran. Robin's love for pool led him into partnership of Starcade Billiards for more than 25 years. Robin's greatest accomplishment was his ability to make life-long friendships. People who knew this wonderful man will always remember him as the most genuine and loving person they ever met. Robin is survived by his wife of 38 years, Barbara; his children, Sean and Cory; and his granddaughter and love of his life, Madison. He also leaves behind his two brothers and a sister, Crys, Terry and Frank. A time of visitation will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Sunday at McLaughlin Mortuary, Ft. Walton Beach, Fla. A graveside service will be held at noon Monday, January 12, 2009 at Beal Memorial Cemetery. A gathering of friends and family will follow at Starcade.

See photos below.

MIAs:

These are our men who so far as I know are living, but I have been unable to find them. Please let me know any names you want added to this list. The more who know about them, maybe the better our chances of eventually finding them.

Blair, Dennis ~~â€œDennyâ€~~, California

Dail, Wayne ~~â€œGuruâ€~~, Hampton, Virginia

Dorris, George O. ~~â€œGeorgeâ€~~, Jackson, Tennessee (I have George~~â€~~TMs telephone number, but no one ever answers and there is no way to leave a message.)

Garza, Francisco ~~â€œFrankâ€~~~~â€œGarzaâ€~~, San Antonio, Texas

(Joe Moore)

I'm sure I'll have corrections to make in a day or so, like always.