

September 2017

# VVA392



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 392



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Chapter 392 • Portland, Oregon

*"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*



## Chief Master Sergeant Lawrence Cranford

The Chief was born 26 November 1947 in Yuma Arizona to Ralph & Edna Cranford. Raised in small farming community on the California side of the Colorado River, and graduated from San Pasqual High School in May 1966.

The Chief enlisted in the U.S. Air Force under 30 delayed enlistment program, and entered service on 8 March 1967. Followed by basic training at Lackland and Jet Engine Aircraft at Sheppard AFB.

Clark AFB in the Philippines was the 1st permanent duty assignment for the Chief, where he earned his 5 level in training. A key member of the refurbishment program on B-57 returning from Vietnam.

From Clark the Chief went to Beale AFB, and then to Bien Hoa in Vietnam. After completing his tour at Bien Hoa the Chief returned to Travis for separation in December 1970.

Taking a break from the Air Force and attending college for 9 months.

The Chief re-entered the Air Force and assigned to Luke AFB. After completing his tour at Luke the Chief accepted assignment to RAF Bentwaters England.

The Chief spent in all 24 years in the Air Force, and traveled to Vietnam, England, Italy, Turkey, and Germany.

Along the way he received

- (3) Air Force Commendations
- (3) Meritorious Service Medals
- (1) Air Force Achievement Medal

Twice nominated & once a finalist for the Lance P. Sijan Award for Leadership in the Senior Enlisted Category

An Associates Degree in Aircraft Maintenance Technology.

Along with BS in Industrial Technology from Southern Illinois U.

Currently the Chief is active in his church and helping Veterans.

## Rose Cup Races Portland International Raceway & VVA392

July 7-9th the 57th annual Rose Cup Races were held at Portland International Raceway.

Dudley Redhead was again competing a Spec Miata with his partner of 37 years Jim Graffy.

When our pop up was set up to shelter the car, and shade for us older folks. A banner "Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 392" was proudly displayed.

During the 3 days at PIR many people both veterans and non veterans stopped by to say "thank you for our service".

Also from other Spec Miata racers, donations of \$750 were raised for the July auction.



## VVA392 Auction

This year VVA392 is extremely pleased to be the recipient of Cross Point NW annual charity auction for a second year in a row.

Thanks to Bill Fuher for speaking with Norm Harding, and convincing him that we deserved to be the object of their gift a second time.

For this years auction VA392 and Fort Kennedy took on a more active role in the auction. We organized the dinner, which was Mexican this year. The bar, which all of the liquor was donated. The bar was manned by our support-

ers. So all of the money from the bar went directly to us from the auction.

This year again we purchased several firearms and auctioned off. Also we had 2 separate cruises that were auctioned off. Along with other items from generous donations, including a driving skid school.

The auto auction was a lively affair. The cars came across the and bidding was fast and furious.

Listening to the auctioneer is quite interesting to try and keep up with what he says, let alone the bid.

After the auction there was gambling. There were maybe 15 tables set up for card games, and other forms of gambling.

It certainly appeared that all of the guests had a fine time for the evening.

An interesting note to the auction was when Mr. Harding auctioned off a prime parking spot at the auction. Two guests got into a bidding war that went into the thousands. Then the winner donated to parking spot back. And the bidding started all over again.

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**That none are  
forgotten.**

**Welcome home  
my brother and  
sister.**

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## VVA National Convention

We were represented at the national convention by Gary McAdams, Larry Cranford, and Steve Carr.

Each of our representatives attended various seminars, bringing back valuable information.

Some chapters had many more in attendance than we had. Also some of the chapters had distinctive attire, that they were certainly recognizable.



Gary, Larry, and Steve had some time to explore the city of New Orleans, and reported how interesting it is. Oh the explorations also resulted in some great meals.

## Temporary Assigments

As you already know President Gary is having health problems, and cannot perform his duties currently.

Dudley Redhead will be acting President, Steve Carr acting Treasurer.

Lets all give Dudley and Steve all the support and assistance you can. They have taken over some big shoes to fill.

Get well Gary.

## New Members

Ltc. John Haub

Kevin Farrens

Jerome Murray

Charles Kamer

Rachael McIntosh

Terry Potts

Russel Graver

Welcome Aboard

## Presidents Condition

Gary McAdams President of VVA392 has been battling an issue with his foot for many months.

Doctors have been dealing with an infection. Last month Gary was hospitalized and doctors amputated the rest of the toes on the foot.

Gary is now recovering at home and his positive attitude and faith have served him well.