



Society of the Vietnamese Airborne Team 162



9 January 2012

Southport, NC 28461-8041

Fellow Red Hats/Red Markers:

Greetings once again from the coast of North Carolina, and Happy New Year. I hope that 2012 is a banner year for you and your family.

Since my July newsletter, we were saddened by the loss of CSM (ret) Hap Fischer. Along with being an outstanding soldier-leader and paratrooper, Hap was a past president of the Red Hats, and he was an ardent supporter of our organization. He will be sorely missed.

Looking ahead to the coming year, our major undertaking will be the dedication of our monument at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA at our reunion on 29 Sep. Thanks again to our coordinating and planning team: Paul DeVries, Wayne Dill, John Martin, and Bill Block, the monument dedication is on track. I've seen the artist rendering of the monument, and is, in a word, outstanding.

Bill Block is our (on station) point man for the reunion, and he is supported by Otis Amick. Together, they have arranged for a hotel in Columbus, and are working the details of other activities - more to follow shortly as we sort out cost and timing of events. Mark your calendars 27-30 Sep., and plan to attend. Let's make this the best reunion ever for the Red Hat/Red Markers. We anticipate that the Gia Dinh Mu Do will be participating in the monument dedication ceremony as well.

In April I will attend the Airborne Awards Festival in Atlanta and represent the Red Hats. Two years ago, the Board of Directors, and the then President nominated me as the Airborne Man of the Year for 2012. I am humbled by this action, and please know that I will do my best to represent all of you.

News from the Gia Dinh Mu Do includes the dedication of a Paver at the Airborne Special Operations Museum (ABSMO) in Fayetteville, NC in honor of the three Division Commanders: Generals, Vien, Dong, and Luong. The dedication will occur in conjunction with Mu Do annual meeting in 2013 in Atlanta. Exact date TBD.

The location for the 2012 annual Mu Do reunion is Denver, CO. As yet, the dates have not as yet been set. We'll get the word on the street as soon as we know these dates.

On a final note, we are accepting donations to help defray the cost of the monument with a view towards replenishing our coffers. The Gia Dinh Mu Du has already announced that they will be a participant in this endeavor. In this regard, as we look to the future, I am suggesting that we give serious thought to placing a monument at the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, VA as well. We'll put this on the meeting agenda for your consideration. Pictures and drawings of our monument at Fort Benning are attached.

In closing, thanks for your support over the past year. I am looking forward to seeing you at the reunion and at the monument dedication ceremony. All the best and God bless you and your family.

Nhay Du Go Cong!

Joseph W. Kinzer
President, Society of the Vietnamese Airborne