



The Brown Water Log



Volume 28 Issue 3

National Newsletter

Fall 1995

GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INC. NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, VIRGINIA BEACH VA.

TO CONTACT YOUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT "TOM" THOMSON AT HIS OFFICE WRITE OR CALL

P.O. BOX 1866 GEORGETOWN TX 78627-1866, VOICE OR FAX (512) 869-2472

Newsletter Editors: Nona and Tom Thomson. Material for inclusion should be in by the first of the month of March, June, September and December for mailing on the 15th of the month in order to be included in the quarterly newsletter, please help us by being on time.



Virginia Beach Reunion a great success!

A good time was had by all at the national Reunion Virginia Beach August 4-6. We had a good turn out and thanks to the efforts of John Williams and Clarence Cooper (they were the only two people working on the reunion full time) things went off as well as they always do when hosted in Virginia Beach. The reunion was held at the Lake Wright Resort and Convention Center, Memorial services at our Memorial monument, and picnic at the Isaac Walton League Picnic Area both at the Little Creek Amphibious base. The Keynote Speaker at our Dinner was LCDR Roy H. Boehm USN Retired. He was the first U.S. Navy Seal and the person who was asked to set-up the River Patrol Craft Training at the Naval Inshore Operations Training Center (NIOTS), Mare Island. You probably remember him as "The Old Man" who could run circles around all of us, and did backwards, while trying to train us how to become "River Rats". More to follow on Roy in a later article. Chaplain William "Ding-Dong" Bell gave the prayers and benediction,

you may remember him. He flew all over the Delta trying to keep us on the straight and narrow and on God's side. Thank you Chaplain, we all love you.

John Williams Honored at Norfolk Reunion

John Williams was honored at the Norfolk Reunion for his 27 years of devoted service to Gamewardens Of Vietnam Association Inc.. John served as your Charter Secretary/Treasurer, Secretary, President, Newsletter Editor, and is currently the National Vice President, East Coast. We all know of the dedication, time and effort that John put into Gamewardens, and the fact that we probably would not exist without the efforts of members like him. John was presented a desk pen set with the Task Force-116 emblem, Pen, and a list of his accomplishments on it along with a Task force-116 Plaque. After 27 years this is not much, but John you are truly appreciated. Thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do for our organization, we truly admire and love you for your devotion to duty and caring enough to keep our organization alive. Again, thank you and God Bless.



Please don't forget to honor your fallen comrades this Veterans Day November 11 1995. May God bless and keep them.

Fly your flag proudly!



LCDR. ROY H. BOEHM

"THE FIRST S.E.A.L."

and

FOUNDING FATHER OF THE

"NAVAL INSHORE OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER"

The personal history of LCDR Roy Boehm, if made into a movie, John Wayne would have to be resurrected to play the lead. There is no other actor that could come close to portraying Roy.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many forthright, truthful, and truly honorable men in my life but at the Norfolk reunion I had the honor and pleasure of meeting Roy. For those of you that were unable to attend the Virginia Beach reunion, you missed something that was truly pleasurable.

One of the first things that Roy told me was "I never lie, that way I don't have to remember what I have said". He also told me "that he tried not to know any of you guys personally,

do my job correctly, or well enough, possibly a lot of you would not come back" (he had been there four times). He is, without a doubt, one of the most down-to-earth individuals that I have ever met. In the typical Roy Boehm manner, he gave the credit of the success of NIOTC to the fact that he was getting weekly and sometime daily reports back from the guys in country on "Charlie's" tactics and was able to devise a solution to counter the VC tactics within hours. Of course he gave this credit to the sailors on the rivers and canals. He also told me that the main thing that he tried to get across to us was "react within the first two seconds of a fire fight, get all guns blazing, and you would probably make it through it". Roy's story goes like this:

LCDR Roy H. Boehm was born 9 April 1924 in Brooklyn New York. He entered the naval service as an enlisted man in April 1941 and saw action in World War II. He fought in the Pacific theater of operations from February 1942 until the conclusion of the war in 1945.

He is a survivor of one of the largest "all surface" sea engagements of World War II, The Battle of Cape Esperance at Guadalcanal. While serving onboard the destroyer Duncan (DD 485), the ship received 58, 8" and 6" shell hits at point blank range before going down. He also participated in the following campaigns and engagements: The Battle of Coral Sea, Bougainvillea, Turk, Green Island, Emeru, Saipan, Tinian, and Guam. He participated in supplying ammunition to the guerrillas in the Philippines, and saw action in Kerama Reto and Okinawa.

Boehm also saw action in the Korean conflict. In Vietnam, where he served four tours, he helped develop and implemented many of the war's most successful counterinsurgency tactics.

In the early 1960's, working under a Presidential Two priority received from President John F. Kennedy, Boehm developed, designed, implemented, and led the US Navy's

Commando organization known as SEALs. He was the first Officer In Charge (OIC) of SEAL Team Two. He assisted in the design and implementation of the Navy's first counterinsurgency course, for which he received the Navy Achievement Medal. Following this he was made head of the Navy's River Patrol Craft Division, where he developed tactical procedures, organized, and trained River Patrol Boat sailors for Operation Gamewarden in Vietnam.

Boehm held the following qualifications: Unlimited deep sea diving, deep submergence rescue chamber operator for submarine rescue, experimental diving, and salvage diving. He was qualified Underwater Demolition Expert, and was test pilot for underwater swimmer propulsion units. He is also a graduate of Airborne and Ranger training. Lcdr Boehm is authorized to wear 24 Medals and awards. Roy Boehm and Chuck Sasser are writing Roy's autobiography, tentatively titled "FIRST SEAL." The book will be published by Pocket Books.

I would like to conclude this article by saying, Roy, thank you for all that you did for the "Brown Water Navy" and The United States of America. Most "Gamewardens" would not be here without you. Good luck with your book and God bless.



Our National Supply Officer Clarence Cooper had volunteered to be appointed to the job for one year. Coop's year was up at the reunion August 1st. Dane Keller of River Division 532 fame has volunteered and

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been appointed as our new National Supply Officer. Thanks Dane.

Don Fallon approached me at the reunion and asked for me to please mention in the next newsletter that Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc. Inc. is one of the only major veteran organizations that are not present at the wreath laying at the Vietnam Wall each Memorial day. He and Rick Falcone (both from the N.E. Region Chapter) have volunteered and are looking for more volunteers. At the next monthly Executive Board meeting I will present this and try to get the money approved for the wreath. If you would like to participate in this and will be in Washington D. C. on Memorial Day, please contact Don Fallon at 177 Ridgewood Drive, Mystic CT 06355 or call (203) 535-2875.

I was also approached by Mrs. Jacqueline Johnson. She is the wife of the late Chief Boatswain's Mate Roland Johnson. Boats Johnson served as a 1st Class while teaching at the Vietnamese Boat Orientation School in Saigon. He was in country during the 1968-1969 time frame. In December of 1969 he was ambushed while serving in River Assault Squadron-15. He was wounded during this action and received the Purple Heart Medal. Mrs. Johnson has the medal. This action and award was not entered into his service record. What Mrs. Johnson is trying to do is to contact anyone that served with her husband when this action took place and will verify the action. Chief Boatswain's Mate Roland Johnson passed away January 5, 1992, and Mrs. Johnson would very much like to have the Purple Heart Medal engraved on his headstone. We all know that the R.E.M.F.'s in Saigon sometimes did not have the time to do all of their duties. If any Gamewarden knew Boats Johnson and of this action please contact Mrs. Jacqueline Johnson at: 721 Mayfield Ave. Norfolk, VA 23518, or me, Tom Thomson at P.O. Box 1866 Georgetown TX 78627-2866. Any assistance would be helpful.

John Williams reported to me on July 20 1995 that the Memory Book that was to be produced after the 1993 Reunion was never completed. John reported that Dave Crockett was his Memory Book project coordinator. When the photos were received back from OLAN MILLS, Dave took them and was to assemble them in a special book for printing. John said that after over a year of reminders, Dave informed him in April 1995 that the whole box of photos, forms, etc. had been destroyed. He had moved and some how the information was lost. We owe our members who ordered the Memory Book about \$600.00 at \$12.00 per copy. John Williams, Dave Crockett and I are in the process of trying to find out to whom the money is owed. If you ordered a book please send me a note with a copy of your receipt or canceled check to help us compile the list. We will send it out just as soon as we can come up with a list. John also suggested that we might ask the individuals involved to possibly donate the \$12.00 to the National Scholarship fund, this is entirely up to you, the individuals, to whom the money is owed. I will write a personal letter to each and every one of you as soon as we get a list together asking you what you would like to do. We are very sorry that this happened, no one more so than Dave, but as you know accidents do happen.

What your scholarship donations are doing



Doctor Michael L. Languell

Doctor Michael L. Languell, the son of LCDR Fred L. Languell was the first recipient of a Gamewardens Scholarship in 1979. Mike completed all requirements in December 1994 and received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering with minors in Materials Science and Physics at commencement ceremonies in May of 1995 from Vanderbilt University. Mike also received his MS Engineering Science and Mechanics with Materials option from the University of Tennessee Space Institute, and his BS in Materials Engineering, from North Carolina State University. His father, LCDR Fred L. Languell said that our scholarship helped start Michael on his way.

Congratulations, Michael, you have made us proud!



1995 Scholarship Winners

It is with great honor and pleasure to announce the three Gamewardens of Vietnam Association Inc. Scholarship winners for the 1995-1996 Academic year. They are:



Kenneth W. Pyle, son of John Pyle, who served aboard the U.S.S. Hunterdon County (LST 838) as Radioman Third Class in 1968. Kenneth will receive a \$500.00 Scholarship. The Pyle family lived in Houston, Texas until July 1995, but have since relocated to Atlanta, Georgia. Kenneth will remain in

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Texas to attend Stephen F. Austin State University.



Carrie Willett, daughter of John Willett, who served in HAL-3 as Door Gunner in Det. 1 & 3 from April 1967 to March 1969. John Willett retired as Lt. in 1991 on complete disability. John is unable to work due to disintegrating discs in his entire spinal area. Carrie was awarded a \$500.00 Scholarship. Several years ago, his daughter Stephanie was awarded a Gamewardens Scholarship. She has completed her Master's degree and teaches in Virginia Beach.



Mark D. Maier, son of David L. Maier, who served aboard the U.S.S. Westchester County as Dispersing Clerk 3rd Class from April 1967 to December 1968. During that time, the U.S.S. Westchester County was mined and sustained the Navy's largest loss of life in an explosion on the Mekong River. (David was featured in our previous "Summer" newsletter in the article on Agent Orange) The Maier family live in Ohio and Mark has been accepted at three colleges in Ohio. Mark was awarded a \$500.00 Scholarship.

I have written letters to each of our winners and asked for and received a picture and a short paragraph for the Newsletter.

Again, congratulations to Kenneth W. Pyle, Carrie Willett, and Mark D. Maier, you are all winners and your families must be very proud of you.

Also congratulations should go out to all of our founding members for setting up the Scholarship Funds, and especially C.J. Clifton.

National Newsletter

I have received calls and mail on the two newsletters that we have put out in the past (most were in good light) however I would very much appreciate hearing from you on what you would like to see in Your Newsletter. I need your help in producing this rag badly.

Also we are going to try something new, I got the idea from another Newsletter. We would like to place the names of members that donate \$5.00 or more, and to companies that donate \$25.00 or more along with the company's logo or business card in "THE BROWN WATER LOG" in order to help offset the cost of printing and mailing. If you would like to help, please send your name, and if a company, your logo or business card, and of course the money to Ron Laratta National Treasurer, 355 ridge Court Roswell GA 30076-2620. The printing would be for one newsletter only at that price This would help offset the cost immensely. And remember, all donations are tax deductions (See demonstration on back side of Maier, I think that this will work well.)

The 1st of September has come and gone and I have received no input from the chapters. Chapter members need speak with their chapter representatives. It is you that are loosing out! If you have to put out your own newsletters it is costing your chapter money. I will publish any information that you need to get out to your membership, so please let me help you.



Agent Orange continued

What is Agent Orange? Agent Orange was one of the weed-killing chemicals used by the U. S. in Vietnam. The chemical compounds considered as herbicide agents in Vietnam include, 2,4-D; 2,4,5-T and its contaminant TCDD (or dioxin), cacodylic acid and picloram.

Veterans who served in Vietnam between 1964 and 1975 or who served in the waters just off-shore or who visited Vietnam are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides and can apply for service-connected compensation based on their service. Survivors of such veterans--including spouses or children and sometimes parents--can apply for service-connected death benefits (the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation or DIC program) or for the nonservice connected death benefits (pension program).

Even if symptoms haven't shown up yet, you should register with the VA and request testing. The deadline for filing a claim with VA for Agent Orange is 30 years from the day you left country, with the exception of Chloracne and Porphyria Cutanea Tarda. There was a one year deadline for these diseases.

You should notify the VA of the benefits you want at the earliest possible time. From anywhere in the U.S. you can call the nearest VA Regional Office by dialing 1-800-827-1000. This number is good for any state, for instance, if I call that number from central Texas I reach Waco. If the number is called from another state, it

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will reach the nearest VA Regional Office near the caller

The payout for the lawsuit against the manufacturers of Agent Orange in 1984 is not the same as applying to the VA for benefits. Even if you received a cash payment from that lawsuit, you still should contact the VA.

To apply, send the VA a letter stating that you have a specific health problem and that you claim it is due to your exposure to herbicides while serving in Vietnam. This is called an informal claim and will count as an application however you will eventually have to complete the VA forms. If you have not heard back from the VA within a month, you should call to confirm that your application has been received. If you applied before, send a letter that says you are "re-opening" your claim. You must be persistent.

At present there are about 30 diseases officially recognized by the VA as being related to Agent Orange. After hearings in July 1995, more may be added to the list, in particular, peripheral neuropathy and prostate cancer.

According to conversations held with both the VA and attorneys for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., the VA has released some money for veterans to be tested for blood and tissue contaminated by Agent Orange. The test is called: 2,3,7,8-TCDD (tetrachlorodibenzodioxin). You must request the testing. I believe there is only one commercial lab in the U.S. that has passed the performance evaluation by the Centers for Disease Control. I was told by Ms. Lorri White of Triangle Labs in Atlanta that there are 210 dioxin compounds and of those Agent Orange is the most potent. It is assumed that the blood and tissue would be taken at the VA or your doctor's office and sent to the lab or testing. The test is discounted for veterans and costs \$595.00, so it would surely be better for VA to pay for it.

Following is a long list of diseases currently recognized by the VA

as related to Agent Orange. Remember more diseases may soon be added to the list:

Chloracne (one year)

Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma, including any diagnosis of a lymphoma (except Hodgkin's lymphoma), mycosis fungoides, and old terms such as lymphosarcoma, reticulum cell sarcoma and Sternberg's sarcoma.

Prophyria cutanea tarda (one year))

Respirator cancers (30 years) including cancer of the lung, bronchus, larynx and trachea.

Multiple myeloma

Hodgkin's disease

Soft Tissue Sarcomas, including adult fibrosarcoma, dermatofibrosarcoma protuberans, malignant fibrous histiocytoma and liposarcoma.

Leiomyosarcoma

Epithelioid leiomyosarcoma (malignant leiomyoblastoma)

Rhabdomyosarcoma

Ectomesenchymoma

Angiosarcoma (hemangiosarcoma and lymphangiosarcoma)

Proliferating (systemic) angioendotheliomatosis

Malignant glomus tumor

Malignant hemangiopericytoma

Synovial sarcoma (malignant synovioma)

Malignant giant cell tumor of tendon sheath

Malignant schwannoma, including malignant schwannoma with rhabdomyoblastic differentiation (malignant Triton tumor), glandular and epithelioid malignant schwannomas

Malignant mesenchymoma

Malignant granular cell tumor

Alveolar soft part sarcoma

Epithelioid sarcoma

Clear cell sarcoma of tendons and aponeuroses

Extrasketal Ewing's sarcoma

Congenital and infantile fibrosarcoma

Malignant ganglioneuroma

Under the VA rule, soft tissue sarcoma does not include osteosarcoma,

chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma. Most of the above information was excerpted from the VVA's Guide on Agent Orange. Copies of this guide are available by calling 1-800-626-8387. I don't know if there is a charge, but it is well worth it. Please request a complete copy. It has a lot of valuable information and space does not permit it all to be printed here. Further credit should go to Ms. White of Triangle Labs and the VA

HEARING LOSS

We would like to hear from you if you are experiencing hearing loss. If anyone has been successful with a claim with VA please contact me immediately. Most of us seem to have ringing in our ears and increasing loss of hearing. We would like to do an official survey of our members. Further, was anyone told when discharged that there was a two year time limit to claim service-connected illnesses and injuries?

TAPS

Captain William A. Rockwell USN (Ret.), 63, after a valiant fight with cancer, died peacefully in his home in Virginia Beach on June 22, 1995. Capt. Rockwell retired in 1987, after 36 years of selfless dedication to his country. Among his many assignments and awards, including the Legion of Merit with Gold Star, he was the Officer in Charge of the first helicopter attack unit formed in the Navy (HC-1 DET 29). His detachment was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for operations with the River Patrol Force in the Mekong Delta, RVN. He is survived by his wife, Mary and four sons and their families. Mrs. Rockwell's address is:

4758 Kempsville Greens Parkway

Virginia Beach, VA 23464

The Brown Water Log Norfolk Chapter Start-up

Anyone interested in helping to get the Norfolk Chapter started, please call Clarence Cooper at (804) 340-6330, or write him at Gamewardens of Vietnam Association Inc., Norfolk Chapter P.O. Box 55114 Virginia Beach, VA 23455.

Life Members with no current addresses

If anyone has an address of the following Life members please send them to me. Their newsletter were returned marked no current address or forwarding order expired

TMCS James Bird, PNCM Ronald Birchfield, BMC Delbert Gibson, Lt. John Orr, EN1 W David Lafferty, AFCM Dennis C. Hass, CTR2 Robert T. Langeuin, David Lee Hirfield, Neil A. Fulton, BM1 Raymond Bollinger, CDR Travis Cox, James Kessler, Gerald McDermott, James Renick, Jr., EMC Richard Semon.

ON THE LIGHTER
SIDE



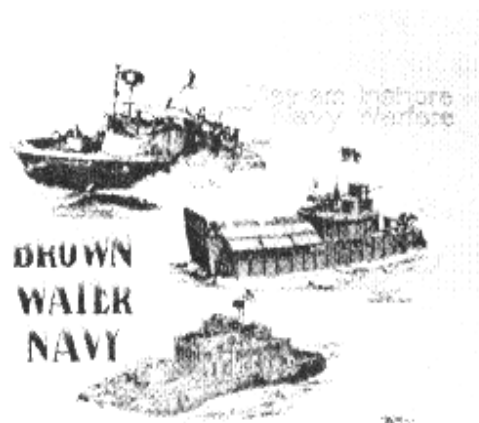
Did you hear the one about the newly wed Ducks that went on their honeymoon and checked into a motel. At bed time the new Mrs. Duck said that they had to have a prophylactic. Mr. Duck asked where he was supposed to get one at this time of night and Mrs. Duck said he should go the front desk, they always have them. Sure enough when he asked at the front desk they had them. The desk clerk asked Mr. Duck if he would like to have the prophylactic placed on his bill. Mr. Duck indignantly replied, "Just what kind of Duck do you think I am?"

NOTE: We have received letters and phone calls from members saying that they have ordered things from National and that all that they have received back is their canceled check. If this has happened to you, please send a **COPY** of your canceled check to Tom Thomson P.O. Box 1866 Georgetown TX 78627-1866 and we will try to rectify **OUR** problems. We have a new inventory system in place and hopefully will rectify the situation. I have also appointed a new Supply Officer

New policy, the cost of shipping and handling is included in the price of the item.

Name: _____	Ship to: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____	City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
Phone Number: () _____	Phone Number: () _____

Quantity	Description	Size	Price each	Quantity X Price
_____	Video River Patrol: The Gamewardens of Vietnam		\$34.95	_____
_____	"Gamewardens of Vietnam Vest" with 9"116 logo embroidered and your chapter on the back and first name on the front.	_____	\$70.00-\$75.00 XX large	_____
_____	Tee Shirt 116 Logo over pocket PBR on back large	_____	\$14.50	_____
_____	Tee Shirt 116 Logo no pocket PBR on back XX-large	_____	\$17.00	_____
_____	Tee Shirt 116 Logo no pocket PBR on back X-large	_____	\$14.50	_____
_____	Ball Caps "US Navy Vietnam Veterans" TF-116 logo in color	_____	\$14.50	_____
_____	Beret Pins TF-116 logo in color		\$6.00	_____
_____	Cloth Patch TF-116 logo in color		\$6.00	_____
_____	Bumper Sticker TF-116 logo in color "Mekong Delta Yacht Club"		\$2.50	_____
_____	Window Decal TF-116 logo in color		\$2.00	_____
_____	P.B.R. Pins (Small)		\$5.50	_____
_____	8" X 10" Black and White glossy photos of PBRs, Heavies & swifts.		\$17.00	_____
_____	CD - 27 Songs "In Country Folk Songs of the Vietnam War"		\$17.00	_____
_____	Cassette Tape 27 Songs "In Country Folk Songs of the Vietnam War"		\$11.00	_____
_____	"Brown Water Navy Lithograph" listed below.		\$40.00	_____



"Brown Water Navy Lithograph"
 The Texas Chapter commissioned artist Bob Rose to draw 18"X24" limited edition of PBR, Tango Boat and Program 5 "105" Monitor. Lithographs are numbered and signed. 1/2 profits go to scholarship fund.

Total: _____

Make check payable to:
Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc Inc.
Mail to:
Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc. Inc.
C/O National Supply Officer Dane Keller
6323 Highway # 329
CRESTWOOD KY 40014

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOCIATION INC.

Copy of your DD-214 or sponsorship by a Gamewardens member is required

Circle Chapter that you would like to be affiliated with

South East North East North West West Coast Texas O.K.I. Norfolk

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____ SSN _____ - _____ - _____

Address _____ State _____ ZIP _____ - _____

Home Phone Number (_____) _____ Work Phone Number (_____) _____

Spouse's Name _____ Sponsor's Name _____

VIETNAM SERVICE:

Unit Assigned #1 _____ Unit Assigned #2 _____ NITC Training Class _____ When ? (MO/YR) _____

If Active Command _____ Retired _____ From/To (MO/YR) _____ Pay Grade in country _____

Wounded ? _____ 1st Tour From (MO/YR) _____ / _____ 2nd Tour From (MO/YR) _____ / _____ To (MO/YR) _____

Decorations Received:

PurpHrt _____ CombAct _____ PUC _____ NUC _____ MUC _____ Nat Def _____ VietCmpgnM _____ VietSer M _____ Civic Act _____

Cross of Gallantry _____ Other (Silver Star/Bronze Star) _____

Searching for former "RIVER RAT" ? if so, who? _____

Type of Membership:

New _____ Renewal _____ Life Membership = \$100.00 _____ Annual Membership = \$10.00 _____ (Due in June each year)

MEMORIAL = \$50.00 In Memory of _____ Relationship _____

Associate Membership = \$8.00/a year _____ Sponsor's Name _____ Auxiliary Membership =

\$60.00/Life(second member of family)

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ CASH _____ CHECK _____ OTHER _____

RECEIVED BY _____ DATE _____ / _____ / _____ CHECK NUMBER _____

MAKE PAYABLE TO: GAMEWARDENS OF VIETNAM ASSOC. INC.

SEND TO: Ron Laratta, National Treasure
Gamewardens of Vietnam Assoc. Inc.
355 Ridge Court
Roswell, GA 30076-2620

I DO/DO NOT (circle one) authorize the release of my name and address for publication in the Gamewardens Newsletter and/or to other members if requested.

OUR MAILING LIST IS NOT FOR SALE.

SIGNED _____ DATE _____ / _____ / _____

Please send a note on what's happening in your life for use in future Newsletters.

NATIONAL ORDER FORM