



The California Zephyr

Official Publication of the VVA California State Council
An Organization Chartered By The U.S. Congress



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 20-4

FALL 2018

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2018 Leadership and Education Conference was a good one. There were a lot of workshops that offered good information. I attended as many as I could in one day.

I attended the Secondary PTSD and did learn a lot about families and how they view PTSD.

Nina Schloffel, Elayne Mackey along with Dr. Tom Hall and Dr Tom Berger did a great job. All those attending the seminar had nothing but good things to say.

Palm Springs was hot and the fire in the mountains had a lot of people concerned, but we knew it would not come down the mountain to Palm Springs, although we did get a lot of smoke.

Unfortunately, Dirk Young's wife, Diana, suffered a heart attack while in Palm Springs. She was admitted to a nearby hospital. Diana passed away a few days later. Diana was an AVVA member of Chapter 446. Dirk is a member and Vice president of Pasadena Chapter 446.

Long time Chapter 47 member and past PTSD Chair for the CSC, Dr. Ed Ryan passed away the end of August 2018. Ed lost his fight with cancer. He served VVA with pride. We had a wonderful memorial for Ed in Riverside and his friends in Nebraska also had a memorial for Ed there.

Here are some membership facts. As of August 2018:

- VVA has 83,530 members nationwide.
- CA has 5,042 members; 2nd in the nation. New York leads the nation with 6005 members.
- CA has three chapters in the top 25:
 - * Chapter 391 with 553 members, Chapter 223 with 294 members, Chapter 47 with 290 members.

It's never too late to recruit but most importantly retain those members.

Have you ever thought about joining AVVA as a dual member? At this time National AVVA has 435 dual members. That is just not right. AVVA has supported VVA for so many years, it's time VVA supports them. If you are a VVA member, please think about joining AVVA.

Thanks for all you do with your chapters, the CSC and our Veterans. Be proud!

In Service To America,
Steve Mackey

VETERANS INCARCERATED

On August 21, 2018, I, John Mendiola, went to Sacramento to testify as a representative, of the CSC Veterans Incarcerated Committee chairman. It was for a hearing on a Vietnam veteran, that had been incarcerated for over 38 years. He had been sentence to life, for murder. The hearing was to decide if they could commute his sentence to time served. This effort was spearheaded by the founder of National Veterans Foundation Shad Meshad. The foundation helps veterans in crises. He has followed this case for over 30 years. When he learned of the things he had done while serving 2 tours in Vietnam as a chopper pilot, and the awards he was given, among them a Bronze Star, 2 Purple Hearts And Citations. Mr. James White was a hero there in Vietnam. Shad felt that he had been unjustly sentenced

After returning home he found that his wife's ex-husband had molested his step daughter. He went to the ex-husbands, and blow him away. At the time of his trial society in general, did not welcome back Vietnam veterans. His defense attorney never raised a case on PTSD. His war record did more damage to his case, then to help it. His accomplishments of what he did while incarcerated, was equally impressive to his tours in Vietnam. During a riot he saved the life of a correctional officer (CO) in another incident, he alerted a CO about an attack that was being plotted against him. He and another inmate were the ones that started collage courses in CDC&R system, so inmates could get a degree in many courses. This has helped over 1500 inmates, get their degree. Some have gotten their degrees before leaving prison, others have continued their education after their release. At the hearing there were over ten people that testified on how he had effected their lives, among them were 2 chopper pilots that flew with him in Vietnam, 4 men that served time with him that he mentored them through the collage courses. Mr. Meshad informed the board that he was holding a position open in his foundation's crises phone line and other positions that would help veterans.

As the representative of the VIC chairman, I researched reports that had been written about Mr. James White and spoke in length with Shad.

I told the board that even though, I had never met him, both his records spoke for them self's And I asked the board to consider giving him credit for time served, and granting him parole. The board voted unanimously to grant him parole.

Myself and Jim Slusser went to the prison in Stockton (Calif. Health Care Facility), we addressed over 30 veterans, And tried to answer their VA issues. We were asked to come back and address all the veterans that had not been able to attend. Being that some yards are not allowed to inter mingle due to custody issues, we did a morning session and a afternoon session. We took them 80 booklets of Guide For Veterans Incarcerated which has information on housing, jobs and other VA and non VA programs.

We were asked to come back, and address the veterans self help groups at a later date.

The committee is looking for members in other chapters to go and talk to prison officials, about their Veterans Incarcerated self help groups. I would be willing to go

with anyone to a institution and help set that up.

I can be reached at 209 770-5498, or yardsbyjohn@yahoo.com

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

By Seth Reeb

Save The Date- 30th Anniversary of the CA Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The ceremony for the 30th Anniversary of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial will be held on October 13 in Sacramento in Capitol Park. There will be a reception the night before (October 12) held at VFW Post 67, 2784 Stockton Blvd., Sacramento CA 95817. Attendance is free and limited to the first 225 people who RSVP. (about 100 Tickets left) Please see flyer for detailed information.

For tickets contact Seth Reeb (sethreeb@comcast.net). Include in your email weather you plan to attend the reception or the luncheon and how many guests will be attending. Seth will verify that there are still ticket available and once your payment is received your tickets will be mailed.

There is a flyer included that has more detailed information including a map of capitol park. Please pass the word to all Vietnam veterans.

Current Legislation

On August 31, the Legislature completed its second year of the two-year cycle. August 31 was the last day for bills to be passed and sent to the Governor for his signature. The Governor has until September 30 to sign or veto bills. Bills that are signed by the Governor, for the most part, take effect on January 1, 2019 (some bills have clauses which specify that they take effect at other dates). The Governor has signed 40 of the 47 bills that where sent to him for signatures.

The General Election is on November 6. There will be a new Governor elected as well as some new legislators to replace those who were termed out, moved on to other office, etc. The new Legislature for the 2019-20 Legislative Session will meet for the first time on December 3, 2018 for an organizational session and swearing-in.

Below is a list of the top bills that we have been advocating on for the State Council and their current status (as of July 19). Currently, the Vietnam Veterans of America California State Council is in official support of 34 bills that are making their way through the process. We are also tracking many other bills which may have relevance to veterans or the military and could be amended in the next 2 months.

We will provide a final status of all legislation in early October.

KEY SUPPORTED BILLS:

AB 1873-OBERNOLTE (R-BIG BEAR LAKE)

WOULD REPEAL THE \$5 FEE PROVISIONS IN CURRENT LAW TO OBTAIN "VETERAN" DESIGNATION ON YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE, AUTHORIZING AN APPLICANT WHOSE VETERAN STATUS HAS BEEN VERIFIED TO MAKE A VETERAN DESIGNATION REQUEST AND REQUIRING THE DEPARTMENT TO MAKE THAT DESIGNATION ON THE APPLICANT'S LICENSE, WITHOUT THE ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF \$5.

LOCATION/STATUS: VETOED

POSITION: SUPPORT

VETO MESSAGE:

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning the following bills without my signature:

AB 1873

AB 2058

AB 2135

SB 987

SB 1455

Each of these bills requires significant information technology programming at the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Reducing wait times in field offices and addressing the urgent needs of customers is the top priority. The programming required to implement these bills will delay the department's ability to fully modernize its aging information technology systems. While these bills may have merit, it would be prudent for the Legislature to pause on additional mandates while the department works to complete programming for prior legislative mandates and system upgrades designed to reduce transaction times and improve customer service.

Sincerely,

Edmund G. Brown Jr.

AB 2325-IRWIN (D-THOUSAND OAKS)

WOULD PREVENT A COUNTY FROM DENYING AN ELIGIBLE VETERAN COUNTY MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES WHILE THE VETERAN IS WAITING FOR A DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR, AND AVAILABILITY OF, MENTAL OR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

LOCATION/STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR.

AB 2521-QUIRK-SILVA (D-FULLERTON)

SEEKS TO CURB ABUSES BY UNSCRUPULOUS LENDERS WHO SEEK TO DENY DEPLOYED MILITARY MEMBERS THE BENEFITS OF THE CALIFORNIA MILITARY FAMILIES FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT VIA A LOOPHOLE IN THE LAW.

POSITION: SUPPORT

AB 2568-REYES (D-GRAND TERRACE)

WOULD REQUIRE COUNTY JAILS TO, UPON DETENTION OF A PERSON, PERFORM A CASE SUMMARY THAT INCLUDES CHECKING IF THE PERSON

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HAS SERVED IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY. LOCATION/STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR. AB 2801-SALAS (D-BAKERSFIELD) ADDRESSES THE PROBLEM OF VETERAN’S AND LAW ENFORCEMENT MEMORIALS BEING VANDALIZED. SEEKS TO CREATE PENALTIES FOR THESE ACTIONS. SB 895- NGUYEN (R-GARDEN GROVE) WOULD REQUIRE THE COMMISSION TO DEVELOP AND SUBMIT TO THE STATE BOARD TO ADOPT, MODIFY, OR REVISE A MODEL CURRICULUM RELATIVE TO THE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN REFUGEE EXPERIENCE AND A MODEL CURRICULUM RELATIVE TO THE CAMBODIAN GENOCIDE FOR USE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS, MIDDLE SCHOOLS, AND HIGH SCHOOLS. THE BILL WOULD ENCOURAGE A SCHOOL DISTRICT,

CHARTER SCHOOL, OR COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION THAT MAINTAINS KINDERGARTEN OR ANY OF GRADES 1 TO 12, THAT DOES NOT OTHERWISE OFFER A STANDARDS-BASED CURRICULUM RELATIVE TO THE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN REFUGEE EXPERIENCE, VIETNAMESE BOAT PEOPLE, AND THE REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM ARMED FORCES LOCATION/STATUS: SIGNED BY GOVERNOR. SB 1137-VIDAK (R-HANFORD) SB1137 WILL REQUIRE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS TO INCREASE AWARENESS AND NOTIFICATION FOR VETERANS REGARDING PROFESSIONAL LICENSING. * If you have any questions, please contact:

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deang1968@gmail.com
TO ACCESS THE
L E G I S L A T U R E ’ S
WEBSITE WHICH HAS
THE LANGUAGE,
STATUS, VOTES, AND
ANALYSES OF ALL
LEGISLATION FROM
1999 TO THE PRESENT,
GO TO: <https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billSearchClient.xhtml>

The California
Zephyr
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Published Quarterly to all members of California VVA and AVVA as part of their membership.
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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 corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code.

VVA’S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE
“Never again shall one generation of veterans 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 improvement, 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 Vietnam veterans to maximize self-realization and enrichment of their lives and enhance life-fulfillment.

To study, on a non-partisan basis, proposed legislation, rules, or regulations introduced in any federal, state, or local legislative 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 employment, education, training, and health.

To conduct and publish research, on a non-partisan basis, pertaining to the relationship 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 matters 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 veterans and their dependents, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans.

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



PROSTATE CANCER

AWARENESS MONTH:

Empowering patients through knowledge, shared decisions

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among males, second only to skin cancer, and affects more than 3 million men in the United States, according to the National Cancer Institute. During Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, health care providers are encouraging men of all ages – especially those with a family history – to learn more about the disease.

“Prostate cancer can impact all men,” said Army Col. Inger Rosner, director of the Department of Defense Center for Prostate Disease Research at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. “It’s important for men to know if they want to be screened, how and when to be screened, and what their treatment options are if diagnosed, so that they can be equipped to make decisions that are best for their health.”

The National Institutes of Health estimates that nearly 165,000 men in the U.S. will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2018. Although the disease is the second leading cause of cancer death among men in the U.S., it’s a very slow-growing disease, NIH says. Nearly all of those who get prostate cancer – more than 98 percent – are alive five years after diagnosis.

Symptoms can include weak or interrupted flow of urine, sudden urge to urinate, frequent urination, pain or burning while urinating, trouble starting the flow of urine, and trouble emptying the bladder completely. Pain in the back, hips, or pelvis, as well as blood in the urine or semen, can also be indicators.

Rosner said prostate cancer is common in older men but can still affect younger men, particularly if they have a male relative with a history of the disease. Age is the most common risk factor, but other important risk factors include race, genetic factors, and family history. Men who have a relative with prostate cancer are twice as likely to develop the disease as those with no family history, Rosner noted.

“If you have a positive family history, that puts you at a potentially higher risk for having prostate cancer, and you should bring that potential risk up with your primary care doctor,” she said, adding that patients can then decide with their providers whether or not to be screened for prostate cancer.

Patients can be screened with a prostate-specific antigen blood test, also known as a PSA test. The test measures the level of PSA in the blood; an increased amount may indicate prostate cancer. But increased PSA levels alone do not diagnose the disease, which is confirmed through a biopsy.

The American Urology Association encourages men age 55 to 69 to undergo a PSA test every year. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force considers the decision to undergo periodic PSA screening to be an individual choice for men of that age group, stating that they should have the opportunity to discuss its potential benefits and drawbacks with a clinician. The task force said PSA screening offers a potential benefit of reducing the chance of death from the disease in some men, but also carries potential risks, such as false-positive results, over-diagnosis, and overtreatment.

“The important thing with prostate cancer is educating patients about their disease and their options, and tailoring treatment very specifically to that individual,” said Rosner. “We want to educate and empower people about their disease and help them make the best choices for themselves in terms of treatment or active surveillance.”

A majority of prostate cancer is treatable, explained Rosner. Since the disease advances slowly, not all cases require treatment, which can alter quality of life, she said. Men undergoing treatment can experience side effects, such as fatigue, pain, vomiting, or nausea as well as urinary, bowel, or erectile dysfunction.

Patients with low-risk prostate cancer can discuss alternative options with their physician, such as monitoring the cancer – known as active surveillance. Treatment options can include radiation therapy, surgery, chemotherapy, and hormone therapy, among others. All treatment regimens must be balanced against quality-of-life concerns, considering the potential side effects of each treatment, the aggressiveness of the cancer, and the overall life expectancy of the patient, said Rosner.

“It’s a very treatable disease, but the treatments can have a significant impact on quality of life,” she said. “For some low-risk or low-grade tumors, we tend to favor active surveillance, which is monitoring the disease but not necessarily treating it, because you can live with prostate cancer and not die from your prostate cancer.”

“While there’s no definitive way to prevent prostate cancer, men can help decrease their risk by being physically active, maintaining a healthy weight, and eating a nutritious diet,” said Rosner.

In addition to conducting research and clinical trials, the Uniformed Services University’s Center for Prostate Disease Research sees men for all prostate-related issues, including detection and treatment of prostate cancer. Open to active-duty servicemen and retirees, CPDR offers a weekly multidisciplinary clinic for newly diagnosed prostate cancer patients. For coverage details on prostate cancer screening, visit the TRICARE website.

“Men’s health really comes down to having an open and honest conversation with your physicians or providers,” said Rosner. “The more that we educate and empower our patients, the better off their decision-making will be.”

CA AVVA

Elane Mackey

Membership in AVVA is growing, but not like we would like to see. National AVVA has:

9,872 members – compared to VVA we are low – where is everyone?



CA AVVA has 744 members showing an addition of 4 members since the last reporting period.

We would love to see more dual members in AVVA. Dual members meaning; they belong to VVA and AVVA. Please join us and show your support of AVVA.

We are very proud of CA AVVA Product Sales. There is something for everyone.

Attendance, at our state meetings, is growing all the time. It is so good to meet first time attendees and see them come back again.

PTSD ‘2’ OR SECONDARY PTSD

CA AVVA was the first state to initiate this program at the state level. PTSD ‘2’ is a National AVVA Program. Nina Schloffel and myself saw a need for the program and went forward with it.

We have since mentored many facilitators in our States and Chapters throughout the country. We will soon start the program again for more facilitators.

Our logo represents:

The eyes represent a man and a woman. She is seeing herself through the eyes of her mate. The heart signifies love.



The ‘2’ used after PTSD stands for also. Which is the subject of our program – Secondary PTSD.

As a peer support group we have seen that support is so important. Who better to understand than those experiencing the same symptoms?

During the National Leadership and Education Conference held in Palm Springs, Secondary PTSD presented a workshop. We were joined by Dr. Tom Berger and Dr. Tom Hall – VVA.

What We'd Like Our Family Members To Know About Living With PTSD

Suggestions from Veterans who were involved in combat in the Vietnam War.
Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, 2000

1. Give me space when I need to be alone - don't overwhelm me with questions. I'll come and talk to you when I'm ready.
2. Get away from me if I am out of control, threatening, or violent.
3. Be patient with me, especially when I'm irritable.
4. Don't personalize my behavior when I explode or get quiet.
5. Learn and rehearse a time out process.
6. Don't patronize me or tell me what to do. Treat me with respect and include me in conversations and decision making.
7. Don't pity me.
8. Don't say 'I understand' when there are some things that you cannot understand.
9. Realize that I have unpredictable highs and lows - good and bad days.
10. Anticipate my anniversary dates - recognize that these could be tough times.
11. I'd like to share my traumatic experiences with you, but I fear overwhelming you and losing you.
12. I want to be close to you and share my feelings, but I'm afraid to and sometimes I don't know how to express my emotions.
13. I also fear your judgement.
14. Know that I still love and care about you, even if I act like a jerk sometimes.
15. Don't ask me to go to crowded or noise places because I'm uncomfortable in those settings.

After the opening remarks and a presentation by myself and Nina, we went to the audience for the remainder of the program. We, also, joined in as the audience went into groups to discuss their feelings on Secondary PTSD.

This workshop was very productive as being able to talk about your symptoms, thoughts and perhaps how it affects your loved one is vital.

We had a great group of attendees and received many “thank yous” and “job well done.”

If this program may interest you, please contact:

Nina Schloffel - neenr@att.net

Elayne Mackey - mmm3evr1@aol.com

We would love to see CA Chapters involved.

Blessings to you all

AVVA PRODUCT SALES

2018 has seen the return of Product Sales to the California State Council Conference! Veteran, military and patriot-themed items such as pins and patches, apparel and accessories, household items, books and consumables, are available for purchase.

For the upcoming October CSC, we will hold a special Pre-Holiday Sale! Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase GIFTS, as well as items for themselves, for their chapter, and for friends and family.

Cash and checks are accepted as payment. We are open for business on CSC Saturdays during select hours.

Brought to you by California AVVA, all proceeds from Product Sales support our various Veteran charities and causes. For more information, please contact Sheila Chovan, California AVVA Product Sales Director, at smchovan@yahoo.com.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO HELP THE BLUE WATER NAVY VETS

By Jim Doyle

“When there is a deadlock, my personal belief is that the tie should be broken in favor of the brave men

and women that put their lives on the line for all of us.”
Former Veterans Administration Secretary Dr. David Shulkin



In 1991, Congress passed the Agent Orange Act. The act presumed certain diseases were

tied to Agent Orange exposure during a veteran’s military service, and would make them eligible for VA benefits.

In the 27 years since the law was enacted, the list of diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange has

grown and includes various cancers, diabetes, Parkinson’s Disease, peripheral neuropathy, and heart disease among others.

The VA website states the following: “For the purposes of VA compensation benefits, veterans who served anywhere in Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975 are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides, as specified in the Agent Orange Act of 1991. These veterans do not need to show that they were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides in order to get disability compensation for diseases related to Agent Orange exposure.”

To get these benefits, though, veterans “must have actually set foot on Vietnamese soil or served on a craft in its rivers (also known as ‘brown water’ Navy),” the Congressional Research Service wrote. Those who instead spent time on deep-water Navy ships (called “Blue Water Navy” veterans) do not qualify unless they can show that they spent time on Vietnam land or rivers, the report said.

HR 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2018, a bill whose original sponsor is Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, would restore benefits to nearly 90,000 veterans of the Navy who served off the coast of Vietnam during the war and were subject to the same exposure to Agent Orange as their dry land and Brown Water Navy comrades.

These benefits, arbitrarily rescinded in 2002, included medical and disability treatment



and compensation. Valadao’s bill, HR 299 passed in the House 382 – 0 and was sent on to the Senate where it was also expected to pass without opposition.

Now, an openly hostile Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert Wilkie, has urged senators to reject legislation that would make health care and disability compensation available to approximately 90,000 “Blue Water” Navy veterans – those sailors aboard aircraft carriers, destroyers and other ships who contend they were exposed to Agent Orange through the ships’ water systems. The dioxin-laden herbicide has been found to cause respiratory cancers, Parkinson’s disease, and heart disease, as well as other conditions.

Wilkie, who came from the Pentagon where he was deputy secretary for personnel and readiness, has staked his tent in the far territory, beyond reason and in opposition to objective facts.

These are our neighbors, friends, co-workers, and fellow retirees who face the daily challenge of fighting illnesses directly associated with their military service, nearly 50 years after that honorable service ended.

And the VA, at its highest administrative level, refuses to extend the hand pledged on the bronze plaque next to the front door at 801 Vermont St. in Washington, the Department of Veterans Affairs: “To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan.”

Is it any wonder less than half of 1 percent of our 330 million fellow Americans choose to join the military, when confronted with the knowledge that previous generations in their families have been refused treatment and compensation for health issues directly related to their service?

Many of our Blue Water Navy veterans will not survive Wilkie’s tenure in office. It is unconscionable that an individual who has expressed open hostility to veterans was even nominated, much less confirmed as secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans might expect better from an administration that claims to support our men and women who have served, but as we’ve seen with much out of this administration, it is so much smoke being blown up our skirts.

Jim Doyle of Fresno is a Vietnam Veteran and veterans advocate.

PARKINSON’S DISEASE (PD) AND VETERANS

Veterans may be at an increased risk of PD because of their service. Evidence suggests that one cause of PD may be exposure to pesticides or herbicides. During the Vietnam War, many veterans were exposed to Agent Orange, a mix of herbicides that were used by the US military to defoliate trees and remove concealment for the enemy. There are other causes of PD as well, and most people who develop PD were never exposed to high levels of pesticides or herbicides. In 2010, the VA added PD to the list of diseases with a presumptive service connection, based on the time and

Order your Women Veteran Honor Coins Today

front



back



(Women who serve also endure through danger and war. The daisies symbolize the 8 Women whose names are on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.)

Check or Money Order Only – Payable to: Vietnam Veterans of America

Mail this form along with payment to: Vietnam Veterans of America
8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100, Silver Spring, MD 20910
Attention: Joe Sternburg

ALL ORDERS MUST BE PRE-PAID

Name: _____

Shipping Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (____) _____

\$5.00 per coin Minimum order of 10 coins

PLEASE CHECK ONE

☐ Will pick up at VVA National Office

☐ Please ship to above address
(Allow time for delivery)

Free shipping for orders of 25 or more coins.

\$5.00 x _____ qty. \$ _____
Plus \$7.20 (shipping and handling for orders under 25) \$ _____

Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

location of service. Veterans with PD from any branch of the military who were exposed to Agent Orange during service may be eligible for disability compensation and health care coverage from the VA. You don't need to prove you were exposed to obtain benefits. Exposure is presumed for those who served in locations and times that likely resulted in exposure. Full details are available on the Veterans Health Administration website at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/index.asp>.

If you have PD and don't meet the criteria for exposure, you may still obtain care through the VA. As detailed later in this article, the VA maintains a group of centers of excellence called Parkinson's Disease Research, Education and Clinical Centers (PADRECCs) that specialize in PD, as well as a nationwide network of regional specialty clinics with expertise in PD. These centers provide expert diagnosis, treatment planning, multidisciplinary care, and support groups for people with PD at every stage of the disease.

FREE AGENT ORANGE REGISTRY HEALTH EXAM

If you served in Vietnam or another area where Agent Orange was sprayed, you may be eligible for an Agent Orange Registry health exam. You don't need to enroll in the VA's health care system to take part. Contact your local VA Environmental Health Coordinator about getting this health exam. You can find contact information on the Veterans Health Administration website at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/coordinators.asp>.

CHAPTER NOTES

Chapter 756

Seal Beach Flag Ceremony, First One on Veterans Day, Sunday, 11th of November


For and By Our Veterans
To be held at the Seal Beach Pier Flag Pole,
Eisenhower Park
Our first ceremony
Veterans Day – Nov.11, 2018
4:00 p.m.
Starting Dec. 4
1st Tuesday of every month
at dusk
Honoring all men and women in uniform and
our courageous veterans. Please join us to honor
your service.
Welcome
Prayer
Recognition of our Vets - Armed Forces
Medley
Lower and folding of the Flag
Dismissal
Any questions – (714) 891-1171
Let's make this a regular event!

Chapter 201

AVVA Chapter 201 Wins First Place on Fourth of July
AVVA Chapter 201 President Cang Kim Dong reported that the chapter won First Place in this year's annual Rose, White and Blue parade in Santa Clara on the Fourth of July.

The parade, which has grown from a small street walk to become the largest July 4th parade in San Jose takes place in San Jose's Rose Garden area neighborhoods along The Alameda, which has a rich history of parades including the Carnival of Roses and the Fiesta De las Rosas. This year marked 12th Anniversary, making this the longest running parade in the history of The Alameda
Chapter 201 President Cang Kim Dong held a get-together on August 12th for friends to celebrate winning 1st place in the Rose White & Blue 4th of





CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO OUR GENERATION AND OUR COMMUNITY

President's Message

Vietnam Veterans Chapter 391 became a chartered chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) on September 12, 1988. Since its inception 30 years ago, the Chapter focus has been to serve all veterans at the community, state, and national levels. VVA's founding principle "Never Again will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another" holds true today. The current mission statement: "Helping Veterans, Communities and those serving in Harm's Way" evolved from this principle.

Chapter 391 has frequently been in the forefront advocating at the local, state and national levels. Our members serve locally, and as representatives on the VVA State Council as well as VVA National Board. As the largest Chapter in California and 9th largest in the nation our voice on veteran's issues has been strong. That voice continues for a large number of issues that impact the current generation of veterans.

We sincerely thank our many sponsors for their generous donations over the countless events held by the Chapter. Our greatest thanks goes to the citizens of our communities for supporting our events. We are forever thankful for their support.

Larry Bramblett, President
Chapter 391, Sonora

In the Beginning...

In 1988, Vietnam Veteran, Frank Smart recognized a need for a local chapter of Vietnam Veterans in Tuolumne County. He requested startup information from the National Organization. He then arranged for publicity in the Union Democrat and called the first meeting. Seven Vietnam veterans met at the home of John Grimes to discuss the possible formation of a Chapter. Those seven were John Grimes, Mike Brewer, Greg Hourigan, Ron Sutton, Pat Turro, Frank Smart and one other. Paperwork was processed and Chapter 391 of the Vietnam Veterans of America was officially chartered on September 12, 1988. The Chapter became a part of Vietnam Veterans of America, which is the only national Vietnam Veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

The founding principle of VVA is "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another". Membership is open to U.S. military veterans who served on active duty in Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Thirty Years of Service...

Over the past 30 years, the organization has evolved into a group that is trusted, beloved and made to feel that they are a vital part of the fabric of life in Tuolumne County. Members are proud of their service to their country, their communities and most of all fellow veterans, regardless of where or when they served. We continue to be a strong, active group by organizing and participating in numerous events primarily to raise funds to return to the community.

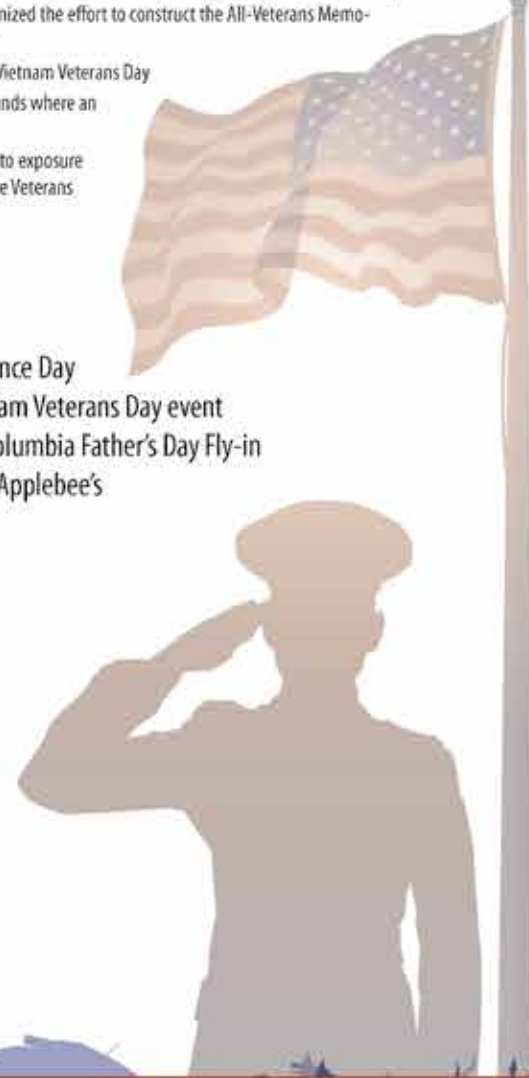

Today, the Chapter has 560 members including 380 being Life Members. We participate in many community events throughout the year. We organize several events to raise funds for our many programs. These funds allow the Chapter to support a number of community non-profits, veterans in need, scholarships and other appropriate needs. We also support our state, regional and national organizations.

Programs and Events...

- **Scholarship Program:** Annual awards have assisted a large number of students in pursuing their education after high school. The Chapter has awarded over \$86,000 in support of continuing education over the past 5 years.
- **Community Support:** The Chapter contributes to many community services such as ATCCA, Meals on Wheels, Adopt a family, Relay for Life, the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation and more.
- **Chapter 391 Color Guard:** The Color Guard appeared at more than 30 events last year, including parades, flag presentations, and memorial services.
- **Veterans Emergency Team:** This team is positioned to quickly assist veterans in need with funds to help them overcome immediate challenges. Needs may include car repair, medical or utility bills. They also help veterans connect with other services, especially veteran services, where they may get further assistance. This program serves veterans from all generations.
- **Incarcerated Veteran Program:** Provides assistance to a number of veterans at the Sierra Conservation Center.
- **Stand Downs:** Stand Down is a term used to afford battle-weary soldiers the opportunity to renew their spirit, health and overall sense of well-being. That is the purpose of the Stand Down for homeless veterans, and achieving those objectives requires a wide range of support services and time. The Chapter has hosted five Stand Downs for homeless veterans over the years and continues to try to help when and where we can with this difficult situation.
- **Veteran Memorials:** The Chapter recognized a need for a Tuolumne County Vietnam Veteran Memorial. After several months of planning on July 31, 1991, the Chapter dedicated the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at the County Library on Greenley Road. In 2010 the Chapter organized the effort to construct the All-Veterans Memorial at the Veterans Affairs Medical Clinic on Mono Way in Sonora.
- **Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day:** In March 2010, the Chapter organized the first Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day Parade. The following year, we brought the American Veterans Traveling Tribute Vietnam Wall to the Fairgrounds where an estimated 15,000 people visited the "Wall that Heals".
- **Town Hall Meetings:** The Chapter has organized several town hall meetings addressing illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange, symptoms and cures for Hepatitis C, and town hall meetings with representatives from the Veterans Administration.

Fundraisers

- VVA Annual Golf Classic
- Welcome Home Veterans Bike and Car Show
- Participation at the Twain Harte Arts and Wine Festival
- Agent Orange Recognition Day
- POW/MIA Remembrance Day
- Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day event
- Participation at the Columbia Father's Day Fly-in
- Pancake Breakfast at Applebee's



Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA)

Sonora's AVVA Chapter 391 was formed in 2006 and currently has 53 members. Together with VVA Chapter 391, we serve veterans, their families and our community through programs, projects and education. These include raising funds for the Adopt-A-Family Program and participating in annual Chapter 391 fundraisers. Recognizing the significant impacts PTSD has on family and loved ones, AVVA and VVA 391 partner with AVVA National and our local community to present a monthly secondary PTSD support group. The group provides emotional and educational support to families of veterans, first responders and any others affected by a loved one's PTSD.

Join us! For membership information go to www.vietnamveterans391.org

July parade. A great time, and excellent food.

AVVA Chapter 201 President Cang Kim Dong, Van Le, former 7th District Council candidate, Dung Ngo, victory gathering Master of Ceremonies, Steve Thompson, VVA Chapter 201 Secretary/Treasurer, Fran McVey, United Veterans Council President and Gene Fanucchi, VVA Chapter 201 Vice President



CHAPTER 201 CONDUCTS FUNDRAISER

Chapter 201 held a fundraising event at the Moffett Field Commissary in Mountain View, California on August 11, 2018. The Chapter holds periodic



fundraisers at the former Naval Base at Moffett Field to support Chapter events and activities such as BBQs at the local Veterans Administration hospitals. In addition to collecting contributions, the Chapter hands out Agent Orange poppies and provides information on Agent Orange. Chapter 201 Secretary/Treasurer Steve Thompson, Director Dennis Foggie, Past President Dave Sanders and Vice President Gene Fanucchi also handed out VVA and AVVA brochures to recruit new members as well as handed out educational brochures on Agent Orange.

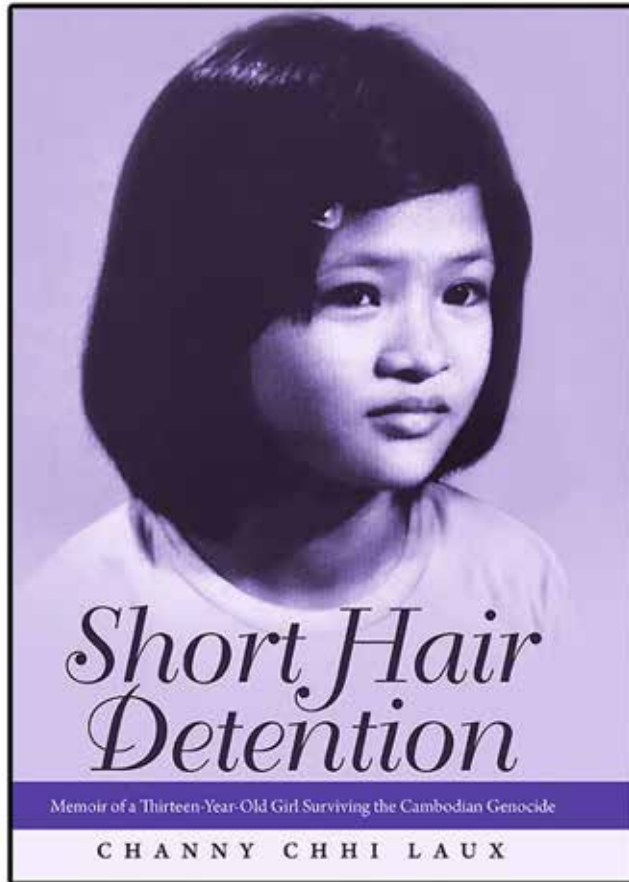
SHORT HAIR DETENTION PRESENTATION

VVA Chapter 201 was honored with a presentation by Channy Chhi Laux during the August 20, 2018 Chapter meeting.

Channy Chhi Laux, author of the book *Short Hair Detention: Memoir of a Thirteen-Year-Old Girl Surviving the Cambodian Genocide*, is a survivor of the



Khmer Rouge genocide in Cambodia. She was thirteen years old when the Khmer Rouge took over the country in 1975. In June of 1979, Channy arrived in Lincoln, Nebraska as a refugee. After four years of no school and not knowing a word of English, she attended Lincoln High School; went on to earn a Master of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from Santa Clara University and



undergraduate degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Channy worked in Silicon Valley as an engineer in the Aerospace and Biotech industries for 30 years. She is the founder and chef of Angkor Cambodian Food <http://angkorfood.com/>.

Short Hair Detention is the personal memoir of Channy and how she survived the Cambodian genocide (1975-1979). Her story begins when the Communists took over Cambodia, progresses through extreme starvation, forced labor, multiple escape attempts and concludes with how freedom was regained. The book reveals intimate details of how daughter-mother love gave Channy the strength to survive year-round unforgiving conditions.



Following her presentation, Channy Chhi Laux was presented with a Chapter 201 Certificate of Appreciation by Chapter 201 President Warren Finch

SYLMAR ARMORY WILL BECOME YEAR-ROUND SHELTER FOR WOMEN

A seldom-used California National Guard Armory in Sylmar will be sold to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority for use as “bridge housing” for women who need homes, under a bill signed Sunday by the governor.

Assembly Bill 3251 was championed by county Supervisor Sheila Kuehl and supported by Assembly Member Richard Bloom. County officials have already said it is suitable for use as a 24/7 homeless shelter for women, and it has been used as a shelter during cold or rainy weather for 20 years.

“Converting the Sylmar Armory into a 24-

hour resource center will give women experiencing homelessness an opportunity to get back on their feet while providing them with a safe environment, as they look for permanent housing options,” said Bloom.

“The goal of the armory is to assist these high-need individuals with resources necessary to get back into a home — something every human being needs.”

The latest count of people sleeping in the streets, in canyons or on beaches found 52,765 people experiencing homelessness in the county, which estimated that more than 2,000 new emergency shelter beds were needed throughout the county.

A countywide tax made possible by Measure H will fund the purchase and conversion costs, Bloom said.

Kuehl said passage of the new law “provides a great boost to vulnerable women experiencing homelessness, by helping them access bridge housing and services at the Sylmar Armory.”

The “bridge housing” will provide 24-hour dormitory-style living quarters, plus intensive case management, apartment-finding help and employment specialists to get individuals into permanent housing quickly, Bloom said.

In addition to Sylmar, National Guard armories in Hanford, Placerville, Redwood City, Reedley, San Jose and Susanville will be sold to local agencies, under terms of the bill signed by Gov. Jerry Brown Sunday.

Kate O'Hare-Palmer RN.RD
Vietnam Veterans of America
Women Veterans Comm. Chapter.
California State Council VVA
EM: koharepalmer@vva.org
AMVETS POST#40
SANTA ROSA, CA.

HOW DID AN ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL FROM NEW YORK END UP IN THE HANDS OF A SAN BERNARDINO VETERAN?

By Brian Whitehead

The Army Commendation Medal that Vietnam veteran Gary Farris, of San Bernardino, used to track down family of fellow veteran James J. Brennan, of New York, at his home in San Bernardino on Friday, August 17, 2018. Farris ended up with Brennan’s Army Commendation Medal and has located family of the late serviceman to return it to them. Brennan was killed in the Vietnam War. (Photo by Jennifer Cappuccio Maher, Inland Valley Daily Bulletin/SCNG)



A few dollars was all Christopher Guillen needed to buy something priceless.

A regular at local yard sales, Guillen recently acquired a box of someone else’s belongings. Inside was an Army Commendation Medal, two ribbon racks and a medallion identifying a combat infantryman. Guillen asked his brother, Sammy, if he could help track down whose paraphernalia he had.

Sammy Guillen asked his friend Jonathan Farris if his father could help.

Gary Farris, a Vietnam veteran and longtime San Bernardino resident, did some digging and will soon return James Brennan’s medal, racks and medallion to his closest living relative.

“It’s so mysterious how the medal got from New York City to San Bernardino,” said Farris, 72.

Brennan had one week left on his tour of duty when he was killed by friendly fire on Feb. 9, 1968, in South Vietnam. He was two months shy of his 21st birthday.

In addition to the Army Commendation Medal, the New York native was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Purple Heart, among others. Articles found online from a 1968

edition of the Brooklyn Spectator detail the hometown boy's death and return home.

Brennan, a member of the 1st Battalion, 35th Infantry, was buried at Long Island National Cemetery.

Farris, too, served in Vietnam, from 1967 to 1968, as a member of the 137th Engineer Company (LE). A combat veteran like Brennan, Farris earned dozens of medals for his service.

In 2004, the Redlands High grad and a fellow Vietnam veteran set out to reunite their old unit.

The dwindling group just celebrated 52 years home.

Brennan's belongings could not have fallen into better hands.

Last month, Farris typed Brennan's name into the virtual Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, an online database of fallen soldiers. Brennan's name and picture came up, as did information about his service record. A post on the site had an email address attached.

Farris sent Dennis Callahan a message.

Callahan is Brennan's nephew. He lives in New Jersey and still has his uncle's Purple Heart and folded American flag.

How did Brennan's medal get from New York to San Bernardino? Farris asked.

Callahan, who did not respond to an email seeking comment, told Farris he recalled his grandmother's New York apartment being robbed twice in the 1970s. The medal may have been taken then, he figured, though how it traveled across the country still is a mystery.

"Maybe someone that had the medals might see this article and contact me," Farris said.

The Farris family's front fence is lined with tiny American flags. An Uncle Sam lawn sculpture greets visitors.

Gary Farris and his wife, Geraldine, visit the Riverside National Cemetery every third Wednesday to pay their respects to fallen soldiers who have no one to grieve for them. The couple is active with the Inland Empire Veterans' Employment Committee and has a granddaughter who served in Iraq.

Since receiving Brennan's medal, Farris has put together a notebook in his honor. From the Internet, he pulled a photo of Brennan fresh out of boot camp, a photo of his immediate and extended family receiving his Army Commendation Medal posthumously and a photo of Callahan looking at his uncle's name on the Vietnam Veterans Wall in New York City.

"I felt honored to dig into his past," Farris said.

Shortly after seeing Brennan's name on the back of his Army Commendation Medal, Farris opened the pocket-sized box securing his to see if his name was etched into it. It is.

"Gary L. Farris."

"When things are supposed to be, they're supposed to be," he said. "That's the way it was written."



Run For The Wall May 15-25, 2019

One **Mission**
Three Routes

www.rftw.us



Mission Statement:

To promote healing among ALL veterans and their families and friends,
To call for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA),
To honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and
To support our military personnel all over the world.

Philosophy:

We strive to maintain a safe, supportive and private atmosphere in which all participants can reflect and heal on their journey to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C. in the hope that they can return home to a new beginning.

Goals:

1. To guide the participants across America.
2. To educate future generations as to the importance of accountability in wartime actions emphasizing that no one should be left behind.
3. To participate in Rolling Thunder in support of their demand for government accountability for POW/MIA's.

RFTW riders visit VA Medical Centers, Veterans' Memorials, Veterans' Outreach Facilities, VFW Posts, American Legion Posts, and Community Centers, as well as schools along the routes.

All Routes leave from Ontario, CA, on May 15, 2019, separate, and join back together in Arlington, VA, on May 24, 2019.



Run For The Wall is a 501(c)(3) organization and welcomes donations. Please contact your State Coordinator or the RFTW Treasurer as listed on www.rftw.us - contacts.

THINGS MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ABOUT WAR VETERANS

By SGT. Clyde R. Horn (Combat Veteran, 1967-68, Vietnam)

I'm a Vietnam War Combat Veteran who survived the TET offensive along with being in numerous firefights. I served with the Army 199th Light Infantry Brigade, Company E. My unit fought in the Iron Triangle of Vietnam. I'm the recipient of the Purple Heart for wounds received in action, Combat Infantry Badge, and Army Commendation Medal.

Here are some things most people don't know about combat veterans:

One, we are reactive to loud sounds and noises. Many of us cannot enjoy the 4th of July firecrackers and such due to the noise sounding like gunfire.

A sudden loud noise can make us jump, create anxiety, often causing us to have a Post-Traumatic Stress reaction. Please don't insist we go to events on the 4th of July

Run For The Wall

Promote healing among all veterans, their families and supporters and to support our military personnel all over the world.

WHAT: Motorcycle event

WHERE: Ontario, CA to Washington, DC

WHEN: May 15th thru May 25th 2019

INFORMATION: www.rftw.us

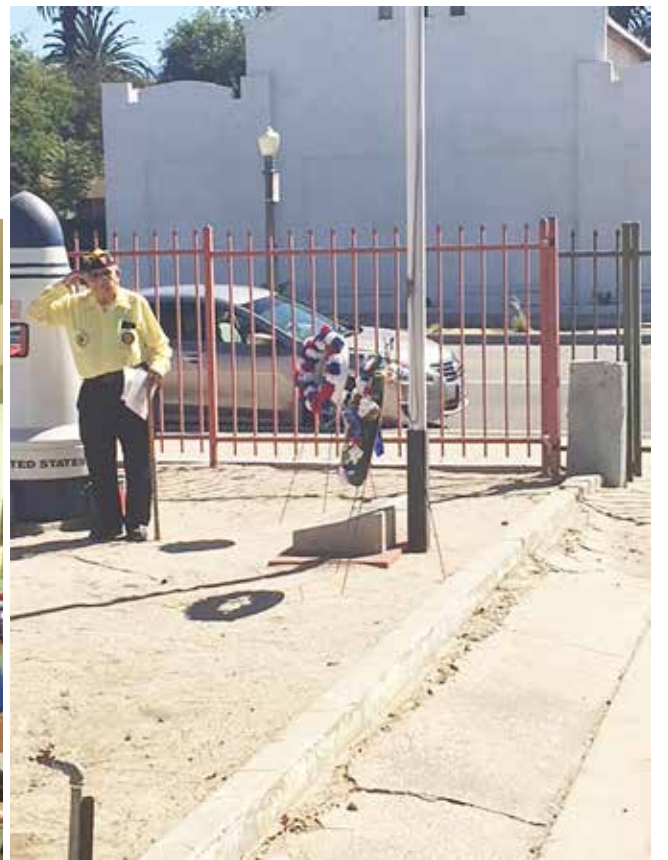
Veterans of recent conflicts and those currently on active duty are especially welcome to join us, ride for one or more days or all the way. All veterans and supporters are welcome

CHAPTER 47

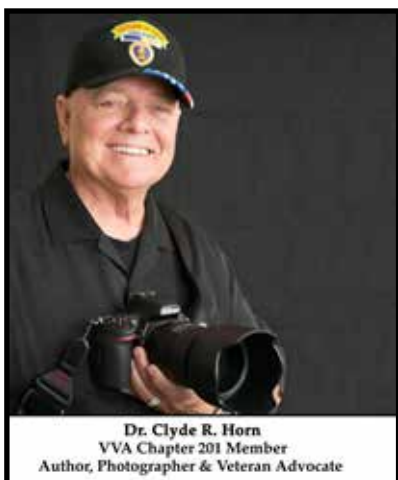
For POW/MIA Remembrance Day 2018 Inland Empire Chapter 47 held its 12th ceremony at the Military Museum in San Bernardino, CA. The ceremony started with the raising of the Flags (US and POW/MIA), presentation of wreaths from the Fleet Marine Force and Chapter 47, and Taps. Then inside Jim Valdez continued the ceremony along with chapter members Tom Hohmann and Steve Mackey. Taps were again done by a local high school student.

Photos above left to right: Chapter 47 members Ruben Rasso and George Swift raise the flags; Chapter 47 member Jim Valdez, master of ceremonies.

Photos below left to right: Jim Valdez, master of ceremonies, leads the program; chapter members and guest at the ceremonies; Jim Valdez renders a hand salute.



that includes fireworks or flyovers.



Two, we can be obsessive about safety. Many of us scan the environment looking for exits, observing people for high risk profiles, out of place dress, checking in our home that doors, windows and entrances/exits are locked. Some of us do not like to sit in

a café unless our backs can be toward a wall. We are hypervigilant being attune to quick movements, sounds, with an acute sense of the environment.

Three, it's common for us to have sleep disorders that include night terrors/nightmares and sleep deprivation. Our biology is on sensory overload. We can get locked into traumatic dreams. We can thrash about in disturbed sleep waking up in a drenched sweat. Sleeping is difficult for us.

Four, we generally have trust issues. In war, you must trust your fellow soldiers to watch your back. It's a life or death time. When we return to a peace time setting our trauma doesn't trust "normality". Turning off the signals to our brain stem is next to impossible. The chemical cortisone in the brain stem is activated. This means the fight, flight or freeze dynamic of survival doesn't turn off for many combat veterans and we are in a constant state of feeling danger around us. One of the consequences is we don't trust "normal".

Five, we have a tendency to isolate. We can be perfectly happy to be by ourselves, avoid crowds, get anxious around gatherings and move away from our loved ones. Trauma robs us of intimacy meaning isolation is easier than facing hard questions or treatment.

Six, we can have anger issues. War can make us emotionally explosive. How can a war veteran explain to someone that has not been in life or death situations with death all around what it's like? How can someone who lives when others die around them, when we witness acts of violence that no one should ever experience not be angry? Many returning war veterans need treatment to address reactivity and inner rage.

Seven, we tend to "zone" out easily. We can be very focused and then not be present. We can seem to change our personality instantly. This is often called displacement where we remove ourselves from the present. This is a defense mechanism that we used to escape some of the terror we experienced.

Eight, there can be a tendency to become addictive to alcohol abuse, drugs, gambling or overdo hobbies, exercise to extreme or do things that interfere to the normal functioning of life. We need escapes to temper the demons within us. Without proper treatment, we seek out substitutes that hinder rather than help us.

Nine, we can have feelings of being unlovable. If we can't love ourselves how can we love others? We can have survival as well as moral guilt over our combat experience. We know we have changed from the person we used to be never to return back to the innocence we once knew. These feelings can attack us internally creating a lack of joy in life along with diminishing our ability to love.

Ten, we are vulnerable to be re-traumatized. It's not uncommon for others to compare us to who we were before our war experience. Family might demand we "forget" our experience and move positively into the future. Some

people in our lives may degrade our war experience and others may want us to tell war stories or question the morality of war. These actions may seem to be in our best interest, but they are actually abusive. We experienced significant trauma that lives in our cells, imprints in our brains, and requires appropriate treatment, interaction with other veterans, and solutions to self-soothe along with interventions to resolve the moral battle that swirls in our souls.

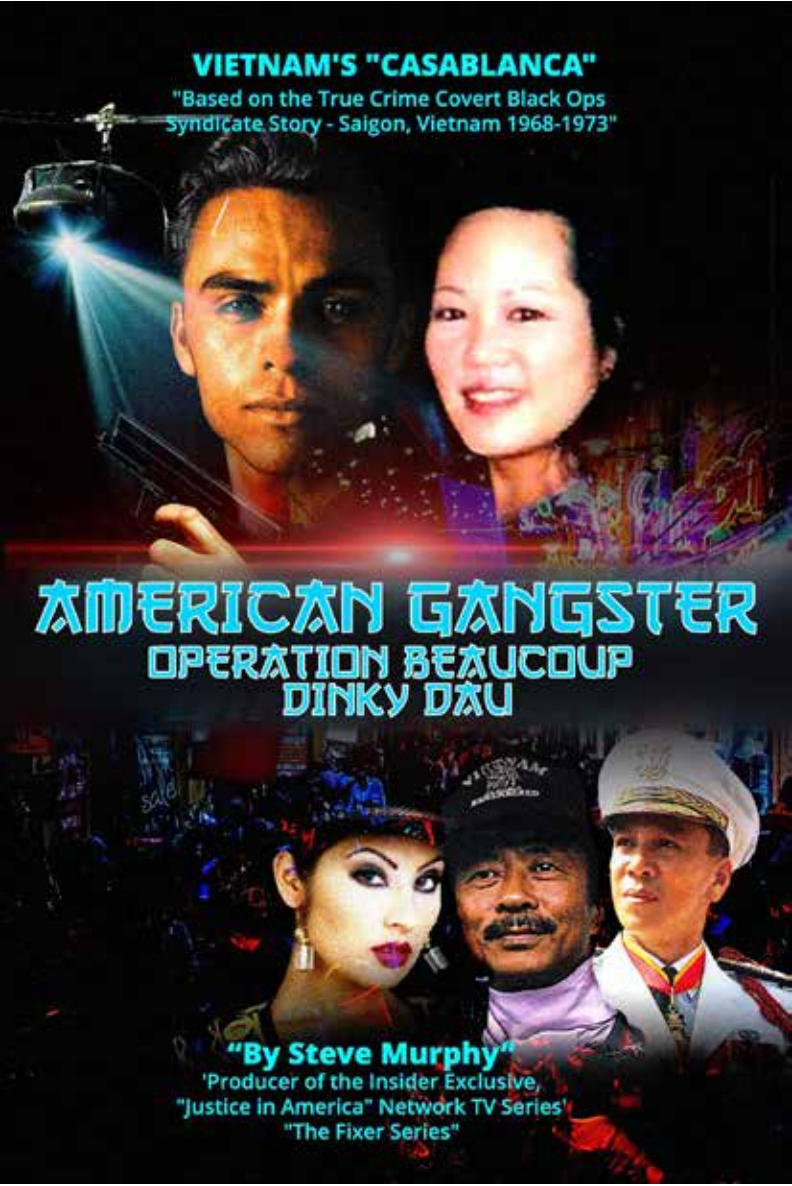
These ten examples of things you may not know about war veterans are not all inclusive. There are many more factors I have not included. The ten examples are critical points you should understand. One of the failures of understanding veterans is most of what people think they know is seen in movies or entertainment. Veteran families need education along with the veteran. Treatment must include education not just medication or therapy. When we can treat the veteran along with the family healing can begin.

AMERICAN GANGSTER - A NOVEL

To Be Published, Nov. 2018 , To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War, mandated by presidential proclamation issued on May 25, 2012. The Commemoration extends from its inaugural event on Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025.

"American Gangster – Operation Beaucoup Dinky Dau"

Based On The Explosive True Story Of A Top Secret Covert Operation known by the innocuous cover name, "Operation Beaucoup Dinky Dau", the clandestine "unofficial, off-the-grid logistics Support Operation" to funnel millions of dollars of US military aid to the U.S. led Indigenous teams, the Montagnards, Meo and Hmong



as well as the most influential “unofficial” Defense Attaché Office (DAO) “Logistics Contractor” to the CIA’s Phoenix Program, and the most successful Black Marketeer in Vietnam, and the owner of the infamous supper club, “Beaucoup Dinky Dau”.

It’s a story most Americans have never heard of and shines a new and disturbing light on the role of the United States in the creation of communist Vietnam.

It’s also the story of the underbelly of the Saigon metropolis like few others. Corrupt Generals, shady Politicians, gangsters, prostitutes, bootleggers, opium addicts, jazz musicians, deserters, black marketeers, and your run of the mill criminals, murderers, thieves, and con artists – Johnnie observed and worked with them all in his underground black-market network.

A big-shouldered “Crime Thriller Love Story” novel set in a mobbed-up late 1960s – 1970s Saigon, Pearl of the Orient, Vietnam, “Operation Beaucoup Dinky Dau” is the first “Crime Thriller Love Story” novel in more than seven decades, since Graham Greene’s “Quiet American”.

Across the canvas of a city peopled by the corrupt, the cynical, and the deceived, the author, Steve Murphy, crafts a wicked and tough saga of retribution and double cross. Mixing some of his most brilliant fictional creations with actual figures of the era (among them former President Nguyen Van Thieu and former Air Marshall Nguyen Cao Ky), he explores, as no other writer can, questions of Honor, Deceit, Devotion, Betrayal, and Revenge.

Set in his adopted hometown, Saigon, "American Gangster – Operation Beaucoup Dinky Dau", is the book that Steve Murphy has been building up to for his whole career. From its opening fusillade to its astonishing conclusion, it's that rarest of literary creations: a book that combines spectacular elegance of craft with a kinetic wallop as fierce as the Monsoons and Tsunamis bringing torrential rains to the Pearl of the Orient.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION

S. 3479, the Department of Veterans Affairs Expiring Authorities Act of 2018 has now been reported to the House and will not be enacted without House approval. Some of these important provisions such as:

--Extension of requirement to provide nursing home care to certain veterans with service-connected disabilities.

--Extension of authority for pilot program on assistance for child care for certain veterans receiving health care.

--Extension of authority for pilot program on counseling in retreat settings for women veterans newly separated from service.

--Extension of temporary expansion of payments and allowances for beneficiary travel in connection with veterans receiving care from vet centers.

In addition, S. 3479 provides permanent authority for specially adapted housing assistance for certain veterans with disabilities that cause difficulty with walking and to provide rehabilitation and vocational benefits to members of the Armed Forces with severe injuries or illnesses. It also supports an extension of the specially adapted housing assistive technology grant program.

S. 3479 extends important authorities within the homeless veterans' program including rehabilitation programs, child care, referral and counseling programs for "at-risk" veterans; programs for seriously mentally ill and homeless veterans; supportive services for low-income families in permanent housing and grants for homeless veterans with special needs. VA has made remarkable progress in reducing homelessness among veterans and DAV supports sustained and sufficient funding to continue this effort.

The bill would also support the monthly allowance for Office of Sports Programs and Special Events.

Support of this bill to continue important programs for America's disabled veterans.

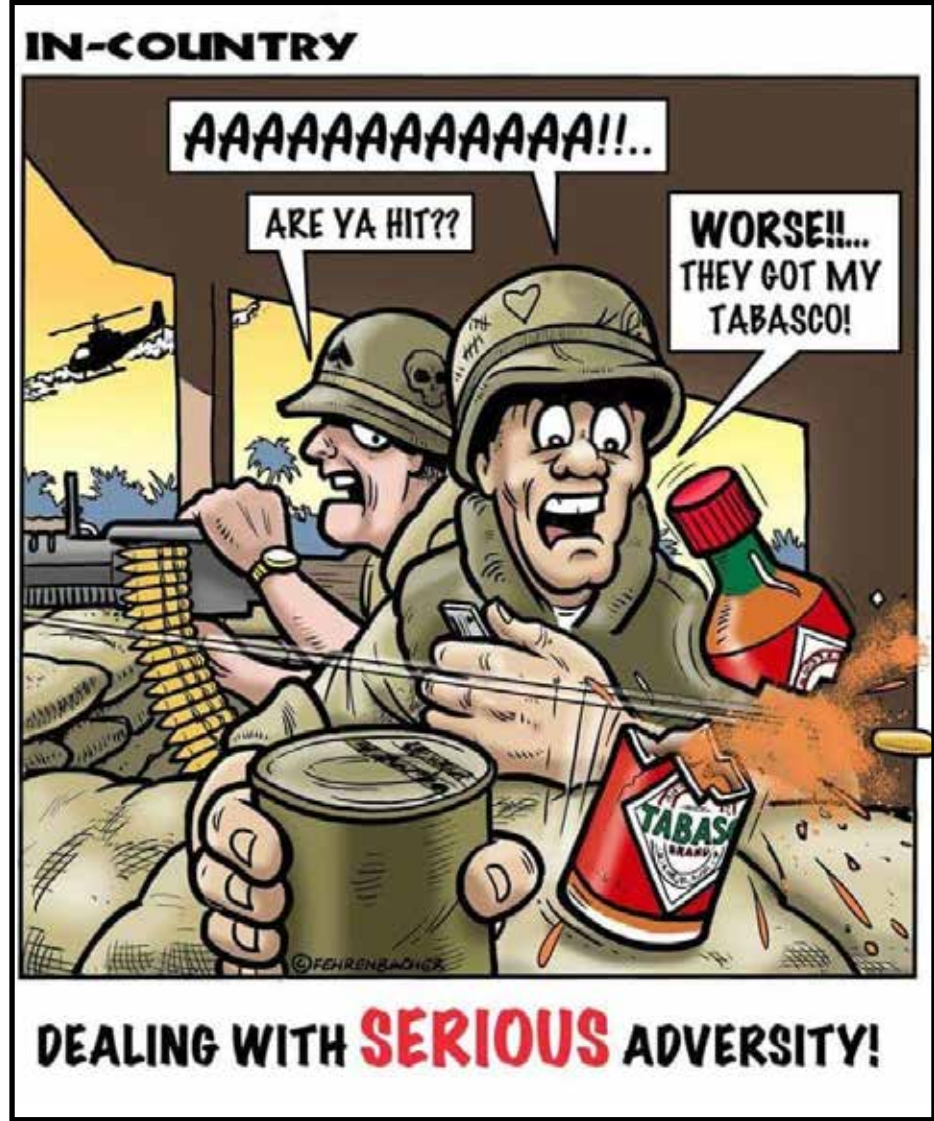
H.R. 299

Vietnam Veterans of America Calls for the Senate to Pass H.R. 299, and Rename it the John S. McCain Blue Water Navy Bill

(Washington, DC)--- "Vietnam Veterans of America calls on the U.S. Senate to honor Vietnam War hero and Navy veteran John S. McCain by passing H.R. 299, The Blue Water Navy Act, and renaming this critical bill in his honor," said John Rowan, VVA National President.

"From his time in captivity in the Hanoi Hilton, where he spurned his captors' offer of early release, putting his fellow POWs first, to his final battle with glioblastoma, Senator John McCain has led an unparalleled life of service to our nation and his fellow Americans. Let us honor the service and sacrifice of Senator McCain by taking care of his fellow Navy Vietnam veterans, who are sick and dying due to their military service, and who unable to receive treatment and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs," said Rowan.

"Senator McCain's final battle with glioblastoma, and more broadly cancer, is a fight that Vietnam veterans and our families know all too well. Countless patriots' lives have been cut short, many of them related to Agent Orange, the toxic herbicide used to defoliate the jungles and waterways," noted Rowan.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund - Wall of Faces
California Missing Photos – October 08, 2018 – TOTALS

California Service Members listed on Vietnam Memorial	5575	
California Service Members listed with photos	5333	
California Service Members listed without photos	242	- 1
Note: California Service Members listed as MIA	162	
All Service Members listed as MIA	1571	
California Service Members – Home of Record	69	Cities or Communities - 1
Alameda County	15	- Missing Photos
Contra Costa County	7	- Missing Photos
Los Angeles County	164	- Missing Photos
Orange County	19	- Missing Photos
San Diego County	8	- Missing Photos
San Francisco County	19	- Missing Photos
San Joaquin County	2	- Missing Photos
San Mateo County	2	- Missing Photos
Santa Clara County	6	- Missing Photos
Total	242	- Missing Photos - 1
Wall of Faces Website	– http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/	
Wall of Faces Website Search	– http://www.vvmf.org/Wall-of-Faces/search/results	
Wall of Faces Website Submit Photo	– http://www.vvmf.org/how-to-submit	

California Missing Photos – Comparison to other States/Territories
States/Territories with over 100 missing photos

Total Missing Photos Nationwide – 1952 - 22

Location	Missing Photos	Change	Total Casualties	Percent Missing
California	242	- 1	5575	4.3
New York	598	- 3	4126	14.5
Illinois	123	0	2938	4.2
Michigan	127	- 1	2666	4.8
Georgia	160	- 10	1585	10.1
Virginia	143	- 2	1306	10.9
Alabama	132	- 1	1210	10.9
Puerto Rico	186	0	347	53.6

In an abrupt about face, in February 2002, the VA changed its rules, arbitrarily terminating benefits to the 534,300-plus Blue Water U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, and FMF Marine veterans serving in the waters of Southeast Asia, thereby limiting the scope of the Agent Orange Act of 1991 to those veterans who could provide proof of "boots on the ground" in Vietnam. Suddenly, offshore veterans stopped receiving VA health care and disability compensation.

"The John S. McCain Blue Water Navy Bill/Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017, when signed into law, would right this wrong and partially restore coverage to those aggrieved veterans who suffer from illnesses considered presumptive to exposure to Agent Orange and other toxic herbicides. This is a fitting tribute to a leader who has put the needs of his men before his own," said Rowan.

VVMF EDUCATION CENTER
VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND CHANGES
DIRECTION OF EDUCATION CENTER CAMPAIGN

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund changes direction of Education Center campaign

Washington, D.C., September 21, 2018 – At its regularly scheduled quarterly meeting, the board of directors of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) announced today that after a strategic review of the Education Center project, the board is directing the staff to focus on online resources, hand-held technology, education staff, mobile exhibits and partnerships to teach visitors about the Vietnam War and honor those whose names appear on the Memorial, and to terminate efforts to construct a physical building on the National Mall.

The organization will continue integrating its education outreach with its other ongoing programs, including physical maintenance of the Memorial, annual ceremonies, The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit, In Memory program, and meeting groups and individuals at The Wall.

Full statement from the board of directors as delivered by Chairman, John Dibble:

After a strategic review of the Education Center project, the board is directing the staff to focus on online resources, hand-held technology, education staff, mobile exhibits and partnerships to teach visitors about the Vietnam War and honor those whose names appear on the Memorial, and to terminate efforts to construct a physical building on the National Mall.

This project has faced many difficult challenges since Jan Scruggs conceived the idea in 2001. It has been a long road, and we have had many successes along the way due to the support of active volunteers, generous large and grassroots donors, committed Members of Congress, key advisors, construction and design partners, international allies, and our professional staff.

We recognize it has taken the board a long time to make this very difficult decision to change direction, but that is because of our absolute commitment to the vision and what it would have meant for Vietnam veterans and future generations. We wouldn't have been fulfilling our obligation as a board if we didn't pursue every single, possible avenue and opportunity to make this project a success.

Unfortunately, we've reached that point regarding a physical building on the National Mall as the funding simply has not materialized.

We must acknowledge there are many great things that have come out of the Education Center project, and we will continue building upon those successes. The Wall of Faces online needs just over 2,000 photos to be completed, based on the hard work and dedication of dozens of active volunteers. The online display of nearly 3,000 of the items left at The Wall is the largest publicly available display from this unique collection. We have a mobile tour phone app to use at The Wall, a virtual tour online, an extensive curriculum, and even a mobile education center that travels with our replica of The Wall. Through recent partnership discussions with military museums, we are encouraged that our photos, artifacts, and information eventually will have physical homes within their exhibits. We

New Book - The Healing, Pan American Flight 001



Book Review By Colonel Bill Fortier, US Army Retired

I truly believe that this book will help so many who have had to face spouses, fathers, brothers, uncles etc. who were dealing with unthinkable horrendous memories from the war zone...this book is really for them, to help them better understand by learning how one man was able to find himself again...

Richard self-published this book from notes he took and kept/put away for decades. It's a book of love that serves to "free" Richard from much that he carried quietly with him for decades.

I have believed, from the very beginning, that this book will later become a wonderful movie that will help free other Vets - and it will help their families begin to better understand the invisible wounds of war.

We have needlessly lost too many of our brothers and sisters because they were unable to talk to their families about the internal pain and injuries to their psyche that are unexplainable...after one reads this book - they will have a new sense of understanding - and "healing" may begin to take place on all sides.

Richard Jellerson, former Vietnam Helicopter pilot and documentary filmmaker ("A Solemn Promise, America's Missing in Action" and "A Personal Experience, Helicopter Warfare in Vietnam") has just released his new book – "The Healing, Pan American Flight 001".

Following two tours of duty in Vietnam as an Army helicopter pilot, first as a combat pilot and then as General Creighton Abrams personal pilot, Richard had lost touch with humanity. He didn't want to return home to a country divided by that war. So, he spent a year seeking to, once again, find meaning and solace in his life. To his surprise through interaction with total strangers in foreign lands he began healing deep psychic wounds he didn't realize he had.

This is a great book for all who have experienced war and found the return home difficult. But even more importantly, it will be particularly helpful for those whose loved ones have experienced war and returned changed. This book will perhaps begin building a better understanding by learning how one such "healing" took place.

Barnes and Noble
<https://bit.ly/2DShhIO>
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For more information Contact: Phone: (626) 355-0260 - OR - Website: www.storytellerfilms.tv

have a lot to show for our efforts already, and as we look to the future, we will add to these resources.

We know many veterans and supporters are disappointed in this outcome. We also are disappointed that the early enthusiasm and support did not result in a completed building. Since the idea was developed in early 2001, the world is a very different place.

But those changes also have created new opportunities to use technology to put information into the hands of nearly every visitor at The Wall, from grade school students and up. What we can do today, and what we will be able to do tomorrow, will transform and deepen the experience of millions of visitors to the National Mall and millions more who may never visit The Wall.

Estimates are that more than half the visitors to The Wall today were not born when it was dedicated in 1982. That makes it even more important to focus our efforts on the Memorial and all our programs that help people understand the importance of why we have a wall with more than 58,000 names inscribed upon it. In person, online, or on the road - we remain committed to honoring the service of our Vietnam veterans, preserving the legacy of those who gave their lives, and educating all generations about the impact of the Vietnam War.

We have full confidence in our amazing staff to continue our mission into the future.

Since 2001, VVMF was able to raise 1/3 of the \$130M needed to complete the project.

According to Chuck Hagel, 24th secretary of defense, a Vietnam veteran and author of the Education Center legislation, "An Education Center building would have become a treasured national asset. However, given that the financial support did not materialize, I believe the Board made the right decision to focus on technology to educate visitors about the Memorial. I think they are on the right track in establishing partnerships with existing museums. There are a great many more contributions that VVMF can continue to make to help future generations understand the Vietnam War through the tools of technology and new partnerships."

Jim Knotts, president and chief executive officer of VVMF, said, "We will have to work out the details of what this change means, but I am encouraged by the board's steadfast commitment to going back to our core mission. We will continue maintaining The Wall and the Memorial site with the National Park Service. We will continue hosting our ceremonies. We will continue to meet groups at The Wall and work with teachers to use our curriculum and take our replica of The Wall and its mobile education center around the country. We will continue to integrate information from the Education Center project into all our ongoing programs."

With donation commitments of \$45M, approximately \$5M has yet to be received. Of that, \$23M has been spent on construction design, exhibit planning, awareness building, and preliminary work necessary for specific exhibits within the project. VVMF collected donations of \$17M specifically restricted to hard construction, which may be returned after discussions with those donors.

History

In 2001, VVMF Founder Jan Scruggs, proposed a structure near The Wall that would be a gathering place for school groups, reunion groups and tour groups to learn about the Memorial before their visit to The Wall. They would learn about its history, its design, the controversy and context for why we now have a wall bearing more than 58,000 names. They hopefully would learn about the service of the Vietnam era veterans, that divisive period in our nation's history, and the stories of some of the individual names on The Wall. The original concept was a small building of about 2,000 square feet, which was mostly just a covered gathering space.

The concept expanded quickly and the original feasibility study estimated the cost at \$40M.

When opposition was raised to an above-ground structure, the concept was pushed toward an underground building, which became a requirement written into the original authorizing legislation in 2003 for VVMF to build the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center. The requirement to build underground, in a location where the water table is about 15 feet, dramatically increased the cost of the project. The legislation also required that VVMF raise the full amount to complete the project before construction could begin and prohibited any federal funding for this project on The National Mall. The Wall was built solely from private funds, and the legislation required the same for the Education Center.

Going through the required design, development and approval process with the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPD) and U.S. Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the concept became more refined. It also grew in scope and cost. The size of the building had increased to

40,000 square feet, including an open-air courtyard.

In 2009, VVMF began the Call for Photos project. This was the effort to gather at least one photo for every name on The Wall, which would be necessary for a major exhibit inside the visitor center. Thousands of volunteers across the country began collecting the photos, and VVMF put them online as the Wall of Faces. (The site currently attracts more than 10 million page views each year.)

The focus also shifted toward education, and the working name of the project was changed to Education Center at The Wall. The projected cost at that time was \$85M.

When the final design approvals were granted in 2015, the project went from 65% to 95% design complete, and the cost grew from \$115M to the current projection of \$130M. By comparison, the WWII Memorial, an above-ground installation completed in 2004, cost \$182M. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, an above-ground installation completed in 2011, cost \$120M. The Smithsonian Museum of African American History, which opened in 2016 and has a significant portion of the building underground, cost \$540M.

Also in 2015, VVMF worked with the National Park Service (NPS) to put online thousands of curation records VVMF had produced for items left at The Wall, archived in the NPS collection. That online collection of Items Left at The Wall remains the largest collection of publicly available information about items left at The Wall. VVMF also recreated its exhibits that travel the country with its replica of The Wall. Using the themes and exhibit designs for the Education Center as a guide, the trailer reflected the major exhibits planned on The National Mall. A new set of curricula, available for teachers, was published and distributed through VVMF's teacher network.

In 2017, in conjunction with the 35th Anniversary of the dedication of The Wall, VVMF released its first version of a Mobile Tour phone app, which included information

about each person listed on The Wall. It also included videos about the history of the memorial, its design, and the original controversy. App users were introduced to individuals on The Wall, which also represented topics like: prisoners of war, the missing in action, women on The Wall, the Tet Offensive, the youngest person, items left at The Wall, the Three Servicemen Statue, the Women's Memorial, and many more.

In 2018, the Department of the Interior rejected all proposed methods for donor recognition within the Education Center, although VVMF subsequently submitted an updated plan for consideration.

An updated version of the phone app is expected in October 2018, which is expected to allow visitors to point their phone at any one of the 58,000+ names on The Wall and have it open a page about that person. An online Education Center is in development and expected early in 2019.

VVMF - REACTIONS

From an a retired educator's point of view, this makes much more sense at this date & time. Give the technology we have, many more people will be able to learn about the Vietnam War..

From a medically retired Marine combat wounded Vietnam Veteran, I was disappointed, felt cheated, let down again by our governing bodies, a bit of sadness, a tear and a feeling of again, we take a hit....however the educator part of me says after these many years of trying to get the Museum built, this makes much more sense for the future warriors & their families to have this type of museum available to them.

Reactions, anyone.....

K.R. Zack Earp

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In this issue:
• Chapter/Council Activities-Events/Photos
• Legislative News
• Veteran Info
And more...

CSC Meeting Dates & Events
October 26-28, 2018, Fresno, CA
January 25-27, 2019, Fresno, CA
April 26-28, 2019, Fresno, CA
August 23-25, 2019, Fresno, CA
Zephyr deadlines 5 weeks prior to each CSC meeting