



# The California Zephyr



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A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Since September 19th is National POW/MIA Recognition Day I thought I would tell you about two men I flew with in Vietnam who are still missing. Our unit, 71st Assault Helicopter Company, Rattlers and Firebirds, was involved in a covert operation into Laos in August of 1970. On August 15, 1970 a Huey, with Lt. James Becker as the co-pilot and Specialist 4 Peter Schmidt as the door gunner, was flying a mission to extract a reconnaissance team that was in Laos. Because of the difficult terrain in the area of the planned extraction, the recon team was to be lifted out by ladder. The helicopter hovered 50 feet over the pickup zone and dropped the ladder from the right side of the aircraft. Usually when we picked up anyone with a ladder or rope we would drop one from each side of aircraft, why they only dropped one is unknown. Five of the team members climbed onto the one ladder, and the helicopter began to lift off. At about 100 feet the aircraft began to receive small arms fire. The helicopter was hit and started to go down.

As the helicopter descended into the trees the five team members were stripped off the ladder. When the ladder hit the trees it caused the helicopter to tilt to the right and go into the tress on its right side.

When the helicopter came to rest both Lt. Becker and Sp4 Schmidt were trapped in the Huey. The pilot and crew chief were able to free themselves from their seats and went to Becker and Schmidt's aid. Neither the pilot nor the crew chief could free the two trapped men so they decided to go back to the original pick up zone to get help.

The pilot wanted to alert everyone of Becker and Schmidt's condition and location so a rescue could be made. Due to this being a covert operation, in Laos, the Americal Division HQ refused to let a rescue mission take place. When questioned about why no rescue mission, Americal Division HQ threatened to court martial anyone who did not obey their order.

Lt. Becker and Sp4 Schmidt were left in Laos. It is unknown what became of them. The government told both of their families the men were both killed in action without their body's being recovered. How does the government know that? No one was allowed to go back in and attempt to rescue them, yet the U.S. government says they were KIA.

So much for "Leaving No Soldier Behind."

The U.S. Government has been back to the crash site twice to look for remains, but none have been located.

For more information go to the web site and read more.

<http://www.pownetwork.org/bios/b/b368.htm>

This below letter was written by our platoon leader about the day Becker and Schmidt went down.

- October 24, 1998
- James Christof Becker
- Peter Schmidt
- US Army
- Unit: 71st Assault Helicopter Co., 14th C.A.B.
- Date of Loss: 15 August, 1970

I was 1Lt. Becker's platoon leader at the time of this incident. 1Lt. Becker and CW2 Anderson were flying a covert mission at the time of their loss. During this time in 1970 the 14th C.A.B. and the 71st A.H.C. were charged with providing aircraft to perform insertion and extraction missions for CCN (Command Control North) a covert operations group (1). I was flying a re-supply mission for the 196th Inf. BDE. Out of Kham Duc, approximately three kilometers east of the Vietnam, Laotian border. Although 1Lt. Becker & CW2 Anderson were operating on a secure radio frequency, their mayday call was broadcast in the clear. I was sitting at the POL point at Kham Duc, checking our aircraft for bullet holes, since we had just taken fire on our previous mission while coming out of the landing zone. The infantry commander came out to our ship and informed us that he was sending out troops that we could insert to secure the area where 1Lt. Becker's aircraft had gone down. I immediately cranked and prepared to load the packs. Other Rattler and Minute Man aircraft were arriving and refueling for the insertion and a gun team alerted. After a few minutes, we were informed by radio that we were "not to return to the crash site and not to insert American troops". The infantry commander protested to Americal Division HQ and was threatened with court martial if he did not obey. Some weeks later CW2 Anderson brought a newspaper from home to the 71st Officers club. The headlines read something like "Laotian officials Protest at UN over US troops operating in neutral Laos". .. and the US categorically denied the allocations. Therefore, I believe that 1Lt. Becker and Sp4 Schmidt may have been captured by Laotian communist troops and not Vietnamese. Both of these individuals may have been rescued or at least recovered had division headquarters given the approval.

We cannot forget our Brothers in Arms.

Michael J. Beaumont (former Capt. US Army)

In Service To America  
Steve Mackey, President

## CHAPTER 400 - HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Chapter 400 is working with Habitat For Humanity up here for the three counties of Alameda, Contra Costa and one other (name escapes me for the moment).

They are very big on helping out veterans who need homes, homes repaired, etc.

Steve Mackey had received a request from Mokie a few days ago, concerning a vet who is in desparate need of a furnace, so I turned it over to HFH.



I would cautiously suggest that sometime in the future, that they be invited to speak at a quarterly meeting.

## CDVA SUMMIT ON WOMEN VETERANS.

By Kate O'Hare-Palmer.

On August 24,-25, 2014, the California Department of Veterans Affairs held its annual Women Veterans conference in Sacramento, "Bridging Gaps, Breaking Barriers." The conference started out by a rocking motion of the hotel on August 23rd as the Napa Valley earthquake shook us all awake at 3:30am!



This year's conference was broken into three parts. The first day focused on Dynamic women in service and workplace, education options for Veterans, the healthcare barriers for women veterans, and Financial literacy.(Wells Fargo Bank as a free section on their website for anyone to use.) The second day was focused on employment skills such as resume writing and employment panels from the technology industry, healthcare, state and federal employment and public utilities. While the conference was going on there were also services available to women regarding claims, VA benefits, VA hospital representatives, Swords to Plowshares, and the Red Cross. There was a "Dress Code Closet" available that allowed women to pick out three outfits of gently used clothing for dress for success appearance. They also had massage therapy services available for a quick break from the speeches!

Please visit Google Drive to view, download, or share presentations, materials, and photographs from the Summit. You can click here, share this link <http://goo.gl/cUfnas>. This is a total list of the various speeches and a wealth of information.

The Keynote Speaker, Elizabeth Perez-Halperin, president and founder of Green Incorporated(GCG), is a 9/11 service disabled veteran-owned Green Build General Contracting and Consulting Firm. Green is involved in an effort to broaden the outreach and impact of the green economy. In September of 2013, Ms. Perez-Halperin was selected as a 'Champion of Climate Change & Clean Energy Veteran' from the White House.

The Panel of experienced women veterans was focused on how to transition from the military to private sector. Key phrases that kept presenting themselves included: Redefine yourself, be persistent, learn to manage your own expectations, luck is the combination of hard work and opportunity, love your body and your look, be strong, never give up, don't lose your sense of humor, do your research, and always keep to your vision!

This seminar was not all sunshine and roses. Dr. Kathleen West, MPH, Dr.PH, is a public health professional who spent a brief time in Kuwait/Iraq in 2004-2005 with UNHCR, and her work has focused on military and veteran family issues as they intersect with public health, courts, and mental health systems in the US and other countries.

She developed a study to focus on women veterans in California who don't have health care and delve into what barriers they were having in getting health care. She was able to give us some preliminary results of work with 56 women vets interviewed. They ranged in age from 23-95. Length of service was from 1-30 years. First off, they are very difficult to find. They are invisible and out in the "boonies."

They are not able to get the mental health care and PTSD treatment needed. The main complaint was that the Service Connection component to receiving treatment kept many away. The inability to have individual counselling, waiting a long time for appointments, reliance on medication vs. therapy treatment, overmedicating with poly medications, and not offered alternative treatments such as yoga, acupuncture. They complained of given pain meds when PTSD symptoms showed and resorting to street drugs instead. They complained of the lack of continuity of staff, of doctors not knowing their case or not knowing their medical record. That develops lack of trust in VA personnel. These women are asking for civilian mental health care option because there are too many triggers at the VAH. They have no trust. They say that the vet centers didn't know about physical and dental care or reproductive care. Dental care is a big road block for these women finding employment because of the look they present. If they do get into an appointment at the VAH clinic, it is often cancelled and the staff has put in the chart that the vet cancelled it instead of the clinic!! They complained of no urgent care clinics to help with more immediate care needs that are not emergency care needs.

Finally the special issues for the National Guard and Reservists not having access to VA Services is a roadblock for them getting adequate care. The guard and reservist do not know what health care benefits that they are eligible for.

I would urge you to go to the CDVA website and look at the Women Veterans section.



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The opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of VVA, the State Council or its mem-bers.

Who Are The Vietnam Veterans Of America?  
Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit cor-poration and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Ser-vice Code.

VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE  
“Never again shall one generation of vet-erans abandon another.”

PURPOSE  
The purpose of Vietnam Veterans of America’s national organization, the state councils, and chapters is:

To help foster, encourage, and promote the improvement of the condition of the Vietnam veteran.

To promote physical and cultural im-provement, growth and development, self-respect, self-confidence, and usefulness of Vietnam-era veterans and others.

To eliminate discrimination suffered by Vietnam veterans and to develop channels of communications which will assist Viet-nam veterans to maximize self-realization and enrichment of their lives and enhance life-fulfillment.

To study, on a non-partisan basis, pro-posed legislation, rules, or regulations in-troduced in any federal, state, or local leg-islative or administrative body which may affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others; and to develop public-policy proposals designed to improve the quality of life of the Vietnam-era veteran and others especially in the areas of em-ployment, education, training, and health.

To conduct and publish research, on a non-partisan basis, pertaining to the re-lationship between Vietnam-era veterans and the American society, the Vietnam War experience, the role of the United States in securing peaceful co-existence for the world community, and other mat-ters which affect the social, economic, educational, or physical welfare of the Vietnam-era veteran or others.

To assist disabled and needy war veterans including, but not limited to, Vietnam vet-erans and their dependents, and the wid-ows and orphans of deceased veterans.

FUNDING  
Vietnam Veterans of America relies total-ly on private contributions for its revenue. VVA does not receive any funding from federal, state, or local governments.



Also, be sure to check out the Google drive address listed earlier to see the other topics covered. As always, keep on working for our veterans because they deserve the best.

**MST UPDATE**  
**UPDATE ON MILITARY JUSTICE IMPROVEMENT FOR MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA AND WOMEN VET-ERAN HEALTH CARE.**  
By Kate O’Hare-Palmer, Chair  
CSC and National Women Veterans Committee

This past year has continued to be a challenge in the arena of reform for the military to provide equal

opportunity to serve without harassment, discrimination or assault. There has also been the continued challenge to improve VA health care services to women veterans. The Department of Defense has released its sexual assault report this last May, and showed that the number of reports women of sexual assaults had increased by 50%. However, there is continued media coverage on commander retaliation and lack of justice for the perpetrators. Even with the recommendations by SWAN, members of Congress, VVA, and our advocates, the Pentagon outsourced its Sexual Assault report to an outside research firm. The political motivations to show an increase in improvements for the military response without true data is questionable. In May 2014, Vietnam Veterans of America and

Service Women Action Network filed a petition to request the VA to examine and change its regulations for MST claims. The processing has been unfair and with inconsistent results depending on the area of the country. The VA denied our petition. VVA and SWAN then filed a lawsuit stating that the effects of the current regulations are discriminatory to both



men and women veterans. So now the VA must justify its agency’s mishandling of MST claims before a U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

The VA’s inability to accept responsibility for these unfair claims practices continues to hurt our veterans seeking compensation.

S. Bill 2687, The Access To Contraception for Women Service Members and Dependents Act of 2014, is another bill to watch. It comes from Sen. Jeanne Shaheen(D-NH) and this would put the same level of care available that women in private sector have. It would also allow the inclusion of emergency contraception in the SAFE kit that is used following an assault.

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will also again sponsor an effort to reform the MJIA(Military Justice Improvement Act as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act later this year. The bill will again push to allow the JAG the ability to decide how to prosecute felony-level crimes.

The VA Hospital system is under scrutiny now that all these mishandling of veterans within the system has become public. Town hall meetings throughout the US are scheduled for veterans to come to their local hospitals and clinics and participate in discussions to help improve care within their district. This is our time to speak up about our needs so that we have a healthcare system that we can definitely count on.

MILITARY SEXUAL ASSAULT

Cathleen Cordova, Chapter 400

WOSL members have been working with Not Invisible activists, and calling on Congress to do something to put a stop to the epidemic of Military Sexual Assaults (MSA). Progress has been very slow and not as extensive as we might wish, but there have been “baby steps” made which gives us hope for greater change to come.

For example, Army General Sinclair was convicted of sexual misconduct and demoted...thereby losing benefits he might have received as a retired general. Yes, it’s a small step as the Army marches, but at least it is a step in the right direction.

In July we celebrate Independence Day, and we are reminded that independence didn’t come about overnight. Like all meaningful social change, it starts small, with courageous people willing to speak up, standup for what is right, and challenge the system. In this case it’s our entrenched US military.

Since WOSL screened the documentary The Invisible War there have been grassroots efforts to shine light on the issue of military sexual assaults. This movement has generated momentum and served as a catalyst for change. It has challenged the old guard and gone toe to toe with the military’s top brass—taking them to task for doing little to prevent the problem, and for their callous lack of concern for the survivors of military rapes. This quote from the Not Invisible Newsletter says it all. “We are still a far way off from freedom from this issue, but if we continue to work together, justice will prevail. Together we can fix our military’s broken judicial system and put an end to military sexual assaults. Together we are NOT INVISIBLE.”

In June 2014, Hillary Clinton publicly came out in support of the Military Justice Improvement Act.

The California State Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee approved Senate Bill 1422 which would require sex assault cases related to the CA Military Dept. to be adjudicated outside the chain of command.

The House of Representatives passed its version of the National Defense Authorization Act. Now begins the long wait for the Senate to follow suit on how to handle MSA.

Last but not least, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), and Service Women’s Action Network (SWAN) filed a federal lawsuit against the U S Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) claiming VA assessors make it far tougher for military-rape victims to prove their PTSD is caused by military sexual assault.

In summary, there is cause for hope. Let us not give up the struggle. Keep Congress and the military’s feet to the fire, and make a change for the better. Our military men and women deserve it.

For more information contact: Not Invisible, 2711 Angus St., Los Angeles, CA 90039 or at [www.notinvisible.org](http://www.notinvisible.org).

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Pete Conaty

Below is a final list of the bills we tracked for your organization for 2014. Tuesday September 30th midnight

was the deadline for the Governor to sign or veto the legislation that passed through the legislative process and made it to his desk.

The Governor signed all the veterans’ bills that made it to his desk in the final days. We could not have done it without you, California’s veterans. Many thanks to VVA Legislative Chair, Ken Holybee, who spent time at the state Capitol in our lobbying efforts testifying on bills, visiting legislator’s offices and talking to legislative staff.

This year, AB 935 (Frazier) was signed into law allowing veterans to have the word “veteran” on their drivers’ license. We have tried 4 bills in three years to get this legislation through. Because veterans signed and sent in over 2700 postcards and 200 letters, we finally did it. Assemblyman Frazier also worked very hard to get it through. Assemblyman Frazier is passionate on veterans’ issues and a real friend of veterans in the Legislature.

Your support also helped ensure that county veterans’ service offices received additional funding in the 2014/15 budget as they did in the last one. This allows them to increase the staffing in their offices and do outreach to veterans resulting in more claims for benefits filed on behalf of California’s veterans.

As you know, we have an election early next month, so the Capitol is empty and legislators are in their districts, many running for reelection. The returning and the newly elected members of the Legislature will be sworn in at the Capitol on Monday, December 1st 2014 for the 2015/16 legislative session. They will be in Sacramento for a few days and then back to their districts until the beginning of January when the session really begins.

Then the process all starts again, deadlines to get legislation drafted, find authors, get the legislation introduced, through committees, etc.

During this time, we are hard at work preparing and formulating ideas for legislation for next year, building relationships with legislative staff, and meeting new legislators. As soon as they are back in December, we need to be ready to hit the ground running once again.

If you have ideas for legislation, please contact your organization Legislative Chair, Ken Holybee and give it to him for consideration by his committee.

Regarding the bill list below, if it says “Chaptered”, the bill has been signed into law, “Vetoed” means the Governor rejected it and if it lists a legislative location, the bill did not make it through the legislative process and died along the way.

Most of the bills signed into law will take effect on January 1, 2015 unless otherwise specified in the bill.

For additional information on legislation, go to <http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/bilinfo.html>.

1. CA AB 13

Author: Conway (R)

Title: Nonresident Tuition Exemption: Veterans

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires the California Community Colleges and the California State University, and requests the University of California to update and adopt policies regarding tuition rates for eligible veterans and their eligible dependents to ensure conformity to, and compliance with, a specified federal statute and the requirements of existing law.

Position: Support

2. CA AB 114

Author: Salas (D)

Title: Proposition 39: Implementation: Workforce Development

Location: Senate Inactive File

Summary: Amends existing law that appropriates funds to the State Workforce Development Board to develop and implement a competitive grant program for eligible community-based and other training workforce organizations prepared disadvantaged youth or veterans for employment. Requires the Board to require a grant recipient to report to the Board specified information, and to review and assess the program in achieving the training and workforce development goals, identify problems and barriers, and provide solutions.

Position: Support

3. CA AB 186

Author: Maienschein (R)

Title: Professions and Vocations: Military Spouses: Licenses

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Establishes a temporary licensure process for specified licensed professions for an applicant who holds a current, active, or unrestricted license in another jurisdiction and supplies evidence of being married to or in a domestic partnership or other legal union with an active duty member of the Armed Forces who is assigned to a duty station in the state. Requires an applicant seeking a temporary license as an engineer, land surveyor,

geologist, geophysicist or hydrogeologist to pass the state examination.

Position: Support

4. CA AB 585

Author: Fox (D)

Title: Department of Veterans Affairs: Use of Real Property

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires the State Department of Veterans Affairs to create a prioritized list of unused or underutilized nonresidential real property owned by the Department and to propose potential uses that will benefit state veterans. Requires the Department to consider its inventory of properties as an integrated system, and to address how such uses could complement each other. Specifies that further study and evaluation may be necessary to determine the feasibility of use option and take steps toward implementation.

Position: Support

5. CA AB 614

Author: Chavez (R)

Title: State Veterans' Homes: Reimbursement Rates

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Provides that a veteran member of the Veterans' Home of California who is in intermediate care or skilled nursing care would not be subject to charges and fees if he or she meets specified criteria for disability status and payments by the federal Department of Veterans Affairs under specified federal regulations.

Position: Support

6. CA AB 919

Author: Williams (D)

Title: Sales and Use Taxes: Veterans: Itinerant Vendors

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Amends existing sales and use tax laws regarding itinerant vendors. Provides a procedure for a qualified veteran, who is a person who met specified requirements for being such a vendor, to submit a claim for certain qualified repayments with the State Board of Equalization. Requires the Board to certify to the Controller the amount of qualified repayments to be made to each veteran. Requires the Board to make payments of qualified repayments. Limits funding for repayments. Requires related reports.

Position: Support

7. CA AB 935

Author: Frazier (D)

Title: Driver's Licenses: Veteran Designation

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Allows an in-person applicant for a driver's license or identification card to request that the license or care be printed with the word veteran. Requires the applicant to present verification of veteran status on a specified form. Requires the county veterans service offices to verify an applicant's veteran status for these purposes. Authorizes an additional fee to a person who requests such designation.

Position: Sponsor

8. CA AB 1397

Author: Muratsuchi (D)

Title: State Civil Service: Veterans Preference Data

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Includes the veterans preference system among employment selection devices of the State Department of Human Resources. Requires that statistical information designed to yield the data and analysis necessary for the evaluation of equal employment opportunity within the State civil services that is maintained by the Department include specific data to determine the underutilization of groups on veterans status. Requires that data analysis to include specific information pertaining to veterans status.

Position: Support

9. CA AB 1453

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)

Title: Southern California Veterans Cemetery

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to design, develop, construct, and equip a State-owned and State operated Southern California Veterans Cemetery in the City of Irvine. Makes all honorably discharged veterans, their spouses and eligible dependent children eligible for interment in the cemetery. Establishes a fee to be charged for interment. Creates a related fund to provide moneys for the cemetery. Authorizes acceptance of donations. Makes proposals for the cemetery subject to review.

Position: Support

10. CA AB 1509

Author: Fox (D)



Title: Veterans: Transition Assistance  
Location: Chaptered  
Summary: Requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to develop a transition assistance program for veterans who have been discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States or the National Guard of any state. Relates to transition to civilian life. Requires the program to include California-specific transition assistance information.

Position: Support

**11. CA AB 1518**

Author: Eggman (D)  
Title: Military: National Guard: Youth Challenge Program

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Authorizes the Adjutant General to establish a National Guard Youth Challenge Program which would provide a residential program and a post-residential mentoring period to improve life skills and employment potential of participants. Provides that the program would accept federal funding and the Military Department is required to enter into a memorandum of agreement with an appropriate school districts or county office of education for providing educational services.

Position: Support

**12. CA AB 1557**

Author: Holden (D)  
Title: Board of Governors of Community Colleges: Member

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Specifies that members of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, to the greatest extend possible, should be inclusive and representative of the many demographic groups found in the State, and that the Board should reflect diversity of race and gender, and include, among others, disabled persons and veterans. Provides that each board member should bring his or her own best thinking and personal views to the Board's discussion.

Position: Support

**13. CA AB 1580**

Author: Yamada (D)  
Title: Morale, Welfare and Recreation Fund Recreation Fund

Location: Senate Inactive File

Summary: Creates the Veterans' Home Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund to provide for the general welfare of the residents living in State veterans' homes. Provides that moneys in the fund would be exempt from specified provisions relating to the determination of administrative costs owed by each state agency to the State. Requires the development of standardized expenditure procedures for the fund. Relates to reporting on the fund expenditures and the submission of itemized reports.

**14. CA AB 1589**

Author: Frazier (D)  
Title: Military or Overseas Voters: Electronic Ballots  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Allows the application for a ballot to be considered a standing request for electronic delivery of a ballot for all elections conducted in the jurisdiction in which the military or overseas voter is eligible to vote and requires the elections official to provide for electronic delivery of the ballot.

Position: Support

**15. CA AB 1637**

Author: Frazier (D)  
Title: Driver's Licenses: Veteran Designation  
Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Allows an applicant for a driver's license or identification card to allow a person to request the driver's license or identification card be printed with the word VETERAN. Requires the applicant to present to the Department of Motor Vehicles proof of veteran status with a specified form. Requires the word VETERAN be printed on the face of the license or card. Authorizes the Department to charge an additional fee to a person who requests such designation.

Position: Sponsor

**16. CA AB 1712**

Author: Gomez (D)  
Title: Unclaimed Property  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Amends the Unclaimed Property Law. Revises the term owner to include a nonprofit civic, charitable, or educational organization that granted a charter, sponsorship, or approval for the organization that had the legal right to the property prior to its escheat but that has dissolved or is no longer in existence, if the charter, sponsorship, approval, organization bylaws, or other governing documents provide that unclaimed or surplus property shall be conveyed to the granting organization

upon dissolution.

Position: Support

**17. CA AB 1733**

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)  
Title: Public Records: Fee Waiver  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires each local registrar or county recorder to issue, without a fee, a certified record of live birth to persons who can verify their status as a homeless person, child or youth. Requires a homeless services provider that has knowledge of a person's housing status to verify the person's status as a homeless person, child or youth for such purposes. Provides for the issuance, without a fee, of identification cards to such persons by the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Position: Support

**18. CA AB 1781**

Author: Linder (R)  
Title: National Guard Education Assistance Award Program

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Relates to the State National Guard Education Assistance Award Program. Provides that a qualifying member who meets specified conditions may be eligible to receive an award for a summer session term if the member submits a letter from his or her unit commander that states that the summer session will not adversely impact the member' attendance at mandatory military training.

Position: Watch

**19. CA AB 1804**

Author: Perea (D)  
Title: Insurance: Notice of Lapse  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires, with regard to private passenger automobile insurance that provides a coverage for a specified time, residential property insurance, and policies of individual disability income insurance that are issued after a certain date, an insurer to maintain a verifiable process that allows an applicant or policyholder to designate a person to receive notice of lapse, termination, expiration, nonrenewal or cancellation of a policy. Specifies that individual does not have any rights to any benefits.

Position: Support

**20. CA AB 1821**

Author: Gordon (D)  
Title: Medical Foster Homes  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Establishes the Medical Foster Home Pilot Program. Authorizes a United States Department of Veterans Affairs facility to establish a medical foster home that is not subject to licensure or regulation as one of specified residential care facilities provided that specified federal requirements are satisfied and the facility establishing the home agrees to be subject to the jurisdiction of the State Auditor and the Department obtains a criminal background information on caregivers and residents.

Position: Support

**21. CA AB 2098**

Author: Levine (D)  
Title: Military Personnel: Veterans: Sentencing  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires a court to consider in its conclusion that a defendant eligible for probation was, or currently is, a member of the United States military and that the defendant may be suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health programs as a result of service as a factor in granting probation. Requires a court to consider the above-factors in its application of a sentence for a felony conviction. Allows consideration of similar trauma.

Position: Support

**22. CA AB 2099**

Author: Frazier (D)  
Title: Postsecondary Education: Title 38 Awards  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Relates to federal educational awards for eligible active duty members and veterans of the Armed Forces, under Title 38, and the State course accreditation system. Deems a public or private postsecondary educational institution that is accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education eligible for such awards if the institution satisfies specified criteria for qualification. Makes changes concerning awards to certain private postsecondary education institutions.

Position: Support

**23. CA AB 2201**

Author: Chavez (R)

Title: Selective Service and Drivers License for Vehicles

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Requires a person who is required to be registered under the federal act who submits an application for an original or renewal of a driver's license to be deemed to have consented to registration with the federal Selective Service System. Requires specified notices on an application for an original or renewal of a driver's license and requires the department to forward the necessary personal information required for registration to the federal Selective Service System in an electronic format.

Position: Support

**24. CA AB 2215**

Author: Maienschein (R)  
Title: Veterans: Recorded Documents  
Location: Chaptered

Summary: Permits a family member or legal representative of the veteran authorized by law to receive a certified copy of military discharge documents to request recordation of those documents on the same terms as a veteran.

Position: Watch

**25. CA AB 2261**

Author: Gorell (R)  
Title: Veterans Services and Workforce Development Division

Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Establishes the State Veterans Services and Workforce Development Division to administer veterans assistance programs provided by the State, and to coordinate with other State entities regarding informing veterans of benefits and assistance programs and changes in existing or new programs. Requires the Division to work with the State EDD to transfer the administration of the programs to the Division.

Position: Support

**26. CA AB 2263**

Author: Bradford (D)  
Title: Veterans Service Advocate: Correctional Facilities

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Authorizes a veterans service organization to volunteer to serve as a veterans service advocate at each facility under the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. Provides the advocate would be authorized to develop a veterans economic recidivism prevention plan for each veteran inmate. Requires authorizes the advocate access to veteran inmates and resources to assist in the implementation of such plan. Requires the advocate to coordinate with specified agencies and veterans service officers.

Position: Support

**27. CA AB 2311**

Author: Bradford (D)  
Title: General Assistance: Employable Veterans  
Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Relates to general assistance program limitations. Exempts a prohibition against an employable individual from receiving general assistance benefits, an employable veteran who was honorable discharged from the Armed Forces, unless the county enacts an ordinance making the prohibition applicable against such veterans.

Position: Support

**28. CA AB 2329**

Author: Melendez (R)  
Title: Personal Income Tax Law: Military Veterans  
Location: Assembly Appropriations Committee

Summary: Amends the Personal Income Tax Law to exclude from gross income concurrent retirement and disability pay payments received by the eligible individual.

Position: Support

**29. CA AB 2341**

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)  
Title: Longitudinal Pupil Data Systems: Military Pupils

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Relates to the California Longitudinal Pupil Achievement Data System. Provides for pupils of military families. Requires local educational agencies to report the enrollment of pupils of military families. Requires the State Department of Education to include pupils of military families as an indicator for specified purposes. Prohibits the data from being used to compile reports required by specified federal provisions.

Position: Support

**30. CA AB 2357**

Author: Skinner (D)  
Title: Parole: Consideration of an Inmates Military Service

Location: Chaptered



Summary: Requires the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to include in an assessment of all inmates data regarding the inmate's service in the United States Military.

Position: Sponsor

**31. CA AB 2498**

Author: Achadjian (R)

Title: Highway Signs: Veterans Memorials and Monuments

Location: Assembly Transportation Committee

Summary: Requires the Department of Transportation to affix, on National Purple Heart Trail memorial signs, directional signs to each veterans' memorial or monument located within a specified distance of State Highway 101, upon receiving funds from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the costs. Prohibits affixing more than one such sign on a National Purple Heart Trail memorial sign located on such highway.

Position: Support

**32. CA AB 2545**

Author: Lowenthal B (D)

Title: Victims of Crime: Restitution: Military Assault

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Relates to victims of crime and restitutions. Prohibits denial of an application for compensation with respect to a claim based on sexual assault committed by military personnel against military personnel, solely because the sexual assault was not reported to a superior officer or law enforcement at the time of the crime. Sets forth types of evidence of sexual assault the board would be required to consider in these cases.

Position: Support

**33. CA AB 2664**

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)

Title: State National Guard

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Establishes the State National Guard Military Family Relief Fund within the State Military Department Support Fund for the purpose of providing financial aid grants to eligible members of the State National Guard who are State residents and who have been called to active duty. Requires eligibility criteria for the grants. Allows taxpayers to designate on their tax returns that a specified amount in excess of their tax liability be transferred to the California Military Family Relief Fund.

Position: Watch

**34. CA AB 2703**

Author: Quirk-Silva (D)

Title: County Veterans Service Officers

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Relates to the disbursement of funds by the Department of Veterans Affairs for the purpose of supporting county veterans service officers pursuant to the annual Budget Act. Authorizes the Department to develop an allocation formula based upon performance to encourage innovation and reward outstanding service by county veterans service officers. Requires moneys appropriated for such purposes in the annual Budget Act to be allocated in accordance with that formula.

Position: Support

**35. CA ACR 105**

Author: Nestande (R)

Title: Legislature: Wounded Warrior Program

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Honors the achievements of the United State House of Representatives' Wounded Warrior Program. Encourages the Assembly Committee on Rules to study the potential of implementing similar programs in the Legislature.

Position: Support

**36. CA ACR 126**

Author: Atkins (D)

Title: Women Veterans

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Proclaims June 12, 2014, as Women Veterans' Day.

Position: Support

**37. CA ACR 143**

Author: Bigelow (R)

Title: Buffalo Soldiers: Yosemite National Park

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Recognizes the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers. Honors the important role they played in the history of our national parks.

Position: Support

**38. CA ACR 153**

Author: Dickinson (D)

Title: California LGBT Veterans Day

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Proclaims June 11, 2014, and June 11 of each subsequent year, California LGBT Veterans Day, to be celebrated statewide.

Position: Support

**39. CA AJR 33**

Author: Holden (D)

Title: Military and Veterans

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Urges the United States Department of Defense to include the names of the 74 fallen sailors of the Destroyer U. S.S. Frank E. Evans (DD 754) on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Position: Support

**40. CA AJR 38**

Author: Salas (D)

Title: Fair Employment and Housing: Military and Veteran Status

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requests Congress to pass and the President to sign into law Senate Bill 1281 and House Resolution 2654 and encourages the members of the California Congressional Delegation to join as co-authors on those measures.

Position: Support

**41. CA AJR 46**

Author: Frazier (D)

Title: Birth Anomalies: Children of Veterans

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Urges the United States Congress to pass, and the United States President to sign into law specified legislation that establishes a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service in the armed forces. Encourages the members of the California Congressional Delegation to join as coauthors on the bill.

Position: Sponsor

**42. CA HR 50**

Author: Allen T (R)

Title: State of Israel

Location: ASSEMBLY

Summary: Recognizes both Israel's right to exist as a nation, and to exist within safe and secure borders.

Position: NoPosition

**43. CA SB 297**

Author: Roth (D)

Title: Public Contacts: Disabled Veterans

Location: Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and The Economy Committee

Summary: Increases participation goals requiring a state agency, department, officer, or other state governmental entity, to meet an annual statewide participation goal for disabled veteran business enterprises for specified contracts entered into by the awarding department during the year.

Position: Support

**44. CA SB 589**

Author: Hill (D)

Title: Vote by Mail Ballots

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires a county elections official to establish a free access system by which a vote by mail voter may learn whether his or her ballot was counted and, if not, the reason why it was not counted, and to make the system available by mail voter under specified requirements. Permits the official to elect to not mail a sample ballot if specified conditions are met, and permits one less sample ballot to be printed. Relates to the establishment of a free excess system for voting by mail ballots.

Position: Support

**45. CA SB 722**

Author: Correa (D)

Title: Mexican American Veterans' Memorial Beautification Fund

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Extends the date for reversion of funds deposited into the Mexican American Veterans' Memorial Beautification and Enhancement Fund and used for the beautification and enhancement of an existing memorial on state grounds.

Position: Support

**46. CA SB 733**

Author: Block (D)

Title: State Contracts: Disabled Veteran Business

Location: Assembly Jobs, Economic Development, and The Economy Committee

Summary: Amends existing law that establishes a 3% statewide participation goal for disabled veteran business enterprises for certain types of state contracts. Deletes the provisions allowing the awarding department to accept submission of a disabled veteran business enterprise utilization plan. Specifies that the statewide participation goal for disabled veteran business enterprises may be met by the business utilization plan.

Position: Watch

**47. CA SB 839**

Author: Correa (D)

Title: California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Makes technical, nonsubstantive changes to existing law that establishes goals to facilitate the participation of disabled veteran business enterprises, and establishes the Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program for this purpose and requires an officer or agency to utilize existing resources, including, but not limited to, specified state and federal entities.

Position: Support

**48. CA SB 842**

Author: Knight (R)

Title: Highway Signs: Veterans' Home of California

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires the Department of Transportation to erect, at appropriate locations on highways in the state highway system, generic directional signs to each Veterans' Home of California, upon receiving funds from nonstate sources sufficient to cover the cost.

Position: Support

**49. CA SB 850**

Author: Block (D)

Title: Community College Districts: BA Degree Pilot Program

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Authorizes the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges to establish a statewide baccalaureate degree program at a maximum number of community college districts to authorize each district to offer one baccalaureate degree program within a district. Requires a participating district to meet specified requirements in providing such program. Requires each district to submit certain program-related items for review. Relates to program funding.

Position: Support

**50. CA SB 948**

Author: Hueso (D)

Title: Active Militia

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Recasts and Revises the qualifications for state active duty service members, to include retired or separated members of the federal reserve component of any branch of the United States Armed Forces or the federally recognized National Guard of any state or United States territory, with current membership in the State Military Reserve. Requires a member already servicing on State active duty who federally retires to assess into the State Reserve to maintain eligibility for continued state active duty.

Position: Watch

**51. CA SB 989**

Author: Galgiani (D)

Title: Veteran Services: State Agencies and Departments

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: States the intent of the Legislature that the Department of Veterans Affairs enter into memoranda of understanding or interagency agreements with other state agencies and departments to ascertain the veteran status of all persons receiving services, benefits, or assistance from those state agencies and departments. Authorizes agencies to make available in their field offices brochures, forms, and posters in order to inform veterans of benefits and services and a link on its Web site to the Department.

Position: Support

**52. CA SB 995**

Author: Knight (R)

Title: Military Service: Benefits

Location: Senate Rules Committee

Summary: Makes technical, nonsubstantive changes to existing law that authorizes members of the United States Military Reserve or the National Guard who are called to active duty as a result of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts to defer payments on certain obligation while serving on active duty, including, among others, up to tow vehicle loans.

Position: Watch

**53. CA SB 1110**

Author: Jackson (D)

Title: Arraignment: Military and Veteran Status: Forms

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires the Judicial Council to revise its military service form to include specified information. Requires the court to inform the defendant that there are certain provisions of law specifically designed for individuals who have active duty or veterans status and who have been charged with a crime, and to inform the defendant the he or she may request a copy of the military



form that explains certain rights and may file that form with the court. Provides for the dissemination of the form by the court.

Position: Sponsor

**54. CA SB 1113**

Author: Knight (R)

Title: Property Taxation: Disabled Veterans Exemption: Refunds

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Relates to veterans with disabilities. Provides that if a claim for a refund is filed for a disabled veterans' property tax exemption on or after a specified date, the period of time for which a refund is required to be made shall be extended.

Position: Support

**55. CA SB 1152**

Author: Anderson (R)

Title: Property Taxation Exemptions: Vets Organizations

Location: Assembly Revenue and Taxation Committee

Summary: Provides that a veterans' organization property tax exemption shall not be denied to a property on the basis that the property is used for fraternal, lodge, or social club purposes. Provides that such exemption shall not apply to any portion of a property that consists of a bar where alcoholic beverages are served.

Position: Support

**56. CA SB 1226**

Author: Correa (D)

Title: Veterans: Professional Licensing

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires a professional licensing board within the Department of Consumer Affairs to expedite, or when applicable assist, the licensure process for an applicant who supplies satisfactory evidence to the board that he or she has served as an active duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States that he or she has served on active duty and was honorably discharged. Authorizes the submission of certain evidence of military training to meet security officer licensure standards.

Position: Support

**57. CA SB 1227**

Author: Hancock (D)

Title: Diversion: Members of the Military

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Authorizes the court, with the consent of the defendant and a waiver of the defendant's speedy trial right, to postpone prosecution of a misdemeanor if the defendant was, or currently is, a member of the United States military and if he or she may be suffering from sexual trauma, traumatic brain injury, post traumatic stress disorder, substance abuse, or mental health problems as a result of military service. Authorizes referral to services for treatment.

Position: Support

**58. CA SB 1247**

Author: Lieu (D)

Title: Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Revises and recasts the provisions of the Private Postsecondary Education Act of 2009. Removes an exemption for an institution that is approved to participate in veterans financial aid programs and that is not an independent institution of higher education. Requires the establishment of a process for the investigation of complaints filed, to post information on a specified Internet Web site, and the establishment of a task force to identify standards for specified education and training programs.

Position: Support

**59. CA SB 1282**

Author: Knight (R)

Title: Gold Star Family Specialized License Plate Program

Location: Senate Appropriations Committee

Summary: Deletes the requirement that Gold Star Family license plates be issued only in a sequential series, thereby authorizing the issuance of these license plates as environmental license plates.

Position: Support

**60. CA SB 1422**

Author: Padilla (D)

Title: Military Courts: Sexual Assault: Courts-Martial

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Requires the State Military Department to report prescribed information to specified entities information regarding the federal government's sexual assault prevention and response activities for the previous federal fiscal year, as well as plans for the prevention and response. Restrict the authority for the assertion of jurisdiction over cases of sexual assault, or an attempt of that offense by a member of the active militia when

performing military duty under federal law or while on state duty orders.

Position: Support

**61. CA SB 1440**

Author: Wolk (D)

Title: Veterans Homes: Fees and Changes

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Relates to Veterans Home of California for aged and disabled veterans. Requires nonveteran spouses to pay the same fees and charges as paid by the veteran members of the home, as determined by the State Department of Veterans Affairs, and subject to the same prohibitions.

Position: Watch

**62. CA SCR 59**

Author: Knight (R)

Title: William J. Knight Veterans Home - Lancaster

Location: Assembly Transportation Committee

Summary: Recognizes the location of the William J., Pete, Knight Veterans Home of California-Lancaster in Los Angeles county along State Highway Route 14 near the exit for West Avenue I in the City of Lancaster.

Position: Support

**63. CA SCR 107**

Author: Hueso (D)

Title: D-Day Invasion: 70th Anniversary

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Commemorates the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion by proclaiming June 6, 2014, as D-Day Remembrance Day.

Position: Support

**64. CA SCR 110**

Author: Hernandez E (D)

Title: Korean War Remembrance Week

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Recognizes the 4th calendar week of June in 2014, and each 4th calendar week in June thereafter, as Korean War Remembrance Week.

Position: Support

**65. CA SCR 118**

Author: Anderson (R)

Title: Military Sacrifice: Remembrance

Location: Chaptered

Summary: Encourages the people of California to honor our war dead on the 21st day of each month by flying the flag of the United States at half-staff in remembrance and in honor of all those who have given their lives in military service in war and pausing for a moment of silence for 21 seconds to honor our fallen heroes.

Position: Watch

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## POW/MIA CHAIR - LA MESA

*Editor's Note: Following the last issue of the Zephyr, I received mail from the family who originally put the POW/MIA Chair Memorial in La Mesa together during the war. I thought you'd enjoy reading more about its history:*

There were plaques two stolen from our memorial and luckily I had a still picture of the one otherwise we would have not been able to reproduce it and I am sending you a picture of it as well along with the other pic's. We had our replacement plaques done in black granite as the copper/bronze engraving as was done years ago is a lost art now. I contacted a local company earlier this year and he refinished all of the previous plaques that were hardly legible from the years of wear and as you can see Tom in the Memorial picture on the last page of the Zephyr article those two plaques on the top of the granite have an almost goldish finish and the average person (thieves) would never know that those are the original bronze/brass finished. They were all cemented/bolted on this last year when they were replaced.

I realize after looking back at the first email I sent you with the reference to our web. pg. that I had not attached the pictures I had mentioned in my first email to you on 9/22. Virginia Evers now 94 had the idea back in 1969 to build the Vietnam Memorial in La Mesa where their family then resided for many years. Virginia and her husband Ellis were very involved in the whole project then. Denise Evers Rhoads is their daughter & was a 20 year old college student then and became Chairman for the project which was named "Heartland Youth for Decency Vietnam War Memorial". The name "Heartland references the men who were killed in action during the Vietnam war and resided in the "east county" area of San Diego prior to their enlistment of the service which includes the areas of: La Mesa, Spring Valley, Lemon Grove, El Cajon, Santee and Lakeside.

My father Orest Zalopany (now deceased) was a 36

year old mason contractor and he donated his time to build the memorial. My father became involved because I was then a 16 year old teenager in 1969 and was a member of the group "Youth for Decency".

If you had time to read the web page (<http://www.hyfd.org>) I first referenced last week you know that the City had to transfer the deed to the American Legion Post 282 in 1997 because of legal issues that started regarding the cross on top of the Memorial but the Legion had not been able to keep up the much needed maintenance. So we put out flyers, sought donations, I spoke at some organizations and we raised the public funds for the work to be completed. We am currently working on getting handicap access to the Memorial as there were three men in wheelchairs on 6/14/14 (2 were motorized) and they were unable to be at the memorial site because of the limited access. That should never be and as you know the Vietnam Vets are not getting younger.

The memorial is now restored beautifully and this next week I will go over and take some still pics of the grounds so you can see the before & after pics as well as some pics from back when the whole project started 44 years ago

I think it is important for you to see the picture I have



sent you of Dan Evers (Denise's brother) who did the art work on the Empty Chair for the 6/14/14 Memorial re-dedication, the man next to him Matt is Dan's apprentice and he designed the Eagle mosaic on the back of the Empty Chair that you have in the Zephyr. Dan's name was not mentioned in the article and I know there is always a lot for you to put in I am sure, I just wanted you to see who did the work and he is going to be putting another





bench at the Memorial that will have a mosaic on it in the near future. (Dan is at the podium with the hat on and he is referenced on the VVA 472 donation plaque for the chair as the Rainforest Art Project.

The other pics are: Virginia Evers (94)

Art Madrid La Mesa Mayor at podium handing Denise (in red top) and myself (white & blue striped top) the keys to the city of La Mesa. (what an honor!)



I am also including a copy of the plaque that I had made that references VVA Chapter 472 for the donation of the Empty Chair.

Oresta Johnson  
Proud VVA Chapter 472  
Associate Member

#### HEARTLAND VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL REDEDICATED ON FLAG DAY BJ Coleman

The Heartland Youth for Decency's Vietnam War Memorial at rededication ceremonies on June 14, showing the front view of the newly installed POW/MIA Chair, the first permanent emplacement of its kind in California. The memorial honors East County military personnel who perished or remain unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

The old virtues may be forgotten for a time. Once remembered, they resonate as before.

The Heartland Youth for Decency in 1970 consisted of a group of East County teenagers who were determined that, despite the roiling contentiousness over the Vietnam War, a neglected act of decency was to provide equitable treatment to their neighbors who had fallen in the conflict. Just as war dead had been remembered for sacrifice throughout U.S. history. They advocated and supported constructing a simple monument honoring East County troops who had perished in the Vietnam War. The HYFD Vietnam War Memorial was built at the northwest corner of Spring Street and University Avenue in La Mesa and dedicated on June 14, 1970. This was one of the first such memorials ever to casualties of Vietnam.

Now mature, HYFD volunteers re-gathered in La Mesa on June 14, for a 44th anniversary rededication of the memorial, with nearly 400 attendees. For the past several weeks, event coordinators sought surviving family members and friends in the area to attend the ceremony.

These HYFD founders added another groundbreaking chapter to their efforts, unveiling a permanent POW/MIA empty chair sculpture to the memorial grounds, to acknowledge those whose fate remains unknown.

"We are making history again today," said Oresta Zalopany Johnson, daughter of Orest Johnson, the mason

who laid the stonework for the memorial. "This chair acknowledging the prisoners and missing is the first in California as a permanent empty chair remembering those still unaccounted for."

Artist and HYFD member Dan Evers, who donated his labor for what he calls "this living memorial", designed the chair.

A featured speaker at the event was Mel Moore, a retired Navy captain, who 44 years ago was a prisoner of war in the Hanoi Hilton.

"What a glorious day we have here, for dedication and tribute to this monument," he said. "I have no regrets about being a prisoner of war. The experience taught me what is important and what is not important in life."

He said the volunteer efforts on behalf of the memorial were a key "to preserve what we have."

The restored monument features a blank plaque, to be engraved with the name of any Heartland serviceman whose remains are discovered and repatriated.

The "matriarch" of the memorial, Virginia Evers, who in 1969 had the original idea, encouraged the youth group she and her husband counseled to spearhead the efforts.

"I get all filled up when I look at the monument," she said. "I am so happy I was instrumental in seeing it was built."

Impetus for the renewal derived from recent events, in which the memorial had fallen into disrepair and suffered vandalism. Oresta Johnson visits the HYFD Vietnam War Memorial on special occasions to remember her father and place a rose amid the stones. On January 13, 2013, her father's birthday, she was distressed to discover that two of the memorial plaques had been stolen and that royal blue graffiti tagged the entire left side of the stonework. The irrigation system was broken. The flagpole was rusting. She sought helpers to begin cleaning and repairs. The two missing plaques were reproduced and readied for remounting, but mason James Elliot observed one of East County's fallen was missing.

In 2013, Oresta Johnson reconnected with former HYFD leader Denise Evers Rhoads to track down another five names of Vietnam casualties that needed to be added to the memorial. There were 57 names on the original dedication day. There are 74 now.

Art Madrid, Mayor of La Mesa, spoke briefly about how the memorial "made up for the disrespect that Vietnam War veterans suffered on their return." Mayor Madrid presented Keys to the City of La Mesa to HYFD rededication coordinators Oresta Zalopany Johnson and Denise Evers Rhoads.

HYFD is seeking sponsors to help with donations funding maintenance of this rededicated, restored place of remembrance.

Constructed in difficult days, the memorial has survived through other troubled times. Expansion of trolley line tracks took part of the land. The city of La Mesa was forced to transfer ownership of the memorial on Flag Day 1997 to adjacent La Mesa American Legion Post 282, after city coffers were threatened with bankruptcy from litigation on behalf of atheist plaintiffs, who objected to city land containing a cross. More information about the monument's history and its future can be found at [www.hyfd.org](http://www.hyfd.org).

- See more at: <http://www.eccalifornian.com/article/heartland-vietnam-war-memorial-rededicated-flag-day#sthash.Qpenwwyy.dpuf>

#### HEARTLAND YOUTH FOR DECENCY VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION FUND



Before



Current

#### **Location**

Located right next to the American Legion 282 (J.A. Park Memorial building 1947) in La Mesa CA, known as the Jewel of the Hills, is a park dedicated to veterans from the Heartland area of La Mesa, El Cajon, Spring Valley, Lemon Grove, and Lakeside in Southern California, who died in the Vietnam war.

#### **Background**

The Vietnam Memorial was built by a group called Heartland Youth for Decency back in 1970. The group was started by Ellis and Virginia Evers, and chaired by their daughter, Denise, and included high school and



college students from La Mesa and surrounding areas. This group was involved in many community service projects, the largest and most visible being the monument. The main purpose was to honor those who died in Vietnam, during a most difficult and trying time for our country. Of note, the La Mesa monument was among the first built in the United States honoring Vietnam War dead. The monument was built with mostly volunteer labor as well as donations from businesses and individuals. Orest Zalopany, a very busy stone mason contractor, donated his time in the actual construction of the monument.

#### **Renovation**

Over the years, the monument has come to need restoration, due to the ravages of time as well as vandalism, including tagging and stolen bronze plaques. Oresta Zalopany Johnson, daughter of the stone mason who built the monument, contacted Denise Evers Rhoads and the two have collaborated on the restoration over the past year. They have worked along with the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 472 San Diego and the American Legion Post 282 to revitalize and restore the monument and the surrounding area. Much has been accomplished, but much more needs to be done.

#### **Renovations Finished**

- Graffiti Removed
- Clear Urethane Anti-Graffiti Seal
- Monument Power Washed
- Stolen Plaques Replaced with Black Granite
- Original Existing Plaques Refinished
- Names of Vietnam Casualties updated to reflect those who died after dedication in 1970
- Cross Painted
- New/Refinished flagpole
- Irrigation replacement for non-existing irrigation with water conservation in mind
- Repair of the existing cracked walkway
- Repair of electrical issues
- Addition of "Empty Chair" to represent POW's and MIA's
- Landscaping including addition of succulents and missing shrubs
- Tree Trimming
- Planned Renovations/Additions
- Addition of Wheelchair Ramp
- Mosaic Benches Designed by Dan Evers -- POW Chair Artist

#### **How You Can Help**

With your donations we can restore this memorial to reflect the beauty it represents. Renovations are ongoing and donations are accepted at any time.

Donations can be made by sending a check to:  
VVA 472  
P.O Box 1804  
La Mesa, CA 91944

Checks should be made out to: VVA 472 - memo to read "Heartland Youth for Decency Vietnam Memorial Fund".

All donations are tax-deductible and a receipt will be provided.

Contact Information:  
Denise Evers Rhoads  
[jndrhoads@hotmail.com](mailto:jndrhoads@hotmail.com)  
Oresta Johnson  
[oa\\_johnson@yahoo.com](mailto:oa_johnson@yahoo.com)  
Rededication



Flag Day June 14, 2014 was a Huge Success!

The Daily Californian estimated that there were 400 people in attendance. Article here.

## VETERANS REPORT

### WEEK OF OCTOBER 13, 2014

#### MILITARY-TOUGH TECH GEAR

Under the Radar recently took the ECOROX and ECOSTONE wireless speakers to the beach and threw them in the ocean. They held up with no issues and floated effortless to the surface every time. So, if you're looking for wireless tunes to use at the lake or the beach or even around the pool at home, these speakers are going to handle any accidental water-related abuse you might hurl at them. (<http://undertheradar.military.com/2014/10/ecorox-ecostone-truly-waterproof-wireless-speakers/>) Read more on Under the Radar.

#### MAKE SURE YOU GET TRICARE CHANGE INFO

TRICARE beneficiaries need to watch their email and ensure they have a milConnect account to receive information about changes to their TRICARE coverage. The Department of Defense is no longer sending paper letters to notify beneficiaries about changes to their coverage and eligibility status. Beneficiaries will now receive emails or post cards directing them to online resources where they can view their information. If you have a valid email address in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS), you will receive an email telling you to visit (<http://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil>) milConnect to read your letter. If you do not have an email address in DEERS, you will receive a post card directing you to milConnect. Visit the TRICARE website at (<http://www.tricare.mil>) [www.tricare.mil](http://www.tricare.mil) to review general benefits information, or contact your regional contractor for assistance.

For more on TRICARE, visit the (<http://www.military.com/benefits/tricare>) Military.com TRICARE section.

#### CNH INDUSTRIAL IS HIRING VETS

Whether you're a veteran in search of a career path or in transition from the military, CNH offers a broad range of veteran employment opportunities in an exciting global environment that will put your military skills and expertise to optimal use. Be a part of a global team that is truly "Shaping our World." (<http://www.military.com/veteran-employers/cnh-industrial?ESRC=vr1013.nl>) Learn more.

Use Your VA Loan: 2014 Tax Break, No PMI, \$0 Down

Now is the time to use your VA Loan. You don't have to pay PMI or have a large down payment. Plus you can get financing up to \$417,000. (<https://secure.military.com/leads/VALoanNew/Step1.jsp?lpid=resp&ESRC=mrvr1013.nl>) Use your VA Loan Benefit today.

(<http://www.military.com/money/valoans?ESRC=mrvr1013.nl>) Want More information about this great benefit?

#### TRICARE AND TRANSITIONING FROM THE MILITARY

As you transition from the military, you must continue to have health care coverage under the Affordable Care Act. TRICARE offers the Continued Health Care Benefit Program (CHCBP), which is a premium-based health care program that acts as a bridge for beneficiaries transitioning from military health benefits to a new civilian health plan. Former active duty servicemembers and their families are eligible for 18 months of CHCBP. Beneficiaries must purchase and enroll in CHCBP within 60 days of losing TRICARE eligibility. For more information about CHCBP, visit the CHCBP webpage at (<http://www.tricare.mil/CHCBP>) [www.tricare.mil/CHCBP](http://www.tricare.mil/CHCBP), download the ([http://www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/BrochuresFlyers/CHCBP\\_Brochure.pdf](http://www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/BrochuresFlyers/CHCBP_Brochure.pdf)) Continued Health Care Benefit Program Brochure and the ([http://www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/FactSheets/CHCBP\\_FS.pdf](http://www.tricare.mil/~media/Files/TRICARE/Publications/FactSheets/CHCBP_FS.pdf)) Continued Health Care Benefit Program Fact Sheet.

For more on TRICARE, visit the (<http://www.military.com/benefits/tricare>) Military.com TRICARE section.

#### TRANSITIONING AIRMEN LOSE HEALTH CARE

More than 1,000 airmen who were given six months of transitional health insurance when they voluntarily separated are now seeing their coverage yanked. The Air Force blamed clerical errors at a number of bases for allowing the airmen to mistakenly receive the health coverage in the first place.

(<http://www.military.com/daily-news/2014/10/10/air-force-cancels-health-care-for-airmen-separating-voluntarily.html>) Read the full article on Military.com

#### DoD on Par with Civilian Health Care

A recent 90-day review of the Military Healthcare System found it "comparable in access, quality and safety to average private-sector health care." That was disappointing to hear for a medical system that, for decades, has described itself as overall excellent and among the best in the country. The 700-page report also turns a spotlight on a new tool that patients, staff and outside health experts agree is improving access to care and perhaps quality too: a secure messaging system between patients and military physicians. (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com/2014/10/health-review-verifies-a-pearl-secure-doc-patient-email/>) Read the full article on the Military Advantage.

#### AF TESTING NEW COLD Wx UNIFORM

Air Force Uniform Office designers and engineers are currently fit testing a new cold weather aviation system (CWAS) for aircrews flying in cold weather environments. The request is to develop a flame-resistant system that can also keep aircrews warm in temperatures as cold as minus 20, with a 55 mph wind. To withstand the freezing temperatures, the CWAS has five layers. Airmen can also submit uniform suggestions from the field via the (<https://www.my.af.mil/faf/FAF/fafHome.jsp>) Air Force Portal by clicking on the 'Airmen Powered by Innovation' link. Ideas that are accepted go to the virtual uniform board. Those suggestions are then looked at by various command representatives and those that are selected are sent to the Air Force Uniform Office with chief of staff approval.

For more on Air Force and other military uniforms, check the (<http://www.military.com/join-armed-forces/military-uniforms/uniform-and-insignia-guide.html>) Military.com Uniform section.

#### \$1 MILLION FAMILY PROTECTION FROM \$41 A MONTH

Protection for less. Get \$1,000,000 Coverage from less than \$1.50 a day. (<http://www.military.com/insurance/?lpid=ret&ESRC=mrvr1013.nl>) Could your family survive if something happened to you?

#### VA Reduces Staph Infections

A Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) initiative targeting potentially life-threatening staph infections in hospitalized patients has produced significant positive results, according to recent statistics released by VA. VA's success in substantially reducing rates of health care-associated infection with methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) serves as important confirmation that multifaceted intervention strategies can achieve effective and sustained control of MRSA in U.S. Hospitals. In a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2012 MRSA surveillance report from its (<http://www.cdc.gov/abcs/reports-findings/survreports/mrsa12.html>) Active Bacterial Core surveillance (ABCs), the CDC cites that there were 75,309 cases of invasive MRSA infections and 9,670 deaths due to invasive MRSA in 2012. For more information about VA health care, visit (<http://www.va.gov/health/>) [www.va.gov/health/](http://www.va.gov/health/).

For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com>) Military Advantage blog.

#### VA PROPOSES SHUTTERING PROCUREMENT OFFICE

The Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) has proposed removal of the Deputy Chief Procurement Officer (DCPO), Veterans Health Administration Procurement & Logistics Office, following an investigation by the VA Office of Inspector General in which allegations of conduct prejudicial to the Government were substantiated. To ensure continuity of service to Veterans and leadership for VA employees during this time, Ricky Lemmon, Director, Service Area Office Central, has been designated Acting Deputy Procurement and Logistics Officer. The report is available on the VA Office of Inspector General website at (<http://www.va.gov/oig/publications/report-summary.asp?id=3215>) [www.va.gov/oig/publications/report-summary.asp?id=3215](http://www.va.gov/oig/publications/report-summary.asp?id=3215).

For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com>) Military Advantage blog.

#### VA WHISTLE BLOWER PROTECTION CERTIFICATION

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that the Office of Special Counsel (OSC) has certified VA under OSC's 2302(c) Whistleblower Protection (<https://osc.gov/Pages/Outreach-2302Cert.aspx>) Certification Program on October 3, 2014. Certification under OSC's 2302(c) Certification Program is just one of several steps VA has taken to ensure its employees have a safe channel for disclosing whistleblower information. VA has (1) placed informational posters regarding prohibited personnel practices (PPP), whistleblowing, and

whistleblower retaliation in a public setting in VA facilities and offices; (2) provided new hires with written materials on the above topics, (3) developed a (<http://www.va.gov/oig/hotline/whistleblower-protection.asp>) website on PPP and whistleblower rights and protections, and (4) provides in cooperation with the OSC, supervisory training on these topics on a regular basis.

For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com>) Military Advantage blog.

#### VA LAUNCHES BURN PIT REGISTRY

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) launched the Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry for servicemembers and veterans who may have been exposed to airborne hazards such as burn pits, oil-well fires and dust storms. The Burn Pit Registry will help VA and doctors better assess the health of veterans and determine to what extent air pollution from burn pits caused diseases and medical conditions in servicemembers. Veterans and servicemembers can use the registry questionnaire to report exposures to airborne hazards, as well as other exposures and health concerns. Take the questionnaire (<https://veteran.mobilehealth.va.gov/AHBurnPitRegistry/#page/home>) online. Most veterans and servicemembers will complete the questionnaire once. However, VA may ask others to participate in studies that could involve additional questionnaires and exams.

For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com>) Military Advantage blog.

#### VA Partners With Walgreens

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that it will join forces with retailer Walgreens to provide greater access to vaccinations to veterans across the country. Through its nearly 8,200 locations nationwide, Walgreens will offer flu and other recommended vaccinations to veterans. Pharmacists can administer vaccinations and will use eHealth Exchange to securely share immunization records with VA. Vaccinations are available daily during all pharmacy hours with no appointment necessary and are subject to availability. To find the nearest Walgreens, veterans can call 1-800-WALGREENS or visit or visit the Walgreens website at (<http://www.walgreens.com/>) [www.walgreens.com](http://www.walgreens.com). For more information about VA's immunization program, visit the VA eHealth website at (<http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp>) [www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp](http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp)

For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com>) Military Advantage blog.

#### Save Up to 66 Percent on TRICARE Costs

Save on the out of pocket costs that TRICARE doesn't cover. (<http://offers.military.com/i/tricare/interstitial?ESRC=mrvr1013.nl>) Save now.

#### VA CONTINUES TOWN HALL EVENTS

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Robert A. McDonald has directed all Veterans Affairs (VA) healthcare and benefits facilities to continue to hold quarterly town-hall events to improve communication with, and hear directly from, Veterans nationwide. This follows the recent completion of town-halls at these facilities held between August and the end of September of this year. Details of events at each location will be forthcoming from local facilities. VA is also looking to continue to improve the town hall notification process. In addition to Veterans and their families, the quarterly meetings are open to Congressional stakeholders, Veterans Service Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations and other community partners.

For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com>) Military Advantage blog.

#### VA AWARDS CONTRACT

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) has announced that the MITRE Corporation, a not-for-profit company that operates multiple federally funded research and development centers, has been awarded a contract to support the Independent Assessment of VA health care processes, as required by the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 ("Choice Act"). VA has taken steps to implement Choice Act legislation, including: (1) establishing a Program Management office to oversee implementation of the legislation, (2) authorized major medical facility leases, (3) extended the pilot program called (<http://www.va.gov/health/arch/>) Project ARCH for veterans in rural areas, and (4) holding (<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=2629>) Industry Day to seek input on how best issue Veterans Choice cards.

For more veterans benefits info and updates, visit the (<http://militaryadvantage.military.com>) Military



Advantage blog.

### WALGREENS FLU SHOTS

VA Enrollees Can Now Get Vaccinations at Walgreens: This week, VA announced that enrolled veterans may begin receiving flu shots and other vaccinations recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at Walgreens retail pharmacies nationwide. The program, based on a successful pilot program in Florida, will help expand veterans' access to vaccines just in time for flu season. The vaccines are subject to availability, and the program's funding will allow Walgreens to administer approximately 75,000 flu shots this year. Under the agreement, Walgreens will provide the vaccinations at no charge, and will electronically add them to the veteran's VA health record. The vaccines are available daily during normal Walgreens pharmacy hours with no appointment necessary. Veterans may still receive their vaccinations from VA facilities if they choose. For more information about the program, click here: <http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp>.

## COMBINED FEDERAL CAMPAIGN

VSF CFC #11324



### How does the CFC work?

Each fall, the U. S. Government offers all federal employees both civilian and the uniformed service the opportunity to support thousands of national and local charities.

The largest workplace fund raising campaign in the world is the CFC. This fund raises on average \$200 million per year. The CFC is not one single campaign, but a collection of 370 local campaigns operating under a common set of regulations. About half of the workforce participates in the CFC with individual contributions near \$150 per person.

Wherever they may be, across the U. S. or overseas, the CFC provides each employee with a booklet that lists all eligible national and local charities and a pledge card. VSF as an eligible charity is automatically listed in every CFC booklet with the organizations 25 word statement, telephone number, internet web site and overhead percentage figures. An employee selects up to five charities he or she wishes to support. While employees may provide a one-time gift through a check or cash overwhelmingly they elect to have a set amount withheld from their paychecks and designate which charities are to benefit from their contribution. The pledges then go to local campaign processing centers of which there are about 400 around the world. These offices forward the designation information to the appropriate payroll office. Deductions begin the following January. VSF's federation begins to receive the designations in March and forwards the first payment to VSF in April. VSF receives subsequent payments on a monthly basis.

### CFC Life Cycle:

- September through December Campaign Kick Off administrative period
- January through April Campaigns start to deduct pledges from donors
- May VSF is informed of the expected total pledges to be sent.
- May through April Funds electronically transferred monthly based on pledges
- August / September Final transfer distribution is made after audit.

VSF CFC Number #11324

FEIN 13-3648561

### How do I participate?

The first thing you have to realize when getting involved with the CFC is that the charities are all just the same as you. Each organization wants to do right for their charity and each one there respects you for being a veteran. This group of people appreciates what you have done for your country and when they find out how you are there to help other veterans, they will appreciate you even more.

Before going to any of the Kick Off sites that your local CFC area or group leaders schedule, you first have to find the areas covered in your state by the CFC. Go on the web to <http://apps.opm.gov/CampaignLocator/maps/Index.cfm> and click on your state. Then click on Accessible version in the upper right hand side. A listing will come up of different sites with the areas covered in your state along with the CFC leader's names and contact information. E-mail or call the leader nearest your area of operation in your state. Explain who you are, who you are with and that you will be representing the Veterans Support Foundation, (VSF) in their area of the CFC. Explain that the VSF is a National Member, (CFC #11324), of the CFC

and you would like to be included in all "Kick Off" functions in the area. Be as cooperative as you can. Ask if they can put you on their email list and have the schedule sent to you the same as the other participants.

It is my experience that they love having veterans participate as they are approaching Federal Employees for them to donate to their charities. You will add validity to their program. Do the above procedure with all CFC group leaders in your state, repeat the calls and request the same information from each CFC area of your state. You will find that some of the dates will overlap and be operating in more than one part of your state at the same time. Do not try to be superman and get to every place yourself. You will find it impossible to do it. Pick the correct ones that you believe will be good for you and you presentation will show it. Call on your Chapters for help. Explain the situation; provide them with a display and plenty of brochures on the workings of the VSF. Study the brochure, learn what programs and projects the VSF contributes to so that when someone asks you a question you can give them an intelligent answer. This will gain their trust and you should simply reaffirm that trust by stating, "We hope we can count on you and

I want to thank the following states for getting involved in the CFC. CT, AK, MA, FL, MN, NJ, LA, IA, OH, TN, NE, NY, VT and AZ. I am sure that your service officers will say the same thing.

Many of these states got involved in the September kick offs. There is still time, if you are not on the list, for your state to get involved in the October Kick offs.

Contact your area CFC directors and get signed up and help out the VVA Service Officer Program. Have your chapters get involved. All of the CFC money that is raised goes to support the VVA Service Officer Program.

Open the attachment and click on the link and contact the campaign for your area and get involved in the CFC! Contact me for supplies that you may need.

Thanks,

Dick Southern [dsouthern@vva.org](mailto:dsouthern@vva.org)

TBI problem so that they understand what our veterans are going through and how to help them.

We will be up front with you and tell you straight up, this is not an easy project, but it is one you will be proud you have done once it is over. A side advantage of working the CFC Kick Offs is that you get to meet a lot of interesting people from all over that represent other charities and ones that you can never count out for helping

you or a client or veteran you may have that you can't get the service he or she needs. Talk to them. Their jobs are not only to raise money for their charities but to also help people in need just like you.

You will most likely go from September into December with the Kick Off schedule and then it is over as quickly as it started. At that point make sure you touch base with the CFC Coordinators and tell them thank you for their help. Advise them that you will be looking forward to next year's CFC season. You must remain positive through the whole project. This may be easier said than done. But if you do not remain positive people may think the worst of veterans and this we do not want.

The Structure of the CFC efforts:

The majority of 2000 charities that participate in the CFC belong to "federations" that assist the charities with marketing, the application process, and the receipt and disbursement of the contributions pledged. The federation to which VSF belongs is the Military Family & Veterans Service Organizations of America. (MFVSOA) MFVSOA is a non-profit 501 C-3 organization, governed by a board of directors and comprised of 50 plus charities including, but

not limited to the Blinded Veteran Association, Airmen Memorial Foundation, as examples. MFVSOA's sole purpose is to represent the organizations belonging to the federation in workplace fund raising campaigns.

The U. S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) is the regulatory body that oversees the CFC campaign. It requires that the majority of the charities in the CFC belong to a federation because it is preferable for them to communicate with one point of contact, i.e., the federation rather than with the charities individually.

MFVSOA contracts with a consulting firm, Maguire/Maguire, Inc., based in Corte Madera, California for many of the services required by the charities belonging to the federation. Such services may include review of applications, monitoring of CFC regulations, marketing support and receipt/disbursement of funds.

### Special Task Force

2014-2015

Combined Federal Campaign

CFC #11324

August 15, 2014

### VVA/VSF RAISING FUNDS FOR OUR SERVICE OFFICER PROGRAMS.

The CFC task force believes that the entire organization of VVA the National Board of Directors, State Councils and Chapters should take on this effort.

### The task force needs and requests help from all of our members.

We hope all of the State Councils that are receiving funds from VVA through the VSF will make the effort to participate in this year's CFC. Remember this is a requirement of receiving funds. State Councils who DO NOT have a service officer program and no stake in the campaign, we request your help in helping your fellow veterans.

### Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another

This, my brothers and sisters, is our founding principle. We are aware of what the Service Officer Program has done for many of our brothers and sisters. What it is now doing for our sons and daughters. We must keep the effort alive.

VVA, as an organization, must continue to go that extra mile. We must make sure our Service Officer Programs remain in business. We look forward to a CFC banner year. This is what VVA is all about...helping our fellow veterans.

**The Task Force wishes to thank all of the VVA members, in advance, that will get involved in this year's drive. We also need to thank the Officers of VSF for their support and foresight in helping us develop the process for a plan of action.**

We look forward to another great effort for this year's campaign

Dick Southern

Chair

CFC Special Task Force

[southern@lodelink.com](mailto:southern@lodelink.com)

your members to help us help other veterans."

Remember you are representing VVA/VSF because you (your state) are the beneficiary of a VSF grant through CFC money and this is how you are showing your appreciation by spreading the word about VSF. With the money you receive, your veteran volunteers help the homeless veteran, help feed the hungry, you aid veterans of all wars and their families get the benefits they are entitled too. In addition you are supporting our new veterans to see they get the education and health care they need.

Also, when your fellow veteran dies, that he or she gets the respectful military send off that befits them. These are just some of the things that we know you do but the rest of the CFC does not know about because we have never informed them of what we do. Now is the time. Give them the figures on the homeless veteran population, let them see how big the problem is, tell them about the PTSD/



MEMORIES OF ANOTHER TIME AND PLACE.

These all from a rotorheads perspective.  
Mind Pictures from Viet Nam  
[Not all of the pictures we brought back have faded and turned yellow with age. Some are as clear as the day they were taken]

- =====
- The sound of main rotor blades beating the sky into submission
  - The thump of out going mortar fire
  - The whistle, thump of incoming mortar fire
  - The smell of rice patties in the heat
  - The feel of rain so heavy you think you're going to drown.
  - The taste of ice cold "33"
  - Or luke warm "33"
  - Heating C-Rats with C-4
  - The ever-present smell of hot JP-
  - The scream of 30 turbo-shaft engines under load
  - The beautiful dark green of the mountains
  - The smell of burning diesel fuel and shit
  - Flying lazy circles at 10,000 ft to cool off the beer
  - The sight of unfamiliar constellations viewed from the top of a sandbagged bunker on a pitch-black night
  - The chatter of a M-60
  - The smell of hot gun oil, burning gun powder and overheated metal
  - The sight of green tracers reaching up
  - The feeling in the pit of your stomach when you look around and realize that all the civilian workers have disappeared into the bunkers for no apparent reason
  - R & R in Vung Tao
  - R & R any place
  - The whistle a main rotor blade makes when it has a bullet hole through it
  - The call of a "f\*\*\*kyou" lizard in the middle of the night
  - The breath taking beauty of the country from 5000 ft.
  - Waking up in a panic in the middle of the night because the Artillery at the end of the field isn't firing and it's to quiet.
  - The scream of the scramble siren in the middle of the night
  - The feel of your M-14 on full automatic
  - Drinking Jim Beam straight up and chasing it with warm black cherry soda because that's all you've got
  - A kidney busting full throttle run down Thunder Road in a sandbagged deuce and a half
  - The feeling when fewer ships come home than left that morning
  - The mind numbing sight and sound when Puff lights up the night and saves your sorry ass
  - The absolute silence when Puff is done
  - Flying over the mountains and seeing a high valley still covered in the early morning fog.
  - And the fog spilling out of a high pass, like cream out of a cup.
  - Cloud skiing :-)) Get to the top of a puffy cumulus over the coast during the rainy season. Get right on top and dump collective. Try to keep just the skids in the cloud while following the contours.
  - Sliding down to the ridge lines in my Loach and pretending to do a recon while riding the updrafts like I was in a sail plane as the fog starts burning off. In my mind sailing a small "cat" in Cape Cod bay.
  - Cool night air at one mile high and one mile out over the coast.
  - High "pucker factor" while hovering up a road into 200 & ¼ with rain and fog.
  - The smell of human blood.
  - What a hard sideways flare feels like when started at 120 kts and 30 feet AGL.
  - Over the high plateau during the monsoon, cruising along a road in 200 & 1/4 (or less) and having to pull collective to miss a deuce truck coming at you and going IFR.
  - Sitting on the ground, looking up at a clear blue sky through whispers of ground fog; then flying over that same fog bank towards Dak To, finding only one FSB poking up through the fog. Then sitting on that FSB, drinking varnish removing coffee made in an aluminum pot over a Mo-gas powered squad stove, waiting for the fog to lift.
  - Foggy days at Bao Loc. Lining up, one by one, between the revetments and taking off into the fog at 30 sec intervals. Breaking out at 4000 msl, PZ was at 5000 msl and the LZ was still higher.
  - Running thru the rounds to get the team airborne when it was your turn on counter-mortar standby.
  - Insect repellant on your testicles...burns!
  - Blowing up a leaky air mattress!
  - The 'rush' of short final into a hot LZ!
  - A jammed M-16 during a "white" moment!
  - A howitzer firing over you in the middle of the night (during your two hours of sleep)!
  - Watching the ground come straight at you during a high overhead approach (in trail formation)
  - Realizing you're lost and have crossed the border when you can't see anymore of those little round yellow circles on the ground!
  - Realizing you're in the wrong place when the arty response is "Sorry sir. Those coords are out of range."!
  - The silence when the "whop-whop" and "whine" stops!
  - The realization when the "whop-whop" and "whine" stops that the only place you can see the ground is the nearby sewer called a "rice-paddy"!
  - Dry season integration (everybody is red)!
  - The joy of a ride home!
  - Hearing, "Move your tail left, sir." and "Move your tail right, sir.", at the same time in a hover hole!
  - Hearing, "What the hell was that!", "Awww shit!", and noticing little yellow rectangular lights out of corner of your eye all at the same time!
  - You notice how small trees look when you had a blade strike at 2000 feet.
  - You notice how many lights are not lit up on a master control panel.<zero>
  - The beautiful curving red lines of tracers at midnight.
  - The look of rice in the rocket pods.
  - The look of blood on the windshield.
  - The horrifying basketball size green tracers going upward in slow motion at midnight
  - The eerie light of a parachute flare.
  - The true beauty of a mini-gun when you are down in the rice, and your wing ship is above covering your sorry ass.
  - The surrealistic sight of Nui Ba Den as dawn breaks the horizon.
  - The mosquitoes that carry harpoons
  - The sting of a rocket cap hitting your shins.
  - The taste of crushed cookies.
  - Pinto Beans cooked on a popcorn popper.
  - Measuring the grease in C-rat beef stew.
  - Finding a use for powdered eggs.
  - The thought of watching momma son pop the heads off those big roaches in the mess hall and eat them.
  - The whistle of a 122mm rocket inbound...right in the middle of The Good The Bad & The Ugly
  - Taking a shower at the edge of the roof during monsoon season.
  - Missing the submerged boardwalk during the monsoon on the way to the club and finding the 6' deep ditch instead.
  - Naming all the rats.
  - Roach races as a sporting event.
  - Scrounging missions just for the hell of it.
  - The white cranes that are bullet proof



- The humidity in August.
- Finding the true meaning of rocket city.
- Plugging hydraulic leaks with bubble gum just to get home
- The smell of Napalm.
- The smell of rocket fuel
- The cherry glow of a red hot M-60 barrel.
- The pop of a .51 as it flies by too close
- The incessant dust of Cu Chi
- The sucking mud
- Honolulu looks clean enough to eat off the street from the air.
- The ring of the telephone that sends you to action station.
- The ring of the phone at 2 am in Hawaii that almost sent you off the 17th floor balcony.
- The backfire of a car .. the embarrassment of being face down in a ditch.
- The joy of DEROS Day
- The loneliness the days after Travis.. and ETS
- Wondering why the grunts don't shoot your hook after it blows the air mattress out of their poncho tent and onto the concertina wire at LZ Leslie
- Watching the rotor wash of your hook dismantle a hooch and not even care
- Watching the water buffalo drag the farmer and plow across several dikes cause the boo doesn't like hooks
- St Elmo's fire on the rotor blades
- Wondering why the marines at Phu Bai don't have counter mortar anything
- Listening to 2/20 ARA birds salvo doing counter mortar in Cav. controlled area
- Swimming with sea snakes at Wonder beach
- Watching how high a blivet can bounce when punched off at 50 feet
- Being damn glad to be in Hooks when the last flight of the day you sling back a dead Huey and you can see the pilots helmet rolling around in there. Knowing he wouldn't have left it if he was okay.....
- Flying through the Mang Yang pass from Pleiku to An Ke and seeing the French graves from Groupe Mobile 100 on the hilltop
- The smell of RVN
- Flying out of Evans, over the mountains and low level over the rice paddies early in the morning. Looked like jewels sparkling in the morning sun
- The sound of Armed Forces Radio at 0600...Goooooooood Morining Viet Naaaaaammm!
- The click as a round went past...
- The sounds of the Mama's and the Papa's "Monday, Monday..." and you start another day, another one down and ??? to go.
- The quite voice of the FDC..."On the way, wait...." and you wait for the bright flash of the parachute flare to see if you can see Charlie...and you can't.
- The voice from the GCA controller, Hey are you hovering up there???
- The whispers of the FO..."The Fu..are close, be careful"...
- Y'all OK down there?..."click, click"....sigh of relief
- The crew chief..."I think we took some on that last pass!"
- Thanks to those who added their "mind pictures". . .



CEREMONY DATE  
CHANGE

WALL OF REMEMBRANCE  
GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

HELPING OUR HEROES TODAY, TOMORROW AND BEYOND

REAR AREA SUPPORT FOUNDATION INC. • 1017 L STREET, #426 • SACRAMENTO, CA 95814 • 501(c)(3), ID# 26-2879835



ver. 10-2-14

EVENT SCHEDULE:			
Nov. 7-11	8:00 am to 10:00 pm	Open to public for viewing, 24 hours	Capitol Park, north east area
Nov. 9 Sunday	1:00 pm	Ceremony honoring all who have given their lives in the Global War on Terror	Capitol Park, north east area
Nov. 12	9:00 am	Take down Wall	Capitol Park, north east area

GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR WALL OF REMEMBRANCE VISIT TO SACRAMENTO

REAR AREA SUPPORT FOUNDATION AND VISION 2 VICTORY INVITES THE PUBLIC TO VISIT THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR WALL OF REMEMBRANCE. SACRAMENTO WILL COMMEMORATE THE WALL’S 50TH STOP ON ITS TRAVELS AROUND THE NATION SINCE IT BEGAN TOURING IN JULY 2013.

**DATE / PLACE:** NOVEMBER 7-11 , 2014 AT THE CALIFORNIA STATE CAPITOL. THE WALL WILL BE SET UP NEAR THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL LOCATED IN THE EAST END OF CAPITOL PARK.

**ABOUT THE WALL:** THE WALL OF REMEMBRANCE WAS INSPIRED BY THE THREE FACTORS: A WISH BY ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FOR A MEMORIAL, THE COWARDLY ACTS OF TERRORISTS ON 9/11/2001, AND VIETNAM VETERANS. THE MEMORIAL WAS DESIGNED, BUILT AND FUNDED BY UNITED STATES MARINE DAVID BROWN AND FOUNDER RICHARD (JR) NICHOLS IN 2011 FOR THE 10 YEAR REMEMBRANCE OF 9/11. IT WAS BUILT TO BE DISPLAYED ONCE BUT DUE TO THE REACTION THEY BOTH AGREED TO FIND A WAY TO TRAVEL AROUND AMERICA. THE CURRENT WALL WILL BE RETIRED AFTER THE SACRAMENTO VISIT AND FUNDS WILL BE RAISED TO BUILD A NEW MEMORIAL WALL.

**SPONSORED BY:** THE HONORABLE KEN COOLEY; CALIFORNIA STATE ASSEMBLY. ASSEMBLYMAN COOLEY REPRESENTS THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT IN SACRAMENTO COUNTY.

AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS:

THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS-DEPARTMENT OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE SUNDAY CEREMONY. FOR MORE INFO ON AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, CONTACT: KAREN MEREDITH, [KENSMOMKM@GMAIL.COM](mailto:KENSMOMKM@GMAIL.COM) (650) 814-3611

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO STAFF THE WALL AND PROVIDE NIGHT SECURITY:

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO SERVE A SHIFT AT THE WALL DURING THE DAY OR A SECURITY SHIFT AT NIGHT, PLEASE CONTACT PHIL RIOS AT: [KEEPCADENCE@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KEEPCADENCE@YAHOO.COM) (916) 370-4681

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

PETE CONATY AND ASSOCIATES, [PCONATY@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:PCONATY@SBCGLOBAL.NET) (916) 492-0550



*Good Morning, Vietnam* a 1987 American war-comedy film written by Mitch Markowitz and directed by Barry Levinson.

Set in Saigon in 1965, during the Vietnam War, the film stars Robin Williams as a radio DJ on Armed Forces Radio Service, who proves hugely popular with the troops, but infuriates his superiors with what they call his "irreverent tendency". The story is loosely based on the experiences of AFRS radio DJ Adrian Cronauer.

Most of Williams' radio broadcasts were improvised. The film was a critical and commercial success; for his work in the film, Williams was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role. The film is number 100 on the list of the "American Film Institute's 100 Funniest American Movies".

**Plot**

In 1965, Airman Second Class Adrian Cronauer (Williams) arrives in Saigon from Crete to work as a DJ for Armed Forces Radio Service. Cronauer is greeted by Private First Class Edward Montesquieu Garlick (Whitaker). Cronauer's irreverence contrasts sharply with many staff members and soon rouses the ire of two of his superiors, Second Lieutenant Steven Hauk (Kirby) and Sergeant Major Phillip Dickerson (Walsh). Hauk adheres to strict Army guidelines in terms of humor and music programming, while Dickerson is generally abusive to all enlisted men. However, Brigadier General Taylor (Willingham) and the other DJs quickly grow to like the new man and his brand of comedy. Cronauer's show consists of unpredictable humor segments mixed with news updates (vetted by the station censors) and rock and roll records that are frowned upon by his superiors.

Cronauer meets Trinh (Chintara Sukapatana), a Vietnamese girl, and follows her to an English class. Bribing the teacher to let him take over the job, Cronauer starts instructing the students in the use of American slang. Once class is dismissed, he tries to talk to Trinh but is stopped by her brother Tuan. Instead, Cronauer befriends Tuan and takes him to Jimmy Wah's, the local GI bar, to have drinks with Garlick and the station staff. Two other soldiers, angered at Tuan's presence, initiate a confrontation that Cronauer escalates into a brawl.

Dickerson reprimands Cronauer for this incident, but his broadcasts continue as before. While relaxing

in Jimmy Wah's one afternoon, he is pulled outside by Tuan moments before the building explodes, killing two soldiers and leaving Cronauer badly shaken. The cause of the explosion is determined to be a bomb; the news is censored, but Cronauer locks himself in the studio and reports it anyway. Dickerson cuts off the broadcast and Cronauer is suspended. Hauk takes over his shows, but his poor attempts at comedy and insistence on playing polka music lead to a flood of letters and phone calls from servicemen who demand that Cronauer be put back on the air.

In the meantime, Cronauer spends his time drinking



and pursuing Trinh, only to be rebuffed at every attempt. At the radio station, Taylor intervenes on Cronauer's behalf, ordering Hauk to reinstate him, but Cronauer refuses to go back to work. Garlick's and Cronauer's vehicle becomes stopped in a congested street amidst a convoy of soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division, who persuade him to do an impromptu "broadcast" for them before they go off to Nha

Trang to fight. This incident reminds him why his job is important, and he soon returns to the air.

Dickerson devises a ploy to get rid of Cronauer by sending him and Garlick to interview soldiers in the field, knowing that the only road into the area, a highway to An Lộc, is controlled by the Viet Cong. Their Jeep is blown off the road by a mine and they are forced to hide in the jungle from the VC patrols. In Saigon, Tuan, who learns of their trip after Cronauer fails to show up for English class, steals a van and drives off after them. He finds them, but the van breaks down and they must flag down a Marine helicopter to take them back to the city.

At the station, Dickerson confronts Cronauer, declaring he is now off the air for good. His friend Tuan is revealed as a VC operative who was responsible for the bombing of Jimmy Wah's. Dickerson has arranged for an honorable discharge, provided Cronauer leaves "quietly." General Taylor arrives and informs Cronauer that, regrettably, he cannot help him since his friendship with Tuan would place the reputation of the US Army at risk. After Taylor leaves, Cronauer asks Dickerson why he engineered his dismissal. Dickerson openly admits his personal dislike for Cronauer, his sense of humor, and his style of broadcasting. After Cronauer leaves, Taylor casually informs an astonished Dickerson that he is being transferred to Guam.

Cronauer chases down Tuan after accosting Trinh for her brother's whereabouts. Cronauer loses Tuan in the village, and he decries Tuan's actions against the American forces. Emerging from the shadows, Tuan retorts that the United States military has decimated his family. The next day, on his way to the airport with Garlick, and under MP escort, Cronauer sets up a quick softball game with the students from his English class (fulfilling a promise he made to them), where he gets to say goodbye to Trinh. As he boards the plane, he gives Garlick a taped farewell message; Garlick – taking Cronauer's place as DJ – plays the tape on the air the next morning. It begins with a yell of "Gooooooooooooooooooooodbye, Vietnam!" and runs through a few of Cronauer's impressions before ending with his wish that everyone will get home safely.

Rest In Peace, Robin - and thank you for all the laughs.



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VVA CA State Council contact info inside - page 2

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To:

In this issue:

- Activities-Events/Photos
- Legislative Information
- Useful Veteran Information
- La Mesa POW/MIA Memorial - Story 2

And more...

VVA & CSC Meeting Dates & Events

CSC Full Council - October 24-26, 2014, Fresno, CA  
CSC Full Council - January 23-25, 2015, Fresno, CA  
CSC Full Council - April 24-26, 2015, Fresno, CA  
Region 8-9 Conference, June 2015, Info Coming  
National Convention, July 21-25, 2015, Springfield, IL