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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Well the 2019 National convention is over. I would say it is one of the best conventions in quite some time. Lots of business that had to be taken care of and we did it without too many confrontations. Some of the debates over the constitution amendments were quite passionate, but we all survived. The same with some of the resolutions but we all remained friends.

During the convention we had a chance to visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Spokane for a wreath laying ceremony. The Memorial was erected to honor those 300 soldiers who called the Inland Northwest home and lost their lives in Vietnam. The names of these soldiers, who came from Eastern Washington, North Idaho, Western Montana and Southern British Columbia, are inscribed on the Memorial. Another wonderful Memorial paying respect to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

Although this convention is over I am positive some of the same amendments that we defeated this year will be brought back up at the next convention. So get prepared to head east in 2021.

I want to thank all the CSC delegates who attended the convention, it is very much appreciated. Hope to see even more at the next National convention.

Talking about conventions, CSC is already in the planning stages for the next CSC convention which will be held in June 2020. Now is the time to start fundraising so that your chapter can send all your delegates to the convention. It would be nice to have a packed convention hall for our next convention, so let us get busy.

Steve

DUTY, HONOR, COUNTRY... SUICIDE

Sometimes, a lawyer might be the first responder

Eileen C. Moore, Associate Justice

In a former life, Justice Moore served as a combat nurse in Vietnam in the Army Nurse Corps. She was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Cross of Gallantry with Palm. She is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America. Since 2008, she has chaired the Judicial Council's Veterans and Military Families Subcommittee. For nine years, she served as a mentor in a Veterans Treatment Court, primarily to women veterans. In 2015, her book "Gender Results" received a Benjamin Franklin award. (Cool Titles, 2014)

See more...

Every day 20 about veterans kill themselves. The experts don't really know why this is happening, surmising this self-destruction results from something that happened in combat. In 2016, 490 California veterans took their own lives. In 2014, about 65% of all veterans who died by suicide were ages 50 and older. Women veterans have particularly high suicide rates. All of them know how to use a firearm, and almost two thirds pull a trigger.

When I came back to the states after serving as a combat nurse in Vietnam, I walked right into the middle of the Women's Liberation Movement. Once I realized that a nobody like me, a girl, the daughter of a high school dropout, could actually study at a university, I grabbed for that brass ring and never looked back. Then in the late 1990s, someone from the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America asked me to speak at a special event at the Richard Nixon Presidential Library. When I arrived, a vet was standing outside waiting to escort me inside. He used a cane because of an injury to his leg. He was polite and kind and sweet. Later someone told me that the man, Greg, had lived on the street for 15 years. But at that time, he was in his last year of college. Little did I know that evening, but a few years later, I would speak at Greg's funeral.

What caught most of my attention that night were the three rows of bedraggled men off to the side of the auditorium. They were wearing old fatigues and looked as if they were homeless and self-medicating. After I spoke, those men completely surrounded me. Each one had to touch me somewhere on my arm or shoulder or back. One stroked his pointer finger over and over the top of my hand. They just wanted to stand there and make contact with one of their nurses. I'm not sure it even registered with them that I was also a judge.

After other wars, soldiers came back with at least some amusing anecdotes. Reader's Digest used to have a column called "Humor in Uniform." One story was about a Sergeant driving a jeep in Korea. He held his arm out to signal a left turn and someone stole his watch. He jumped out of the jeep and took chase, to no avail. When he got back, his jeep was gone as well. But Vietnam vets didn't come home with fun stories.

Those men at the Nixon Library, I realized, seemed to have only one positive memory from Vietnam, the nurses.

Sure, I had seen veterans standing at freeway off ramps holding a sign in one hand and a tin cup in the other, but being surrounded by all those lost souls at the Nixon Library, some with tears in their eyes, shook me to my very core. Since that night, I have been involved with veterans' activities in one way or another. I also reactivated my license as a Registered Nurse. I still take the continuing education courses to keep

it active.

Weeks before Greg's death one of the vets told me he was holed up in his room drinking himself to death. I mailed him a letter explaining how important he was to the chapter and what a shining example of success he was to all veterans. Had I known then what I know now, I would have done more.

I suspect some of our soldiers did things that make them feel ashamed. Also, I assume some made pacts with God or with their souls: "If can just live, I won't complain." I think that because when they woke up from anesthesia in Vietnam and we had to tell them they lost an arm, a leg or an eye, they'd often say something like, "Charley can't get me now; I'm goin' home." What kind of terror would a person have to face in order to feel relieved at losing a limb?

We went into Iraq in March 2003 and we've had our troops in harms way in the Middle East at least since then. Many from California were deployed from the National Guard or the Reserves, part timers. They were pulled from their civilian lives and sent far away. We don't know what happened to them or what they did over there. But we do know that many of them come back in a very troubled state, even when they don't have visible injuries.

Moral injuries are said to be a signature wound of those who served in Iraq and Afghanistan. They gnaw at the hearts of combat veterans. Largely based on World War II studies finding that the majority of soldiers in war did not ever fire their weapons because of an innate resistance to killing, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman's book points out there are great psychological costs on combat soldiers. He says that at the moment of truth when they could and should kill the enemy, the vast majority of combatants have found themselves to be conscientious objectors. Thus, in training our post-World War II soldiers, conditioning techniques designed to enable killing in the modern soldier have been utilized. Grossman's book says one researcher found a 95% firing rate among American soldiers in Vietnam as compared to estimates of only 15 to 20% firing at the enemy during World War II.

Since Vietnam, our soldiers have been psychologically enabled to kill to a far greater degree than during previous wars. There must be grave consequences when one overcomes the natural inhibition against killing. One thing we know for sure is that pervasive mental health issues are plaguing our veterans.

The term "moral injury" was coined by Dr. Jonathan Shay, a psychiatrist who treated combat veterans, primarily those who served in Vietnam, at the VA for several decades. A New York Times article about Shay states that after he suffered a stroke, he filled in the gaps in his education by reading "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey," and it was clear to him that his VA patients were echoing many of the sentiments expressed by the warriors in those ancient texts: betrayal by those in power, guilt for surviving, deep alienation on their return from war. Shay points to the words of Lady Percy in "Henry IV" as possibly the earliest historical reference to PTSD: "Thy spirit within thee hath been so at war, And thus hath so bestirr'd thee in thy sleep, That beads of sweat have stood upon thy brow, Like bubbles in a late-disturbed stream."

Major Erik D. Masicka asks us to imagine a transgression of core beliefs, values or morals that is so severe and traumatic that a soldier's very concept of right and wrong is fundamentally transformed. Masicka says that is a moral injury. The military is said to be slow in accepting that such a phenomenon even exists, but the branches of service are slowly coming around. The Army now mentions moral injury in its Family Fitness Program. The Navy and Marine Corps prefer the term "inner conflict."

Minnesota lawyer Brockton D. Hunter notes that while the majority of Vietnam veterans served a single tour in-country, many veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan have served two, three, four or more tours. "People aren't designed to be exposed to the horrors of combat repeatedly. And it wears on them," Gen. George Casey, Army chief of staff, told reporters in 2008.

What does all this have to do with the law? Suicide experts say we need to look beyond the usual risk factors, such as PTSD or a major depressive disorder, and address the role a major life crisis plays in veteran suicide. Lawyers and judges regularly deal with people undergoing major life crises. The legal community can play a role in veteran suicide prevention, beginning with asking if a client or party ever served in the armed forces. Preventative law is already in use to a certain extent. According to Hunter, prosecutorial sympathy for veterans has been significant, viewing veterans as less blameworthy than nonveterans, at least for low level offenses.

California has about 10% of all our country's veterans. The chances of a lawyer or a judge coming in contact with a veteran are probable. Intimate partner violence, whether the person is the victim or the perpetrator, employment problems and sexual minority status can be significant risk factors for veteran suicide. Restraining order petitions, employment matters and discrimination cases are omnipresent in our courts. Plus, in days gone by when we still had a draft, many service members tended to be young single men. In today's volunteer military, there are more and more older persons of both genders who have families. Where we find families, we find family problems. Like the rest of us, veterans face financial, insurance and mortgage issues and go through divorces. Few life crises get more major than a child custody battle.

Veterans already carrying invisible wounds from military service can be teetering at the edge when trying to get themselves through a legal problem such as the fear of losing their children.

To a certain extent, lawyers are sometimes first responders since a veteran's ability to manage the uncertainty and frustration of the legal process might be seriously impaired due to something that happened in the military. It just might be the lawyer who first recognizes the need for mental health evaluation and treatment.

The VA says the warning signs of suicide are people threatening or talking about ways to harm or kill themselves. Additional warning signs are hopelessness, rage,



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anger, seeking revenge, acting recklessly, feeling trapped, increasing alcohol or drug use, withdrawing from family and friends, anxiety, mood changes or perceiving there is no reason to live. There is a 24/7 Veterans Crisis Line [1-800-273-8255 and Press 1], and it has a texting option [text to 838255]. To chat online, go VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat. Skilled responders are trained for suicide prevention and prepared for crisis intervention.

Our armed forces placed their lives and their health on the line to protect all of us. The least civilians can do is to help watch over those who protected us. VA Secretary Robert Wilkie declared September the Suicide Prevention Month and called for all Americans to work together to prevent suicide among our veterans.

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE

By Seth Reeb, Reeb Government Relations

My fellow veterans, the legislature has concluded the first year of the 2019-20 legislative session. Below you will find a list of the bills that have been sent to the governor’s desk, as of September 13. The governor has until October 13th to sign or veto bills. There are currently 11 veteran bills that have been sent to the governor and are waiting for action.

The governor has three choices: Sign the bill into law, allow it to become law without his or her signature, or veto it. Normally, the governor has 12 days after receiving a bill to sign or veto it. However, the governor has 30 days to make this decision on bills submitted to him during the last two weeks of the session.

The governor has signed 5 bills so far this year that will benefit our veteran community. One of those bills

is AB 368 (Quirk-Silva), which has provided a huge step forward for the Orange County Veterans Cemetery, and Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva obtained \$20 million for the construction and development of the cemetery.

Regarding the bills listed below;

Enrollment: This means that both the Senate and Assembly have passed the bill and it is now sent to the governor

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

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.



for his decision.

Contacting the governor: If you wish to write the governor, regarding your organizations’ position on the bill please see instructions a the end of this report.

Bills Sent to the Governor:
AB 169

(Lackey R) Guide, signal, and service dogs: injury or death.

Location: 9/10/2019-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Under current law, it is an infraction or a misdemeanor for a person to permit a dog that is owned, harbored, or controlled by the person to cause injury to, or the death of, a guide, signal, or service dog, as defined, while the guide, signal, or service dog is in discharge of its duties. Current law makes a person who intentionally causes injury to, or the death of, a guide, signal, or service dog, while the dog is in the discharge of its duties, guilty of a misdemeanor. This bill would delete, from both crimes, the requirement that the guide, signal, or service dog be in discharge of its duties when the injury or death occurs and would make these crimes applicable to the injury or death of dogs that are enrolled in a training school or program for guide, signal, or service dogs, as specified.

Position: Support
AB 230

(Brough R) Disabled veteran business enterprises.

Location: 9/11/2019-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Current law states the intent of the Legislature that every state procurement authority meets or exceed a DVBE participation goal of a minimum of 3% of the total contract value. Current law requires a department awarding a contract to, upon completion of that contract, require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a DVBE to certify specified information to the awarding department, including, among other things, the amount each DVBE received from the prime contractor. The bill would also require every state contract for which DVBE participation is included in the bid to contain a provision requiring the contractor to comply with all rules, regulations, ordinances, and statutes that apply to the California Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.

AB 290

(Wood D) Health care service plans and health insurance: third-party payments.

Summary: The Knox-Keene Health Care Service Plan Act of 1975 provides for the licensure and regulation of health care service plans by the Department of Managed Health Care and makes a willful violation of the act a crime. Current law also provides for the regulation of health insurers by the Department of Insurance. These provisions govern, among other things, procedures by health care service plans and insurers with respect to premium payments. This bill would require a health care service plan or an insurer that provides a policy of health insurance to accept payments from specified third-party entities, including an Indian tribe or a local, state, or federal government program.

Position: Oppose
AB 550

(Flora R) Veterans: Medical Foster Home Pilot Program.

Summary: Would establish the Medical Foster Home Pilot Program until January 1, 2023, under which a United States Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA) facility may establish a medical foster home that is not subject to licensure or regulation as a residential care facility for the elderly, a community care facility, or a residential care facility for persons with chronic, life-threatening illness, pursuant to specified federal requirements. The bill would require a USDVA facility establishing the home to agree to be subject to the jurisdiction of the California State Auditor, and would require a medical foster home caregiver or an individual, other than a veteran resident, who is over 18 years of age and is residing in the medical foster home to be a registered independent home care aide, as specified. The bill would state the intent of the Legislature that the California State Auditor, in response to a request to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee, conduct an audit evaluating the pilot program created by this bill no sooner than January 1, 2021, as specified.

AB 558

(Petrie-Norris D) State Bar of California: service members: legal services.

Location: 9/3/2019-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Would require the State Bar to engage with military service providers, along with the other legal aid organizations, veteran service providers, and volunteer attorneys as specified, to provide legal services to veterans and service members and their families who otherwise cannot afford legal services, and collaborate to improve access to and delivery of these services throughout the state. The bill would revise these provisions to include

legislative findings on, among other things, the difficulty of veterans, service members, and their families in securing civil legal assistance.

AB 1257

(Salas D) Sales and use taxes: exemption: vehicle modifications: physically handicapped persons: veterans.

Location: 9/9/2019-A. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Current law exempts from sales and use taxes, in the case of a sale of a modified vehicle for physically handicapped persons to a disabled person who is eligible to be issued a distinguishing license plate or placard for parking purposes, the gross receipts attributable to that portion of the vehicle that has been so modified. Current regulations implementing those provisions provide that physically handicapped persons include disabled persons, as specified, which existing law defines as, among others, persons with a diagnosed disease or disorder which substantially impairs or interferes with mobility. Current federal law provides various benefits to disabled veterans, including assistance with the purchase of an automobile and adaptive equipment. This bill, on and after July 1, 2020, and before July 1, 2030, would specify that, for purposes of the exemptions described above, physically handicapped persons include eligible persons with a severe burn injury, as those terms are defined in existing federal law.

AB 1365

(Committee on Veterans Affairs) Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise Program.

Summary: Current law requires an awarding department, upon completion of an awarded contract for which a commitment to achieve a DVBE goal was made, to require the prime contractor that entered into a subcontract with a DVBE to certify to the awarding department specified information relating to amounts paid under the contract. This bill would require an awarding department to directly inform a DVBE of its inclusion in an awarded contract when the DVBE has been identified as a subcontractor within the awarded contract. This bill would require an awarding department to maintain all records of the information provided by the prime contractor pursuant to these provisions and to retain the records for a minimum of 6 years after collection.

AB 1588

(Gloria D) Drinking water and wastewater operator certification programs.

Summary: Current law requires the State Water Resources Control Board to issue a water treatment operator certificate and water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity to any person holding a valid, unexpired, comparable certification issued by another state, the United States, prescribed territories or tribal governments, or a unit of any of these. Current law requires the board to classify types of wastewater treatment plants for the purpose of determining the levels of competence necessary to operate them. This bill would require the board to evaluate opportunities to issue a water treatment operator certificate or water distribution operator certificate by reciprocity, or a wastewater certificate by examination waiver, to persons who performed duties comparable to those duties while serving in the United States military, as specified.

SB 222

(Hill D) Discrimination: veteran or military status.

Location: 9/13/2019-S. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Would state findings and declarations of the Legislature regarding the importance of housing for veterans and its priority, and declare that housing discrimination on the basis of veteran or military status is against public policy.

SB 289

(Archuleta D) Medi-Cal: home- and community-based services: military.

Location: 9/11/2019-S. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Current federal law provides for various home- and community-based services (HCBS), as part of a waiver or a state plan amendment under the Medicaid program, to promote coverage and services that enable an individual who would otherwise be institutionalized to live at home or in the community. This bill would require the retention of placement on the waiting list for, or the re-enrollment in, specified HCBS waiver programs for an individual who is a dependent child or spouse of an active duty military service member and who transfers out of state with the military service member on official military orders, if the individual subsequently reestablishes residence in this state and meets other specified procedural requirements.

SB 644

(Glazer D) Tenancy: security deposit: service members.

Location: 9/12/2019-S. ENROLLMENT

Summary: Current law regulates the terms and conditions of residential tenancies, and prohibits a landlord from demanding or receiving security for a rental agreement for residential property, however, denominated, in an amount or value in excess of an amount equal to 2 months’ rent, in the case of unfurnished residential property, and an amount equal to 3 months’ rent, in the case of furnished residential property, in addition to any rent for the first month paid on or before initial occupancy. This bill, notwithstanding that provision and as specified, would prohibit a landlord from demanding or receiving security from a service member who rents residential property in which the service member will reside in an amount or value in excess of an amount equal to one months’ rent, in the case of unfurnished residential property, or in excess of an amount equal to 2 months’ rent, in the case of furnished residential property, as specified.

There are three ways in which you can contact the governor to voice your position on a bill that is on his desk.

1. Email the governor via his website
<https://govapps.gov.ca.gov/gov40mail/>
You can not attach files here. But this is the fastest way to communicate, and there will be documentation of your communication.

2. Mailing or fax letter:
Governor Gavin Newsom
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 558-3160
Template for letter to the governor:
September __, 2019
The Honorable Gavin Newsom
Governor, State of California
State Capitol
Sacramento, California 95814

RE: Assembly Bill No. ____ – Request for signature
Senate Bill No. ____

Dear Governor Newsom:
I am writing to respectfully request that you sign AB or SB ____ (Authors last name), relating to...
Sincerely,
Signature
Your Name
3. Contact by phone
Phone: (916) 445-2841

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

The August 2019 Government Affairs Committee meeting was well attended and involved vigorous discussion of a partial list of bills passed by the Legislature. Important topics included: pro and con arguments for bills presented to CSC and structured talking points pertinent to legislation being presented to CSC and made available to delegates. A goal for Government Affairs is to acquire phone numbers and names of contacts to elected representatives from each Chapter delegate. It is in CSC’s best interest to form relationships with the staff, as well as, elected representatives. The October CSC meeting will involve discussion of bills passed by Legislature and a presentation by our lobbyist, Set, on legislative procedures
Dean Gotham, Chair

PRIVATE DANCER

By Jim Doyle

Disclaimer: I am not necessarily proud of everything I’ve ever done, but I am not ashamed of it either. It is part of who I am.

I was one of thousands of 18- and 19-year-olds who found ourselves posted to Vietnam in the 60’s and 70’s, heads filled with patriotism and propaganda, bodies taut, coiled like springs waiting to release the pent-up energy. Every gland and pore oozed invincibility, ingrained during months of grueling physical and mental training.

We were so tough we ate nails and farted tacks. We were the meanest Mofo’s in the valley, according to the legend scrawled on more than a few steel pots. All that macho crap aside, loneliness and physical need was never far from the surface. Sure, there were our buddies, our “Brothers by other Mothers.”

There’s Bobby from Sacramento who went to Disneyland on R&R, and got away with it. Jon from Cleveland and Sgt. Billman from Pennsylvania. Frittmann and Danielson were from Southern California, Largicci from sunny Florida, and LaGrua from New York City.

Some came before you and some came after, but you

looked out for each other. You depended on each other. It really was a matter of life and death. There is a song lyric



from the era that crystallizes the relationships we built in the simplest of terms, “We were so close, we bled inside each other’s wounds...”.

We spent all our time together. We were a closed society. We were as close to each other as humanely possible. But something was still missing. The letters from Mom & Dad, the soon-to-be ex-girlfriend, and boxes of stale banana bread and crumbled chocolate chip cookies from Aunt Archie were a nice touch, but it couldn’t fill the void. It wasn’t just an emotional loneliness, it was physical.

The only thing that would fill it was the companionship of a young woman.

On arrival in country we were showered with apocryphal tales of female Viet Cong agents who would lure you into a sexual encounter, only to kill you, or worse, take you prisoner.

10,000 miles from home, in an alien land and culture, warned about venereal diseases that would exile you to an island populated by fellow soldiers who didn’t heed the warning. Doomed to live out miserable lives on an unnamed island in an unnamed sea, never to return home again. Erased.

What was a young man to do? In the words of Gunny Highway, “Improvise. Overcome. Adapt.”

Once, while presenting my story to a group of high school students, I was asked by a young lady, “Did you, like, date when you were in Vietnam?” Those were her exact words.

Vowing never to lie to students about my personal experience in Vietnam, lest they become as distrustful and cynical of adult leadership as my generation had become decades earlier, I told her the truth.

“Well, it was more like a business transaction than a regular date.” Needless to say, I was never asked to return to that high school.

The Dance Hall

The place was owned by a Vietnamese Army Captain, and run by his wife. She proudly owned the title, “Mama san.”

He was as corrupt as they come, paying off all sides so he could continue to operate his various sideline endeavors. The US Military Police never bothered him, except at Christmas, when they made an obligatory raid on his operation, taking any American into custody. It helped the MP’s paperwork look good at the end of the year if it included busting x number of soldiers at an off-limits dance hall. Years later I came to the conclusion the Dai uy and his wife were both working for the other side, while seemingly working for our side, whichever side that was.

The place was filled with GI’s and Vietnamese women. American rock ‘n’ roll was playing medium loud and dozens of conversations were cutting through the heavy air across each other, while beer can tops popped and an infantry lieutenant proclaimed how well he treated his troops, paying for a trip to the dance hall from time to time.

Her name was Huong, perfume in Vietnamese She was 19 and beautiful. Long, straight black hair fell halfway down her back, ending just above a tiny waist. I was only weeks into my 20th year and sporting my first ever mustache, a thin, wispy looking gathering of whiskers that might have been mistaken for trained nose hairs. We sat across the room from each other, like two goofy kids at a high school dance, each waiting for the other to make the first move.

She was wearing the traditional Vietnamese Ao Dai, a long, form-fitting tunic over silk pants, highlighting the figure of a woman, in an elegant and respectful way. It gives women the appearance they are floating on a thin cushion of air when they walk. Very dramatic.

I was wearing dirty jungle fatigues, a bush hat, and carrying an M-16s. How suave.

After a few minutes she floated over and asked if I wanted to dance. I tried to act cool, and of course failed miserably. “Sure. What do we do now?”

“Pay Mama san,” she said as she took my hand and lead me to a rickety old stairway, where we paused and I exchanged funny money with the Grande dame of the dance hall. We climbed together to the second floor, sagging under the weight of half-a-dozen American GI’s and their Vietnamese dance partners, keeping time to the rock ‘n’ roll seeping through the floor boards.

After a time, it seems we fell in love. Love in a war zone, how ironic.

What the Hell were either of us thinking?

We spent as much time together as we could, which meant a few hours every few weeks. We both knew it was a fool’s errand we were on, but managed to delude ourselves, and each other until the very end. We never talked about a future together, both knowing it was ridiculous since there was no future for either of us in this time and place.

Just a few days after Christmas 1969, a half-hearted slap to the face and a tearful, “Go away, I don’t want you,” slammed the book closed on the relationship. We never saw each other again.

I returned home a few days later and although nearly 50 years have passed, and some memories faded, I have never been able to rid my memory of her.

I hope she had a good life.

AGENT ORANGE

WAIT CONTINUES ON ADDITIONS TO VA’S AGENT ORANGE CONNECTED ILLNESSES

By: Leo Shane III

Vietnam veteran advocates are still waiting for the VA



to add four new diseases to the list of maladies presumed to have been caused by the defoliant Agent Orange. (Horst Faas/AP)

In March, Veterans Affairs officials said they may have a decision on adding four new diseases to the list of Agent Orange presumptive benefits eligibility by the start of the summer. Five months later, they still haven’t moved ahead.

“They told us they were ready to go, and we haven’t gone anywhere,” said Rick Weidman, executive director for policy at Vietnam Veterans of America. “It feels like they just don’t want to spend any money on this.”

Vietnam veteran advocates feel a sense of urgency because the youngest who served there are in their early 60s.

Last November, researchers from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine announced they had compiled “sufficient evidence” linking hypertension, bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson’s-like symptoms with exposure to Agent Orange and other defoliants used in Vietnam and surrounding countries in the 1960s and 1970s.

They recommended adding the conditions to VA’s existing list of 14 presumptive diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure, a designation which allows veterans to more quickly and easily qualify for disability benefits.

Last March, VA’s top acting health official — Dr. Richard Stone — told members of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee that he expected final action on the issue within 90 days.

But this week, a department officials said that they have “no announcements on Agent Orange presumptive conditions at this time,” providing no further details on delays in the process. Another senior administration official said VA is continuing to review the data and has not yet made any recommendations.

Almost two years ago, then-VA Secretary David Shulkin likewise suggested he was moving towards adding more illnesses to VA’s presumptive conditions list for Agent Orange, but those changes also never materialized.

The delay is the latest frustration for Vietnam veteran advocates already unsettled by the department’s decision earlier this summer to postpone payments related to “blue water” Navy veterans’s cases until early 2020.

Congress and the courts have mandated that sailors who served on ships off the coast of Vietnam during the war receive the same presumptive illness status as their fellow troops who served on the ground. But lawmakers also gave VA an option to delay processing those claims for six months, to ensure the rush of new cases doesn’t overwhelm the existing benefits system.

VA leaders said using that extra time is responsible planning. Some advocates and lawmakers said they think the department could start processing some claims sooner, and have urged them to move up the time line.

Weidman said he isn’t optimistic that the additional presumptive illnesses will be authorized before early next year.

“Our best hope now is to get a bill introduced to push this forward,” he said.

The addition of bladder cancer, hypothyroidism, and Parkinson’s-like symptoms to the list would potentially benefit thousands of aging veterans, adding a significant but not enormous amount to VA’s benefits expenses.

But adding hypertension — high blood pressure — as a presumed service-connected illness could affect tens of thousands of individuals, potentially creating billions in costs in coming years. The condition is also common in many older Americans, further complicating whether it should be labeled a conclusive result of military service.

REGION 9 DIRECTOR REPORT

By Dick Southern

One of the best parts of being the region 9 Director is getting to visit with the State councils in Region 9. This summer I was able to visit the State Councils in New Mexico, Nevada, Colorado, California and Arizona. It is always good to hear the reports of the chapters relating the things that the chapters do in their community to raise funds to help veterans and their families. I am always glad to give advice on issues that come up for Chapters and State councils.

Every other year in VVA convention years it is a long time practice to have a Region 8/9 Pre Convention Conference usually taking place in a state in Region 9. This year was one of those years and the conference was held at the Nugget Resort Casino in Sparks, Nevada. It has been a number of years since the conference had been held at the Nugget and it has been remodeled over the years to be an excellent place to hold a meeting. The conference agenda included Amendments, Resolutions and Elections that are the business of the VVA convention. We had some of the candidates running for election at the National Convention speak to the attendees. At the lunch break at Noon we all enjoyed a great buffet luncheon for all of the 75 attendees. By far, the biggest discussion of the day was about the amendments and resolutions dealing with the future of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

I attended the VVA National Convention in Spokane, WA, as a delegate for the California State Council and I want to thank the delegates from Region 9 for reelecting me as the as your Region 9 Director. The convention had a busy agenda over 4 days that included guest speakers and awards. One of the awards was the State Council of the year that went to the Colorado State Council and the State Council E-newsletter of the year that went to the AZ-LZ newsletter. The resolution that was the most controversial was the one presented by the Government Affairs and was voted on to be adopted.

GA-21
CHANGING THE NAME OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Issue: Require VVA’s leadership to investigate what is required to change Vietnam Veterans of America’s name and then open up membership to include all veterans after the Vietnam-era.

Background: There has been much discussion over the last 15 years about VVA being a last person organization. But no formal vote has been taken. A NO vote on this resolution would make it official.

Resolved, That: Require VVA’s Officers and Board of Directors to investigate the requirements to change the name of Vietnam Veterans of America to a name that would entice Post-Vietnam era veterans to join the renamed organization and then open up membership to these newer veterans.

The proposed changes would be presented to the delegates at the 2021 Convention for ratification.

Now, I am looking forward to the VVA National Board of Directors meeting in October in Silver Spring, MD.

CHAPTER NOTES

Chapter 201

The annual United Veterans Council (UVC) Memorial Day Ceremony at San Jose's Oak Hill Memorial Park on May 27, 2019 began with the flyover of the Veterans Section by a Vietnam Era UH-1 Huey helicopter, in 25th Infantry Division colors and U.S. Marine Corps CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter. Following the opening ceremony, both the Huey and Sea Knight landed at the Field of Honor and were on display for spectators during the VVA afternoon service.



Sea Knight And Huey Memorial Day Flyover

Chapter 201 members participated in both the UVC Memorial Day Ceremony at Oak Hill's Veteran Section and the VVA service at the Oak Hill Field of Honor. Following the Chapters posting of its National and VVA Colors during the UVC opening ceremony, Chapter members placed the Medal Of Honor, Purple Heart, POW/MIA and Vietnam War wreaths at the Veterans Section of Oak Hill Memorial Park.

Past Chapter 201 President David Sanders, Air Force Sergeant with the 7th Air Force in Vietnam, and Secretary/Treasurer Stephen Thompson, Navy Corpsman with a Marine Force Reconnaissance Regiment and Silver Star Recipient in Vietnam, placed the Medal Of Honor Wreath.



David Sanders and Steve Thompson Place the MOH Wreath

Chapter 201 member Linn Malaznik (wearing a Civil War uniform), an Army Sergeant with the 5th Special Forces in I Corps in Vietnam and recipient of a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart for his actions around Da Nang during his time in Vietnam, assisted retired Marine Corps Korean War Veteran William "Denny" Weisgerber in placing the Purple Heart Wreath. As a Staff Sergeant during the Korean War, Denny is the recipient of the Navy Cross and

Purple Heart for extraordinary heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy of the United Nations while serving with the Third Battalion, Seventh Marines, First Marine Division (Reinforced), in action against enemy aggressor forces in the Republic of Korea on the night of October 2, 1952.



Denny Weisgerber and Linn Malaznik Place the Purple Heart Wreath

AVVA Chapter 201 President Cang Kim Dong and Joseph Tran placed the Prisoners Of War and Missing In Action (POW/MIA) wreath during the UVC Memorial Day ceremony at the Veterans Section of Oak Hill Memorial Park. Both Cang and Joseph were Prisoners Of War in Vietnam.



Cang Kim Dong and Joseph Tran placed the POW/MIA Wreath

VVA Chapter 201 members Gerald Arnold, a Naval Officer with the United States Naval Construction Battalions (Seabees) during the War in Vietnam, and Richard Francis, a pilot on a Navy P-3 Orion surveillance aircraft during the Vietnam War, placed the Vietnam War wreath during the UVC Memorial Day Ceremony.

This year, following the UVC Ceremony at the Veterans Section, the Chapter 201 Field Of Honor ceremony displayed eight foot panels containing photo galleries of Vietnam memories displayed by those who were there.

Chapter 201 Past President David Sanders, an Air Force Sergeant In Vietnam during the 1968 TET Offensive, and Chapter 201 members Dick Francis, a Navy P-3 pilot, and Fran McVey, a P-3 Mission Commander, who few surveillance missions between 1970 and 1971 during their Vietnam tour, posed with their photo gallery images at the Oak Hill Field Of Honor.

The Field Of Honor ceremony began with a



Gerald Arnold and Dick Francis Place the Vietnam War Wreath



Vietnam Memories Photo Gallery

performance by the Opera San Jose Military Veterans Chorus. The group is composed of active military personnel, military veterans, spouses and adult children of military veterans, and those who support veterans.



David Sander's Vietnam Images



Dick Francis and Fran McVey with their Vietnam Images

Chapter 201 President Warren Finch and member Dan Heckerman are members of the chorus.

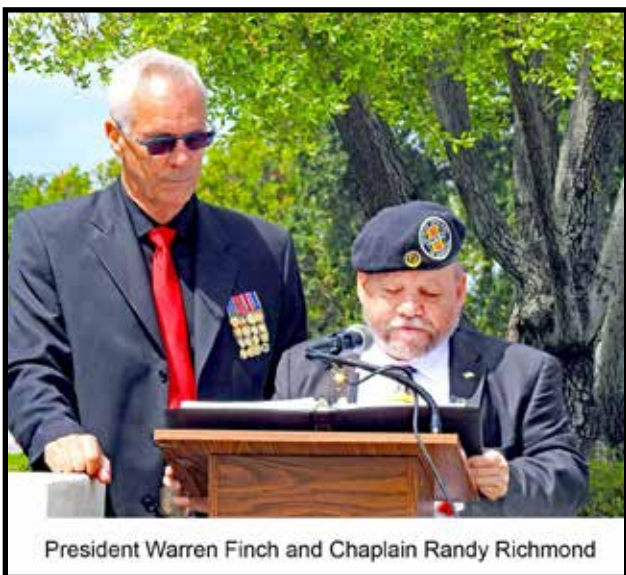
Following the Military Veterans Chorus, Chapter 201 members and Associates held their annual ceremony at the Field of Honor, including the Missing Man Table Service. This year's ceremony commemorated the 35th anniversary of the unveiling of the Three Soldiers Memorial and the



Opera San Jose Military Veterans Chorus

founding of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Project adjacent to the Vietnam Wall in Washington, DC. Chapter President Warren Finch performing as Master of Ceremonies and Randall Richmond acting as Chaplain. As a helicopter pilot during the War in Vietnam, Warren Finch was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for heroism while flying a classified mission in the Huey helicopter.

Chapter 201 held its annual POW/MIA "Missing Man Table" tribute during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Field Of Honor. The service was led by Past President David W. Sanders, Sr., former Air Force Sergeant during the 1968 Tet Offensive in Vietnam. Assisting David



President Warren Finch and Chaplain Randy Richmond

Sanders at the Missing Man Table was Stephen Thompson who, as Navy Corpsman serving with a Marine Force Reconnaissance unit in Vietnam, is the recipient of a Silver Star for his actions during his time in Vietnam. Chapter 201 honored its namesake Darwin J. Thomas who was born on April 28, 1943 in Santa Clara, California. Ensign Thomas, flying one of two A-1H Skyraiders, was conducting a night armed reconnaissance mission in a



POW/MIA Missing Man Tribute

hilly area about 25 miles southeast of Thanh Hoa, North Vietnam. He flew off the carrier USS Oriskany and was shot down over North Vietnam on October 14, 1966. Originally listed as Missing in action, he is now listed as "killed, body not recovered."

Chapter 201 Conducts Fundraiser

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. Chapter 201 held a fundraising event at the Moffett Field Commissary in Mountain View, California on June 22 and 23, 2019. In addition to collecting contributions, the Chapter handed out Agent Orange poppies and provided information on Agent Orange and "Chasing The Dragon" the San Francisco FBI Citizens Academy Alumni Association program to combat opioid addiction. Bob Kadlec, Fran McVey, Director Dennis Foggie, Secretary/Treasurer Stephen Thompson, President Warren Finch, Sergeant at Arms John Hassenplug and Vice President Gene Fanucchi solicited donations during the VVA-201 Moffett Field Fund Raiser in Mountain View, California on June 22, 2019.

Chapter 201 Participates in Spirit of '45

Chapter 201 participated in the annual Spirit of 45 celebration at San Jose, California's History Park on August 10, 2019 commemorating the 75th anniversary of D-Day. Chapter members John Hassenplug (Sergeant



Chapter 201 Moffett Field Fund Raiser

At Arms), Steve Thompson (Secretary/Treasurer), Fran McVey and Bob Kadlec provided educational information on Agent Orange and PTSD issues and handed out VVA and AVVA brochures to recruit new members.

Chapter 53

On July 27 2001, Pacific Coast Highway in Los Angeles County was dedicated as LOS ANGELES



Chapter 201 Spirit of '45 Information Booth

COUNTY VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY. The effort was started by our past, long time president, Jerry Yamamoto who encouraged then Assemblyman George Nakano to pass the legislation authorizing the signs (ACR115 filed July 12, 2000). Members of VVA Chapter 53 raised approximately \$25,000 and the signs were eventually placed in locations along the Highway from near the Ventura County Line to the Orange County Line.

Recently the Chapter was able to facilitate the placement of two smaller pole mounted versions in Redondo Beach California and we are working on an additional location in Manhattan Beach.

Chapter 53 is proud to announce two signs denoting California Highway One in Los Angeles County Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway in

Special Thanks to Caltrans and City of Manhattan Beach

Steve Crecy, VP Chapter 53

Jerry Yamamoto project founder (2000)

2019 Manhattan Beach effort: Steve Crecy, Bob Holmes



California Highway One Northbound



California Highway One Southbound

SAVE THE DATE

WHAT - REDONDO BEACH VETERANS DAY CEREMONYand Elks BBQ

WHEN - MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019 1PM, (1300hrs)

WHERE - VETERANS PARK 309 THE ESPLANADE REDONDO BEACH,CA 90277- (corner of Torrance Blvd and Catalina near RB Pier)

SPONSORS - CITY OF REDONDO BEACH, REDONDO BEACH VETERANS MEMORIAL TASK FORCE, AND THE REDONDO BEACH ELKS LODGE # 1378

CONTACT- Herb Masi, 310-993-4637 / hcmasi@yahoo.com www.RBVeteransMemorial.com

Redondo Beach will observe Veterans Day 2019 at the Veterans Memorial in beautiful Veterans Park by the Redondo Pier. The ceremony will begin at 1PM on Monday, 11th of November. The event will include reflection and remembrance, commentary and honors to those who wore the uniform of their country.

Veterans Day is a time to acknowledge all those who have served in the military.

Keynote speaker is Colonel Ann Igl, USAF, Commander 61st Air Base Group, Los Angeles Air Force Base. Local elected officials and military dignitaries will participate.

Music provided by the 40th Division Band, California National Guard from Joint Forces Training Base Los Alamitos under the baton of Chief Warrant Officer Chris Fossmo

The Redondo Union High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC, the Coastal Naval Sea Cadets and the Scouts are supporting the service.

Donations and contributions still being accepted for the Redondo Veterans Memorial. Sponsorships available along with the purchase of Memorial Bricks.

See www.RBVeteransMemorial.com for more information.

The ceremony will be followed by a BBQ picnic sponsored by the Redondo Elks Lodge, # 1378 in the Elks parking lot south of their building adjacent to Veterans Park.

The BBQ is free for all veterans and members of the military, police officers, firefighters.....A \$5 donation from all others. Contact Elks at 208-473-6626 to RSVP for the BBQ.

Veterans Day in Redondo Beach open to the public. Media invited.....

Chapter 223

Ken Holybee

We are still providing free coffee and donuts at the Santa Rosa clinic from around seven in the morning until around eleven thirty. We could always use more volunteers doing this. This is becoming a theme in all our events.

We are still very active with outreach programs. We have just completed fifteen weeks of the Wednesday Night Street Market in Santa Rosa. We had a few chilly nights, but most were better than last year. We were in a different location, so we didn't have to compete with the music on the stage while talking to veterans. It is always interesting to me when I talk to veterans that have never been to the VA or used any of their benefits. This is with veterans of all eras. When you receive this, we will have completed our annual dinner dance fundraiser. We are already starting on next year's event and looking at how to get more involvement from the community. It seems like most of our members don't dance like they once did and need to be in bed early. We will have also completed our stint at the Wings Over Wine Country Air Show. We have a booth there and some of our members volunteer with the Air Museum working on aircraft and helping put on their events and the airshow.

We had four members attend the national convention. To me this was another work filled week. To our new delegate it was an education as to how we manage to get things done.

If you had not heard in the past, we have free bus rides on Sonoma County Transit and also on the Santa Rosa City bus. You just need an ID that says you are a veteran. We have members that serve on the Veteran and Family



Patti Ehline..Colorado State Board and Kate O'Hare-Palmer with General Wesley Clark...keynote speaker at convention

Advisory Committee at the Santa Rosa Clinic, and now on the veterans advisory committee for Congressman Thompson. We are also still actively involved with the



Chapter 582 presented Chapter 223 a plaque thanking them for all they did during the Camp Fire in November 2018

Continuum of Care in keeping up with housing issues for homeless and other services that are available for our local homeless population. We still refer veterans to Sonoma County VetConnet for a lot of the services they provide.

They act as a weekly one stop shop like a stand down to offer a lot of items to veterans. You can get everything from a referral to a haircut and have coffee while you wait. Our next big event will be the chapter Christmas Party on the first Friday of December. If you want to assist with this or need information as we go contact the chapter at vva223vva@gmail.com and we should get back to you. It has always been a great event and we don't turn people away.

Chapter 785

Steve Edmonds

My annual mission back to Vietnam and first person story below.

I have been making the trip back to Vietnam under PMIM (Point Man International Ministries - Open Hands & Hearts Missions to Vietnam) since 1996 and have had financial support from Chapter 785 for many of these trips. This year will be 23 years! When I left there in 1968, the last place on earth I ever wanted to see again was Vietnam. And early in 1996, I got involved with PMIM



Sgt Steve "Ed" Edmunds Nov 1967 Hill 724



and renewed my relationship with my Lord & Savior, Jesus Christ. When the opportunity to return presented itself early 1996, I responded that I was not interested and was told you have 9 months to think about it. Well, I did... I thought about it, prayed on it and discussed with my wife, Elsie. As a result, I felt that I needed to go back with no preconceived notions. We made the trip and it was a life-changing experience as was my first trip in 1967 as an infantryman with C/3/8 4th ID. Since that time, I have continued making the trip and have become the project manager for our humanitarian effort. Briefly, a typical

trip will see us distribute food to 600 families in 6 different villages, many of these villages are montangard people. One of these villages is a leprosy village in the Nha Trang area. Each family gets 10kgs of rice, 1 case of dried ramen noodles and 1kg of salt and/or a bottle of nuoc mam. We stop at an orphanage in Bao Loc and deliver 200kgs of rice 3 cases of milk and donated clothes to the children. We visit a school for hearing impaired children and deliver 200kgs of rice. We try to rebuild 1 or 2 homes per year which consists of providing the funds to reconstruct a home made of galvanized, corrugated steel roof, brick walls and concrete floor to replace a home with a thatch roof, straw walls and dirt floor. Structurally, a lot more sound and will hold up under some of the severe typhoons that occur. I look forward to returning again in October 2019. Thank you Chapter 785 for your continued support!

Chapter 391

Tuolumne County Chapter 391 has had a busy summer. We started out with a Bike and Car show in conjunction with the Father's Day Fly In held at the Columbia airport. It was a 2 day event for us with 103 entrants that enjoyed the air show along with music, food and our traditional beer booth. The event took a lot of work to put on, but it was a good fundraiser,

On July 4th the chapter was asked to take part in 2 events. The first one was a BBQ put on by the Columbia Chamber of Commerce. The chamber needed help in serving the food to some 225 people that attended the BBQ lunch. The Chamber donated \$300 to the chapter for the help we provided. The 2nd event of the day was the Jamestown 4th of July Block Party. We had the Beer booth to run for the afternoon. We also had our collectibles booth and it did some good business. Overall the day was a good fundraiser for the chapter.

Our next event was our 17th annual Golf Classic. We had 93 players who enjoyed the perfect weather for their golf. We had 153 sponsors for everything from the putting contest to the drink carts. After the golfing was over the players were treated to a buffet lunch as they waited for the raffle drawing and the silent auction results. It was a very successful event as the chapter netted some \$20,000 for the day.

The last weekend in July was the Twain Harte Wine and Arts festival. We have had a beer booth at this 2 day event for many years. We did some brisk business both days as did the collectibles booth. This event is in question for continuing next year as the chief promoter for the event passed away earlier in the year. We hope someone picks up this event next year since it has always been a decent fundraiser for the chapter.

The last event of the summer for the chapter is our annual BBQ and picnic held at the Moose Lodge in Sonoma. The BBQ features Tri-Tip and Chicken and the picnic part is the side dishes brought by the members that attend. The weather was a pleasant 80 degrees with a gentle wind helping to make a pleasant day for the event. The big feature of the day was the drawing for the Rifle Raffle. 300 tickets at \$10 each were sold in the months of June, July and August. The rifle, a 9MM Ruger PC Carbine, with a red-dot scope and case, was won by Chapter 391 member Roger Swartz.

Our next event will be passing out POW/MIA clovers on September 20 to remind people that we will never forget our POWs and MIAs. It was a great summer!

Chapter 982

• New leadership these past few years have greatly improved the flow of this chapter. When Peter Cruz and Julie Wallace stepped up as President and Vice President they kept the chapter afloat, when officers positions were getting hard to fill. Michael knight is now our current President with Allen Schofield as VP. Both with new ideas of where and how to improve the chapter

• There are four local parades that our chapter is involved with and the support and reaction from the crowds of people towards Vietnam Veterans is amazing and gratifying.

• Several of our members participate with the annual Santa Barbara County Stand down, serving up hot dogs to the young and old, Also handing out information about the VVA.

• Deek Segovia will represent our chapter on the newly formed Vet Center Advisory committee, these committees are being formed throughout California. They are to monitor and address concerns of Veterans and the VA. Also I was asked to conduct a small town hall meeting addressing Agent Orange at our local San Luis Obispo Vet Center Oct. 4th 2019

• There is a new housing development being build in our Chapter home town of Guadalupe. The city council has asked us for suggestion of street names. Over ten percent of the population of Guadalupe served during the Vietnam Crisis (WAR) but only three did not make it home it is the names of these three brothers that will be suggested

• Chapter 982 has taken on the mission of “ Wreaths Across America “ our goal is to place approximately 1900 wreaths at the Arroyo Grande CA cemetery and we are very near our goal now the wreaths will be placed Dec. 14th

Chapter 500

As the Sacramento area chapter, Chapter 500 has the responsibility and privilege of hosting the annual Reading of the Names on the California Vietnam Memorial in the State Capitol Park on Memorial Day Weekend. Members of Chapter 500 as well as members of the community and veterans’ family members read each of the 5,676 names of California’s dead and missing that are inscribed on the Memorial’s panels. Elected officials and representatives from CalVet participate in a mid-day ceremony that included laying of wreaths from veterans’ organizations. CalVet has an online search system at <https://www.calvet.ca.gov/VetServices/Pages/Vietnam-Vets-Memorial-Search.aspx> for names looking up names listed on the Memorial.

Also on Memorial Day Weekend, members of Chapter 500 volunteered at the No Excuses 5K. This annual race raises funds for Canine Companions for Independence, which provides highly trained service dogs at no cost to veterans and people with disabilities. Chapter 500 members line the race route to cheer on the runners, provide water, and mark the turning points on course, which winds through city streets and a regional park.

Two Chapter 500 members attended the National VVA Convention in Spokane, Washington, as voting delegates. They participated in workshops and regional meetings representing the chapter’s interests and bringing back to the chapter information about important changes in veterans’ services, federal policies, and the future of VVA.

In August, Chapter 500 members continued their tradition of helping to staff the Sacramento County Stand Down at the former McClellan Air Force Base. Services to homeless veterans included free medical and dental care, assistance with housing and job training programs, legal services to clear warrants and fines, and distribution of clothing. Over the weekend, Stand Down served over 200 homeless veterans.

Chapter 464

ONCOMING EVENTS:

• PTSD Visit at Menlo Park VA, Dec. 2, Sunday 3-5 PM; 795 Willow Rd, Menlo Park, Bld. 351 (Except holidays.)

• BBQ at San Bruno VA Clinic every 2nd Tuesday of the month; at 11:30 AM; September 10, 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS:

• Unsung Heroes Luncheon, November (date TBD), Veterans Memorial Building. Ponce Gonzalez to be honored

• Speaker Vietnam Veteran Lou Pepi, author of “My Brothers Have My Back”, Thursday, September 12, 2019 at Veterans Memorial Building, Gold Star Room, Noon-3. Lunch will be provided.

• Foster City Stand Down, October 4-6, 2019, Boothbay Park, Foster City

• Avenue of Flags Committee Meeting, Monday, September 16, 2019, 7 PM at GGNC Service Building

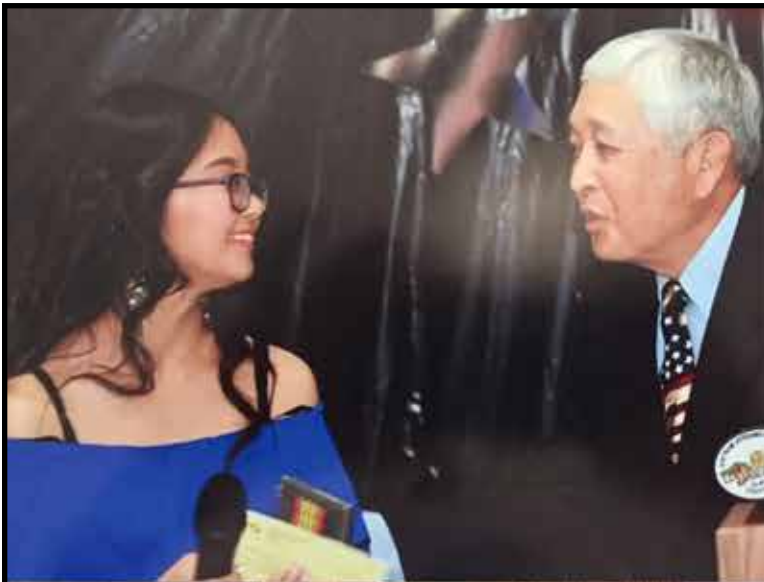
• Delta Stand Down, Antioch: September 20-22, 2019

• Fleet Week, SF. Legion Cathay Post 384 hosting lunch for 125 sailors & marines, Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1524 Powell St., SF

• Italian Heritage Day Parade, Sunday, October 13, North Beach, SF

• VFW Daly City & San Francisco’s Annual Halloween Picnic, October 27, 2019, Gellert Park, 50 Wembley Dr., Daly City, 10 AM-6 PM. RSVP oldglory8750@gmail.com by October 1st.

• Veterans Day Ceremony, Monday, November 11,



Top photo: George Grimsley, President of Chapter 933 presenting this year’s VVA outstanding ROTC student medal and certificate to Cadet Alawana Pha of Fresno Duncan Polytechnical High School. Pha was later selected to win the award at the state level.

Middle photo: Fresno Chapter 933 members Marilyn and Craig Meadors in the stadium with Derek and Sarah Franks and children: Derek is President and Co-Owner of the Fresno Grizzlies and has been generous in support of veterans through ballpark events, including the well-attended annual Vietnam Veterans Day celebration.

Bottom photo: Craig and Marilyn Meadors at the stadium event.

2019, Golden Gate National Cemetery at 11AM

• American Legion Posts 82 & 105 Centennial Celebration, Monday, November 11, 2019, Redwood City

• All Veterans Groups Luncheon, Harry’s Hofbrau, Saturday, Dec. 21, 2019; 11:30 AM

Chapter 472

Past activities since last report
Participated in Biggs Harley annual May ride in support of Hometown San Diego for Active military.

Participated in Mira Mesa 4th of July Parade.
Made a contribution of \$1,500 to a new 501 C3 named Flags of Honor to supply flags at Miramar National Cemetery on Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Contributed \$200.00 to Vet to Vets to help with barbecue at homeless veteran housing in San Diego.

Held annual Memorial Day weekend programs with reading of names of Vietnam War casualties from San

Diego County, Dinner and Candlelight Ceremony on Saturday and Memorial Day Service at San Diego Veterans Museum.

We had two VVA Delegates and one AVVA Delegate attend the National Convention in Spokane.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Chapter 472 will be participating in annual Poway Day parade on Sept. 7th.

Will be holding 2nd. Annual Chapter picnic on Sept. 21st.

UNCLE’S NIGHT

Hap DeSimone

Growing up, I had zero mentors. My Dad and my Uncles were basically non-participants in my upbringing, and I had but one piece of advice from my Glider Pilot Dad about the Army... “Watch Out, they’ll steal your stuff!”. And, THEY DID! We ventured to his Mom and Dad’s home in Tucson twice a year, and the ADULTS would eat at the big table, with the white tablecloth. They finished dinner with politics, and wine. We sons sat at a small square coffee table, the “Kid’s Table”.

Years passed, and we made our last pilgrimage to Tucson to bury my Grandmother. The meal finished, and the surviving adults began to drink and argue about Castro. Turning to the Eldest Son sitting at the Kid’s Table (We’re Italian), my uncle asked him if HE wanted a glass of wine.

There were at least TWO Purple Hearts at that table, and the legs didn’t touch the floor. It was sitting on our thighs. The moment was overwhelmingly weird. We had gone off to War, and returned unquestioned. Not ONE of our relatives ever spoke the words “Viet Nam”. It was as if we had walked out a door, and come in a little later, and nothing had happened. We were not even thought of as “Adults”, nor were we welcomed into that fraternity. Strange, and a very sad loss.

After much toil attempting to understand this all, I had the great fortune of going to a Sweat Lodge put on for Combat Vets by the Lakota tribe. The leader welcomed us as Warriors, and described how the village’s Sons had been prepared and sent off to battle by the entire village. They were then welcomed, and received back into the society with great ceremony, care, and understanding. He spoke with great wisdom about our need to return to our place in the community. I looked to my church and found nothing. My family, friends, and my workplace. There was nothing for me.

It has taken a life time to learn the things that may have been taught to me in a few minutes of caring conversation with one who had the knowledge. “Absentee Fathering” occurred, but I would never “Pass On” the problem. As in an English Boarding School, older kids learned to haze and harass younger ones, and that has trickled down for centuries. What a waste.

I feel that if we have what we consider knowledge or wisdom, that we share it with our brothers who could optionally use it or adopt it as their own. I envision an “Uncle’s Night” where men could present maybe a five-minute synopsis of any topic that could be classified as Wisdom, Experience, or Direction. Even a BAD Example is a valuable one.

Many young men do NOT have a good relationship with their own fathers, so the wisdom of the most important man in their lives is not available to them. An UNCLE, or a friend of Dad’s has a much better chance of being approached, being heard, and therefore BEING USEFUL. If a number of men in our group feel that they have 5 minutes of WISDOM to give, they could put it into a short talk, and vet it with the organizers.

I envision an evening where a dozen or more men give their five minutes, one after the other. An evening where we feed the guys real food, like Santa Maria BBQ, and offer Wisdom and Fellowship. Where younger men can ask questions and meet men in our church or Veterans group. Men that could advise or illuminate. There is a large potential audience there, and it could be a real service to make them feel welcome at a dinner and talks open to them once in a while.

WINNERS AND LOSERS

By Jim Doyle

“Dulce bellulm inexpertis.”

“War is delightful to those who have no experience of it.”

Erasmus

The rich cherry wood presentation case contains

a folded American flag. It is a casket flag, larger than traditional flags so it will drape a coffin. It had been folded 13 times into a well-defined triangle, it's canton showing all or part of five white stars behind the glass front of the case.

My Dad's American Campaign medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign medal, Good Conduct medal, and World War II Victory medal rest on the folded flag, symbols of a soldier who served with honor.

The "Victory" medal struck me as an emblem of a time when enemies were well-defined and battle lines were movable, but clearly established. A time when armies could claim victory, and accept defeat, in a formal setting with some sense of personal honor, on both sides.

There are no Victory medals for Korea or Vietnam.

Technically we're still at war with North Korea despite all the rainbows and unicorns we've seen lately as the two leaders make nice. An armistice was signed toe-to-toe with clenched fists and teeth, and we're still only a personal insult or childlike snit away from blowing the Korean peninsula off the map. The Democratic People's Republic of North Korea has nearly 9000 howitzers and 4000 missile launchers aimed at Seoul, so let's not get too complacent. No victory medal for Korea.

Vietnam was a little different. Everyone slapped their own backs in Paris after deciding to just let history happen. It happened, for better and worse on all sides, and for 20 years after the end on April 30, 1975 Vietnam was isolated from the west, and had to depend on the generosity of a failing Soviet Union, and a still emerging China to survive. Then in July 1995 the United States formally recognized Vietnam, we exchanged Ambassadors and started making nice. Still, no victory medal for Vietnam either.

The last expression of 'when armies could claim victory, and accept defeat, in a formal setting with some sense of personal honor' was in 1991 and Operation Desert Storm, also referred to as the "First Gulf War" after the second US invasion of Iraq on March 19, 2003.

It was best exemplified by the late General Norman H. Schwarzkopf, when he was preparing to accept the surrender of the Iraqi military at the conclusion of Operation Desert Storm.

As he entered the tent where the surrender documents would be signed and exchanged, he told an aide, "...I don't want them [Iraqis] embarrassed in any way...". Schwarzkopf expected them to be shown respect as soldiers, and allow them some personal dignity in what must have been a time of terrible personal and national disgrace.

The young men and women who have given their all in Afghanistan and Iraq for the last 17 years will never receive a "Victory" medal unless we redefine what winning and losing are. Merely agreeing to stare each other down for nearly seven decades doesn't make the cut. Admitting the past really is prelude, and quietly backing away while displaying the confident smile of a con artist doesn't qualify either.

Wars are won and lost in many different ways.

I remember the day we lost my war.

It was another nearly typical day for our infantry company. After a one-day stand-down we were now on our way back out to the bush. The job of an infantry soldier is simple, yet highly complicated – seek out, close with, and destroy the enemy.

A dozen or so of us jammed ourselves, our weapons, rucksacks, and other equipment into the back of a 2 1/2-ton truck, a "deuce-and-a-half," for the nearly one-hour ride to our assigned patrol area near a leper colony run by French nuns. There is a golf course there now.

Our machine-gunner setup his gun on the canvas roof of the cab to provide firepower to the front, in the event we were surprised by an ambush on the road.

We were a gaggle of teenagers and old guys in their mid-20's from South Carolina, New York, Ohio, California, Puerto Rico, Minnesota, Alaska, Florida and everywhere in between. Some of us couldn't vote because we hadn't turned 21 yet, the age of majority back in the day. The kids from Puerto Rico couldn't vote because they lived in Puerto Rico. Some were just beginning their tours, some of us were midway, and others in their final days in country, "short-timers," in the vernacular.

The ride was relatively smooth for the first 20 minutes or so, courtesy of the Army Engineers who had paved more miles of road in Vietnam than some American cities. Where the paved road turned west, we continued north on a narrow, dusty, rutted dirt road toward the Phu Cuong Bridge.

Gorgeous green rice fields were spread out on either side of the road, men and women dressed in black, wearing the iconic conical (iconical?) straw hats laboring knee deep in water as they had for centuries. It was a National Geographic cover shot, like much of the country.

We played grab-ass, talked about wives and girlfriends back home, smoked and joked and made fun of former commanders we had known and loved as we bounced along the road, kicking up a choking trail of dust and gravel.

Our mission that day was to conduct a platoon size patrol during the day, and set up an ambush position at night. It was like camping, but a little less relaxing. We had done this dozens of times before in the same area and we were familiar with the terrain and the locals. The mission was as clear as the muddy water that flowed through streams and canals and flooded the paddies.

Our jump off point was the leper colony near Tan Uyen, where we would dismount the truck and begin our long slog through the mud toward our objective.

Little hamlets and villages were strung out along the road like charms on a bracelet. It was not unusual to see children herding ducks, water buffalo pulling carts, and evidence of life much the same as it had been for hundreds of years.

As we rolled down the road, we came upon an old man riding a bicycle along the rice paddy dike on our right. He was quietly pumping the pedals in a slow cadence, not in a hurry to get wherever he was going. In addition to many other qualities, the Vietnamese are very patient people.

As we came alongside the solitary rider, someone in the truck, I honestly don't remember who, stood up, went into a windup, and hurled an unopened C-ration can at the old man, hitting him square in the back of his head, knocking him ass over teakettle into the rice paddy.

The truck roared by and there was a mix of groans and laughter at the sight of this old man, who was minding his own business, flying through the air like a rag doll.

In that moment, in that place I recognized that this war, like all others before and since, had led to the complete dehumanization of everyone involved. Individually we were good, decent young men. Collectively we had become like the vilest of predators, causing great physical harm to those we were supposed to be helping, and irreparable psychic damage to ourselves. We had lost our moral authority.

That was the day I knew we had lost the war.

COMMISSARY USAGE

MILITARY TIMES ARTICLE ON NEW COMMISSARY UTILIZATION BY SERVICE-CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS

Some veterans have contacted Military Times to say that they are eligible for the new benefit that takes effect Jan. 1, but are concerned they won't have access to the stores. (Defense Commissary Agency/Kevin Robinson)

As defense officials get ready for 3 million more people who will be able to shop at military stores on base, some veterans are wondering whether they'll be able to use their new benefits.

Some veterans have contacted Military Times to say that they are eligible for the new benefit that takes effect Jan. 1, but are concerned they won't have access to the stores. That's because they don't have the specific credential required □ the Veteran Health Identification Card, or VHIC, issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Based on responses to Military Times queries, there are no answers yet for these veterans. Information was not immediately available about how many veterans could be affected.

Under a 2018 law, Purple Heart recipients; former prisoners of war; veterans with a service-connected disability from 0 to 90 percent as documented by the Department of Veterans Affairs; and certain primary veteran caregivers will be newly eligible to shop at commissaries and exchanges. It applies to all military bases, including Coast Guard.

Medal of Honor recipients and veterans with a VA-documented service-connected disability rating of 100 percent and their authorized family members have long been authorized these privileges, under DoD policy.

Commissaries sell discounted groceries. Military exchanges sell a variety of items ranging from clothing and shoes to toys, furniture, home appliances and electronics. They have on-base gas stations and stores that sell alcoholic beverages.

This newly eligible population will also be able to use certain morale, welfare and recreational, or MWR, facilities such as golf courses, movie theaters, clubs and certain other programs and facilities that are self-sufficient, generating enough revenue through fees and/or sales to pay their operating costs.

The departments of Veterans Affairs, Defense and Homeland Security have been working together for months

on plans for how the program will be implemented. A crucial part of that is the credential required to get onto the base and to shop at the stores, because most veterans who aren't retired don't

Q. What if I don't live near a military base, with its commissaries, exchanges and MWR facilities?

A. One option is that all honorably discharged veterans can shop online at military exchanges.

Second, there may be some extra opportunities in certain areas for commissary shopping where there isn't a nearby commissary. DoD spokeswoman Maxwell confirms that the newly eligible veterans and caregivers of veterans will be authorized to shop at the Defense Commissary Agency's on-site Guard and Reserve sales.

The commissary agency periodically holds these on-site sales at Guard and Reserve units around the country. This program allows Guard and Reserve members and other authorized customers who aren't close to a commissary to order items and have them delivered to that location during the specific scheduled sale date.

Q. Where do I get information on locations of exchanges?

Those are the Army and Air Force Exchange Service stores, www.shopmyexchange.com and click "Find a store"; Coast Guard Exchange stores, ; Marine Corps Exchange stores, and Navy Exchange stores, <https://www.mynavyexchange.com/storelocator/storesearch.jsp>.

Authorized shoppers can shop at any of these stores — or will be able to Jan. 1 — regardless of which branch of service they are or were affiliated with.

SENIOR LIVING FACILITY OFFER

Atria Senior Living is proud to support California Vietnam veterans and their families

California is home to more Vietnam veterans than any other state. To meet their growing needs, Atria is honored to present an exclusive arrangement for members of the Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council (VVA-CSC).

When a VVA-CSC member moves or refers a person who moves to an Atria community, Atria will donate the equivalent of one month's rent* to the VVA-CSC for educational and support services benefiting veterans



Life is better
with friends.
*And supporting the
Vietnam Veterans of America.*



We are proud to partner with
the Vietnam Veterans of America,
California State Council (VVA-CSC).

We are also proud of the many
veterans who choose to call Atria
home. Atria offers a lifestyle that
includes chef-prepared meals,
engaging events, good company
and discreet support 24/7.

and their families. This opportunity provides valuable assistance to VVA-CSC members while offering an older person the comfort, support and connection of community living.

With 45 locations throughout the Golden State, Atria is proud to serve the many veterans who call them home. Each community offers a vibrant lifestyle that includes chef-prepared meals, engaging events, good company and the right amount of discreet care when needed. For families

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund - Wall of Faces
California Missing Photos – September 30, 2019 – TOTALS

California Service Members listed on Vietnam Memorial 5575
California Service Members listed with photos 5551
California Service Members listed without photos 24 - 1

Note: California Service Members listed as MIA 162
All Service Members listed as MIA 1571

California Service Members – Home of Record 8 Cities or Communities

Alameda County 1 - Missing Photos - 1
Los Angeles County 19 - Missing Photos 13 Los Angeles City
Orange County 3 - Missing Photos
Santa Clara County 1 - Missing Photos
Total 24 - Missing Photos - 1

Total Missing Photos Nationwide – 460 - 13

California Missing Photos – Comparison to other States/Territories

Location	Missing Photos	Change	Total Casualties	Percent Missing
California	24	- 1	5575	.43
Georgia	28	- 1	1585	1.8
Guam	1	0	68	15
International	1	0	122	.8
Massachusetts	2	0	1336	.15
Michigan	14	0	2666	.53
New York	251	- 2	4126	6.1
Pennsylvania	2	0	3150	.06
Puerto Rico	117	- 5	347	33.7
Virginia	19	- 4	1306	1.5

TODAY'S ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdate None on this date
Casualty Date None on this date

– Wall of Faces Internet Resources –

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>

dealing with the challenges of Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia, Atria’s forward-thinking memory care

Support Your Fellow Veterans

When a VVA-CSC member moves or refers a person who moves to an Atria community, we will donate the equivalent of one month’s rent* to the VVA-CSC to be used for educational and support services for veterans and their families.

Help your fellow veterans while you or a friend benefit from the comfort, support and industry-leading quality standards of Atria. Call or visit us online to schedule your complimentary lunch at a community near you.

800.828.4837
AtriaSeniorLiving.com/VVACSC

Atria SENIOR LIVING
Independent & Assisted Living | Memory Care

*Offer expires December 31, 2019. Resident must live at the community for at least 30 days.

neighborhoods provide personalized support 24/7 from highly trained staff in secure, welcoming environments.

Atria encourages families to select the senior living option that best fits their needs. At the same time, they know cost is a key consideration for many. That’s why they want to remind families that the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs offers a pension for veterans and their spouses that can be applied to the cost of assisted living services. Individuals who have served in the military, as well as their spouses, may be eligible for the Aid and Attendance pension.

To learn more about Atria’s VVA-CSC arrangement or the Aid and Attendance pension, please call 800.828.4837 or visit AtriaSeniorLiving.com/VVACSC to schedule a complimentary lunch at a community near you.

*Offer expires December 31, 2019. Resident must live at the community for at least 30 days.


BOOK REVIEW

Just thought you'd like to know that two Vietnam medics have recently published "Long Daze at Long

A TRULY FUNNY BOOK ABOUT THE VIETNAM WAR

LONG DAZE AT Long Binh

24TH EVAC HOSPITAL
SOUTH VIETNAM, 1966-68



The humorous adventures of two Wisconsin draftees trained as combat medics and sent off to set up a field hospital in South Vietnam

STEVE DONOVAN
FRED BORCHARDT

A HUMOROUS MEMOIR BASED ON A TRUE STORY

Special Medal for Spouses

Over the years I have often teased combat veterans that their wives deserve a Purple Heart for “putting up” with them and their PTSD, but since we are civilians, we can’t get one. So I designed one, based on my shared experience. I sketched it out and had my friend, Christian Salazar, make it nice. Christian is a combat veteran and my former volunteer. When I present it to a combat veterans wife, I point out (as the card says) that

“The heart is purple, because it’s bruised emotionally,
There is barbed wire for the barrier that comes up,
A tornado for the occasional chaos,
And a circular saw blade for the cutting, bitter words
But the wings of love keep it afloat!”

Karen Olszewski
Married to a Combat Vet” (\$2.00 each)
Karen will have the Special Medal at the October CSC meeting





CORVETTES WEST CAR SHOW
WHEELS n' WINGS

Clark's NUTRITION
 Bud's TIRE PROS
 STATER BROS. Charities

PRE-REGISTRATION FEES: Cars & Trucks \$25.00 ~ Motorcycles \$20.00
 DAY OF SHOW: Cars & Trucks \$30.00 ~ Motorcycles \$25.00

Saturday November 2, 2019
 Benefiting the Vietnam Veterans of America ~ Chapter #47 - Inland Empire And The March Air Field Museum



March Air Field Museum
 22550 Van Buren Blvd, Riverside CA 92518

From 9am to 2pm
 Roll in time
 7:00 am to 8:30am

Custom Trophies 1st, 2nd & 3rd place

Best Original ~ Best Import
 Best Corvette C1 - C7
 Best Custom ~ Best work in progress
 Best Truck ~ Best Rat Rod
 Best Paint ~ Best Motorcycle
 Best of Show and much more

In Order to Park as a group - you must arrive as a group.
 Absolutely NO ALCOHOL PERMITTED at the Museum.
 Any violators will be asked to leave with no entry refunds.
 NOTE - You will be parking in the outside Museum area along with the Aircraft on a hard packed surface, not concrete or blacktop.

Your Car Show Registration includes Museum Entrance passes. (Cars receive 2 passes, motorcycles, receive 1 pass per registration). All other attendees must pay the normal March Air Field Museum entrance pass fee of \$10.00 per person.

Corvette Owners Please Note:
 NCCC Event #WC-302-001
 More Info: George Swift (951) 743-1917

**VENDOR SPACES
AVAILABLE**

Corvettes West Car Show "Wheels n' Wings" is sponsoring an event benefiting VVA Inland Empire Chapter 47 and the March Field Air Museum.
 Please join us for a day on the "tarmac" surrounded by awesome stock & custom cars, and great vintage military aircraft. The museum will also be open with a wide variety of exhibits that will amaze and educate all visitors.
 November 2, 2019 - 9AM to 2PM
 March Field Air Museum
 22550 Van Buren Blvd
 Riverside, CA 92518

Binh," a humorous memoir about their wartime experiences with the 24th Evac Hospital. It's been getting excellent reviews, with the Vietnam Veterans of America online magazine calling it "the best book about REMF (Rear Echelon) life in South Vietnam during that time period... Nobody will top it any time soon, if ever."

Mike Day, past Commander of VFW Post 10556 in Boca Raton, writes in his Post newsletter (August 2018) that the book is "a witty expose of behind-the-scenes military life in Vietnam... it's neither pro-war nor anti-war, so regardless of your personal views you should find it hard to put down."

Maria Beltran, reviewer for ReadersFavorite.com, calls Long Daze "a witty, entertaining and hilarious roller coaster ride" and "a unique take on the infamous Vietnam war." Gordon Long, reviewer for Airborn Press, says it's "a fascinating picture of a historical event... not your usual memoir."

In addition, the Midwest Book Review (Feb. 2018



Chapter 223 booth at the Wednesday Night Market in Santa Rosa, CA. Shared information about Vietnam Veterans of America and many of the local, county, and state veteran programs. The Cal Vet Veterans Handbook was a very popular item.

issue) calls Long Daze "a unique and valued contribution to the growing library of Viet Nam War histories and memoirs." You can read all about the book at longbinhdaze.com where you'll find reviews, photos and sample chapters.

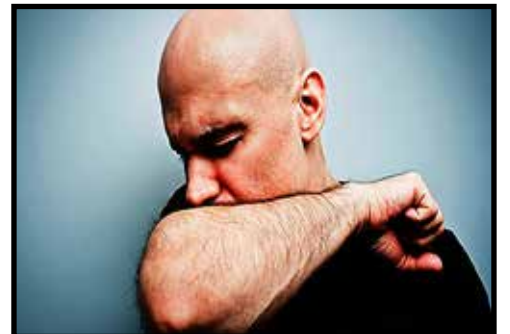
Currently averaging 4 stars on Amazon and 4.2 stars on Goodreads.com.

Best regards,
 Dan Markham
 Email: namvet66@mail.com
 Web: longbinhdaze.com

FLU SHOTS NOW AVAILABLE

VA Loma Linda encourages Veterans to get their flu shots.

The VA Loma Linda Healthcare System



wants you to stay healthy and we encourage you to get your flu shot.

Ambulatory Care Center (ACC) on Redlands Blvd.

You can get your flu shot at your next scheduled appointment, or no appointment necessary. Please remember to bring your VA ID Card with you.

Jerry L. Pettis Memorial VA Medical Center in Loma Linda

Medical Center: Flu Clinic will be held in the lobby of Out-Patient Pharmacy Building and Medical Center 2nd Floor Hallway by the Canteen

8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday (Except Holidays)

VA Community Clinics (Corona, Murrieta, Palm Desert, Rancho Cucamonga and Victorville)

Corona: Wednesday's 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Walk in.

Murrieta: Friday's 9 a.m. - Noon Walk in.

Rancho Cucamonga: Friday's 8 a.m. - Noon Walk in.

Palm Desert: Friday's 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Walk in.

Victorville: Friday's 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Walk in

Additional Option - Walgreens

The VA has teamed up again with national retail pharmacy Walgreens to provide no-cost flu vaccinations for enrolled Veterans. Veterans will need to present their VA ID card and a photo ID and a Walgreens pharmacist will administer the vaccine and transmit the information to the VA.

MORRO BAY/SLO DRIVERS WANTED!

CENTRAL COAST VA VOLUNTEER VETERAN SHUTTLE

Serving Veterans with Daily Door to Door Van Service to the Santa Maria & San Luis Obispo VA Clinics

Please call Voluntary Service if you are interested:
805-354-6004

Sponsored by:
 VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System
 VA Office of Rural Health





Together Always

AVVA Product Sales

DON'T MISS our Spectacular PRE-HOLIDAY SALE & PROMOTION at October's CSC — A Perfect Time to Buy Gifts for your Chapter, Family, Friends & Yourself!
IN ADDITION to an Array of MILITARY & PATRIOTIC Items for Sale, we also have:
* EMBROIDERED POLO SHIRTS — with Your Choice of Color, a VVA or AVVA Logo + your Chapter # or 'California' (available by Pre-Order/Pre-Pay)!
* A 'Spooktacular' OPPORTUNITY DRAWING! SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2019 — Approximate Hours: 8 AM - 1 PM
SEE YOU THERE! Cash and Checks accepted. Donations accepted.
Sheila Chovan
AVVA CA - Product Sales Director



AVVA California celebrated the organization's 20th Anniversary at the August State Council meeting



VVA CA State Council (contact info inside - page 2)

VVA Chapter 223 - Postal Permit
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Santa Rosa, CA 95402

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To:

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

CSC Meeting Dates & Events
October 25-27, 2019, Fresno, CA
February 28-March 1, 2020, Location TBA
April 24-26, 2020, Location TBA
State Convention June 12-13, 2020, Location TBA
July 31-August 2, 2020, Location TBA
October 23-25, 2020, Location TBA
Zephyr deadlines 2 weeks AFTER to each CSC meeting