

"Due to rain the ceremony was conducted inside the Igloo Club, all but the raising of the flags and the 21 gun salute which was accomplished at the memorial site afterwards when the rain had stopped. Also, some of the individuals listed in the program were not in attendance for one reason or another".

Emerson McAfee, Det. 8 Association coordinator

DEDICATION PROGRAM

11:45 – Announce that the program will start in 10 minutes, please take your seats.

11:46 - Play “**Wild Blue Yonder**” by the **Air Force Band**
On Track # 11 2:40

11:48 - Play “**Where the Stars & Stripes & the Eagle Flies**”
On Track # 1 3:52

11:52 – Play “**Battle Hymn of the Republic**”
On CD #4 On track #1 5:03

11:57 – “After that rousing rendition of Battle Hymn of the Republic, I’d like to welcome everyone to the 9th Reunion of the Detachment 8 Association and this special Dedication and Memorial Service. Welcome to our special guests. Welcome to our most honored families of those lost during the war in Southeast Asia. A big welcome to all our brothers and sisters, members and their families, and guests. As most of you know I enjoy music and like to let it do the talking for me. Today’s program will run about 2 hours in length due to the special activities, and is filled with some great music. But I ask that you pay particular attention to the words in these songs because I selected them because their words should have special meaning to most of us. As you sit back and relax and enjoy the program today I want you to daydream a little and think back to those days when you first entered the military. Recall how things were then as you listen to some of the words in the music today. Family members, I’m sure you can drift back along with us to days long ago and recall how your military life started. It should bring a smile and maybe a tear or two. You young folks, just enjoy.

Just as two years ago, I’m in a strong patriotic mood and hope you are too, cause that’s what this day is all about. We’re meeting for the second time since the terrorist actions of 9-11. The results of those actions as well as the ensuing war with Iraq are still heavy on my mind, as I expect they’re on most of your minds also. As we dedicate this completed memorial today our program will also be dedicated to those 19 members of the 1st Combat Evaluation Group who were lost in Southeast Asia, and the 32 former members

of Detachment 8, listed here on the memorial plaque, who have also passed on. We'll have moments of joy, sadness, anguish, and I'm sure anger. I'm sure there'll be a few tears along the way also. I'll try to keep my composure but I encourage you to let your feelings out, whatever they may be, let it go. We're all family here today and support and comfort are the key words that bind us all together. As I said earlier, we have some special guests with us and I'll introduce them shortly, once we get the program underway"

12:00 – “About four months ago we lost a couple of great patriots of this country. We lost a great former president by the name of Ronald Reagan. He did so much for this country and for most of us sitting here he provided the largest pay raise we've ever seen. Then shortly thereafter we lost a great musician and singer by the name of Ray Charles. We all know him by his music and his love of this country. And now would you please stand with me if you're able to do so, for a special version of America by this very special man. This is an “**American Anthology**” by **Ray Charles**”

On Track # 2 3:30

12:04 - “Please remain standing for our **National Anthem** and posting of the colors by members of the Madison Southern HS **Air Force JROTC** and the Madison Central HS **Army JROTC** assisted by Det. 8 Association members, **Tom Golden and Howard Morgan**”,.

On Track # 3 1:45

12:07 - “Today we're honored by the presence of several key individuals in the Kentucky State Government as well as the local County Government. First we have a man who graduated from the AF Academy in 1969. He has operational experience in the C-130, KC-135, H-53(Jolly Green), and H-60(Pavehawk). In 1997-98 he was the Director, Center for Operations, Plans and Policy, US Special Operations Command. From 1998-99 he commanded the Air Mobility Commands 21st Air Force. He retired from the AF in March 2002, after 32 years of service, as a Lt. Gen. His last position was Commander, AF Special Operations Command at Hurlburt Field. In Dec. of 2003 he was appointed to the position of Secretary of the KY Transportation Cabinet. Representing the Governor of KY, welcome Mr. Maxwell Clay Bailey.“

12:08 - Mr. Bailey speaks (5 min.)

12:13 - “At this time I'd like to introduce the Judge Executive for Madison County. We all refer to him as Superman for the job he's done for us, Judge Clark Kent, err I mean Kent Clark along with the mayors of Richmond, Ms. Connie Lawson and Berea, Mr. Steven Connelly.”

- Officials make presentation of Proclamation.

12:18 – “Also with us today from the KY 34th District is State Senator Ed Worley”

- “Also with us today are 3 KY State Representatives from Madison Co. From the 73rd District Don Pasley, from the 36th District Lonnie Napier, and from the 81st District Harry Moberly.”
- Also from Madison Co. we have all 4 Magistrates, Larry Combs, Billy Ray Hughs, Roger Barger, and Billy Tudor.

12:21 - “On the front row here, most of you met him 2 years ago at the reunion when he was just starting his tour of duty here as the Commander of BGAD. We owe him a great debt for his cooperation and assistance in bringing this memorial to completion, for without out his help we’d still be without flags and lights. From the host BGAD, the post Commander, **Col. Martin Jacoby**”. And for his help in this project Col. Seitzberg would like to make him a presentation. This is the official CEVG Coin, which I will explain later in the program. Col. Jacoby will be providing the depot briefing after lunch at the Igloo Club. If you’re not pre-registered for lunch and would like to attend, see me right after the ceremony so I can collect your \$3.50 for lunch.

12:22 - We have some former members of CEVG I’d like to introduce at this time.

- Introduce them
 - Col. Reg. Dorman, his wife Lee, and daughter Valerie
 - Col. Murray Sheffield and his wife Inez
 - LtC Robert Olson and his wife Dolores
 - LtC Charles Dawes

I’d also like to introduce some of our very, very special guests today. We have some of the family members of those we lost during the Viet Nam War.

- Introduce them
 1. Norma Blanton(w) of Col Clarence Blanton and her sister Charline
 2. Doris Gish(w), of SSgt Jerry Gish and her daughter Terrie
 3. Monterey Olds(w) of SSgt Jerry Olds and her daughters Amanda and husband David Bryson with children Ashley, Josh, Justin, and Kayla; Tammy and her husband Randy Moses with children Jerimiah, Jericho, and Jordan; and Debbie and her daughter Danielle.
 4. Judy Johnson(w) of Sgt David Price with her husband Johnnie Johnson and daughter Brenda and her husband Russel Fuller
 5. Ann Holland(w) of TSgt Mel Holland
 6. Sisters of MSgt James Calfee, Rosalie Bacica and her daughters Debra and Julia;
 7. and Frances Arrington and her husband Robert with daughter Frances
 8. Cory Etchberger and Steve Wilson sons of CMSgt Dick Etchberger
 9. Steven Hall son of TSgt Willis Hall
 10. Carrie Wallace and Paula Shannon daughters of TSgt Patrick Shannon

12:25 - “A short welcome and Invocation will now be presented by Col.(Ret.) USAF, and former commander of Det.8, the man who’ll always be our leader, **Col. Robert Seitzberg**”.

12:30 - “Thank you Bob. As we listen to this next song I ask you to join me in giving thanks that we have the option to worship as our individual beliefs lead us, and we can assemble here today and give thanks to God for everything we receive. I told you this was going to be a patriotic function and the lady performing this next selection has professed her love of God and this country. Listen with me now to the words of this song as **Dolly Parton** sings “**Color Me America**”

On CD 3, Track# 17 3:54

12:34 - Ladies and gentlemen as we gather to dedicate this memorial today we’d be remiss to not think of and honor all those brave Americans who’ve given the ultimate sacrifice to help keep this country what it’s been, what it is, and what it will continue to be. That is a free and honorable nation. We must never forget those brave firemen and policemen of New York City, those nearly 3,000 innocent fellow countrymen; men, women, and children; fathers and mothers, sisters and brothers, who all lost their lives in the Twin Towers”. I’m sure most of you know where you were when you saw the horrible scene. That’s something you will probably never forget. I know I was preparing myself for a return to work at Redstone Arsenal. I had about five hours to think about what had just happened during my drive from KY to AL. I now play a song by **Alan Jackson**, written shortly after that event, and I’m sure most of you have heard it before. “**Where Were You.**”

On Track # 10 5:03

12:40 - “We must also remember the brave servicemen and women who lost their lives in the Pentagon that awful day. And yes, those brave Americans on the flight that crashed in Pennsylvania. We must never forget their cry of “Lets Roll”. We must never let our guard down again to allow such a dastardly action to take place. The perfect song that asks us if we’ve forgotten that day was written last year. It says it all. Listen with me now as country artist **Darryl Worley** sings “**Have You Forgotten**”

On Track # 5 5:45

12:46 - We’re a nation that’s slow to anger and always willing to help anyone whose freedom is jeopardized anywhere in this world. We were once part of that providing force. Since then many of us have seen our offspring and other family members take our place and continue this protection. But once you get our feathers ruffled we can be a mean bird to handle. Shortly after 9-11 and before his untimely death, **Waylon Jennings** sang a song that typifies this nations persona. Listen again to the words of “**The Eagle Flies**”.

On CD# 2, Track # 1 2:51

12:49 - “Of course we can’t complete this dedication without remembering all of those men and women who’ve served in support of putting an end to this terrorism around the world. Those brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen who’ve served and are still serving in

places like Iraq and Afghanistan. But mostly to those who gave the supreme sacrifice with their lives. This country, and we, owe them a great debt of gratitude for fighting for freedom around the world. Most of us have been there and done that. And I think we all know one thing that helped us make it through. That one thing that meant so much was a letter during mail call, or just going to the mail box and finding a letter from home. Whether it be from your mother, girlfriend, or wife, it was one of those proud moments to know that someone was thinking of you. Or in the case of you ladies, you may have been the one writing the letter. Believe me, your letters were part of what kept us going. Listen with me again to this song and the words that really hit home. It's by **John Michael Montgomery** and it's titled what else, "**Letter From Home.**"

On CD #2, Track # 2 4:23

12:54 – "There's another song out now that tells the story of our fighting forces better than any words I could say. The singer of this song was recognized by the Academy of Country Music as both their male vocalist and entertainer of the year winner. He's one of the greatest supporters of our military forces and was part of our last memorial service also. The song which has been played over and over across this great country for months on end is "**American Soldier**" by a great friend of the military, Country artist **Toby Keith**"

On Track # 6 4:23

12:59 - "Most of us here today can relate to the servicemen and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan. For we too were involved in a war which seems so long ago, yet a lot of us still carry visions of rice paddies and jungles. We remember how we were helping the war effort by using methods we had been trained in to direct bombs on the enemy whenever and wherever our forces were threatened. And yes, we fought the secret war where we could inflict great damage on the enemy where he lived. This would be in the city of Hanoi and the port of Haiphong

And now some history, though sad, will live on as long as any of us here today still breath. Come with me now as we return to a time of unrest in this country. Riots and demonstrations were the norm across the nation. But they were in actuality, the minority. For we had many patriots who served in an undesirable war in the jungles of Southeast Asia with a prime purpose to set the people of South Viet Nam free from the communist affliction from Hanoi. And yes, we had many members of ICEVG who served many days in support of this effort.

It was 4 June, 1966. CEVG was surveying a new radar location around Dong Ha, SVN. Four surveyors and two volunteer autotrack specialists went out to survey this site. While they were completing their work they could see the VC running around out there maybe a mile away. Jerry Olds and Joe Carpenter stood watch while the surveyors accomplished their work. They got their job done and returned to base with no altercation.

Then came the morning of 5 June. An error had been discovered in the surveyors work and another trip was needed to correct the information. As they were loading up the jeep TSgt Mansfield replaced Joe Carpenter so he could take some pictures. As they turned

off the main highway they were spotted by the VC and allowed to pass unnoticed. Further down the road they were fired upon by some VC in order to cause them to turn around and go back. They turned around and ran back into an ambush waiting for them. All six were killed. The VC siphoned gas from the jeep and set the bodies on fire. Have we forgotten? I'm sure our answer to that question is **not NO but HELL NO!**

Our next incident and loss didn't occur until almost two years later. On 24 February, 1968 Ton Sun Nhut AB, SVN came under an artillery or rocket attack. TSgt Lowell Smith, working at Det. 15 was killed during this attack when his hootch was hit by incoming. We also suffered numerous injuries as Smith became the seventh man assigned to CEVG to be killed in action. **Have we forgotten?**

And then there was the secret war as it has been described in several books written on the incident. Most of us know how volunteers from CEVG were discharged from the Air Force and put in the employ of Lockheed as civilians. They served on a mountaintop in the northeast of Laos, just 20 miles from the North Vietnamese border. Close enough to NVN that they could target B-52's on Hanoi. This was supposed to bring an end to the war by inflicting heavy damage on the enemies' home.

It was very early on the morning of 12 March, 1968. The place was **Phou Pha Thi, Laos**. A ground directed bombing radar had been placed on the top of an impenetrable mountain with only one way up or down, or so they thought. This morning there were 16 men on site. The NV Regulars scaled the cliffs and surprised those working there. When daylight came three men were rescued and another killed by ground fire inside the helicopter. The man killed as the chopper was departing the area was CMSgt Richard Etchberger. He had kept the enemy away from the landing sight and had helped the three wounded survivors get in the sling. He also made it to the chopper but was struck as they were leaving and died due to loss of blood before he could reach a medical facility. Some of the other 11 were reported by the survivors as being seen killed and lying dead. Those and the rest of that eleven were listed as MIA for years before finally being declared dead with no trace of their remains. No firm evidence has ever been supplied to indicate otherwise. Saturation bombing for a solid week, to destroy all evidence of us being there, would have left very little trace of those killed. This would bring the total count, and final total of those lost in VN for CEVG to 19. With much gratitude, we now pay honor and homage to our 19 courageous men who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Please stand with me if you are able as we lower the flag to half staff in honor of those lost.

13:05 Echo Taps *Lower Flag to Half Staff and Read Names*
On Track# 7 1:01

13:06 Read – From the Other Side
6:00

Toll the Bell for each name

LtCol. Clarence Finley Blanton, 46, ElReno, OK

CMSgt Richard Loy Etchberger, 35, Hamburg, PA
TSgt James Henry Calfee, 36, Boling, TX
TSgt Melvin Arnold Holland, 32, Woodland, WA
TSgt Herbert Arthur Kirk, 39, Philadelphia, PA
TSgt Bruce Elwin Mansfield, 32, East Providence, RI
TSgt Antone Patrick Marks, 34, Nantucket, MA
TSgt Patrick Lee Shannon, 33, Owasso, OK
TSgt Lowell Vetter Smith, 34, Banner Elk, NC
TSgt Donald Kenn Springsteadah, 35, Millville, NJ
SSgt James Woodrow Davis, 28, Wayneboro, MS
SSgt Henry Gerald Gish, 25, Lancaster, PA
SSgt John Peter Guerin, 28, Los Angeles, CA
SSgt Willis Rozelle Hall, 40, Hollywood, FL
SSgt David Stanley Price, 26, Centralia, WA
SSgt Ephraim Vasquez, 26, San Antonio, TX
SSgt Don Franklin Worley, 31, Bald Knob, AZ
SSgt Jerry Dean Olds, 30, Elizabethtown, KY
A1c Rufus LaDell James, 28, Ft. Worth, TX

13:16 EKV's Pershing Rifle 21 gun salute.

13:17 Read – Tim Castle's Letter

4:00

13:21 – “This is the very nice CEVG Commemorative Coin that was designed by Larry Williams, a former member of CEVG. It has the CEVG emblem and some of the missions we performed on one side and the names of all 19 men lost in SEA on the reverse side, which is designed to resemble the VN wall in DC. We have a nice presentation ceremony for some of the attendees at tonight's banquet, but since Steven Hall must leave after the service today, I'd like for him to come up and let us present him with a coin.

Doris Gish, Norma Blanton, Ann Holland, Judy Johnson, Monterey Olds, Rosalie Bacica, Frances Arrington, Cory Etchberger, Steven Hall, and Carrie Wallace

13:23 “We come here today to dedicate this completed memorial and to honor these brave men of CEVG whose names have been engraved on the Combat Skyspot Trophy located in the 8th AF Museum at Barksdale AFB and on the bronze plaque located at the Combat Skyspot Memorial on Andersen AFB, Guam. I would ask the honor guard to bring forth the wreath for Col. Seitzberg to place at the memorial. There is an old song that honors these men's sacrifice for this country. I'd like to play it for them at this time as we honor them. The name of it is “**Some Gave All**” sung by **Billy Ray Cyrus**”

On Track # 8 4:05

JROTC start bringing in the POW/MIA flag, Service Hat, Dog Tags, Boots, and Rifle

Please stand with me if you're able for the playing of "*God Bless America*" by *Lee Greenwood*. Please join in if you like.

On CD #2, Track # 2 2:19

13:30 - This marks the 7th time we've gathered at this site where Det. 8 was first located in June 1963. We were all a lot younger at that time and our comrades whose names you see here were also with us then. There were many happy occasions that we can recall in our minds eye. I'm sure each of us can recall a situation where we were involved with at least one of the guys named here. We should continue in fellowship with each other as often as we can for some day we'll all be called to that great Commander's Roll Call to join our comrades again in that better place.

Col. Seitzberg, sir. The Detachment is ready for roll call.

The commander calls all the names.

All present will stand & answer...."Present Sir"

I answer "Strike his name from the rolls sir....the airman is gone

Toll the bell for those deceased

13:40 - "*Amazing Grace*"

On Track # 9 3:35

13:44 – As we close out this year's memorial service in remembrance of those comrades who stepped forward and supported our country by the giving of their lives, we ask that you always remember one thing. That one thing is that with patriots like you and our comrades, our current fighting forces, and our younger generations, this country will always be ready to take that extra step to support freedom no matter where it may take us.

It's also a great feeling to return to this spot, to recall old friends and memories, as we share old friendships and open new friendships with those that are here with us today. May the memory of our dearly departed comrades help us live out our daily lives to the fullest, and bring us together again at the next appointed time.

As we return to our homes around this great country I hope you'll keep the memory of

9-11 bright in your thoughts. I pray that the families of those affected and touched by that horrible disaster will find peace in their minds. We have one last tribute to everyone here, and we hope this service today has been able to ease the pains of your losses. We certainly welcome each and every one of you to our Det. 8 home and *Dolly Partons* song “*Welcome Home*” seems very appropriate to close this out.

On CD #3, Track #6 4:19

13:50 – Remember we’ll be having lunch at the Igloo Club immediately after we leave here. Those who haven’t paid and would like to join us see me to pay your \$3.50. Following the meal we’ll be given the depot briefing. At this time the color guard will return the colors to the top. All rise please, as we listen to a version of the **Trilogy** sung by CEVG’s own Harvey Payment. Again, listen closely to the words. I know I’ve been guilty of this and I’m sure some of you also have been guilty at times.

On Tape 3:40

“At this time please bow your heads and join me while I present the Benediction and a prayer for the meal we are about to partake of at the club.”

Our father in heaven we thank you again for this great day you’ve given us. Thank you for bringing all of us together one more time so that we might enjoy some memories of days gone by. We ask you to watch over those who’re unable to be here with us today due to sickness, injury, and other unforeseen events. Father we ask you to guide and direct the leaders of this great country and provide them the knowledge and skills to help us prevail in those terrorist filled spots around the world. Protect our soldiers, sailors, and airmen who are deployed around the world in the name of peace and justice for all mankind. Lord we ask that you watch over us during the remaining time of this reunion and guide and protect us as we journey back to our homes across this country. Father we ask that you bless the meal we are about to partake of and bless the hands of those who have prepared it for us. We thank you again for your love and caring for we would not be here today if not for your abundance of compassion. God we thank you also for sending your son Jesus to die for us on Calvary. Without his sacrifice there would be no life after death. And finally, we ask that you just touch those families with us today who have lost a loved one who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we may assemble here today. We thank you for that right to honor them and give thanks to you. We ask all these things in the name of Jesus and we’ll give you all the honor and glory, for we ask it in His name.
AMEN