

The Listening Post

FEBRUARY 2011



Officers and members attend ceremony for former chapter vice president

Funeral Services Held For Daniels Dennis

On Tuesday, January 25, officers of V.V.A. Ch. 35 accompanied by several members, conducted the Vietnam Veterans of America official funeral home service for Daniels J. Dennis, Sr. Mr. Dennis was a life member of our chapter and in years past served two terms as the vice-president.

Dan graduated from Central Catholic in 1967 and attended The University of Toledo, prior to being drafted into the United States Army.

Dan was a proud Vietnam Veteran, having served in the 102nd Construction Support Company which was part of the 815th Engineering Battalion. The company saw service in Pleiku, Kontum, Ban Me Thout, Nha Trang, Qui Nhon, and Da Nang. On 5/21/70 the company was ambushed between Dalat and Camp Dillard.



Chapter 35 President Dick Nolte begins Vietnam Veterans of America service for member Daniels Dennis, Sr.

Ironically, at the January meeting, member Dave Meyer brought up the issue of the chapter being prepared for funeral services should a member pass.

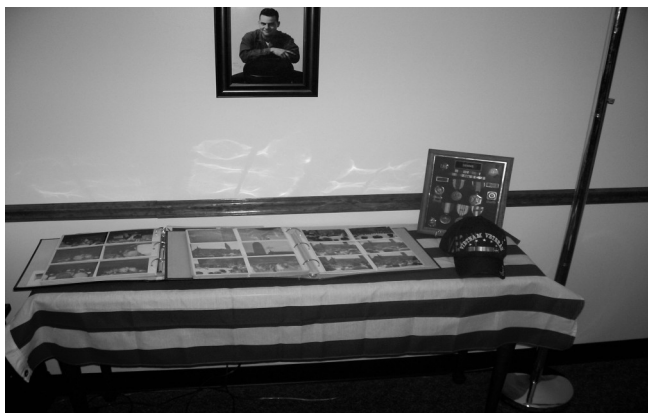
Thereafter, President Nolte went to work creating a calling loop to notify officers.

Nolte also obtained the national office's protocols to conduct a funeral ceremony for chapter members.



**Daniels J. Dennis, Sr.
Born 7-25-49 / Died 1-21-11**

Chapter members who participated in the ceremony were graciously thanked by Dan's widow and his children. Daniels Dennis died as a result of Cancer, diagnosed eleven months earlier.



2010-11 Officers

Dick Nolte / President
Butch Stewart/ V. Pres.
Ed Willmarth/ 2nd V.P
Dick Wilson/Secretary
Gene Shurtz/Treasurer

Board Members

Robert Stewart /till 2011
Don Measel/till 2012
Roy Hernandez/till 2013
Steve Benner/till 2013

Meetings Remain at Petro Stopping Center For Now

At the January meeting a vote was taken and those in attendance voted nearly 2-1 to keep our monthly meetings at the Petro Stopping Center, Iron Skillet Restaurant, in Lake Township, Wood County. The site is located at exit 1-B on I-280 South, just north of the old gate 5 of the Ohio Turnpike.

Election of Officers Set for April Meeting

Don't forget the annual election of officers is scheduled for the April meeting. Those interested in being an officer should contact: Steve Benner at 419-686-5741 or Dave Ridenour at 419-3525054.

**Next Meeting !
Sun. Feb. 13 at 7 p.m.
Petro Stopping Ctr.
I-280 & Exit 1-B**

Vietnam War Icon Finally Being Retired

Ohio V.V.A. Executive Director Joe Jennings sent this article, via email, to Ohio V.V.A. Chapters.

January 27, 2011

Knight Ridder/Tribune

YAKIMA, Wash. -- An icon of the Vietnam War, a faithful conveyer of American troops across the globe and savior to countless lost or injured civilians, the Huey helicopter's long Army service is ending.

For the medevac detachment at the Army's Yakima Training Center, that distinguished career concluded Wednesday.

More than 50 years after the first models lifted off, the Army is retiring the few single-bladed UH-1 variants still sitting on the flightline.

Wednesday's retirement ceremony at the training center was a bitter-sweet moment for the pilots, crewmen and passengers who came to know the Huey as a reliable machine for both combat missions and stateside duties, most notably civilian search and rescue.

Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Long, part of the Training Center's Air Ambulance Detachment, is probably one of the last Vietnam-era Huey pilots serving today. He was recalled to active duty in 2002 because the Army didn't have enough Huey-trained pilots.

Long had the honor of piloting the last formal Huey mission at the training center as part of the fly-away retirement ceremony on the parade ground. Sitting on his left was retired Lt. Col. Bruce Crandall, who received the Medal of Honor for flying 70 wounded troops out of Vietnam's Ia Drang Valley in 1965.

Long said newer helicopters have been threatening to push the Huey out of service for 30 years.

March Meeting
March 13, 2011 7:00 pm
Petro Stopping Center
I-280 & Exit 1-B

"It just never happened," Long said. "It was always pulling a mission."

The Huey is considered the most widely known modern helicopter, thanks to numerous Hollywood depictions and the characteristic "whoop-whoop-whoop" sound made by the spinning main rotor.

"It's an iconic aircraft. It's an amazing thing to be able to fly something that everybody knows," said Maj. George Johnson, commanding officer of the training center's medevac detachment.

The Huey was well known in its role as a medevac chopper and its pilots earned a reputation as the "cowboys of aviation" for their willingness to fly whenever,



UH-1 makes final flight before retirement, January 26, 2011.

wherever, however if somebody needed help under fire. The bird was nicknamed "Dustoff" for the cloud of dirt kicked up on takeoff, a name still given to medevac crews. But the Huey also served as a troop transport and air assault platform, part of the military's decision to broaden the Army's aviation aspect for the "helicopter war" in Vietnam.

Seven thousand flew in Vietnam; more than 16,000 were made. The Huey differed from its predecessors by use of a turbo-shaft engine that took up less space.

"There's no doubt that without this aircraft, we couldn't have done what we did there in Vietnam," said retired Col. Phillip Courts, commander of the Army's Ninth Aviation Brigade in Vietnam and a guest speaker at Wednesday's ceremony.

Courts told how he once led a group of 35 Hueys from Fort Lewis to Portland before heading east along the Columbia River on their way to the training center. Hoping to find a path through bad weather, he punched ahead of the rest of the choppers but ended up having to land. The crew spent the night grounded and then flew toward Union Gap, where a shortage of fuel forced him to land short of his destination.

"I had to live with that for several years, but the story ended well," Courts said.

Many who boarded the Huey could tell the same story. Even when the Huey crashed, it often held together well enough to spare the occupants from major injury.

Don Morris, a retired Army command sergeant major from Ellensburg, on Wednesday recalled surviving crashes in the jungle and a rice paddy.

"They could take the abuse and

keep on going," Morris said.

Other helicopters carry more technology and are better outfitted for today's military. But fans of the original Huey know that their favorite helicopter could stay in the air for another 20 years. The seven Hueys in the training center fleet will be turned over to the Air Force to serve as training aircraft.

At least will two remain in service at Fort Rucker, Ala., the epicenter of the Army's aviation program, an Army spokeswoman said.

Even though Wednesday's retirement flight was limited by fog, Crandall said he still enjoyed the chance to go up one more time in an active-duty Huey.

"That's the best helicopter ever built up to now," he said.