



# THE FWCA/VHPA NEWSLETTER

## FORT WALTERS CHAPTER - VIETNAM HELICOPTER PILOTS ASSOCIATION

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

**March, 2017**

**VOL. XXII, NO. 1**

### President's Message

The turmoil in the Chapter should be calming down eventually. At our last meeting we got a new Vice President, welcome Herb Koenig. Herb is a very great asset; he is computer literate and has a lot of very good ideas to help the Chapter. Meeting attendance is down, let's all try to bring a delinquent brother to our March meeting. We will have an interesting speaker, a former Caribou pilot. From my own experience I know the de Havilland Caribou is a great aircraft.

I thank God for the new administration in the White House. We will have a Great America again; I sincerely hope the military morale will be boosted with positive changes. I will not be able to go to the VHPA Reunion in Indianapolis July 1-6, 2017. If you are going, please take notes and report at our September meeting. I am always open to positive suggestions that will help our Chapter. Lastly, the Chapter needs a new secretary. Please volunteer.

#### 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 "Create Account", 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](mailto: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, March 4, 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 meeting 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.*

#### Notes from the VP

My name is Herb Koenig and I am the current Vice President of the Fort Walters Chapter. I have only been an active member for the last two years so I am somewhat new at this. For some background, I was raised in Chicago, where I was drafted into the army in July 1970 and became a Warrant Officer Helicopter pilot. I served in Vietnam with the 60<sup>th</sup> Assault Helicopter Co. (Ghostrider 19) from 9/71 to

8/72. Upon leaving the army in 1973, I returned to college, graduating from the University of Illinois, Chicago with an Electrical Engineering degree while serving in the Illinois National Guard based at Midway Airport. I moved to California in 1980 where I served in the Army Reserve, flying out of Hamilton Field for two years before leaving the military as a CW3 with senior aviator wings. I worked most of my life in either the Telecommunications industry or the Aircraft simulation industry. I have two grown daughters and have lived for the last 15+ years with Susan Mann in Arlington, Texas. I currently volunteer at the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells working with the ground crew as well as trying to maintain some of the equipment there. I also volunteer at the VHPA headquarters in Grand Prairie when needed.

I have a close friend, Jim Crigler, who is also a VHPA member and plans to canoe the Mississippi River this spring to help bring awareness to Gold Star Families as well as raise funds for the National American Huey Museum and the American Huey 369 program (Flew at Louisville Reunion). He plans to leave Lake Itasca, Minnesota (Mississippi source) at ice out sometime in April and head down river for the Gulf. I will be following him on land as support through the entire trip which we estimate will take two months. There is an article about this in the January/February VHPA Aviator on pages 24 and 25. Any support as well as spreading awareness will be greatly appreciated.

### Secretary's Stuff

For questions or actions about membership or dues, contact Gerald Brazell at [brazell911@aol.com](mailto:brazell911@aol.com) or 817-267-7596. For change of address and email issues, contact [webmaster@fwcvhpa.org](mailto: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

Keeping it short this issue. Not enough time for the long version. We still have a little over \$4,000 in the treasury. No major expenses planned. Jim

### 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.**

#### Minutes from December 2016 Meeting

1. We need to generate a task document or job description for each of the offices of the chapter.
2. For each paid up member of the Fort Walters Chapter of the VHPA that passes away, the chapter will buy a brick to be placed at the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells. It has not been decided whether to make this retroactive yet or for how far back we should go. Bricks are authorized 3 lines of 15 characters each for a total of 45 characters.
3. We need to place a copy of the bylaws on line so it is available for all to see.
4. We need to update the bylaws to address retiring the charter of the FWCVHPA.

5. We are still trying to reach our goal of \$25,000 for recognition of the FWCVHPA on the OH-23 at the National Vietnam War Museum. We currently have donated \$18,000 and need \$7,000 more from members.

## The Friends of the Museum

invite you to attend their

### 16th Annual Spring Fundraiser!

benefitting  
**The National Vietnam  
War Museum**

Date: **Saturday, April 1, 2017**

### Reservations Available Now!

Purchase tickets at the Chamber of Commerce in Mineral Wells or call Jim Messinger 940-452-1470, or order them from the Friends of the Museum,

P.O. Box 1779,  
Weatherford, TX 76086.

**\$65 in advance - \$100 at the door (if available)**

The evening begins at 6:00 p.m. with the Bar and a Silent Auction full of interesting and unique items, followed by a wonderful Italian dinner by Iron Horse Catering. It continues with the always-fun Live Auction led by our friend, auctioneer Jay Fiske.

Best of all, we will enjoy a truly unique entertainment event!

### HELLO VIETNAM!

**A tribute to Bob Hope and America's Heroes**

Featuring Bob Hope and Marilyn Monroe—reenacted by the nationally-acclaimed team of Lynn Roberts and Grace Neely.



**Don't miss this special evening of good food and fun while showing your support of the museum!**

Plus...this year we selected the Grand Hall at NRH Centre at 6000 Hawk Ave. in North Richland Hills for our fundraiser to make it more convenient for our many museum friends in the D/FW Metroplex. If you haven't been to the NRH Centre, you will enjoy your first visit to this special place. Room block is available at Hampton Inn of Hurst



### Sponsorships Show Your Support of the Museum!

Gold Level (includes 8 tickets)	\$ 1200
Silver Level (includes 6 tickets)	\$ 600
Bronze Level (includes 4 tickets)	\$ 300
Copper Level (includes 2 tickets)	\$ 150

**Sponsors receive preferred, reserved seating & recognition at the event.**

To order tickets, or for information, contact Jim Messinger at 940-452-1470 or

E-mail to: [jmessinger@wc.edu](mailto:jmessinger@wc.edu).

The NATIONAL  
VIETNAM WAR  
MUSEUM

P.O. Box 1779  
Weatherford, TX 76086

[www.NationalVnWarMuseum.org](http://www.NationalVnWarMuseum.org)