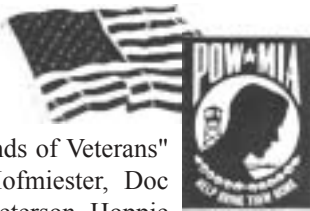


"Friends of Veterans" 2nd Annual Bike Blessing / Poker Run Fundraiser May 22nd. All the proceeds went to the Veterans Assistance Foundation. aka Veterans Homeless Shelter. (photo) Fr. George at the VA performed the Blessings of the Bikes. (photo) "Friends of Veterans" pictured are: 1st Row: Fred McDonald, Ronesa Revels, Callie Hofmiester, Doc Denman, Missy & Joe Trepes. 2nd Row: Moss Dahn, DJ Jones, Eric Peterson, Hoppie & Robin Hoppman, Bob Smith. Missing are Rory Revels, Kevin Miller, Jackie Murphy, TJ Johnson, Becky Epperson. A Special Thank You to The Toro Co, Tee Pee Supper Club, Wizard Tattoos, The Depot Inc., Angie's Call of the Wild, & all the businesses for donations to help with doorprizes. And Thank Everyone for their support. We were able to raise \$1557 to give to the Foundation. There is a wish list that is needed year round. It consist of Personal Care Items, Laundry items, recreational items, clothing, household supplies, appliances. Can call Veterans Assistance Foundation (608) 372-1280 for more information.



"Friends of Veterans"



Some of the riders in Tomah



Fr. George blessing the bikes



**Former POWs Final Mission**

From the Associated Press by Margie Mason

Piloting the same plane that rescued him three decades ago, a former American prisoner of war returned to Vietnam on Friday to fly home remains thought to be of two fallen comrades. Standing on the steamy tarmac in his flight suit, Maj. Gen. Edward Mechenbier saluted two aluminum cases draped in American flags as they were loaded onto the C-141, dubbed the "Hanoi Taxi" by POWs who rode it home after their release.

Mechenbier said it was fitting the last flight of his military career should be at the controls of the historic blue and white aircraft that flew him to freedom on Feb. 12, 1973, after his release from six years captivity inside Hoa Lo prison, nicknamed the "Hanoi Hilton" by POWs. "I consider myself among the very, very lucky to be alive and still be on flying status after all these years," the 61-year-old Mechenbier said. After about three hours at Noi Bai Airport, the plane took off for a U.S. military forensics laboratory in Hawaii, where the remains will be identified. The remains were recovered in central Vietnam by a U.S. military team that searches for soldiers still unaccounted for from the war.

**Continued from page 7**

Right about this time, as if on Que., a police car went by in the opposite direction. Ted and I watch in horror as the cop car made a U-turn. The two guys up front don't seem to notice. We grabbed our backpacks with one hand, and without saying a word opened the door of the vehicle, going about 45 mph, and jumped out. We rolled down a hill and into a rice field. Ted was somewhat freaked out by the rice patty, having spent more time than he wanted to in Korea. Somehow, we didn't get hurt. Looking up to the road, we saw the police car go by and head down the highway. We split out of there and into the woods, hoping that the cop had not seen us bail out. We laid low for awhile, just in case. Eventually, we got a couple of rides towards Daytona. After a week or so, we headed back to Jersey.

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since then. I don't think I've changed all that much, even though so much has happened. I still have a touch of wanderlust. I'll tell the LSD story from time to time. Every so often, it just pops into my mind. I'll always wonder if that cop, stopped those guys or not.

Within a year or so after returning to Jersey, I had built my first Harley Chopper, in the living room of my new girlfriend's apartment. I bolted on just about anything I could find, that would work, or buy new with my unemployment checks. I got it running after four or five months. I'll never forget that first season. It rained all the time, but I road the hell out of it, anyway. I just road around in circles all summer getting wet, with a great big grin on my face.

THE END

SEND US YOUR STORIES,  
PICTURES, IDEAS, JOKES, ETC.  
WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR  
FROM YOU

EDITOR@FREERIDERSPRESS.US  
1900A MADISON ST  
STEVENS POINT, WI 54481