

3rd Field Hospital (Saigon) Reunion 1965 - 1973



3rd Field Hospital • 51st Field Hospital • U.S. Army Hospital, Saigon
9th Med Lab • 561st Medical Ambulance Co • 629th Medical Detachment, Renal



September 9 - 11, 2011
Holiday Inn Chicago Mart Plaza
Chicago, Illinois



Schedule of Activities

Friday, September 9, 2011 - Arrival Day

5:00 PM - 9:00 PM: **Registration and Meet & Greet**
Reunion Hospitality Suite

Saturday, September 10, 2011 - Reunion Day

8:00 AM: **Pastries and Coffee**

10:00 AM: **Combined Lake and River Tour**
Meet at the dock 30 minutes prior

1:00 PM: **Dr. McKee**
Discussion including slides and film

2:00 PM: **Tucker Smallwood**
Sharing his experience as a patient

3:00 PM: **Documentary “In The Shadow of the Blade”**
Highlighting the Baby Kathleen story

6:00 PM: **Banquet Dinner**
Maggiano's Little Italy
516 North Clark Street

Master of Ceremonies:

Willis P. McKee, MD, Colonel (Retired)

Featured Dinner Speakers:

Sterling B. Mutz, MD, Colonel (Retired)

Russ Zajtchuk, MD, Brigadier General (Retired)

Sunday, September 11, 2011 - Departure Day

10:30 AM: **Chicago River Architecture Tour**
Meet at the dock 30 minutes prior

Welcome

Welcome to our first 3rd Field Hospital Reunion. We are so pleased to have each and every one of you here and hope you enjoy the reunion and visiting the great city of Chicago. We especially want you to enjoy one another. This is a great time to renew old friendships and to make new ones. All of us have many memories to share of our tour at 3rd Field and we will leave with new memories of each other. To have patients, family, and friends here to share in this momentous occasion is heartwarming.

The war brought us all together many years ago in the service of our country on a very important mission: taking care of our soldiers. Countless men and women returned home because of the skills and dedication of those who served at 3rd Field. Our mission was accomplished with honor and dignity. This is a special time to celebrate and honor each other.

Acknowledgements

- Thank you to all who gave generously to help support the cost of our reunion.
- A special thank you to Duane Thompson, our webmaster, and Ed Russell, our historian. Their remarkable abilities and dedication are invaluable.
- Tom Johnson, George Baggett, and Darryl Henley's photo archives help us to remember our units, time, and place forever.
- Front cover photo courtesy of Phil Waldon, 69th Signal Battalion 1970.
- Thank you to Capital Blueprint, Inc., Springfield, IL, for donating the material and printing services for our programs.
- Much appreciation to Amy Lally, Bob and Ellen's daughter-in-law, in putting together all of the elements for this program.

Reunion Committee - Organized Jan. 2011

Ellen Rhoades Lally
ICU Nurse, 1969-1970

Jackie Rautbort Tropp
Renal Nurse, 1969-1971

Patricia Susor Maravola
ICU Nurse, 1969-1970
Renal Nurse, 1970-1971

Duane "Scott" Thompson
Renal Medic, 1970
Combat Medic, 1968-1969

Webmaster

Duane "Scott" Thompson

Photographic Archives

Thomas Johnson - Chaplain Assistant, 1965-1966
George Baggett - Renal Medic, 1969
Darryl Henley - Assistant Registrar, 1965-1967

Historical Research

Robert Lally - ICU Medic, 1968-1969
Edward Russell - Chaplain Assistant, 1968-1969

Master of Ceremonies

Willis P. McKee, MD
Surgical Service, 1969-1970
Colonel (Retired) U.S. Army

Featured Speakers

Sterling B. Mutz, MD
Commanding Officer, 1965-1966
Colonel (Retired) U. S. Army

Russ Zajtchuk, MD
Surgical Service, 1972
Brigadier General (Retired) U. S. Army

Master of Ceremonies

Willis P. McKee, MD
Versailles, Kentucky

Dr. McKee is Chief Medical Officer, Frankfort Regional Medical Center. He is a retired board certified general surgeon, practicing in Frankfort for over 30 years. He received his medical degree from the University of Louisville, and completed his internship at the Ireland Army Hospital in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Dr. McKee completed a residency in general surgery at Brooke General Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. He has authored and co-authored publications related to injury and battlefield trauma. He has held numerous appointments and chairmanships, including Commander, 475th MASH in the Kentucky Army National Guard. Dr. McKee retired from the Kentucky Army National Guard as a Colonel in 1999 after serving in both Vietnam and Operation Desert Storm.

Featured Speaker

Sterling B. Mutz, MD
Santa Ana, California

Dr. Mutz completed his adult orthopaedic training at Letterman Army Medical Center at the Presidio of San Francisco, his pediatric orthopaedic training at the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children in San Francisco and served a Hand Surgery Fellowship at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C. In practice in Orange County, California, since 1975, Dr. Mutz is a retired United States Army Colonel with special expertise in severe trauma and occupational injuries. He was Chief of the Orthopaedic Surgery Service at the 97th Army General Hospital in Frankfurt, Germany, and served as European Orthopaedic Consultant. Following service as the Commander of the 3d Field Hospital in Viet Nam, the United States Army awarded Colonel Mutz the prestigious Legion of Merit. Dr. Mutz was also Chief of the Orthopaedic Surgery Service, Letterman Army Medical Center at the Presidio in San Francisco. He holds an appointment to the State of California as a Qualified Medical Examiner in Orthopaedic Surgery, including the hand and the back and is a former Clinical Professor, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, at the University of California, Irvine.

Featured Speaker

Russ Zajtchuk, MD
Chicago, Illinois

Dr. Zajtchuk received his medical and postgraduate training at the University of Chicago. He was the Commanding General of two major United States Army medical centers. First, of Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio, Texas; later, of the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, Maryland. He served in numerous academic positions as a cardio-thoracic surgeon. He holds the academic rank of Professor at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (Bethesda, MD), George Washington University (Washington, DC) and Rush University Medical Center (Chicago, IL) where he is Professor Emeritus of Cardiovascular-Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Zajtchuk is an internationally recognized expert in telemedicine. He retired from the Army as a Brigadier General, with 27 years service. His wife, Joan Zajtchuk, MD, also completed a distinguished career in army medicine, retiring as a Colonel following medical command positions. Russ and Joan served together at 3rd Field Hospital in 1972. They are very active in the University of Chicago Medical and Biological Alumni Association.

Our Commanding Officers

(1965 - 1973)

MAJ Sterling B. Mutz, (MC) 1965 - 1966

LTC Stanley Newman, (MC) 1965*

* Interim, 51st Field Hospital
(1922-2005)

LTC Joseph E. Molloy, (MC) 1966
(1921-1976)

LTC Dwight F. Morss, Jr. (MC) 1966
(1925-1984)

COL Kenneth R. Dirks, (MC) 1967-1968
(1925-2008)

COL Merle D. Thomas, (MC) 1968-1969
(1920-1991)

COL Eugene F. Chandler, (MC) 1969
(1913-2008)

COL Finn O. Gunderson, (MC) 1969

COL Joseph A. Gelinas, (MC) 1970
(1918-2004)

COL Warren E. Patow, (MC) 1970-1971
(1923-2007)

LTC Lawrence C. Blair, (MC) 1972

COL William I. McIlroy, (MC) 1972-1973

**LINEAGE AND HONORS OF THE 3RD AND 51ST FIELD HOSPITALS &
US ARMY HOSPITAL, SAIGON
UNITED STATES ARMY • 1942 ~ 1973
WORLD WAR II • KOREA • VIETNAM**

For its service with the United States Army in World War II, the 3rd Field Hospital earned 3 Campaign Participation Credits and a unit commendation.



NEW GUINEA
LEYTE - PHILIPPINES
LUZON - PHILIPPINES

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION, 1942-1945

Corporal Harry Shrader Hoy, in service with the attached 191st Quartermaster Hospital Laundry Platoon displayed an act of gallantry resulting in his death in the line of duty on February 23, 1945 near a riverbed at Alongapo, Luzon.

For its service with the United States Army in Korea, the 3rd Field Hospital, in service with the 14th Field Hospital (UN POW Hospital No. 1) earned 7 Campaign Participation Credits and 4 unit commendations and citations.



CCF (CHINESE COMMUNIST FORCES) INTERVENTION
FIRST UNITED NATIONS COUNTEROFFENSIVE
UNITED NATIONS SUMMER-FALL OFFENSIVE
SECOND KOREAN WINTER
KOREA, SUMMER-FALL 1952
THIRD KOREAN WINTER
KOREA, SUMMER-FALL 1953

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATIONS- 1952, 1953
REPUBLIC OF KOREA PRESIDENTIAL UNIT CITATIONS - 1952, 1953

For its service with the United States Army in World War II, the 51st Field Hospital earned 5 Campaign participation credits and a unit commendation.



NORMANDY
NORTHERN FRANCE
ARDENNES
RHINELAND
CENTRAL EUROPE

MERITORIOUS UNIT COMMENDATION, 1943-1945

Corporal John Hilary Malone, in detached service from the 3rd Auxiliary Surgical Group, was killed in action on June 11, 1944 at Omaha Beach, Normandy, France.

Corporal Eugene Ernest Trester was awarded a Bronze Star posthumously for a heroic act of gallantry beyond the call of duty, resulting in his death on August 5, 1944 in a minefield near St. Lo, Normandy, France.

For its service with the United States Army in Vietnam, the 3rd and 51st Field Hospitals, reorganized as the U. S. Army Hospital, Saigon in May 1972, earned 15 Campaign Participation Credits and 6 unit commendations



Meritorious Unit Commendations 1965 - 1968 - 1969 - 1970 - 1971 -1973
(Year of Award, includes prior year activities)



We gather to honor the service and sacrifices of all veterans of our 3rd Field Hospital, 51st Field Hospital, U.S. Army Hospital, Saigon and its attached and detached components in service to our country in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.



Captain Thomas William Stasko, 2nd Lieutenant Carol Ann Drazba and 2nd Lieutenant Elizabeth Ann Jones died in an accidental helicopter crash near Bien Hoa Airbase on February 18, 1966.



Specialist 4th Class Robert Lee Harley and Specialist 4th Class John Lewis Smith died in an accidental cargo truck crash on the Long Bien Post on September 11, 1972.



Specialist 4th Class Stephen Louis Rayburn died in an equipment accident in Gia Dinh Province on December 24, 1972. Specialist Rayburn had previously been awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medals.



Captain Thomas William Stasko, MC (Aurora, CO) was born in 1935 and raised in Pueblo, CO where he was High School Class President. He was a 1963 graduate of the University of Colorado Medical School. He interned at William Beaumont General Hospital in El Paso, TX and was in pre-specialty surgical training at the Army Hospital, Fort Ord, CA before volunteering for duty in Vietnam. He was survived by his parents, his wife, Glenda Jo and three children, Lisa, Michael and Peter. Tom is buried at Ft. Logan National Cemetery in Denver. Tom was the only child of Dorothy and William Stasko. His father, a World War II veteran died in 1972. His mother died in 2009 at age 100, survived by Tom's children and his 3 grandchildren.



2nd Lieutenant Carol Ann Drazba, ANC (Dunmore, PA) was born in 1943 and raised in Dunmore. Carol was a 1964 graduate of Scranton State General Hospital, Scranton, PA. She served on the nursing staff of the U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Huachuca, Arizona, before entering service in Vietnam. She was survived by her mother, a sister and many family members and friends. Remembered as "always full of life", a bronze sculpture in Carol's honor will be dedicated in her home town of Dunmore, PA at noon on October 8, 2011. Carol is buried at Sacred Cemetery, Scranton, PA. The memorial will

also honor Tom Stasko, Elizabeth Jones and the four helicopter crewmembers who died on February 18, 1966.



Second Lieutenant Elizabeth Ann Jones, ANC (Allendale, SC) was born in 1943 and raised in Allendale. Elizabeth was a 1964 graduate in nursing of the Medical College of South Carolina at Charleston. She had been assigned to the U.S. Army Hospital, Fort Jackson, South Carolina, before entering service in Vietnam. She was survived by her parents and sister. Elizabeth had many friends through her active nursing, church and equestrian activities. She was engaged to be married to the pilot of the helicopter, LTC Charles M. Honour, Jr. (Norcross, GA). Elizabeth is buried at Swallows Savannah Cemetery in



Specialist 4th Class Robert Lee Harley (Greenwood, MS) was born in 1949 and raised in Greenwood. The Harley family lived on the Race Track Plantation as sharecroppers. Later, the family engaged in general farming endeavors. Robert loved playing high school football. He was a smart and rambunctious youngster. With post high school graduation jobs scarce, he entered the Army. Previously serving in an airborne unit, Robert was a hospital unit supply clerk. He was survived by his mother, three brothers and seven sisters. Robert is buried at Corinth National Cemetery, Corinth, MS.



Specialist 4th Class John Lewis Smith (Swansea, SC) was born in 1954 and raised in Swansea. John was an especially bright student. After high school graduation and marriage, with scarce jobs in the mill community, John entered the Army in 1971. John was a hospital unit clerk. He was survived by his wife, Barbara, his mother, two brothers and many other family and friends. John was buried from the Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church in the Swansea Cemetery. His cousin, a Vietnam Veteran, is presently the Pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church.



Specialist 4th Class Stephen Lewis Rayburn (Yuba City, CA) was born in 1953 and raised in Yuba City. Stephen was the youngest of three brothers and a sister. Both of his brothers are Army veterans. One of his little league opponents still honors Stephen's memory at his grave in the Sutter Cemetery. Stephen's family was unable to

provide additional information or his photograph

PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

February 1965

Saigon School Shut; Pupils Sad, Guards Glad

SAIGON (AP)—The American Community School in Saigon closed down, probably for good, on Monday, and a blonde 13-year-old schoolgirl named Marilyn Neese wept bitterly.

"Not only do we have to leave school, but we have to leave daddy behind when we go," said Marilyn, a three-year veteran of living in the Saigon tumult.

She and her 750 classmates, four fifths of them American, were the first dependents in Saigon to feel the effects of President Johnson's decision to withdraw U.S. dependents from the Vietnam war theater.

Most of the kids didn't like the idea. "If Dad can stay, why can't I?" said Marilyn, whose father works for the U.S. aid mission. Her family is from Indianapolis.

Brunette Patt Progh, a 16-year-old who has been in Vietnam three months with her soldier-father, said, "I just don't like the idea of going back home to Piedmont, Cal. I was beginning to enjoy Saigon so much."

A half dozen seniors argued that Saigon wasn't really so dangerous. "She's lucky, because her parents aren't chickening out," one senior said, pointing to an Australian girl who was smiling happily.

The company of U.S. military policemen whose job it has been to guard the children told another story.

"Thank God they are going," one said. "We've been on pins and needles for months, because these kids are so vulnerable."

The 750 students range in age from 4 to 19. Among them are some Vietnamese, along with the children of various foreign missions in Saigon.

Home life for the children has been severely restricted.

Most of them have been con-

fined to their own backyards, and they have gone to other children's homes infrequently.

But these restrictions have not seemed to impair their vitality, said Mrs. Lincoln Brownell, principal of the elementary department for more than three years.

"They seemed to thrive on all that danger," she commented Monday. She had tears in her eyes as the children made their last goodbyes Monday afternoon. They clutched notes from their

teachers, informing their parents that the school was closed.

"We had just about completed our security fence, too," Mrs. Brownell said, pointing to a high wire fence erected around the school compound against grenades.

A new school wing was completed last weekend. It contains a new gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and shower rooms, but the children did not have a chance to use it.



PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

May 1965

Saigon Dependent School Now a Hospital

By MSGT. CLAY LACY
TAN SON NHUT, Republic of Vietnam (IO) — Three months ago, the sound of laughing voices and skipping feet echoed through the corridors of the American Community School just outside of Tan Son Nhut AB in Saigon.

Now the school has been converted into a 100-bed Army hospital.

Brig. Gen. John Norton, commanding general of the U.S. Army Support Command, Vietnam, noted in the dedication ceremonies. "It was resolved to have the best medical facilities possible in Vietnam for our American fighting men, and I know that we will have just that with the addition of this 3d Field Hospital to our already excellent medical facilities."

The general told Maj. Sterling B. Mutz, hospital commander,

and his unit of more than 60 personnel, "You here today are the charter members of the 3d Field Hospital."

The former school has been converted into eight wards, an operating room, supply room, emergency room, pharmacy, laboratory, X-ray room, central materiel section, plus living and dining facilities for hospital personnel. Plans for a 200-bed facility, if needed, are already completed.

The feminine touch, once so familiar in the dependent school before President Johnson's order evacuating American dependents in February, lingers today in the field hospital. Maj. Edith M. Nuttall serves as chief nurse for the installation and has six female and four male nurses under her command.

Army hospital beds are neatly made up on the wards waiting

the first patients. Second Lt. Sharon A. Butler, 22, a pert brunette, pointed with pride in her ward to two special beds for orthopedic patients. These beds can be raised or lowered at either end or in the middle. Overhead bars are attached to use in traction treatment for broken limbs.

In the mess hall, SSgt. Wilburn A. Tatum, has started serving regular meals. The mess sergeant said, "At present, we can feed 108 people in one setting, but we have plans for further expansion, if it becomes necessary."

The brief dedication ceremony, held in the former school gymnasium, completed one milestone for the unit members. Formerly a part of the 51st Field Hospital in Fort Lewis, Wash., they were formed as the 3d Field Hospital and arrived in Vietnam during April of this year. Since their arrival, the members have been

preparing the hospital for operation.

On hand for the dedication was Col. George F. Rumer, Military Assistance Command surgeon; Col. David M. Scott, deputy commander of the 1st Logistical Command, the parent unit for the hospital; Lt. Col. James W. Blunt Jr., surgeon for the Support Command; Maj. George J. Foegen, hospital administrative adviser to the MACV surgeon, plus the unit commander and personnel.

Following the ceremony, Norton and the visitors went through the assembled ranks of hospital personnel and greeted each member individually.

Mutz, hospital commander, summed up the feeling for his unit when he said after the dedication, "We feel now that there are American fighting men who will go back to the States who might not have if we had not been here."



PACIFIC STARS AND STRIPES

March 1973

7-11-17 Army Signs Over Last Viet Hospital

SAIGON (AP) — The last American military hospital in South Vietnam became the Saigon Seventh Day Adventist Hospital Wednesday.

With little fanfare, Col. William McIlroy of Tacoma, Wash., handed the keys of the Saigon Army Hospital to Vernon Small of Denver, Colo., administrator

of the Adventist hospital.

The ceremony was very brief because nearly 200 patients had already arrived at the sprawling hospital complex near Tan Son Nhut Airport, and as one Adventist employee put it: "It's a combination of madness and chaos."

Nearly all the military doctors, nurses and administrative personnel had been slated to leave for home Wednesday but they're staying, because the military command decided to keep one wing open until troop withdrawals are complete.

The executive officer said the military would still hold morning sick call and had a ward for emergency cases. "We have a Zero Day evacuation policy," he said. "That means if they're sick enough to be admitted, we're going to put them on a plane and send them home as soon as they're fit to travel."

Since the military opened the Third Field Hospital in 1965, he said, 66,622 civilian and military patients have been admitted — many war injured and quite a number with broken bones, heart problems, drug problems and tropical diseases. That figure does not include thousands of outpatients.

Now, the hospital itself and the equipment belong to the U.S. Embassy, which contracted with the Adventists to run it.



"We feel now that there are American fighting men who will go back to the States who might not have if we had not been here."

Major Sterling B. Mutz, MC, Commanding Officer
May 1965

"It has been my pleasure to command the Third Field Hospital for almost eleven months. Together, we weathered the Tet and May Offensives; and together, we will weather whatever the future may portend. The medical care you have rendered our patients has been outstanding and cannot be surpassed by any other medical unit. For this sterling effort, on your part, I can simply say, on behalf of those you have helped, a sincere and heartfelt, thank you."

Colonel Merle D. Thomas, MC, Commanding Officer
Christmas 1968

"In the wards of 3rd Field Hospital in Saigon, Army officer nurses were stressed beyond belief. They contended daily with an abundance of young broken bodies and shattered spirits. They had to find that nurses' balance between caring about these men yet not getting emotionally involved."

Tucker Smallwood, Patient 1969
Return to Eden 2006

"My name is Kathleen Epps. I am 33 years old now. I was given my name, Kathleen, by Capt. Donna Rowe back in May of 1969. Came into Third Field Hospital on May 15th I believe. She was a nurse at the hospital. I am that little girl who was found on her dead mother's stomach. A many thanks to the men who found me that day and saved my life. I owe my life to Vietnam veterans."

Kathleen Cords-Epps
March 2003

