



191st Assault Helicopter Company



"Boomerangs Always Come Back"



To "Bud" Patnode, our first Combat Commander of the 191st AHC:

Would you ever have imagined how command of the 191st AHC would suddenly fall in your lap the day you arrived in Vietnam? Yet, you grabbed the tiger's tail and steered him where you wanted him to go in the ensuing months. You established a solid template for what was to emerge – a very successful, cohesive unit that stood the test of time, providing robust combat aviation support to our customers, the infantry "boots on the ground." Who could have guessed how life's surprises would concatenate to bring us all together so many years hence?

This is a long-overdue note of admiration, appreciation, and gratitude for all you've done for the 191st AHC Association. At a time in your life when naps look pretty darned good, you stepped up and took on a lot of heavy lifting to bring order to a then, loosely structured group that built a huge head of steam on your watch. You brought your considerable organizational skills and clear thinking to bear on creating the 191st AHC Association as we know it today. As our first President, you identified and brought consensus solutions to the key issues we faced. It is difficult to properly recognize this level of achievement, but know in your heart that your extraordinary leadership has touched us all.

As we hope you are aware, during WWII, it was common practice for Military pilots to have a set of their Aviator Wings made into a bracelet. Because Military Aviation was transforming during that time, these badges took multiple forms. But, this tradition became firmly established and lies at the core of our history. As our first Combat Commander, we look to you as the living symbol of the proud legacy that made us what we came to be in the Republic of Vietnam. So, on behalf of all of us who served with the 191st AHC, we present this engraved bracelet to you as a token remembrance to honor all you did for us then, and so much later. THANK YOU from all of us for your extraordinary contributions.

With utmost collective respect,

Bill Flores
President, 191st AHC Association



Boomerangs and Bounty Hunters
Wingnut Service Platoon
Green Delta Flight Platoon

