

50th Year Anniversary of 61st Assault Helicopter Company



Assigned detachment patches are missing, except 364th A.T.C (to be added later).

27 July 2016

Dear 61st A.H.C, You my Brother, and all my Brothers and their families:

Enclosed are three separate matters, with return coupons at page bottoms, relating to our Directory, the Brick Project, and the 11 November 2016 Veterans Day celebration and brick dedication plus a couple other important matters which are not time-sensitive. Your recipient's envelope is as addressed from Mr. James Beach's directory, dated 2007; it was not complete and had errors. I cleared the directory of unnecessary characters now making it parse-able into a data file. The data parts were used to prepare the mailing. Some parts may sound formal for dress. What I mean is pull out the old dusty awards and let them hang from your chest pocket. It might be fun!

Directory.

Interim address changes have not been updated including the deceased or newly found members. Your immediate attention to these facts for you to confirm with your network of members to discover who received a correctly addressed envelope; from there you will discover new members or ones who have incorrect address. The members not receiving an envelope should be reported to me. Note: when addressing emails to me, please write "61st A.H.C." in the subject line - thank you.

A 1/3rd slip is enclosed with your data, please make changes as needed and return to me in the enclosed envelope; be certain to include one of the addressing coupons. Note the "not used" line. Some members have used this for nicknames or call signs or consider if want quests or what attractions are in your area. You may make lengthy comments regarding your 61st service. In other cases, your time in the 61st, by beginning month/year-ending month/year, phone numbers (H = home, C = cell, O = office), and/or email addresses are fictitious. I created these to have consistency in the data base.

Correct these items to have an accurate data base. Please use the slip to correct, then place in the return envelope. End Directory Section.

Brick Project.

The 61stA.H.C. Brick Project begins the dedication on 11 November 2016 at Fort Rucker, AL at the museum entry. The 61stA.H.C. members are to be the honored guests so dress in your finest uniform with full accessories (i.e., Marlowwhite - <http://www.marlowwhite.com/> and many other sources) have very nice white shirts for as low as \$30 plus shipping. (Note 1) The area is in

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front of chopper where the dedication statement will be laid, and, if money is available, a listing of our brothers who were killed-in-action. Our statement will be a lasting memorial of a unique type. As worded, it focuses upon the fact that history was written with our actions and it focuses attention on the service of the often forgotten members who made that history, therefore, you'll find the "mess (cooks)," and Air Traffic Controllers (A.T.C.) as examples in the wording. There is no reason why it needs to be as written now since we have all the space available that we need for a lasting tribute. It is not possible to list all occupations, but having listed some, it permits the reader to use their knowledge to make a more complete and lasting list. If you have suggestions for improvement, please forward them to me on the space below - just write in your additions.

This dedication, as written will cost approximately seven bricks (\$150 x 7 = \$1,050), and listing of our KIA will take approximately the same amount. To encourage your contributions for this project, I have the book "**A History of Army Aviation,**" by Dr. James W. Williams to give to each member giving \$200 or more. The author maybe available to comment on it's writing and to sign the book. In the next pages you'll find a donation slip to place in the enclosed envelope with your check made payable to "61stA.H.C." Individual bricks may also be purchased by obtaining the application found at 61ahc.org.

The due date for the brick orders is 20 August 2016. I will consolidate the donations, then place the order by 1 September 2016. Brick orders made after 20 August will still be filled but there will no longer be partial donations accepted for the dedication. You may purchase individual bricks at anytime, but they may not fit into the 11 November 2016 dedication if not completed by 1 September 2016.

The Museum is a nonprofit organization having a charter to help preserve and display the history of Army Aviation. It has many restoration projects in waiting for funding to complete the restorations. Once Army aircraft are restored, they become available for permanent display. The 61st A.H.C. has the ability to set the standard for placing bricks into the museum's walkways. Should members of the 61st A.H.C. make a starting placement, other companies who served in Vietnam could complete the brick placements and bring restoration to a completion display.

The museum director is reserving the below entry spots for the 61st A.H.C.



Approach to A.A.M.



***Close up of 1st Aviation Brigade
Dedication Reserved Area.***

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Examples of engraved bricks.

Time is of the essence to order our bricks before Veterans Day on 11 November 2016 placement. Please find the donation form below; complete the form and return it to me by or before 20 August 2016. Our order must be completed before 1 September 2016, so bricks can be engraved and placed before the 11 November 2016 dedication.

The dedication is a "partial brick" order meaning no one individual pays for or inscribes the bricks even if you contribute \$200 or more; so please use the form below to contribute to this project. Seven bricks are needed to make the following dedication to the 1st Aviation Brigade, and, if we wish to list our lost brothers by name, an additional seven bricks are needed, minimum. A suggested dedication is as follows:

1st Aviation Brigade Vietnam War Memorial
The Golden Hawks
"There When Needed Most"

Army Aviation History made by the dedicated service of our leadership, medical, maintenance, mess, supply, flight crews, A.T.C., armament & other personnel. Our love to our W.I.A. & K.I.A. and their families. Donated by 61st A.H.C.

The dedication is to list the soldiers with the many occupations who made this history happen in such a way other assault helicopter companies will join-in. Additional listings of other occupation may require additional bricks, so any suggestions to improve it should be mailed to me. Please make your edits above by crossing out or adding words.

A book entitled A History of Army Aviation, by Dr. James W. Williams will be given to anyone who contributes \$200 or more. This is a wonderful history. It is well written and will stand as a benchmark for the history in which you participated and made. The value of \$40 will be deducted from your contributions, making a \$160 tax deductible contribution on your tax return should you itemize and find the deduction beneficial. Giving more than \$200 results in adding the additional amount to the \$160.

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Individual bricks maybe purchased for \$150 using the application or purchase form found on 61ahc.org website.

You may visit the Army Aviation Museum at www.militaryaviationmuseum.org. This is an outstanding museum with great people, super gift shop, and Army Aviation history throughout!

Brick Dedication Project

61stA.H.C., Inc.
c/o Gordon Wax
1040 Wax Lane
Stevensville, MT

Please accept my contribution to the A.A.M. brick project for a dedication to be held on 11 November 2016. My contribution is fully tax deductible except for donations over \$200. If my donation is greater than \$200 the additional amount should be added to \$160.

Amount contributed \$ _____

61stA.H.C., Inc.
c/o Gordon Wax
1040 Wax Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Donors Name: _____
Address: _____
City, ST & Zip code: _____

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Other important projects are the Bong Son Library project. The library, a \$40,000 building in Bong Son!! Wow!!!, has been in operation for several years, but Mr. Ken Embers has paid his expenses of travel and training of Globish to the children of the Bong Son area and even in Korea. He and his support network also supports an orphanage near Qui Nhon. Each trip Mr. Embers takes cost several thousand dollars but the unmeasurable opportunities he provides to the children can only be measured in the coming decades. Your generous contributions will be used to repay him for prior personal expenses and for future trips. See the full story at 61ahc.org Ken and Mike, we salute you!

Please make a contribution toward this objective and tell your friends and neighbors about this great opportunity to continue to make our world a better and safer place. Your investments in these children will greatly be appreciated now and in the future; any convenient amount for your budget is just right! Consider regular small amounts for your donations to this ongoing project.

Use the cut-off-form for your contributions.

More than one slip can be place in the single envelop

61stA.H.C., Inc.
c/o Gordon Wax
1040 Wax Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Please accept my contribution to the 61stA.H.C. Library for a contribution for prior and future trips. My contribution is fully tax deductible.

Amount contributed \$ _____

61stA.H.C., Inc.
c/o Gordon Wax
1040 Wax Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Donor's Name: _____
Address: _____
City, ST & Zip code: _____

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FOR YOUR RECORDS

I, (name) _____, have contributed on (date) _____ to the A.A.M. Brick Project in the amount of \$_____, and/or the 61stA.H.C. Bong Son Library Project in the amount of \$_____. Other appropriate language as required by the I.R.S. is, herein, incorporated by general all inclusive reference including any specific required language in all 70,000 or more pages.

I received a \$40 value book if my contribution was \$200 or more. The additional amount over \$200 is included in my deductible contribution of \$_____.

61st Assault Helicopter Company, Inc.
c/o Gordon Wax, President
1040 Wax Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Gordon Wax, CPA

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Veterans Day Celebration.

Veterans Day is 11 November 2016 and I have coordinated with Fort Rucker's public affairs officer regarding the 61st A.H.C. members visiting. He and I have worked out the guidelines as follow:

1. Members are ***strongly encouraged*** to "van" pool with members in their area. Fort management want mostly vans coming onto base during an already active time. Volunteer van pool managers, who collect riders' name and do all the van operation, are arranged through me. I'll compile a list of drivers and riders and any vacant seats. Vans maybe obtained locally in your area or near the Fort if you wish to collect locally to the Fort; i.e., Dallas, Texas area members and families in a Chevy/Ford van from Avis/Budget/Hertz, etc.; and seating twelve with luggage, for one week, will cost about \$850 per week plus gas (720 miles/14 mpg X \$2.40 per gallon = \$123 plus oil). That is only \$82 each in a 16 hour (with rest stops and lunch - not included) drive! Wow! What a blast that would be!
2. Over all dates begin with early arrival on 7 November and departure 15 November. You may arrive earlier or depart later to allow time for exploring the Fort Rucker area. Unless otherwise scheduled you are on your own. It is important to visit <http://www.rucker.army.mil/> for much more information. In any contact with Fort personnel be certain to mention our reunion.
3. Events as of now roughed-out are as follows:
 - a. A bus tour of Ft. Rucker for about 20+ people on 8 November. Others have free time. This maybe a good time for small group business meetings.
 - b. Visit to Ozarks Airport for Huey rides and morning activities. In the afternoon we'll have an Airport apron pullout of aircraft in the hangars. This maybe limited to about 30+ people, but because there are many aviation personnel between us and we have vans we may be able to request more visitors. This will provide opportunities to met the young Army aviators and maintenance personnel.
 - c. The Fort's Veterans Day Celebration on 10 November (it is one day early because staffs are attending outside functions on the 11th). The 61st A.H.C. will be honored guests and I would expect we fall-in, dress right, and stand at ease during program presentations. There will not be a parade.
 - d. The Veterans Day Army Aviation Museum's 61stA.H.C. Brick Dedication at the museum will be in the morning for the ceremony and quest speakers. Museum

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visiting after and in the afternoon, museum visits can take several days. It is fabulous!

- e. Saturday will be a day with a 24-hour pass, or Huey rides, and/or business conferences and meetings. Business meetings can also be scheduled other evenings or spare time, of which we'll have little.
- f. Sunday morning off, possibly Huey rides at Ozark Airport, with a BBQ style evening meal and conference beginning around 3:00 p.m. on the west shore of Lake Tholocco. There were eleven two-bedroom cabins available, of twelve, of which six are currently reserved for our group. I dream of having all eleven reserved now and filled on the 11 November 2016, many of the sixteen east side cabins. Please call me. Rates are \$80 per night/2 couples split \$40 each.
- g. The last bus tour will be on Monday and departure is on the 15th. People are on their own unless activities become scheduled. (Idea!) There could be subgroups lead by past commanders of their areas of responsibilities.

You may pick and choose the days you wish to attend but it is important to register so Fort management knows what we are doing and how many will be in attendance.

Lodging is available now at the Lake with cabins on the west and east shores, however, early registration will assure us may remain together as a group verses having some groups off base.

All activities on the Fort must be acknowledged before hand approved. Based upon the response, arrangements will be made through me. The initial deadlines are: early registration -> 20 August and final registration on 1 September. If you wish to attend all activities it is important to register early as space is limited.

There will be much detail to cover in a later mailing, so it is important to get our data base in order now. I expect one more mailing as some members do not use email or use it infrequently.

Your cooperation is expected so this function can go smoothly. If you have questions, please send an email, call or write. When sending me an email, please write 61stA.H.C. in the subject line. Thank you!

Respectfully,
Gordon Wax
Veterans Day Coordinator

PS: I believe the Military Award System is the highest regarded of any award system. Let us be proud !

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61stA.H.C., Inc.
c/o Gordon Wax
1040 Wax Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Please accept my reservation for the 61stA.H.C. Veterans Day kick off Re-union. No money is needed now, but there will be a cost for activities and merchandise commemorating this event. Details to be announced. See 61ahc.org for more details after 10 August 2016. Please write your ideas on the back of this slip. Thank you!

Days wishing to attend: _____

Attendee's Name (# in party): _____

61stA.H.C., Inc.
c/o Gordon Wax
1040 Wax Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

Address: _____

City, ST & Zip code: _____

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Additional Information

The preceding is a general outline for our first 50 year anniversary re-union. There will be a great deal of flexibility for large and small group meetings, volunteer workers, single and concurrent sessions, and lots more information is waiting to get nailed-down. I desire to have the dress code as casual with an Army style clothing with ribbon and/or medal racks as appropriate for the occasion. This will be a great time to restore and develop old relationships and start new ones. But, most importantly we must be able to communicate with everyone. The data base is the key!

The 50 Year Anniversary of the Vietnam War started in 2004 and will continue to 2022. Military installations have been encouraged to work with all veteran groups wishing to be part of and see installation operations. One idea is to have Veterans Day re-unions for 2017 -2022 at various locations such as Carlisle Barrack - Army War College (Major Maurice "Monk" Hilliard (Mar.69-Oct.69) is retired there and unable to travel), Fort Campbell, KY, Fort Lewis, Washington, Oakland, CA, Fort Wolters, TX (or what is left of it), and ending at Fort Rucker, AL, respectively. The 61st A.H.C.'s soldier all have had some association with at least one or two of these locations. Another suggestion is Fort Drum, NY. Ideas, please.

We are being welcomed home! So if you've been a grouch for 50 years, now is the time to get over it all..ha..ha..just trying to fun. I know I've been ticked for 40. It feels great to be freed from any mental shackles and be proud of yourself and all of our associates. That is very special!

Become a part of building our data base, planting a brick walkway, and developing a time of wonderful celebration in November. We made a huge difference then and we can make a huge difference now. For this bunch of Army aviators and aviation specialists; the sky is the limit!

I am hoping to be able to receive more pictures and stories for posting and possibly a "current news" section. Our "visits" counter since 25 November 2012 is over 9,500 (see bottom of Home page). Lots more is coming!

The 61stA.H.C. PX. The website PX will have some items such as follows:

1. Coffee mugs, 2. Personalized Stationary (example enclosed), 3. Pins and Patches, 4. Books, and T-shirts with pockets. All profits will go to operating expense and project objectives. An un-audited, un-reviewed or un-compiled financial report, in other words I'll do it for management only, will be provide on-line within three months of the calendar year end.

Whew! Finally, this will be posted on the website so send anyone not receiving a "mail call" can download and print from that source. Good Luck! Lucky Stars and Starblazers, all!