



THE FWCVHPA NEWSLETTER

FORT WOLTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

An independent organization not under control nor authorized to act as an agent or representative of the VHPA.

December, 2016

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President's Message

Editor's note: This issue's President's Message is from our soon-to-be Immediate Past President, writing Webmaster and Database Maintainer.

Website Update

The website now provides a "Members Access" page where members can update their profile and choose to opt for emailed newsletters, saving the chapter the cost of USPS delivery. This page replaces the old email list and will soon provide that service as well. In order to log in to the members page you will need to create an account with a user name and password. There is a button on the login page for doing this, which will only work if you already have an email address in the chapter database. When you enter your email address and a new user name you will be sent a temporary password by email which you will need to change the first time you use it to log in. This is the most secure way to handle accounts that I have found. Send email address updates to webmaster@fwcvhpa.org if you have trouble creating your account. Members may also pay their dues using PayPal at the online gift shop link.

Ed Faught – webmaster and database maintainer

Quarterly Meeting Notice

The next Chapter meeting will be Saturday, December 3, at Logan's Roadhouse in Hurst. New officers will assume their duties at this meeting. The Executive Council will meet at 11 AM with General Membership meet at 11:30 (or whenever the EC finishes its meeting.) Lunch is \$20 per person from a special rate menu. The beer is on you. Guests eat if you or someone pays. Peanuts are free and you can throw the shells on the floor. Address is 948 NE Loop 820, Hurst, TX. Phone is 817-590-0261. GPS data: 32°49'32.43"N 97°2'03.69"W.

Editor's Last Bash

As I said in the September issue, this is my last issue of the *Newsletter*. It's time for a new editor and time for me to relax a little. I've enjoyed it and the job pays so well. I hope someone steps forward soon, since the deadline for the March edition is February 1, 2017. Contact the president or me for the job. At the end of my article on Page 3, there is the old time news copy symbol, -30-. Thirty has traditionally indicated the end of the story. This time, it means "End of Mission."

Notes from the VP

All you other interesting old helo jockeys, send a brief blurb on yourself to me at Chopperdon@sbcglobal.net Be immortalized in an issue of *The FWCVHPA Newsletter*.

Secretary's Stuff

For questions or actions about membership or dues, contact Gerald Brazell at brazell911@aol.com or 817-267-7596.

For change of address and email issues, contact webmaster@fwcvhpa.org.

You can update your contact info with VHPA on-line at <https://directory.vhpa.org/login.php>. Log in and click on "Update My Information."

Treasurer's Report

The museum has now raised over \$325,000 for the new facility. The chapter has raised \$18,000 on the way to our goal of \$25,000. Thanks to the 18: Ancelin, Bateman, Brazell, Couch, Faught, Fowler, Grow, Hart, Kane, Koenig, Lawrence, Lowey, McMillen, Messinger, Poland, Richardson, Salisbury, Stecko. We still have a pledge outstanding, but we will need at least 6 more to step up to meet the goal. This will put the chapters' name on the OH-23 that will be the centerpiece for the Camp/Fort Wolters gallery. A LITTLE MORE HELP PLEASE.

Chapter Treasury is looking good. As of October 31 we have:

CD	\$ 1,483.92
Checking/Savings	\$ 2,749.71
Total:	\$ 4,233.63

New Chapter Officers Effective 3 December 2016

Don Ancelin	President
Herbert Koenig	Vice President
Ed Faught	Imed. Past President
John Grow	Sr. Member-at-Large
Pat Richardson	Midterm Member-at-Large

Rick Couch	Jr. Member-at-Large
Gerald Brazell	Secretary
Jim Messinger	Treasurer

Ed Faught is the new Webmaster/Database Maintainer

Current Chapter Officers Through 2 December 2016

Ed Faught	President
Don Ancelin	Vice President
Adam Steczko	Imed. Past President
Rick Couch	Sr. Member-at-Large
John Grow	Midterm Member-at-Large
Pat Richardson	Jr. Member-at-Large
Jerry Barnes	Secretary
Jim Messinger	Treasurer

NEWSLETTER CONTACT

Pat Richardson, Editor & Chief Flunky
817-723-8225 Newsletter@fwcvhpa.org

For Chapter info, rattle these cages. Someone will eventually answer. Landline - 940-325-8427 or Fax - 940-325-4009

Dues Changed to \$20! Still Cheap!

If you are reading a hard copy edition or the *Newsletter*, look at the mailing label for a number beside your name. That is the year your dues will expire or did expire. The month is always January. Send \$20 to the secretary at the return address in the upper left corner above your address.

If you are reading this on-line and don't get a snail mail edition, dues are still \$20 due in January every year. The EC will have to work out how you will be notified if past due. Meanwhile, you can call or email the secretary to find out.



Huey 68-16179

Have you seen a helicopter you flew in Vietnam up close lately? Well, I have. On October 29, this UH-1H was dedicated as a memorial exhibit in the Texas Panhandle War Memorial in Amarillo. It was an interesting experience to see a survivor of the “Bone Yard” restored with correct unit markings, troop seats, full instrument panel, center and overhead consoles, armored front seats, etc.

This project was a cooperative effort of public and private entities including the Randall County Commissioners Court, Bell Helicopter, Amarillo College, the office of Congressman Mac Thornberry, Leading Edge Aviation and many others.

It all started back in 2014 when the War Memorial folks thought a Huey would be a good symbol to recognized the Vietnam War. The memorial is located in the Randall County portion of Amarillo. County Judge Ernie

Houdashell was a UH-1C gunship crew chief in Vietnam and jumped in to ramrod the acquisition. In 2015, a suitable aircraft was found in a boneyard at Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona. The bird was trucked to Amarillo and over a year and \$100,000 in donated services later, the aircraft was ready.

Bobby McBride was the original crew chief when it was delivered to the 128 AHC at Phu Loi in 1969, drove from Portland, Oregon, to be at the dedication. That was the first time I had seen him in over 46 years. Over 20 former Tomahawks and Gunslingers were there with nearly a thousand other veterans and families present. The aircraft was mounted for display the next morning with lots of press coverage. For more pictures and videos, Google “Huey 68-16179”.

Pat Richardson, Tomahawk 29, 128 AHC, Phu Loi, 1969-70