



**JOURNAL OF THE WILLIAM C. WESTMORELAND CHAPTER, ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY**

**The President's Message – Winter 2012**

Welcome to the New Year! How did it get to be 2012 already?! I do hope each of you had a wonderful holiday season. It was fabulous going to so many events and seeing many of your smiling faces there. I love the holidays most for this very reason.



Well, the New Year is upon us and we must get back to the grindstone – not that many of you ever left it – keep up the great work! Persistence in maintaining contact with our legislators is extremely important. Watch everything they are doing and be aggressive about letting them know what you think and want from them. I have found that they really can and do listen.

We had a wonderful 2011 – thanks to the many who attended the dinners, ballgame, military appreciation days, and also for the encouraging words and emails. We had three of the best General Membership Meetings/Dinners that we have ever had – both in attendance and in guest speakers – from Nevada Office of Veterans Services Director Caleb Cage to Author/Warfighter Boone Cutler to Governor Brian Sandoval. Wow! Our Region President, George Lanning, was able to attend our Veterans Day Dinner in November and was very impressed by our great Chapter's presentation and attendance – excellent job, everyone – thank you!

As a reminder, the 422nd Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB) will be home very soon. Please show your support for their year-long Afghanistan deployment. If you can provide information about jobs for any of these very worthy Soldiers, please contact either myself or Emily Minkle, Program Coordinator with the Nevada National Guard Employment Enhancement program, 702-632-0559, emily.d.minkle.ctr@us.army.mil.

**New Members:**

2LT Ryan Spinuzzi-Nichols      PFC Steven Cristerna

**Renewal Members:**

SGM Suzanne Albin

LTC Larry Geist

MAJ Henry Frost

Michael F. Allen

Anna M. England

SSG Taft Bearden

COL Dick Hobbs

CPT Caleb Cage

Kevin MacDonald

LTC Minor Kelso

LTC Scott Maryott

Hug Hawks ROTC

The Nevada Office of Veterans Services has a wonderful new program for honoring our fellow Veterans. It is the "Nevada Veteran of the Month" program. This nomination program pays tribute to Veterans who have made significant contributions to our local, state, and/or national arena through their volunteer work in support of our Veterans and our Military. Please take a moment to think about those you have seen volunteering and take the time to nominate them. For more information, please go to our Chapter website at [www.ausa-westmoreland.org](http://www.ausa-westmoreland.org).

We look forward to each of you joining us for the President's Day General Membership Meeting and Dinner on February 22, 2012, at The Tamarack Junction, Reno NV. Share dinner with your friends and enjoy the wonderful words of wisdom by our own Dick Hobbs. The Agenda will include Dick's look at the military service of some of our past President's, Legislative Update by Richard LaHue, a Raffle, and more.

Thank you for "serving" our great Nation, and for continuing to "serve" through AUSA. The "service" example you set for our next military generation is commendable.

**See you at the President's Day Dinner!**

**Seen at AUSA's Veterans' Day Dinner**



## Out & About

### From Sharlee Smith, President

If you know one of our **local Wounded Warriors**, please invite them to attend any of our General Membership Dinner Meetings. We would love to thank them for their service and introduce them to our membership.

Are you a member of The **Army Historical Foundation**? Do you know about the National Museum of the United States Army or their Registry? Get more info at 1-800-506-2672 or [www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org).

### Upcoming Events:

**Reno Bighorns Military Appreciation night**, February 10, 2012

**President's Day Meeting/Dinner**, February 22, 2012, 6-10pm, The Tamarack Junction

**Sixth Region Meeting**, April 26-28, 2012, Tacoma WA

**Reno Aces Military Appreciation Night** June 1, 2012

### From Alan Callanan, VP Membership

Did you know that you have access to your individual AUSA membership file at the National AUSA website, [www.ausa.org](http://www.ausa.org)? Check your file to ensure your address, email, phone number, etc is correct, and update it, if it is not. With the correct data on file, you will receive the latest information from National, Regional, and your Chapter.

### From Richard La Hue, VP Legislative Matters

An important way that we can advocate for our Army Soldiers (past, present and future) and their families is by sending letters (emails) to our Nevada Congressional Delegation. Open the AUSA web-site; [www.ausa.org/legislation/congressionalinfo](http://www.ausa.org/legislation/congressionalinfo) and use the "Contact Congress" button and send already prepared text or create new text and send to our Congressional Delegation.

### Nevada Congressional Delegation Contact Info

#### Senator Harry Reid

400 S. Virginia St. Suite 902, Reno NV 89501, (775) 686-5757

#### Senator Dean Heller

400 S. Virginia St. Suite 738, Reno NV 89501, (775) 686-5729

#### Representative Mark Amodei

400 S. Virginia St. Suite 502, Reno NV 89501, (775) 686-5711

### See you at the Presidents' Day Dinner

## Sharlee Smith to Seek Position as Region President Jack Logan, Nevada State President

After listening to the many voices of those who know of Charley's abilities, she decided to compete in the election for the Presidency of the AUSA Sixth Region. The current President, Colonel (Ret) George Lanning, is term limited having served as President for the past four years, and, therefore, needs a replacement.

Each Chapter in the Region designates a representative for the Nomination Committee, one of whom becomes the chairperson, to vote for one of the candidates running for the Presidency. Our Chapter selected Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Scott Maryott to represent the Westmoreland Chapter and to cast our one vote. All Committee meetings, as well as the voting, are conducted electronically. The results of the election are announced at the annual Sixth Region Meeting, which is 27-28 April 2012 in Tacoma, Washington.

The Sixth Region comprises six states with 13 active chapters. The Region President is the link between the National Organization and the State and Chapter Presidents and, as such, conveys information and policy guidance. It is a big job, and one for which Charley is well qualified. As a member of AUSA's Resolution Committee for the past three years and having attended the Annual Meeting in Washington DC, each of those years, she is well acquainted with the AUSA procedures and staff who support the Chapters from the National Headquarters. Perhaps more importantly, she has been an outstanding Chapter President and knows well the role of Region President and the help a chapter needs to be successful.

With Charley's decision to move on to a more demanding and responsible position, a need arises to elect a new leader for the Westmoreland Chapter. I have volunteered to head a Nominating Committee which includes Command Sergeant Major (Ret) Alan Callanan and Sergeant Major (Ret) Lloyd Rahlf. We are actively seeking someone from the membership who will become Chapter President in April of 2012 and serve for a two year term. Once our next leader has been identified, ballots will be emailed or sent by the USPS, to each of our members. An opportunity to "write in" a candidate's name will also be provided.

We will miss Charley and wish her well in her next challenge. Our Chapter will be proud to have a member who has become the Sixth Region President.

## Membership – Alan Callanan, VP for Membership

As the Vice President of Membership for the Westmoreland Chapter, I first would hope that all of you had a great Christmas and wish each of you a very good and prosperous New Year.

As I am sure all of you are aware the 2012 year will be a very important one, especially since this is an election year. There are many issues that will be discussed, debated, reviewed, scrutinized, etc, by a wide number of people. These people will be members of the media, political parties, students, teachers, coworkers, supervisors, and on and on. Certainly some of those topics discussed will involve the military and where money can be "saved" by making cuts. I don't need to discuss those areas in any detail, but some areas of interest will be cuts in TriCare, military retirement, base closings, etc. We will be hit with numerous television, radio, newspaper and magazine ads. I suspect by May, or even sooner, we will all want the elections to be over with.

With the New Year now upon us, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued membership in AUSA. I will be working with Rick Catlin who is a life member of AUSA and a member of the Nevada Air National Guard. The goal we have is to recruit 25 new members to our Chapter and hopefully get those expired memberships back on board. As a voice for us in Congress, AUSA is especially committed to making sure we are all heard at the highest levels of our government. I hope each of you will help by maintaining your membership, talking to non members about AUSA when you get the opportunity, and forward any and all questions about AUSA to me, Rick, or any of our board members.

Again, I wish you all a Happy New Year and I thank all of you for your service and membership.

## The Gathering Storm 2012

Richard La Hue, VP for Legislative Matters

### US Army Facing Big Challenges in 2012

Plenty of challenges lie ahead for the Army in 2012. They include the shrinking defense budget, hopes for a reinvigorated acquisition system, settling on a camouflage pattern, and battling the traumatic brain injuries that continue to ravage the force. At the top of the list of priorities is the Army's force structure and figuring out what force mix is right for the post-Iraq, budget apocalypse era. The indications are that the Army will cut 10 of its 45 active-duty brigade combat teams in the next five years. It's part of the larger 50,000 reduction of Soldiers over the same time period. The Army faces a steep challenge in managing a force returning from war.

### Will 2012 be the Year When the Bottom Falls Out

Here are some year-end notes and nuggets, and what we can expect to see in 2012 and beyond according to the National Defense News Magazine.

- The Pentagon will continue to live in denial about the approaching fiscal train wreck: regardless of the election outcome, whoever takes over has to come to grips with the reality that the current defense apparatus is unaffordable.
- The much-anticipated strategic review will be more of the same: the problem with the current review, just like every other review since the end of the Cold War, is that it is driven by budgets, not by geopolitical strategy.
- Defense industry will face Do-or Die decisions: until the sequestration issue is resolved, many Pentagon contracts will be slowed down or not started. 2012 will be critical for industry as it will set the tone for 2013-15 earnings expectations.

### Iraq Drawdown Ends Benefits Boom

The end of the Iraq war also appears to end a golden age of growth in military pay and benefits, which lasted at least a decade and corrected many perceived or long-standing faults in military compensation. Amid a deepening debt crisis, and return of U.S. forces from Iraq, the 2012 Defense Bill approved in late December 2011 shows priorities shifting toward controlling defense spending and preparing to drawdown the forces.

### Some Good News to Start the Year

- DoD Aims to Financially Empower Troops, Families – The need for quality financial education and protections for service members and their families will not diminish even as more than a decade of war begins to draw to a close. DoD stressed the importance for the Defense Department, other government agencies and financial institutions to continue working together to improve military families' financial well-being.

reassignment from his much loved Bavaria to Fort Bragg where he soon was assigned to the Advanced Training Committee where he instructed others in the techniques associated with HALO (high altitude, low opening free fall parachuting), Under Water Operations, and Skyhook, a technique to extract a person on the ground by an aircraft in flight. By 1964 he was training Special Forces volunteers and Navy Seals, who had replaced the Navy's Underwater Demolition Teams, in special HALO techniques. At night he attended college classes because he sensed a need for further education.

During this time at Bragg, Richard was infiltrated into Laos as an Agricultural Adviser and a member of the White Star Mobile Training Team where for six months he was part of a Special Forces team that was fighting the Pathet Lao and Chinese forces along the Chinese border. It was there that he earned his Combat Infantry Badge.

Upon return to Fort Bragg, the captain who was his immediate supervisor "ordered me to apply for OCS from which I graduated second in my class in 1965." Richard, and the other top two graduates, were assigned to Fort Benning as Tactical Officers training future Second Lieutenants as infantry platoon leaders for duty in Vietnam.

## Lieutenant Colonel, Retired, Richard La Hue

Jack Logan, Nevada State President

Most of us know Richard La Hue as a polished and articulate speaker who regularly briefs us on legislative issues that are important to those with a military background. Richard is also a warrior 28 years of service special operations activities.



Richard was born in San Jose, California in 1938, and at an early age moved to San Francisco where he graduated from Galileo High School as a champion swimmer. He was a swimmer Commander of the Junior ROTC unit. Attracted to a military career, he enlisted in 1957 as a recruiter "I want the best unit you have." He pointed him toward the green berets and cautioned Richard that "you may not survive." After basic, advanced and parachute training, Richard was assigned to the 77th Special Forces Group at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Thus began a progression of training, learning and experience that would serve him well in the years to come. He was blessed by "having a corps of NCOs who were Special Forces operators from the Second World War, Korea and other areas of operations. It was their job to train us, and it was my first classic indoctrination to Special Forces. They went up and down in rank from Master Sergeant to Private and back up again. They loved to raise hell and fight. I guess in my youth, I fit right in." His swimming background led to his selection as only one of four Army men for attendance at the Navy's Underwater Swimmer's School at Key West, Florida, a four month school that predates the Seal program. "This school developed my love for underwater demolitions."

By 1958 he was a Private First Class and stationed in Bad Toltz, Germany with the 10th Special Forces Group, only one of three in the Army. As a substitute lifeguard at the Kaserne's swimming pool, he "noticed a beautiful pair of legs swim by." The legs belonged to Monica, his wife for the next 48 years. In addition to meeting and courting his future wife, Richard prized his time with the NCOs of the Group who were "truly classic guerrilla fighters from Norway, Finland, Eastern Europe and the Balkan countries and who were the first ones to teach me covert operations."

His reenlistment in 1959 led to promotion to Specialist E4 and

## Chapter Officers

**President** Sharlee Smith  
**Phone:** (775) 287-5698  
**e-Mail:** dancincharley\_o@yahoo.com

**1st Vice President** Dick Hobbs  
**Phone:** (775) 424-6333  
**e-Mail:** coldoc@coldoc.com

**Secretary** Dee Rahlf  
**Phone:** (775) 359 - 2975  
**e-Mail:** Deelloy@aol.com

**Treasurer** Charlie Grundy  
**Phone:** (775) 827-1420  
**e-Mail:** crg@vwbarchitects.com

**Immediate Past/State Pres.** Jack Logan  
**Phone:** (775) 624-6450  
**e-Mail:** jack-jennylogan@sbcglobal.net

**VP, Membership** Alan Callanan/Rick Catlin  
**Phone:** (775) 857-9429 / (775) 527-2087  
**e-Mail:** alansgt@aol.com  
richard.a.catlin@gmail.com

**VP, Corp Membership** Jim Nicholson  
**Phone:** (775) 786-7951  
**e-Mail:** tkanis@aol.com

**VP, National Guard** Alicia Nyland  
**Phone:** (775) 230-1274  
**e-Mail:** alicia.nyland@us.army.mil

**VP, Legislative Action** Richard La Hue  
**Phone:** (775) 852-6098  
**e-Mail:** delahue@sbcglobal.net

**VP, JROTC** Scott Maryott  
**Phone:** (775) 762-7783  
**e-Mail:** smaryott@washoe.k12.nv.us

**VP, SROTC / Historian** Jerome Guerrero  
**Phone:** (775) 721-4147  
**e-Mail:** jerome.guerrero@us.army.mil

**VP, NCO/Soldiers** Lloyd Rahlf  
**Phone:** (775) 359-2975  
**e-Mail:** LRahlf@aol.com

**VP, Recruiting** Ed Furlong  
**Phone:** (775) 333-2826  
**e-Mail:** edward.furlong@usarec.army.mil

**Webmaster** Bob Fritz  
**Phone:** (775) 636-7243  
**e-Mail:** bob@afritz.org

**Mailing Address:**  
AUSA Westmoreland Chapter  
P.O. Box 8144  
Reno, NV 89507-8144

**Web Site:** www.ausa-westmoreland.org

## Please Join Us to Celebrate Presidents' Day

**When:** February 22, 2012

**Time:** 1800 (6:00 PM)

**Where:** The Tamarack Junction  
13101 S. Virginia Street, Reno, NV

**Cost:** \$35.00 per person (no host bar)

**Speaker:** Colonel (Ret) Richard 'Dick' Hobbs

**Buffet Menu Includes:** *Roasted Prime Rib of Beef (carving station), Baked Salmon with Dill Sauce, Roast Pork Loin, Chicken Marsala, Fresh Vegetable Sauté, Roasted Red Potatoes, Saffron Rice, Caesar Salad, Bread and Butter, Coffee and Tea, and Two Dessert Selections*

Please help us support our brothers and sisters by bringing a non-perishable food item(s) (prefer cereal & dry goods such as pasta - no cans please) for Operation Feedback (a Hands of Hope Food Bank organization providing support for Northern Nevada Veterans, [www.operationfeedback.us](http://www.operationfeedback.us))

Please RSVP by February 17, 2012

AUSA Westmoreland Chapter

P.O. Box 8144, Reno, NV 89507-8144

Checks payable to: AUSA Westmoreland Chapter

(Reservations must be pre-paid. There is no "pay at the door" for this event. Thank you.)

### LTC La Hue, continued

He explains that decision by realizing "the next time I get shot down in a helicopter, I want to be flying it." Attendance at fixed wing flight school at Fort Stewart and Fort Rucker followed with his skill earning him the position of number one in his class and further training as a pilot of the Army's newest airplane, the Mohawk. A return to Vietnam as the Operations Officer of the 131st Aviation Company, the Iron Spuds, followed. During this tour he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for actions in the skies of North Vietnam.

It was during his attendance at the Infantry Officer Advanced Course that he applied for the Army's Boot Strap Program, earning in one year a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology from the University of Tampa. Returning to the military, he was sent to Fort Rucker to become qualified to fly helicopters.

With a desire to return to Europe, he and Monica and the two children, Richard Victor and Andrea, were excited when Richard received orders and was assigned to a Special Forces A Detachment in Berlin, still a divided City. In Richard's opinion "it was the best assignment I ever had in the military. I was the commander of a Special Forces A team, was able to fly helicopters at least 4 hours a month, and Monica and the kids loved it. It was here that I realized I excelled in covert operations and took great satisfaction in training Europeans and Americans in covert operations."

LTC La Hue biography will be continued in next 'Warrior' issue.