

# SWIFT CURRENT

The official publication of the  
Swift Boat Sailors Association

IV Quarter 2008

Comments & suggestions to-  
[editor@swiftboats.org](mailto:editor@swiftboats.org)

**Merry Christmas, Season's Greetings, & A Very Happy New Year!**



Sailors from Maritime Expeditionary Boat Divisions 932 and 562 gathered at the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument on 10 October 2008 and became acquainted with the Brown Water Navy of the 1960's and 1970's. These sailors are reservists from throughout the country who are training and getting ready for deployment to the Middle East.

*Virg Erwin, Vice President of the Swift Boat Sailors Association and a Director of the Vietnam Unit Memorial Monument Fund, briefs sailors on what service in the Brown Water Navy was like "back then."*

## President's Corner

On behalf of the SBSA Officers and Board Directors, I wish each and every one of you peace, joy and good health this Holiday Season and hope the best for you and yours in the coming year.

This year's Veterans Day was extra special for me. I am fortunate to have a former Lt. Col. as our company's CEO. For the first time in the history of our firm, the lobby was decorated with a Red, White, and Blue theme. Pictures of all of our Houston office Veterans were made a part of the display. It was an honor being recognized for our service.

I also had the honor of joining our CEO and several of our office Veterans in the company sponsored participation at a PTSD Foundation of America Benefit Dinner. We were humbled by a PTSD testimonial by Silver Star recipient and former Ranger, Captain Nate Self, who on March 4, 2002, led a 23-man team in a mission to rescue a Navy SEAL team that had attempted to occupy a snowcapped peak, Takur Ghar, in Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. Oliver North was the keynote speaker. Along with a slide presentation, his comments drove home the importance of supporting our troops and our veterans. I was fortunate to get his attention as he made his way to a book signing. Introducing myself as a Swift Boat Veteran, he stopped, turned around and offered a handshake and remarked, "I love you guys. You did great!"

## WHAT IS A VET?

Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye. Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem. You can't tell a vet just by looking.

### *What is a vet?*

He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She or he—is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in Da Nang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another—or didn't come back AT ALL.

He is the Quantico drill instructor who has never seen combat—but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket—palsied now and aggravatingly slow—who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being—a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say Thank You. That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded.

Two little words that mean a lot,

***"THANK YOU!"***

## Run for Director of the SBSA?

Four Positions Available

Contact Jim Schneider - [michael@rushmore.com](mailto:michael@rushmore.com)

## "Those Who Were There"

*"And gentlemen in England now abed shall think themselves accurs'd they were not here"*

My father understood what Henry the Fifth meant on the morning of Agincourt. Exempted in World War I because he was married with a newborn son and was needed to manage a family business, he afterwards regretted he was not there. Especially when old friends talked of the Argonne Forest or Chateau-Thierry.

There were some of my war, too, who were not there, and I have heard their silence when those who came home safe from Normandy or Okinawa spoke those names, as familiar in their mouths as household words.

It was remembrance of that which made me say, some years ago, the day would come when those in Vietnam would strip their sleeves to show their scars, while others stood silent outside the band of brothers.

That was not my most acclaimed remark. For those who slept abed those years, many of whom had fled to Canada that they might, there was only scorn for those who went to fight in far-off paddy fields. Those who were there have been the silent ones. They felt they had to apologize, in shame, and try to hide those years lest they be put down as fools or knaves.

So I thought myself mistaken. For once, it seemed, there would be no pride among those who bore our arms, no honor for them among those who sent them off to war, no vigil feast for those who went and never came home again.

Today I am not so sure I was mistaken. We can see today some first, faint signs that shame has turned to pride and scorn to shame. The country may not have changed its mind about that fruitless war. What is changing is its view of those who were there and of those who weren't.

The first sign was that monument in Washington. When it was spoken of there was much controversy. It is not one of those heroic monuments, like the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi. Simply a long plain slab on which are named those who died in Vietnam.

Yet when it was unveiled people came in endless lines seeking the name of friend or brother, son or father. When they found one they wept openly that at last he was enrolled with honor. Many who watched on television wept also to see them weep. It was as if the whole nation felt the need to pay homage to those who did what was asked of them and paid the price.

That is not the only sign. When, shortly after Vietnam, James Fallows wrote in the Washington Monthly of his "sense of shame" at having tricked his way out of the draft, hardly anyone paid much attention. Those who did likewise put down the confession as an aberration. So did those who had answered the call to arms. He seemed to speak for none but himself.

Since then newspapers all over the country have carried stories of those home from Vietnam and how they fared. Editorial writers, and even the president of the U.S. have apologized for our shoddy treatment of them. We have at last passed laws to give them some of the rewards that went to those of World War II.

Now in the current issue of Esquire, a magazine that prides itself on keeping in touch with intellectual fashions as well as fads, there is an interesting report by Christopher Buckley, himself one who shouted with glee when he flunked the medical examination for the Vietnam War and now regrets it.

But there is more to Mr. Buckley's report. He interviewed many who went and many who didn't. Some of what he found among them is surprising.

Some were friends who served in Vietnam. They saw death up close every day, yet today they are married, happy, secure and "those don't have nightmares and they don't shoot up gas stations with M-16s." Mr. Buckley confesses some envy of them, for they were "weighed in the scales and weren't found wanting."

Nor, he says, is he alone in the envy of those who were there. "Until recently" he'd never hear anyone admit to guilt or shame over not having gone to Vietnam. Now he has. He quotes a friend who wrote him a

*Cont. on next page*

## Fithian Veterans Memorial Park Ready

BY KAMMIE RICHTER  
Commercial-News  
FITHIAN August 15, 2008

Don Huckaby had been friends with John Robert Anderegg, who had served in the Vietnam War and was included in the book "Swift Boat Down" by James W. Steffes. Anderegg had the assignment of guarding the coast of Vietnam aboard PCF-19.

It was sunk by two rockets from an unidentified aircraft near the border between North and South Vietnam in June 1968. Steffes' book addresses the issue of whether or not the boat was sunk by friendly fire. A signed copy of the book is available at the Danville Public Library, with handwritten words, "In memory of GMGSA John Robert Anderegg of Fithian, IL."

After the war, Anderegg came back home to Fithian where he and Huckaby would often play their guitars together.

Then, one fateful day, things would never be the same. Huckaby said, "It was a fluke deal. The mag wheel broke and threw Bob up in the air in front of Oakwood High School. He had survived the Vietnam War to come home and die in a crash in 1983."

Huckaby approached the Fithian Village Board and asked for a monument in memory of Anderegg at the corner of Main and Washington streets, which is as, Huckaby said, "right smack in the middle of town."

Huckaby said, "I put it to the village board that we needed an area to honor our veterans and that the Steffes' book had brought out the heroes like Bob Anderegg."

Board members agreed a memorial would be nice, but they suggested that it be a park in memory of all who had served in the armed forces.

Huckaby applied for a Keep Vermillion County Beautiful grant and received \$500 in 2007 for perennials to place around the flagpole. Teri Childress, who is part of the village board and also works at Danville Gardens, helped with this aspect of the project. The Fithian Women's Club donated time and labor to keep the area weeded and watered.

Huckaby went on to raise \$2,000 for the full-color plaque of Anderegg placed atop a stone monument, and many people from the community became involved as the project took off.

Loren Kinney, Fithian's mayor, helped the cause, as his son, Tim, works at Leverenz Memorials.

Mitch Leverenz of Leverenz Memorials donated the labor and the stone at cost, and poured the base. Illini Fence of Fithian donated the flag pole and dug the hole. Danville Gardens donated the flowers for the barrels, Triguard created the plaque and the village board helped with supplies.

The completed plaque faces east and is bronze with all emblems of the five branches of the military included. The monument honoring Anderegg faces northeast, and includes a photo of the swift boat with the American flag flying above it. Future plans include more walks and more trees. There is one walkway now with the school bell from the old Fithian school, and an old park bench from St. Elizabeth Hospital.

"I just got things started, but so many others have helped. Lots of local folk who knew him helped out," Huckaby said,

The completed area at the southwest corner of Main and Washington is ready for visitors. Flowers have been planted around the flagpole, and Old Glory will be waving in the breeze, honoring the brave who have fought for our country.



Don Huckaby looks at the John Robert Anderegg memorial in the Fithian Veterans Memorial Park. Commercial-News

**We can't reach out and touch you if we don't know where you are! Moving in with the kids or sailing around the world, let Gene Hart know or we will miss you!**

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*Cont. from previous page*

14 page letter from Paris filled with something like regret "about what not going meant to him." Another confessed he was now disappointed that he hadn't been gassed or wounded there because "then it would be my war too."

I doubt that James Fallows, Christopher Buckley or their now regretful friends speak for all of those who dodged that war, tearing up draft cards, fleeing the country.

There were, roughly 53 million who came of age during those years, of which some nine million served in the armed forces. Of these about three million actually went to Indochina. Of the remainder, according to a survey by the Veterans Administration, only 3.5% will say that missing the war had a "negative impact" on their lives.

Most, then, are still content with themselves that they were not there. And I suspect that most who were wished they hadn't been. Most of us who served in World War II also wished we hadn't had to do it. Few there are who eagerly go to any war. Few of us can feel like Navy Capt. Jeremiah Denton, returning from years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, who said he was "happy.....to serve our country in difficult circumstances."

Happy? Difficult circumstances? How oddly those words fall upon our ears remembering that agony for our country.

And yet.....

The day will come, I no longer have any doubt, when those few who were there those years ago will gather with their wives and walking canes, as old soldiers have always done, to talk of how it was.

When that day comes, all the others will be excluded from that band of brothers.

*The preceding was sent by Ken McGhee- The article was printed in the Wall Street Journal Wednesday, September 14, 1983. It was written by Vermont Royster in his column "Thinking Things Over." Vermont Royster was the Captain of a Destroyer Escort, the USS Jack Miller (DE-410) during World War II. He retired as Editor of the Wall Street Journal in 1971. He died in 1996 at the age of 82.*



Texas Mini-Reunion Attendees - not identified, but that pink "cover" looks familiar... *Editor*

*From Warren Jenny who, with his wife Jeanie, hosted this affair-*

"This is a photo, taken yesterday afternoon at the Third Texas Mini Reunion. We had a great time & got to know one another. I personally met several I had known only through the Swifts two email servers. After our mini----I feel as if I have known them for 40+ years. Thanks to all of you that attended & especially to our President, Raul "Bean" Herrera for doing a lot of the work it took to put it together. My Wife Jeanie & I want to thank you all for attending. We won't ever forget yesterday.

Warren Jenny  
Lago Vista, TX

If you aren't getting the Swift Current via email you're missing out on the **FULL COLOR** stuff!  
Contact Gene Hart - [ghart@unf.edu](mailto:ghart@unf.edu)

## Don't Even Look At This!



At the moment, we have Sunday morning OR Sunday afternoon reserved for golf (that is June 28).

That gives us flexibility for those who want to attend the Memorial service or for those who want to travel in the afternoon. I can handle a small group (1 or 2) foursomes or something larger, up to 5 foursomes. I have some Viet Nam vets that have volunteered to play with each group and help get them around the course.

The cost is \$65 which **includes** cart. Rental clubs are available. Food and beverages will be available.

The course is Sawgrass Country club, Home to the "Tournament Players' Championship" 1977 to 1981 which has now built their own place and moved across the street. It is one of the best (and toughest) courses in Florida. The course can be checked out at [www.sawgrasscountryclub.com](http://www.sawgrasscountryclub.com)

If you'd like to humble yourself (or show off) you need to contact the reunion golf coordinators to express your preferences:

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Jim Corrigan      [corrigan26@comcast.net](mailto:corrigan26@comcast.net)

## The Troops Say, Thanks!

Virg

I wanted to let you know we all arrived safely to Kuwait. Our spirits are high, and we are ready to get to work. I was very surprised to find 16 packages addressed to me waiting in the post office. You all have been very generous to us, and it's much appreciated. You should be hearing from some of my Sailors with thank you letters. I will be in touch often, and will send pictures of what we are doing here soon. We will have the watch soon. Thanks again Ship-mate. We are very grateful to be considered Brown Water Sailors, and in your company.

V/r  
SKCS(EXW) Ray Jeno  
Command Senior Chief  
MAREXBOATDIV FIVE SIX

*President's Corner - from Page 1*

In late October, I was honored by a personal invitation from our South Vietnamese Swift Boat Veteran brother, Viet Hung Truong, to attend the Houston Vietnamese Community's Honoring Day for Vietnam War U.S. Veterans. The Swift Boat back drop was a total surprise and added a great deal of emotion for us both.

As always, we remember the sacrifice made by our brothers 'still on patrol' and those that have followed since. Paul A. Brown passed away on 25 October 2008. He served our crews as a Navy corpsman in Qui Nhon and Sa Dec.

SBSA Vice-president, Virgil Erwin, chaired the 2008 Christmas Care Package Project Committee and with the assistance of Ken Briggs, Boat Divisions 562 and 932 of the Maritime Expeditionary Security Force deployed in Iraq will know that the SBSA is thinking about them this Holiday Season. Jim Deal, with the help and contribution from family, friends and co-workers, shipped eleven Christmas Care Packages to our troops. Bob Hunt's DAV Chapter in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho sent 38 care boxes to Riverine Squadron One, at their deployed location. BZ to all who participated in this year's project.

Albert Moore (MFRA) reports that they now have available for purchase, a new 3-inch VCCCI pin from their web site at (<http://www.mrfa.org/Products.Misc.htm>). Albert notes, "the pins are for sale for all who served on the boats PCF's, PBR's and the heavy boats and the Stab boats etc." Cost is \$14.00 per pin and includes shipping and handling.

Ken McGhee, President, VUMMF, reports in his newsletter that, "Since the dedication of the Memorial in May 2005, the Memorial grounds have been used for a variety of activities: Graduations of Special Warfare Combat Crewmen

(SWCC), retirements, change of command, memorial services, awards ceremonies and other special events. The Navy has come to appreciate the dedication and efforts of the Vietnam era volunteers who maintain the Memorial." Not enough can be said about the SBSA member volunteers who are responsible for said effort...BRAVO ZULU!

At the Board meeting last June, the Directors recommended the creation of an SBSA Community within the Navy Log section of the Navy Memorial web site. The site was created to make ourselves (both individually and as an organization) available to those crewmen who we have not heard of since our days in Vietnam. There are numerous "Gadgets" (topics if you will) that are available for viewing through settings options....Blog, Announcement, News, etc. I invite you to sign up at <http://www.navylog.org/> From there, click "Sign Up" and log in to the SBSA Community.

On 1 November, a gathering of thirteen Swifties took place at Warren Jenny's Lake Travis home, in the Texas Hill Country. Warren and his wife, Jeanie, were ideal hosts of the 2008 Texas Mini Reunion. And, while on the subject of reunions, the Jacksonville 2009 SBSA Reunion is only six months away. Look for Gene Hart's Reunion Update in this newsletter. Team JAX is working hard at making our visit a memorable one. Ken Briggs is busy working out order details with Pinsville for the Ship's Store's new SBSA Logo product line. The economy might make air fares affordable for many of us. Start making plans now to attend the next "Graybeard Gathering!"

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**Raul Herrera**



***Mission accomplished!***

Once again, what a great feeling...now that it is done. This year we had a lot more folks involved, grand kids, guys at work and other family members. Liz was great, as we turned her living room into a packing area for a few days and nights. We almost tripled last years shipments...this year we did 11 boxes total.

We could not split the boxes up even between the two units, but were able to get a few to the Riverine group. If the post office had not run out of boxes we would have shipped yesterday before you posted the second address.

We were honored to do this!

I encourage everyone to send something, even if it is just a card.

***Jim & Liz Deal send - along with many others!***

**Gotta Be There!**

**To Win This Miniature Dream Model<sup>®</sup> of a PCF**



This beautiful model will be raffled-off at the reunion in Jacksonville June 24-28, 2009, but you have to be there to win!

**From the Miniature Dream Models' webpage, <http://www.miniaturedreammodels.com>:**

The U.S. Navy Swift Boat was in service as a combat patrol craft during the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1970. They were 50 feet in length. They were armed with three .50 caliber browning machine guns and a 81mm mortar. The top speed of the U.S. Navy Swift Boat was 32 knots. Our model has many features such as: detailed pilot house interior...many movable part such as doors, guns, radar, hatches, ammunition box, propeller and rudders. You have your choice of boat numbers and paint scheme (haze or dark navy grey).

- Length = 23 "
- Beam = 6 "
- Height = 11.75 "
- Scale = 1:28





## JACKSONVILLE, FL 2009

The next Swift Boat Sailors Association reunion will be held in Jacksonville, Florida, June 24-28, 2009. I know, I know – those of you that were at the last reunion are wondering what happened to Charleston? The consensus of the membership at the last reunion was to hold the next one in Charleston, South Carolina. After an exhaustive effort by several members, an affordable hotel that could accommodate our group could not be found. Jacksonville was next choice and provided the accommodations we required to hold our reunion.

Jacksonville has always been a home of the navy, serving the needs of several countries over the years. The city today is a thriving metropolis with over a million citizens, and due to its consolidated city-county government structure, it has the largest municipal population among Florida cities, as well as the largest land area of any city in the continental United States.

A significant part of Jacksonville's growth in the 20th century came from the presence of navy bases in the region. Naval Air Station Jacksonville (NAS Jax) on the westside became the first navy installation in the city. This base was a major training center during World War II., with over 20,000 pilots and aircrewmembers being trained there. After the war, the Navy's elite Blue Angels were established at NAS Jax. Today NAS Jax is the third largest navy installation in the country and employs over 23,000 civilian and active-duty personnel.

In June 1941, land in the westernmost side of Duval

County was earmarked for a second naval air facility. This became NAS Cecil Field, which during the Cold War was designated a Master Jet Base, the only one in the South. RF-8 Crusaders out of Cecil Field detected missiles in Cuba, precipitating the Cuban Missile Crises. In 1993, the Navy decided to close NAS Cecil Field, and this was completed in 1999.

December 1942 saw the addition of a third naval installation to Jacksonville: Naval Station Mayport at the mouth of the St. Johns River. This port developed through World War II and today is the home port for many types of navy ships, most notably the aircraft carrier USS *John F. Kennedy* from 1995 to 26 July 2007, when Big John was towed away, eventually to be mothballed in Philadelphia.

Jacksonville is also not far from Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in St. Marys, Georgia, which is home to part of the US Navy's nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine fleet.

The reunion hotel is the Wyndham Jacksonville Riverwalk located on the St. Johns River. Reunion room rate is \$112.00 per day. This rate will apply three days prior and three days after the reunion dates. Rate is good for single, double, triple or quod occupancy. You must make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel by calling the toll free number 866-845-8862 and telling them you are with the Swift Boat Sailors reunion. To learn more about the hotel go to their web site: <http://www.wyndham.com/hotels/JAXHT/main.wnt>

## **SBSA In The News**

### **President Becomes Celebrity Groupie!**



I had the pleasure of being invited by our company's President & CEO, to attend a PTSD Benefit Banquet at which Lt. Col. Oliver North was the keynote speaker. Our company sponsored a table and invited military veterans from our Houston office.

The evening began with a presentation by a true hero, former Ranger, Captain Nate Self, who lead a rescue effort to rescue a SEAL Team force whose mission had quickly gone from bad to worse. This may have been the mission in Afghanistan in which one of our Navy SEALs received the MOH.

Col. North was quick to remind the audience, after the first roar from the crowd, in response to what they assumed to be a positive GOP quip, that his remarks had to remain non-political, due to the event being sponsored by a not-for-profit organization. Col. North used plenty of talk-radio replacement terms in referring to NBC, CBS, ABC, N.Y. Times, Washington Post, and the L.A. Times...bringing down the house each time.

His talk then got very, very serious about our returning military and the problems they face in dealing with PTSD. At the end of his talk, he handed over a personal check in the amount of \$1,000 but challenged the audience for at least ten people to step up and equal his donation...he got twenty. Great presentation.

As he made his way through a gauntlet of well wishers, I reached out and grabbed his sleeve, and as he turned around I introduced myself. Hearing who I represented, he stopped, turned around and shook my hand saying, "Swift Boats huh? I love you guys! You guys were great!" I told him that I'd pass along the kind words.

*submitted by Raul Herrera*

I am starting an effort to put a Swift Boat pin on every grave of those that died in Vietnam. So far we have put one on Donald Droz, Richard Stind, Robert Thompson, David Boyle and Dennis Puckett. We have arranged a pin for the sister of Kenneth West to put a pin on his Stone in Montana, he was buried at sea and for George in Las Vegas to put a pin on the Memorial stone for Albert Fransen who was never recovered. I am trying to find the other grave sites of our Fallen Brothers to do the same for them. I need help in locating their graves and maybe the news letter will give additional information on their burial sites, any help is appreciated.

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from Terry's email of 8/6/2008



## **Houston Vietnamese Community's Honoring Day** *by Raul Herrera*

Last evening (11/23/08), I had the honor of being invited to attend the Houston Vietnamese community's Honoring Day event. I attended the event at the invitation of fellow Vietnamese Swiftie, Viet Truong.



I was so taken by the warm and sincere appreciation for our service (Vietnamese and American soldiers and sailors) and the commitment to preserve freedom. Viet introduced me to many of the Vietnamese dignitaries, community leaders as well as South Vietnamese Generals and Naval officers, each one thanking me for my service. It was a very humbling experience....and this just at the lobby.

Upon entering the grand hall, I was taken aback by what I saw at the far end of the banquet hall. It was nothing more than a Swift Boat back drop that took up the entire stage. Of course, it had South Vietnamese boat numbers on the bow and a South Vietnamese flag back aft. My heart just pounded with excitement. It was surely a grand Welcome Home celebration. Center stage was a white three tiered stand on which was placed a pair of black combat boots, an AR-15 bayoneted between the boots, and a helmet atop the rifle. Off to the right was a gun emplacement.

Colors were posted and a moment of silence was requested for all of our brothers who gave their all in the name of freedom. This was followed by the U.S. and the South Vietnamese National Anthems. What a beautiful presentation. In a final tribute to our fallen brothers, names of American and South Vietnamese servicemen were called out as ladies in their traditional dress, placed lit candles all around the base of the memorial centerpiece.

I was taken by surprise when, as numerous dignitaries were being recognized, my name was called out as President of the Swift Boat Sailors Association. The only thing that crossed my mind as I stood up and faced the audience and waved a thank you was the acceptance of that kind recognition on behalf of all of Swift Boat sailors that served on that distant land more than 40 years ago.

Raul Herrera and Viet Truong in Houston





# The U.S. Flag Code & Protocol

*From the United States code, by U.S. House of Representatives*

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing.
- It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard
- The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.
- The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.
- When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.



- When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

## Parading and Saluting the Flag

- When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers.
- When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right.
- When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.

## Order of Precedence:

*...Left off to save space...*

## The Salute

- To salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart.

- Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

## The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

- The Pledge of Allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting.
- When the National Anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note.
- The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.

## The Flag in Mourning

- To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered.
- On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon and at full staff from noon to sunset.
- The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.
- When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.

## [An Update from Ed Guzis \(Cam Rahn, Cua Viet, and An Thoi '67-8\)](#)

*Veterans and active-duty military not in uniform can now render the military-style hand salute during the playing of the national anthem, thanks to changes in federal law that took effect in October.*

*The military salute is a unique gesture of respect that marks those who have served in our nation's armed forces. This new provision allows the application of that honor in all events involving our nation's flag*

*The provision improves upon a little known change in federal law last year that authorized veterans to render the military-style hand salute during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, but it did not address salutes during the national anthem. Last year's provision also applied to members of the armed forces while not in uniform.*

*Traditionally, members of the nation's veterans service organizations have rendered the hand-salute during the national anthem and at events involving the national flag while wearing their organization's official head-gear.*

*The most recent change authorizes hand-salutes during the national anthem by veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel. It was included in the Defense Authorization Act of 2009, which President Bush signed on Oct. 14.*

*The earlier provision authorizing hand-salutes for veterans and out-of-uniform military personnel during the raising, lowering or passing of the flag, was contained in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008, which took effect Jan. 28.*

## Displaying the Flag Outdoors

- When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.
- When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag - of a state, community, society or Scout unit - the flag of the United States must always be at the top except that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.
- When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.
- When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor - to its own right.
- The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger. No other flag ever should be placed above it. The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.
- When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

## Raising and Lowering the Flag

*...Left off to save space...*

## Displaying the Flag Indoors

- When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.
- The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.
- When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

- Veteran's Daughter -



What was it like to fly home  
told not to wear the uniform you honored  
and were willing to die in  
by the country you loved?  
  
What was it like to live in the time  
when pride turned to disdain  
when the gild cracked and crumbled  
rained golden tears from the eagle's eyes?  
  
Were words filled with rage  
hurled at you  
village burner, baby killer, and rapist  
with spittle flying from peace loving lips?  
  
You could have been a scholar and  
earned the highest dollar but you traded your books  
and picked up the weight of an ungrateful nation  
because you believed  
  
I believe too  
I live out the freedom  
that you sacrificed for  
and bought for me I am proud to be the daughter of a  
Swift boater and Vietnam Veteran

by Cynthia Griggs-Niswonger

Cyndi Niswonger is the daughter of Gerald Grant Griggs, ETR2. Gerald was part of our support team at Cat Lo, 2-66 to 12-66. ~~She can be reached at geraldgriggs12@yahoo.com~~

Bob Kreyer furnished the following item - It surely applied to me and, I think, many Swifties. Editor

On May 22, 2008, at the Marines Memorial Club in San Francisco retired Marine General Tony Zinni related a story about how he was asked by a young lad how he thought that Viet Nam Veterans want to be remembered. His response hit me like a ton of bricks.

- We answered the call to duty
- We won the battles we were asked to fight
- We never lost respect for our country, our flag, and for each other
- We will never forget our brothers who died in our arms or fighting by our side
- We have a bond of brotherhood that is strong and that is ours alone
- We are proud of our service and would do it again
- We fought, when all other reasons were stripped away, for our unit, our honor, and for each other
- We will let others judge the politics of the war, but only we can pass judgment on our proud service on the battlefield
- We returned home, like all Veterans, older, wiser, and less innocent; but we returned as proud patriots and warriors

A patch made by Dave Hansen for his vest



Swift Boat Sailors Association  
3941 Laurelwood Drive  
Jacksonville, Florida 32257-8926

To-



Don't miss the reunion in  
Jacksonville June 24-28th  
this spring! See your ship-  
mates, tell lies, and "go up  
the river" one more time!