

FRIENDSHIP WALL NEAR KHE SANH WILL BE DEDICATED TO FALLEN PILOTS

By Dave Hansen, Dustoff 702

1st Lt Daniel B. Cheney, recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross, was killed in action at Hau Nghia, South Vietnam, on January 6, 1969. Daniel was serving as pilot aboard a 17th Cav Cobra when an OH-6 Scout crew was shot down. In a valiant and successful action to save the lives of the Scout pilot and observer, Daniel and the Cobra AC aggressively engaged the enemy but were killed instantly when their helicopter crashed due to intense enemy fire.

I never knew Daniel, but like most VHPA members I lost several good friends in action. At the Philadelphia reunion last summer, I had the honor to meet Dan's mother Rae and his sister Jerilyn. We have all dealt with grief and loss in our own way. Rae and Jerilyn have transformed theirs into a powerful and effective force for good in Vietnam's poorest Province, Quang Tri.

Jerilyn & Rae

The idea for PeaceTrees Vietnam arose from their desire to turn sorrow into service. In 1995 when relations between our countries were normalized, Jerilyn Brusseau and Rae knew that it was time to build bridges of peace and friendship between the American and Vietnamese peoples. PeaceTrees began its work clearing mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO) from a former Marine supply base in Dong Ha and planting trees to restore the land. The site now houses a park of forty acres of trees and a landmine education center.

Over the past fifteen years PeaceTrees Vietnam has maintained its vision while broadening the scope of its work. It presently sponsors three explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) teams in Quang Tri Province. It provides accident survivor assistance and mine risk education. Its list of accomplishments as of this date includes:

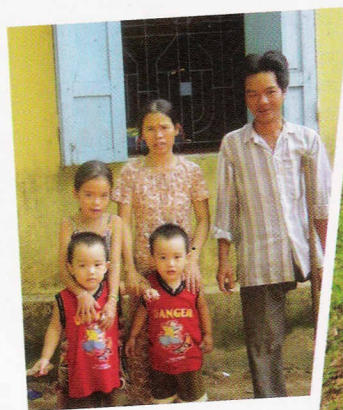
- 305+ acres of land cleared
- 49,489+ ordnance items removed
- 41,150+ trees planted
- 470 participants on 34 citizen diplomacy trips
- Mine Risk Education provided for 69,000+ people
- 100 family homes, 8 libraries and 4 kindergartens built
- Assistance to 797+ UXO victims and their families

The amazing success of this small organization has led both the US and Vietnamese governments to approve a remarkable memorial to Dan Cheney—a kindergarten for non-Vietnamese speaking Van Kieu kids in Ba Nang Village, Lao Baonot too far from Khe Sanh. The school will be dedicated to his memory and the memory of his fellows.

For a short time, until this June, there is an opportunity for each of us to sponsor black granite blocks inscribed with the name of our fallen friends, to be placed into a prominent Friendship Wall in the school. Also, all contributors and friends are invited to join the opening ceremony in Lao Bao in early September.

My good friend, Greg Crandall was killed near Lao Bao during Lam Son 719, so I am definitely chipping in with other friends to sponsor a block with his name for the wall. I hope to see many of my fellow pilots at the opening ceremony in Vietnam where we can truly honor our fallen friends with a living legacy.

On the next page there is an ad with details of how to sponsor a block for your fallen friends.





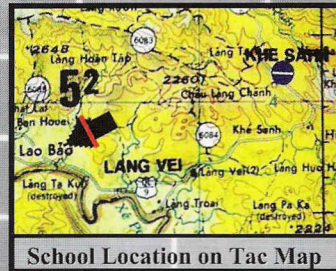
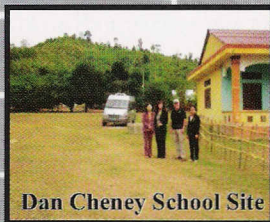
Friends of
DANIEL CHENEY



**Lt. Dan Cheney
Killed In Action
January 6, 1969**

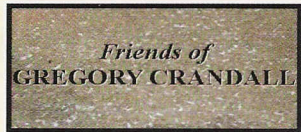
50 BLOCKS

BUILD A LIVING LEGACY TO OUR FALLEN FRIENDS



Fifteen years ago Gold Star Mother Rae Cheney and her daughter Jerilyn decided to transform their grief into a force for good by founding PeaceTrees Vietnam with the mission of removing unexploded ordnance in Quang Tri Province and replanting cleared areas with trees. Now, after removing over 49,000 pieces of deadly ordnance from over 305 acres of land, and planting over 41,000 trees, the US and Vietnamese governments have approved a unique memorial project- a new kindergarten school near Khe Sanh DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF FALLEN COBRA PILOT DAN CHENEY, killed in action January 1969.

Each of us can honor the memory of OUR fallen aviator friends by sponsoring an inscribed black granite block in their name. Each block will be built into the prominent **Friendship Wall** of the Dan Cheney school, and only **50 BLOCKS** are needed to pay the entire construction cost. Many blocks have already been sponsored by friends going in together to raise the \$500 donation.



All contributing friends are warmly welcome to attend the opening ceremony in early September in Ba Nang village near Khe Sanh. This can be your chance to return to Vietnam. Travel arrangements can be made for you.

ACT NOW TO BE SURE YOUR FALLEN FRIENDS ARE HONORED. CONTRIBUTIONS FOR BLOCKS WILL CLOSE ON JUNE 30TH IN ORDER TO INSCRIBE AND INSTALL THEM FOR THE OPENING.

JOIN US

By donating online now to the memory of your fallen friend. For Easy Donation Instructions go to: www.peacetreesvietnam.org/donate_now.htm Click on the green "Donate Now" button and then select the "Dan Cheney Kindergarten" project. Contact Information: Millica Koscica, Peace Trees Vietnam 206-441-6136

*Please pass this on to
other aviators who may wish to
honor their fallen friends.*