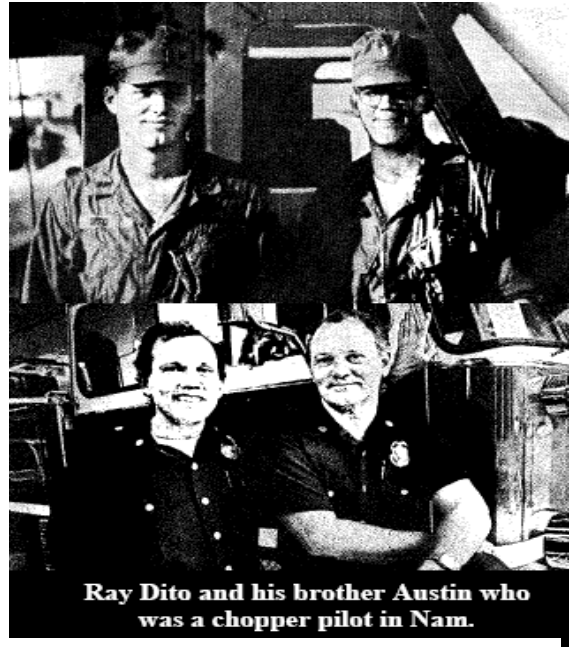


THE DITO BROTHERS

In a crisis, some people talk about doing things and others do them. Ray and Austin Dito are the "doing" type. They are presently in Lakeshore, Mississippi making a difference for a family all but forgotten in the aftermath of Katrina. Ray and Austin, both retired San Francisco firemen, are not new to action. Both served in Vietnam. Ray was a Marine platoon leader, seriously wounded while guarding the strategic Tu Cau bridge. The then Lieutenant Dito had no earthly idea that the actions on the [bridge](#) that nearly took his life were the beginning of the heaviest fighting of the entire Vietnam war-the 1968 TET offensive. His brother, Austin, was a helicopter pilot in Nam at the same time and flew continuous hazardous helicopter missions crisscrossing the Central Highlands hoping to cut the supply lines along the Laotian/Vietnamese border. Austin says that he will never forget the look on young soldiers' faces when he swooped down in triple thick canopy jungles to pick them up. Their hollow eyes softened for a moment as they realized they were safe. Ray and Austin miraculously got together once in Vietnam when Austin discovered that Ray was somewhere south of Da Nang.

Now, they are back together in the action again. In an odd sort of circumstances, Ray's daughter, a graduate student at Tulane University in New Orleans, had to evacuate because of Katrina just before completing her degree. Her roommate returned home to find her family's home and business wiped out! The father, a successful shrimp boater and restaurant owner, lost everything. They are presently living in a FEMA trailer. When Ray heard about this, there was no hesitation; he and Austin reunited to begin the operation of restoring their home. Ray says, "We're approaching this just like a mission in Vietnam. We have an objective: get these wonderful folks back into their home, a habitable home." They will do it. Ray and Austin will soon say the words below. [Back To Webzine](#)



Ray Dito and his brother Austin who was a chopper pilot in Nam.

Picture was taken in 1968 just before the 68 TET offensive

Mission accomplished