



The California Zephyr

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



A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19-3

SUMMER 2017

LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE'S ARTICLE

By Pete Conaty

10TH ANNUAL VETERANS OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON

The 10th Annual Veterans of the Year Luncheon took place on June 21 at the Sacramento Convention Center near the State Capitol. Members of the State Assembly choose a veteran from their legislative district to be honored for their military service as well as their work on behalf of veterans and the community. This year's event was attended by almost 400 legislators, honorees, guests, veterans service organizations, and corporate sponsors.

The VVA-CSC has been a longstanding sponsor of this event and as such received recognition as a major sponsor which included mention on signage, the program, and during opening remarks by the Master of Ceremonies.

The California Veterans Benefit Fund (CAVBF) has long been an organizing producer of this event and acts as the 501(c)(3) funding mechanism.

Excess funds from the event are deposited into the fund and are used to fund worthwhile projects and programs which help veterans. The CAVBF has long funded many VVA-CSC activities.

The VVA-CSC was represented at the head table by CSC Legislative Chair Dean Gotham. The following VVA members attended and sat at the VVA's sponsored table:



Ponce Gonzales, Marty Snezek, Douglas Mitten, Don Harper, and Butch Fredrickson.

This year, three VVA members were honored by their legislator at the event. Their bios as they appeared in the event program are listed below:



DICK SOUTHERN - US ARMY / VIETNAM

Dick Southern served in the US Army from 1966-1968. During his time in service, Dick earned an Expert Medical Badge. He was stationed in Ft. Carson, CO, and upon exiting service, had attained the rank of Specialist 4th Class. Since leaving service, Dick has been deeply involved in Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). He currently sits as the Secretary for VVA Chapter 391. He is the 2nd Vice President of the California State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Region 9 Director for VVA and sits on the VVA National Board of Directors; a region that spans the Western United States

as well as Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines. Dick is also a member of the American Legion, AMVETS and the VFW.

Recognized By: Assemblyman Frank Bigelow (R-O'Neals)

DUNCAN MACVICAR - US ARMY / VIETNAM

Duncan MacVicar served in the US Army from 1965-1971. He is a graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, NY and the University of California, Berkeley. Duncan served in Vietnam as a Captain in the Combat Engineers. During his time in the service, he was awarded two Bronze Stars, three Air Medals, the Army Commendation Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal. After service, Duncan worked at the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, Hewlett-Packard, Spectra-Physics, and as a management consultant. Duncan also served as a Director of the Community Services Agency and is a founder of the North County Homeless Housing Coalition. After his retirement, Duncan has devoted his time to the cause of veterans suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. He is co-founder of both the California Veterans Justice Coalition and the California Veterans Legal Task Force, which seek to establish Veterans Treatment Courts around the state. As part of this work, Duncan drafted successful legislation providing for alternative sentencing for veterans with mental health issues, and he is a frequent speaker on the "Invisible Wounds of War." Duncan is a member of the Vietnam Veterans of America and the Military Officers Association of America.

Recognized By: Assemblymember Marc Berman (D-Menlo Park)

GEORGE W. SMITH - US MARINE CORPS / VIETNAM

George W. Smith served in the US Marine Corps from 1966-1970. He served in Vietnam from 1968-1969, where he was stationed at Chu Lai Air Base — working with ordnance for units flying missions in country. For his service, George earned the Navy Achievement Medal with a Combat V Device for leadership in a combat zone, and was also awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation with two Bronze Stars, Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with four Bronze Campaign Stars, and multiple Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citations. Today, George continues his service by serving on the San Mateo County Veterans Commission, American Legion, American Legion Riders, Marine Corps League, VFW, Vietnam Veterans of America, AMVETS, and the Disabled American Veterans.

Recognized By: Assemblymember Kevin Mullin (D-South San Francisco)

VA NEWS

VA CHIEF WITHDRAWS STAAB APPEAL, VOWS TO REPLACE 'IU' PAY CUT

Tom Philpott

VA Secretary David Shulkin made two surprise announcements before the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that should relieve some financial stress for more than 600,000 veterans.

First, Shulkin said he was dropping VA's appeal of the Staab case decided last year by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Only last week he said Staab had been wrongly decided, exposing VA to at least \$2 billion in veteran claims for outside emergency care, money VA needs to provide promised services.

Pulling the appeal means VA intends to begin covering private sector emergency care for all VA-enrolled veterans, even if they have alternative health insurance that pays part of their emergency care costs. As many as 370,000 veterans with pending claims could benefit too, explained Sen. Mike Rounds, R-S.D., who thanked Shulkin for changing his mind. Shulkin said Rounds and Sen. Richard Blumenthal, DConn., were right to sharply criticize the decision to appeal.

In Staab the appeals court ruled that VA intentionally failed to implement a 2010 law expanding outside emergency care coverage. It did so by continuing to deny reimbursement for non-VA emergency care if a veteran had any sort of alternative health insurance. Veterans with no health insurance routinely are reimbursed the full cost of outside emergency care if VA care isn't available.

Shulkin told Rounds that VA has completed draft regulations to implement the new emergency care benefit, sending them to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Draft regulations must clear OMB and be published in the Federal Register for comment before VA can begin reimbursements. That process could take nine months or more, Shulkin told the committee last week.

Shulkin's second surprise Wednesday was to tell Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., that he will work with Congress to find a less hurtful way to fund his Choice replacement plan, CARE, than by administratively ending Individual Unemployability (IU) eligibility next year for 208,000 seriously disabled veterans age 62 or older.

IU allows veterans with VA disability ratings of 60 to 90 percent to receive enhanced compensation because they are unable to work. IU qualifies veterans to receive disability pay as if they were 100-percent disabled. It adds an average of \$1600 to their monthly payments, a VA official told senators.

Shulkin said he reconsidered ending IU for older recipients "as I began to listen to veterans and their concerns, and (veteran service organizations) in particular. It became clear that this would be hurting some veterans and would be a takeaway from veterans who can't afford to have those benefits taken away."

The VA chief told Heller: "I am not going to support policies that hurt veterans. So, I would look forward to working with you and all the members of the committee on figuring out how we can do this better. We have budget numbers and targets we have to hit. But we shouldn't be doing things that are going to be hurting veterans that can't afford to lose these benefits."

A week earlier Shulkin said he did take "very seriously" concerns being raised over

State Council Officers	Address	Phone/Cell	E-mail
President - Steve Mackey	7401 Candlelight Dr. Riverside, CA 92509	951-681-9531 951-231-7268	nebhuskfan@aol.com
1st Vice President - Dean Gotham	15879 32nd Ave Clearlake, CA 95422-9353	707-459-8601	deang1968@gmail.com vp1@vvacalsc.com
2nd Vice President - Dick Southern	PO Box 68 Tuolumne, CA 95379	209-928-3848	southern@lodelink.com vp2@vvacalsc.com
Secretary - Tom Hohmann	PO Box 3007 Riverside, CA 92519-3007	951-683-7251	tomh47@aol.com secretary@vvacalsc.com
Treasurer - Barry Schloffel	1244 Shaws Flat Rd. Sonora, CA 95370-5433	209-532-6119	bshowful@att.net
District Directors	Address	Phone	E-mail
North District - Butch Frederickson	661 Dogwood Ln Paradise, CA 95969-3828	530-877-1340	ccfuvnalum@comcast.net north_district@vvacalsc.com
Central District - Al Sickle	PO Box 1424 Murphys, CA 95247-1424	209-728-2138	leanin.al391@yahoo.com central_district@vvacalsc.com
South District - Mike Kennedy	14766 Foxfield Ln Fontana, CA 92336	909-899-0085	mike3sps@verizon.net south_district@vvacalsc.com
At Large - Alan Cook			alancook53@aol.com director@vvacalsc.com
Committees	Chair	Co-Chair	E-mail
Membership	Mike Kennedy		mik3esps@verizon.net membership@vvacalsc.com
Public Affairs	Ponce Gonzalez		ponce408@yahoo.com public_affairs@vvacalsc.com
Government Affairs	Dean Gotham		deang1968@gmail.com government@vvacalsc.com
Legislative Lobbyist	Pete Conaty		pconaty@sbcglobal.net legslative@vvacalsc.com
Constitution	Mike Kennedy		mike3sps@verizon.net constitution@vvacalsc.com
Resolutions	Deek Segovia		rsegov11b@gmail.com resolutions@vvacalsc.com
Women Veterans	Kate O'Hare Palmer		koharepalmer@gmail.com women_veterans@vvacalsc.com
Meeting Planner	Dick Southern		southern@lodelink.com
POW/MIA	Bob Chaney		bkrbob@charter.net powmia@vvacalsc.com
Zephyr	Tom Hohmann		tomh47@aol.com zephyr@vvacalsc.com
PTSD	Doug Mitten		mittendouglas@yahoo.com ptsd@vvacalsc.com
Veterans Incarcerated	Mike Walker		mawalker3733@gmail.com incarcerated@vvacalsc.com
CA AVVA Pres., Region 9 Dirsector	Elayne Mackey		mmm4evr1@aol.com avva_liaison@vvacalsc.com
Agent Orange	Ken Holybee		holybee@comcast.net agent_orange@vvacalsc.com
Veteran Benefits	John Weaver		j.weaver@cox.net veteran_benefits@vvacalsc.com
Convention Planning	Dick Southern		southern@lodelink.com convention@vvacalsc.com

the proposed IU cut. “Nobody wants to be taking away ... benefits from veterans and certainly not putting them into poverty,” he said. But he noted that VA benefits had climbed by \$12 billion in the past two years, which justified a review of benefits to verify the purpose of each.

This week Shulkin conceded that ending IU for the elderly was a poor choice from a menu of cost-saving options. It would have freed up \$3.2 billion annually to pay for his CARE plan, a replacement for Choice. The goal of both CARE and Choice is to improve access to private sector care when VA can’t offer timely local care

“We had identified (IU dollars) as an opportunity,” Shulkin told Heller. “I think if we were designing this (disability pay) system from the beginning, we wouldn’t have used unemployment insurance to fund people’s retirement. That was the conflict. But (today) that is the benefit. And to withdraw this benefit from people who rely on this money is something that would be very difficult to do.”

A panel of representatives from veteran service organizations testified after Shulkin again this week. One of

them cautioned that the new secretary is taking politically expedient steps that, if Congress declines to fund them, could punch deep holes in VA budgets and lead to cuts in more traditional benefits and services.

Carl Blake, associate executive director of government relations for Paralyzed Veterans of America, scrutinized what Shulkin promised that afternoon regarding the IU program and pulling the Staab appeal. He also noted Shulkin’s recent announcement to replace VA’s legacy health records system using the same off-the-shelf software from Cerner Corp. that the Department of Defense is using to create MHS Genesis, its own modern electronic health record system.

Each of those actions, Blake said, potentially widens a funding gap for VA that Shulkin hasn’t explained how he will fill while promising to reform the unpopular Choice program and still meet budget targets set for the Congress.

“It’s not readily apparent that the VA has said for sure it’s going to drop that (IU) proposal,” Blake told the committee after Shulkin testified. “It sounds like the secretary

is willing to discuss it further and see where this goes from here.”

The \$3.2 billion in planned IU savings, Blake said, “was presumably going to fund a large majority of Choice in fiscal 2018. If we assume that that is not going to happen, that’s \$3 billion in community care (spending) that has to be addressed somehow. It’s not addressed in the discretionary part of the VA’s budget.”

Opting to contract with Cerner to modernize VA records using the

The California
Zephyr
PUBLISHER
Steve Mackey.
EDITOR
Tom Hohmann

Published Quarterly to all members of California VVA and AVVA as part of their membership.

Contact us at:
VVA CSC
PO Box 3007
Riverside, CA 92519
http://www.vvacalsc.com

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.



same software being adopted by the military “is probably the right decision to make for VA,” Blake said. But VA’s cost is estimated to be three to four times the \$9 billion that the Department of Defense has budgeted for its project, Blake said.

“How does the VA’s budget rationalize that point?” he asked. “I’m sure it doesn’t” because Shulkin selected Cerner using a non-compete waiver with no negotiations held yet on what the new record system might cost the VA.

On the Staab decision, Shulkin also “did the right thing,” Blake said. But that ruling “has already left VA with an obligation” to pay pending claims worth at least \$2 billion “Where is that money at that’s going to pay for that issue? The average (claim obligation estimate) in subsequent years is \$1.1 billion or something in that range. Where is that money at? It’s not in the VA budget either.”

So, Blake said, “we have a \$3.2 billion IU hole for Choice. We have approximately a \$1 billion hole for Staab. And then we have the Cerner issue and don’t even know what that hole looks like. Right now, VA could be staring at a huge hole in its budget for 2018” even as appropriations committees begin to markup VA funding bills taking no account of the changes Shulkin just announced.

“VA is left with billions of dollars in unanswered questions,” Blake said. “And it’s not enough to simply say,” as he suggested Shulkin did, “‘We have enough money. We can move it around.’ That’s simply not true.”

The worry for vet groups is that VA will come to look so costly that taxpayers will demand its prized health system be dismantled in favor of private-sector care.

VA SECRETARY FORMALIZES EXPANSION OF EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH CARE TO FORMER SERVICE MEMBERS WITH OTHER-THAN-HONORABLE DISCHARGES

Secretary Announced Plans to Expand Coverage in March

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) released finalized plans that lay the framework for providing emergency mental health coverage to former service members with other-than-honorable (OTH) administrative discharges.

This is the first time a VA Secretary has implemented an initiative specifically focused on this group of former service members who are in mental health distress.

“Suicide prevention is my top clinical priority,” said Secretary Shulkin, also a physician. “We want these former service members to know there is someplace they can turn if they are facing a mental health emergency — whether it means urgent care at a VA emergency department, a Vet Center or through the Veterans Crisis Line.”

Effective July 5, all Veterans Health Administration (VHA) medical centers will be prepared to offer emergency stabilization care for former service members who present at the facility with an emergent mental health need. Under this initiative, former service members with an OTH administrative discharge may receive care for their mental health emergency for an initial period of up to 90 days, which can include inpatient, residential or outpatient care.

During this time, VHA and the Veterans Benefits Administration will work together to determine if the mental health condition is a result of a service-related injury, making the service member eligible for ongoing coverage for that condition.

Since Secretary Shulkin announced his intent in March to expand VA mental health coverage to service members with OTH administrative discharges, VA has worked with key internal and external stakeholders, including members of Congress, Veterans Service Organizations and community partners on the issue.

Veterans in crisis should call the Veterans Crisis Line at 800-273-8255 (press 1), or text 838255.

VETERANS MATTER PROGRAM AND VA ANNOUNCE MILESTONE OF HELPING 1,500 HOMELESS VETERANS SECURE STABLE HOUSING

The U.S. Department Veterans Affairs (VA) and Veterans Matter — a program that provides security deposits to homeless Veterans in 14 states and the District of Columbia — announced that, through their joint efforts, they have helped 1,500 Veterans exit homelessness and move into permanent housing.

Veterans Matter, supported by John Mellencamp, Dusty Hill, Katy Perry, Kid Rock and many others in the entertainment industry, was established in 2012 by the Toledo, Ohio-based nonprofit 1Matters.org, and focuses exclusively on providing security deposits to homeless Veterans who qualify for rental subsidies from the joint U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. In providing these security deposits, Veterans Matter removes a major

barrier to securing stable housing for homeless Veterans.

“VA can’t end Veteran homelessness alone,” said Anthony Love, senior adviser and director of community engagement for the Veterans Health Administration Homeless Programs Office. “Partnerships with innovative, community-oriented groups, such as Veterans Matter, have played a major role in the decline in Veteran homelessness in recent years.”

“In collaboration with VA, we are able to make a greater impact for homeless Veterans than we could on our own,” said Ken Leslie, who founded Veterans Matter and was once homeless himself.

Once Veterans are housed through the HUD-VASH program, VA case managers can connect them to other supportive services — such as employment assistance, health care, mental health treatment and substance use counseling — to help them recover and improve their ability to stay housed.

Based on data released by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2016, since 2010, there has been an estimated 47 percent reduction in homelessness among Veterans across the country. Further, HUD said, between 2015 and 2016 alone, the number of homeless Veterans decreased by 17 percent. In addition, of all VA homeless programs that assist Veterans, HUD-VASH assists the largest number of Veterans who have experienced long-term or repeated homelessness. And of those Veterans in the program, 91 percent remain housed. The program has allocated more than 88,000 housing vouchers nationwide to date.

A DAY IN THE LIFE...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A COMBAT REPORTER/PHOTOGRAPHER

By Frank M. Smart

15th Administrative Company, 1st Cavalry Division

(AM)

Service In The Republic Of South Vietnam April, 1968

To April, 1969

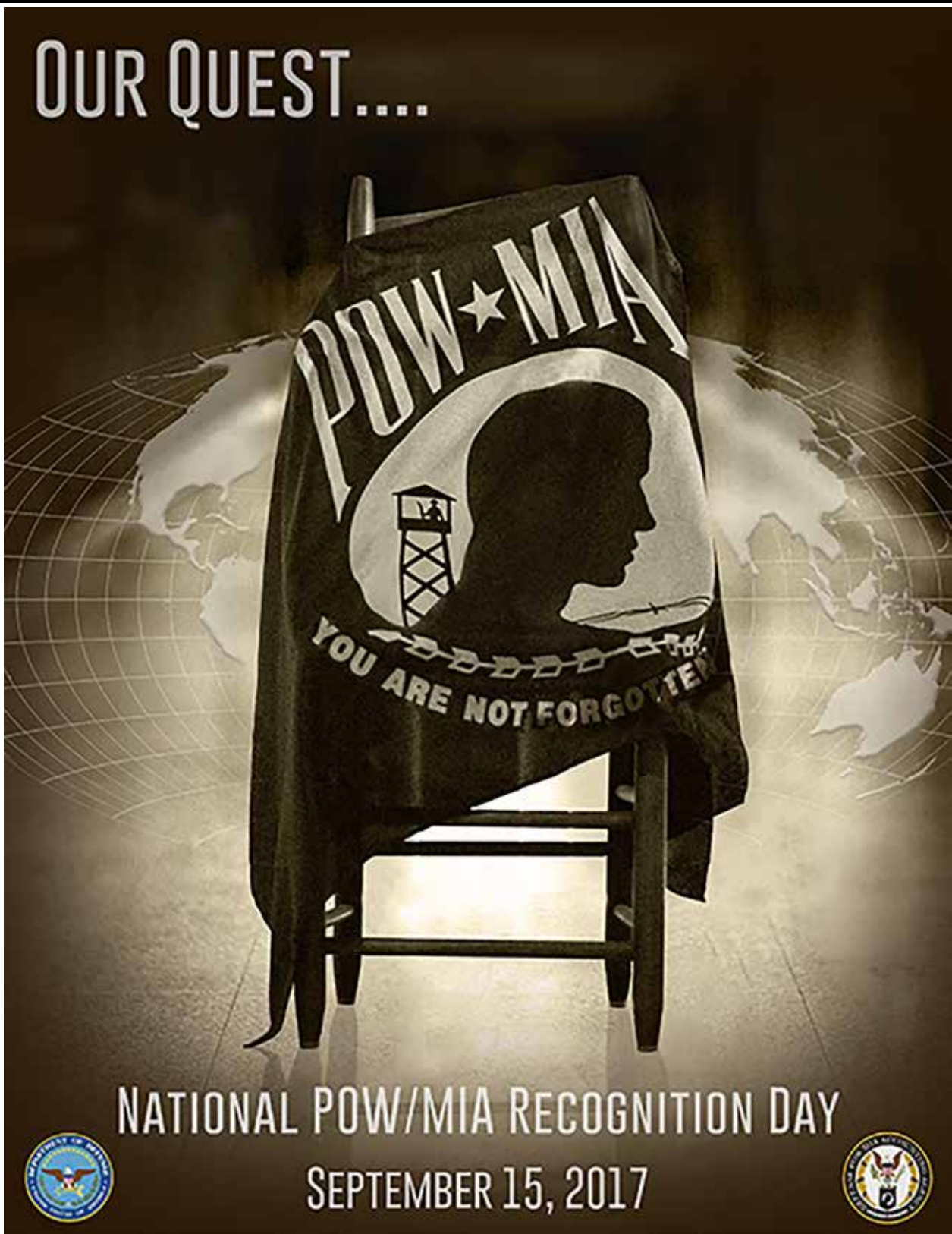
The grunts did the dirty, dangerous work of ferreting out the enemy and killing them. The helicopter pilots and door gunners did their part, often displaying uncommon valor. The medics risked their lives to save others. Someone had to tell their stories so the people back home would know. In Vietnam, as in other wars, that job fell to the Combat Reporter/Photographer. That was my Army job in Vietnam. To get these stories we had to hump the boonies with the grunts, suffer the agonizing cries of pain alongside the medics, and we rode with the chopper pilots and door gunners to bring those stories to life. This then, is the story of a day in the life of Army men who performed these duties with the First Cavalry Division (Airmobile) in the Republic of South Vietnam. I served from April, 1968 to April, 1969, as a Staff Reporter/Photographer for the “Cavalair” newspaper, the official organ for my unit. And while the day I describe is not necessarily a typical day, it is nevertheless a close approximation of those days we spent plying our military trade during the Vietnam War. Military journalists did not have the freedom of our civilian counterparts. Regardless of what went down in the field during any given day, we still had the military to contend with and all that entails. We could not, for instance, return to Saigon each day, file our stories and head to the Caravel Hotel rooftop bar for cocktails and dinner as they did. The best we could hope for, if we were in the field, was warmed-up C- Rations, a quick smoke before dark on some small Night Defensive Position (NDP) on a hill-top and a couple of hours fitful sleep before being roused for our stint on radio watch or foxhole guard duty. If we were back at our main base camp we would probably get a hot meal, a shower, maybe a couple of cold sodas or a beer, after we filed our stories. And then, of course, the Army extracted it’s pound of flesh with KP, guard duty, shit-burning detail, (Authors note: Vietnam had no sewer system, so all feces was burned using kerosene. Substitute ‘feces-burning’ if necessary) charge-of-quarters duty, etc., ad infinitum.

Working out of a Brigade Public Information Office required spending time in the field with the infantry companies to get our stories and photographs. Normally we would team up with an Army photographer who was assigned to my office and we would spend three to five days in the field with the grunts. When enough cameras and film were available we did our own photography as we were cross-trained. Each Army Brigade consisted of three battalions of five companies each, plus support units. Our office attempted to cover as many of these units as possible with the three or four reporters and one or two photographers available to us. Our articles and photographs were primarily written for the Division newspaper, “The

Cavalier”, but were also made available to the mainstream media in the US and to other military publications such as “The Stars and Stripes”. One factor we had to contend with was trying to be self-sustaining while in the field with the infantry. Logistic support for the troops in the field was always a problem and each additional mouth to feed and water was just another burden on that system. The key was the proper loading of the field pack and that became an art, to keep it light as possible and yet contain the minimum necessities of life. The rule of thumb was to take enough food for three days and enough water for two days. Of course you wanted to keep your pack light since you had to hump it all day through oftentimes severe terrain in tropical heat. To accomplish this you stripped the C-Rations down to one can of Fruit Cocktail and coffee for breakfast, a main meal for lunch and supper, a few heat tabs to warm things up, plenty of Tabasco sauce to liven up the meal, matches, toilet paper and you were basically set. Another necessity from home was Kool-Aid. You were required to put purification tablets in your canteen and that produced a terrible taste. Kool-Aid solved that problem. In addition you carried an Army .45 sidearm, your M-16 rifle, a bandoleer of ammo, (200 rounds) a bayonet, an entrenching tool, several fragmentation and smoke grenades, a couple of pen flares, a medical field kit, a poncho and liner, smokes, a bar of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, your steel pot, writing material, and one, two and sometimes, three cameras, both personal and military. And depending on the company you were traveling with, how the company commander felt and the situation, perhaps a Gas Mask and a Flak Jacket. At best your pack would weigh about 50 pounds and at the worst about 70 pounds.

There were other goodies you could bring along, like a pair of clean socks (we didn’t wear underwear) mosquito repellant and some candy. Checking with the Brigade Tactical Operations Center (BTOC) to see where the various units were and what they were doing was next and then a trip to that company’s area to arrange a ride on the next outbound chopper to their location and your mission was on. Normally we took more than the required 200 rounds of M-16 ammo and plenty of hand grenades and anything else we could get our hands on to give to the grunts in the field. They never turned down ammo, clothing, food, writing materials, candy, smokes, and they always seemed grateful. Arriving in the field the Reporter/Photographer introduced himself to the Company Commander or the Platoon Leader and explained what he was doing there and how long he expected to stay. Sometimes we were welcomed, especially if we were well-known to the company as honest and fair journalists and had proven that we were not a liability in the field. We had to carry out own weight and not burden the operation in any way. We were often viewed as another gun in the foxhole. I have often said that my three years of Army Junior R.O.T.C. at C.E. Byrd High School, in Shreveport, La., helped me immeasurably during my seven years in the military, but especially in Vietnam. Of course, having been raised by my father, Frank Madison Smart, Sr., to be a competent hunter and fisherman didn’t hurt either. When the unit moved out on that day’s mission, we took our assigned position (with a particular squad or platoon) and moved out with them. What ever the unit was assigned to do, search and cordon, patrolling, ambushes, etc., we tried to assist them in any way. More than a liability, we tried to provide that extra gun on the line or in the foxhole. All of us had undergone basic training, plus our specialty training and we knew the fundamentals of fire and maneuver and enough field craft to take care of our selves in the field. In my case, I had originally been trained as a Combat Engineer. That’s basically just an Infantryman who blows things up and builds portable, temporary bridges. In a nutshell, whatever befell the unit we were with, befell us, for better or worse. If they were on a stand-down (a 3 to 5 day break from the field) at a Fire Support Base, or at a Main Base Camp, then so were we. That break from the field generally gave us a chance to get caught up on those interminable Hometown News Releases the Army required us to produce. You’ve seen them in your local newspaper: PFC Joe Smokes, son of John and Susie Smokes, is currently serving with the First Cavalry Division in South Vietnam. Smokes a

1967 graduate of.....” The more adventurous of our kind went out on night ambushes and night combat assaults. I went out on several, but that’s another story for another time. Some of our fellows followed Special Forces and SEAL units on combat missions and a number of them were wounded and some were killed-in-action and still other received medals for valorous actions while doing their jobs. I was one of the lucky ones who made it through the longest year of my life, unscathed, physically and mentally. Returning from the field we wrote our stories and turned them in to our main office at Camp Evans or Ben Hoa, sent out film to the photo lab for process-



The U.S. Promises to Search for Over 82,000 Missing Military
A New Movie Documents America's Search

(LAKE ARROWHEAD, Calif) June 16, 2017 Storyteller Original Films

A promise is made to every American sent into combat: *You will not be left behind.* The United States is the only country that makes this promise and it never stops looking for its 82,537 missing military personnel who are still unaccounted for in America's wars beginning with WW II.

Film producer, Richard Jellerson of Storyteller Original Films, is in production on a documentary entitled, *"A Solemn Promise, America's Missing in Action"*. The film focuses on America's ongoing worldwide efforts to locate, identify and return home each of America's fallen military members to their families for burial with full military honors. As of June 16, 2017, there were 82,537 US Military members missing and still unaccounted for since World War II. Those numbers break down as follows:

World War II:	73,052
Korean War:	7,745
Vietnam War:	1,608
Cold War:	126
Iraq & Other:	6

Jellerson is a former Vietnam War helicopter pilot who served two tours. The first was a Combat/Medevac Pilot. His second tour was as personal pilot for General Creighton Abrams (U.S. Commander in Vietnam). He says, "Especially close to my heart are those military families whose loved ones served around the world and are not yet accounted for. Families need to honor their loved ones and experience the peace of mind of closure."

Storyteller Original Films is nearing completion on this heartfelt documentary – a truly American Story. Jellerson said, "The lengths and the methods our country goes to search for, identify, and return those still missing are extensive and highly scientific. We show the world what it truly means to never give up looking for our MIAs and POWs."

These search missions are headed by the U.S. Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), whose representatives are responsible for all aspects of each search held around the world. In essence, they send military units back to old battlegrounds

DPAA specialized terrain teams scour mountains, desert, and jungle sites. Additionally private organizations like History Flight, Bent Prop, and MIA Recoveries are also dedicated to searching for and recovering the missing with the support of the DPAA.

The Department of Defense (DoD) holds several MIA family group meetings each year. In one-on-one settings, they let the families know which battlegrounds will be searched and any updates on each location to be searched. No false hope is offered, just the knowledge that America will continue these operations until *"They are all Home"* which is the DPAA's motto. One such meeting will be depicted in the film and it will demonstrate the emotion, concern, and sincerity of these heartfelt briefings and the exchanges that follow.

Once remains are found, they are then delivered to the DPAA forensic laboratories in Hawaii where military and civilian scientists work with state-of-the-art DNA analysis and other methods before being able to tell an MIA family their lost loved one has been accurately identified.

Jellerson's goal is to finish his fund-raising and complete the film for distribution on *National POW/MIA Recognition Day, September 15, 2017.*

Film Advisory Committee

- MAJ GEN (R) John Bianchi - Former Commanding General of the California State Military Reserve
- Mr. Neale Perkins, Founder, Safariland, supplying personal armor and equipment to law enforcement and the military. Philanthropist to America's Higher Education needs.
- Ms. Lucie Marx Titus - Chair, Board of Governors, MG William S. Dean Chapter of AUSA
- LTC (R) Robert K Brown - Owner and Publisher of *Soldier of Fortune* magazine
- Ms. Arden McConnell - Former Special Representative to the Commanding General of the California National Guard and Special Assistant to Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr.
- Mr. Ron Miller - Veterans Adviser, National League of POW-MIA Families
- Mr. Kim Dawson - Owner of Skydog Productions and Independent Producer at Universal Studios, Florida; former Director of Original Programming for Showtime Networks
- Mr. John Zimmerlee - Executive Director of the Korean and Cold War POW/MIA Network
- COL (R) Bill Fortier US Army Retired - Former Military Aide to the Governor of California and Former Aide to the Commanding General of the California National Guard
- LTC (R) Tom Lasser - So. California President, Association of the US Army; Vietnam Veteran, Army Helicopter Pilot
- Norton E. Marks, Ph.D., Former Distinguished Professor, University of Notre Dame: Professor Emeritus and former Dean, California State University, San Bernardino: Past President, Small Business Institute Association.
- Marc P. Yablonka--Military journalist and author of *"Distant War: Recollections of Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia"* and *"Tears Across the Mekong."* CW2 (R), California State Military Reserve

###

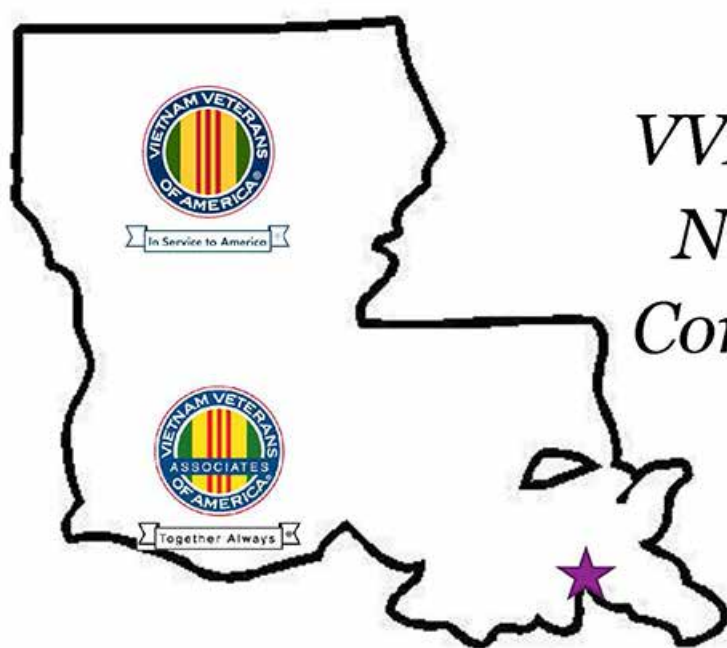
Media Contact

Contact Name: Richard Jellerson
phone: 213-675-0813
Email: richard@storytellerfilms.tv

Resources

Website: www.storytelleroriginalfilms.com
YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BgWfGMKkC_E
Trailer: <http://storytellerfilms.tv/solemntrailer.html>
Facebook: @storytelleroriginalfilms
Twitter: @powmiamovie
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/richard-jellerson-276637/>
Indiegogo: <https://igg.me/at/asolemnpromise>
Hollywood Post 43 American Legion: <http://bit.ly/2sBQBW2>

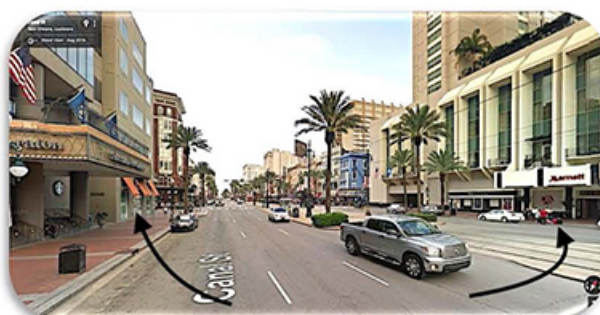
News Video from the San Diego Union-Times: A daughter of a recovered MIA explains why this film is so important to all the families of the fallen who are Missing and still unaccounted for:
<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/military/veterans/sd-me-mia-return-20170526-story.html>



2017 VVA/AVVA National Convention New Orleans, LA.



THE NATIONAL WWII MUSEUM
NEW ORLEANS



The VVA/AVVA Conventions will be held from August 8 to August 12, 2017 at the New Orleans Marriott Hotel, New Orleans, LA. There is an "overflow" hotel available while rooms last. All Convention events will be held at the New Orleans Marriott.

NEW ORLEANS MARRIOTT, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

555 Canal Street • New Orleans, LA 70130 • 504-581-1000

Marriott Reservations: 800-266-9432

(Marriott Group Code: "Vietnam Veterans")

SHERATON New Orleans HOTEL, NEW ORLEANS (overflow Hotel)

500 Canal Street • New Orleans, LA 70130 • 504-525-2500

Sheraton Reservations: 888-627-7033

(Sheraton Group Code: "VH06AA30")

August 8 – 12, 2017

Room Rate both hotels – \$99 + 13% tax + \$3 per day occupancy tax

** Be sure to tell the hotel that you are coming for the VVA/AVVA Convention.

The two hotels are directly across the street from each other.

EVENTS AND AGENDAS

- Tuesday and Wednesday August 8 & 9: Convention Registration
- Wednesday August 9: AVVA Awards Luncheon
- Thursday August 10: AVVA Convention
- Friday August 11: AVVA National Elections
- Saturday August 12: VVA Banquet

TUESDAY, August 8, 2017

- 9:00am – 4:00pm AVVA office open Bacchus (M)
- 9:00am – 5:00pm THE VETERANS MALL open Rhythms & Waterbury (S)

WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2017

- 9:00am – 12:00pm Convention opening session Grand Ballroom (S)
- 12:00pm – 1:15pm AVVA luncheon Riverview (M) (Advance tickets required)

THURSDAY, August 10, 2017

- 9:00am – 5:00pm AVVA Convention General Session Galerie 5/6 (M)
- 8:00am AVVA office Closed Bacchus (M)

Vietnam Veterans of America to Hold 18th National Convention in New Orleans

(Washington, D.C.) – Vietnam Veterans of America will hold its 18th biennial National Convention August 8-12, 2017, at the Sheraton New Orleans and New Orleans Marriott hotels. "We're excited to be in New Orleans for what promises to be our largest Convention ever," said VVA National President John Rowan. More than 900 delegates from VVA chapters across the nation are expected to join hundreds of other Vietnam veterans and guests in New Orleans, along with members of the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA), which will be holding its National Convention in conjunction with the VVA event.

The delegates will set the organization's course for the next two years, hear from an array of speakers, attend information sessions, and take part in special events. That includes the Awards Banquet, which honors Vietnam veterans and others in the arts and sciences, on Saturday evening, August 12.

Charles Figley, a Vietnam War veteran who has done pioneering work in recognizing and treating Post-traumatic Stress Disorder since the mid-1970s, will deliver the Keynote Speech at the August 9 Opening Ceremonies.

The actor Wes Studi and author/environmentalist Doug Peacock, both of whom served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War, will receive VVA Excellence in the Arts awards at the Awards Banquet. Recently retired Associated Press photographer Nick Ut will receive the President's Award for Excellence in the Arts, and three women who entertained the troops in Vietnam with the Bob Hope USO tours in 1969 and 1970 Paula Cinko, Rosetta "Rosie" Gitlin, and Jackie Chidsey, members of "The Dean Martin Show" Goldiggers also will be honored at the Banquet.

FRIDAY, August 11, 2017

- 9:00am – 10:30am AVVA Candidate forum Galerie 5/6 (M)
 - AVVA Election Galerie 4 (M)
- 10:30am – 12:00pm AVVA Reconvene (if needed) Galerie 5/6 (M)
- 1:00pm – 3:00pm AVVA office open Bacchus (M)
- 2:00pm – 4:00pm AVVA Secondary PTSD Peer Support meeting, Rm. Galerie 5/6 (M)

(M) Marriot Hotel / (S) Sheraton

AVVA National Elections

Friday August 11, 2017: AVVA National Elections

Kaye Gardner AVVA Election Chair

As of April 12, 2017, the registration process for Candidates seeking a National office was closed. AVVA has an almost full slate of candidates participating in the elections. We did not receive candidates for Deputy Directors in Regions 1, 8, and 9. Remembering that, this is the first time in which deputy directors are elected. I consider this a good outcome for candidate registration.

The AVVA Elections Committee has been quite busy since the last Updates newsletter. I have been registering delegates and alternate delegates to the AVVA convention and sending confirmations by email. If you are an alternate delegate and did not list an email address on your registration form, I sent your confirmation to the delegate.

The AVVA Elections will be held on Friday, August 11, 2017, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The main hotel is the Marriott in New Orleans, LA for the AVVA Convention. Another hotel will also be used and it is the Sheraton – directly across the street. Information is on the VVA website and in the Veteran.

ing and started thinking about our next trip to the field. All in all the Combat Reporter/Photographers plied their trade pretty much the way everyone did in Vietnam. They did their best under trying, uncomfortable and dangerous conditions. In no way is this story intended to portray our jobs as being as dangerous as those who actually did the fighting, although we also fought when necessary. But, our jobs were important, and it was dangerous and dirty at times. It required great stamina, fortitude and a nose for news. We were not heroes. But, we were there in the foxholes, on the jungle trails and in the villes with the real heroes, taking their pictures and getting their stories for the world to know. And those stories will live for time immemorial, in print and film.

CHAPTER NEWS

Chapter 223

Ken Holybee

The chapter has begun their Wednesday night market in Santa Rosa. This market is more of a street fair with plenty of information and entertainment. We have our booth set up to speak to veterans about the benefits and programs available to veterans and their families. We have been seeing an increase of Iraq, Afghan and Gulf War veterans at our booth. We have been able to assist a few veterans in need and have given six \$500 scholarships this year. Our coffee cart has survived the winter, it is an outside project at the clinic, and we have really enjoyed this program. We could use a few more volunteers to help out. Some of our guys are getting a little irritable at sunup these days. We thank the local Purple Heart chapter for paving the entrance floor. It makes it a little easier to clean up the spills.

Our treasurer, Bill Burke, and Kate Palmer are planning to attend a banquet at the San Quentin Prison. We have been working with the veterans there being their bankers for their projects. I am sure Bill and Kate will have a great time. They should have their paperwork done properly so they can get out. I am sure they will have a great time.

We will only be sending four of our authorized delegates to the convention. We are unable to send them to the region meeting in Denver for financial reasons.

We are in the planning and working stages for our annual dinner dance fundraiser in September. We are also working on programs with the county to make sure our Veterans Building is maintained and available for us and others that wish to use it. We also had a successful town hall meeting with the local VA. We had the director and her staff as well as people from our clinic in attendance. Anytime we can have civil question and answer time with the VA it is successful in my opinion. Our service office will be retiring this year and we will need to train a new one. He has said he will stay on to make sure we have a smooth transition. On Tuesday's they use our office to see clients. They have also do outreach to Petaluma and Sonoma every week as well as house calls for veterans that cannot get to their locations.

Chapter 643

VIETNAM VETERANS WANTED
PAY YOUR RESPECTS TO YOUR BUDDIES WHO
DID NOT COME BACK FROM VIETNAM

WHEN: AUGUST 5, 2017 (SATURDAY)
WHERE: DINUBA CA... WESTERN REGIONAL
VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL
(Veterans Memorial Hall Grounds)
TIME: 9:00 AM
WHAT: ADDING OF NEW NAMES TO THE WALL
(18 WELCOME HOME GUYS) CEREMONY!! COL-



Chapter 933

MEMORIAL DAY

Sunrise Service



Left: Opening the service is Chaplain Chuck Berberian giving the invocation.



Right: Sal Gomez presenting the colors.



Above: National Anthem sung by Chapter AVVA members; Jo Ann Hayhurst, Henrietta Sturdivant and Marilyn Meadors.



Below: The 31st annual Sunrise Service ceremony attendees. Site for the event is at the Lakeview Shelter in Fresno's Woodward Park.



Taps by Bugler, Stanley Mackey



Post ceremony gathering ready for breakfast at Marie Calenders.

Photos by Sal Gomez and Marilyn Meadors

Chapter 933 President John Sturdivant acting as the ceremony's MC introduced each speaker with a short personal profile.



Jim Doyle as the first speaker

Jim Doyle, served with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1969. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Combat Infantryman Badge, Good Conduct Medal and Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and was Honorably discharged in 1970. He has returned to Vietnam 22 times since the end of the war and has now spent more time in Vietnam as a civilian than he did as a soldier.

The poet, Gabriel Garcia Marques said,
"What matters in life is not what happens to you but what you remember and how you remember it."

Editor's note: Jim spoke from the heart without notes expressing his gratefulness of surviving because of fellow unit members who gave their lives in combat action.

George Grimsley, 2nd speaker.



George Grimsley graduated from University of Tennessee in 1967. After graduation, he was drafted. Upon completion from the Infantry Officer Candidate School, he received his commission. George served in Vietnam from June 1969 to June 1970 and was assigned as an advisor to the 42nd ARVN Infantry Regiment stationed in Tan Can, in Two Corps. Last assignment was at Fort Leonard, Missouri.

Last year was my first time to attend the MEMORIAL DAY SUNRISE SERVICE, sponsored by Chapter 933.

Last year, Jim Doyle who just spoke this morning, talked about our willingness to die for our country, if necessary. And, if you ask any soldiers, WHY? They would almost universally say, I would die for my BUDDIES and friends!

Even in the Bible, it talks about individual's willingness to die for a friend. In the New Testament, John, chapter 15 verse 13, states, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends."

And Jim named 10 fellow soldiers that he served with that were killed in action in Vietnam. One of the names mentioned was John Parham.

My ears perked up because, my wife Wanda and I graduated from Clarksville High School in Tennessee with a friend name John Parham.

We knew John very well because we had several classes with John each year throughout high school.

After Jim's presentation, I spoke to him. I told Jim that I went to high school with a guy name John Parham. I asked, if by chance, was John from Tennessee? Jim stated "yes".

I could not believe that Jim had served with John Parham. Here I am in Fresno, 50 years later, and over 2,000 miles away and I hear the name of John Parham who had given his life for his buddies. What a coincidence and how small the world is.

In the fall of 1968, I was assigned as an instructor in the Tactic Committee group, teaching Night Tactics and

Night Defense at Fort Polk, LA.

In Dec 1968, I see John Parham marching a group of Basic Trainees to our class. What a surprise! We had a chance to catch up on what we were doing because it had been over 5 years since we graduated from High School.

John told me that he went to the NCO school and after completion, he was promoted to E-5, a sergeant. He also told me that he just received orders for Vietnam and would be reporting in January of 1969.

I told him that Wanda was pregnant and we were expecting our first child in May. Also, I received my orders for Vietnam and would be reporting in June after I complete the Special Warfare course and Vietnamese language course.

As John prepared to march his Basic Trainees back to the barracks, we said our good byes. I told him that maybe we will see each other in Vietnam. After completing my language school, I had 3 weeks of leave before I had to report to Vietnam.

When I went back home to Clarksville, TN, I learned from Wanda that John Parham was killed in action. I was stunned. It was only six months ago that I had seen and talked with John at Fort Polk, LA.

John is the only person that I knew personally who was killed in action and made the ultimate sacrifice. When I arrived in Vietnam, I had mixed emotions, issues and concerns about my wife, our new daughter and my welfare.

I learned quickly that in war, you have to be very lucky and fortunate to survive and come home safely.

Our Infantry OCS graduates, I think, went to Vietnam in alphabetical order. One of my good friends, Steve Grenbeaux, went to Vietnam one day before I did. Fortunately, my last name Grimsley, started with Gri. And Steve started with Gre. Steve and I were assigned to go to Pleiku in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. Steve went to Pleiku one day before I did.

When I arrived in Pleiku the next day, I learned that a 122 rocket had hit the barrack where Steve was sleeping and Steve had both of his legs severely injured.

Steve was medivaced to the states. I learned later from Steve that he had to learn to walk again. He also stated that the Lieutenant on top of his bunk was killed. Just think, if my last name was spelled with Gre, I could have been on the top bunk. What a difference one day makes in your lifetime?

As I stated, you have to be very lucky and fortunate. I am sure that you have seen war movies, like Hacksaw Ridge where a soldier is killed next to his buddy and another is spared. Also, how Desmond Doss, a medic, was willing to sacrifice his life to save 75 of his buddies.

In Oct of 2002, Wanda and I went to see the Vietnam Memorial. We saw our friend John Parham's name on the wall. As I stood at the memorial wall, I asked myself "Why", why I was able to come home to my family and WHY others were not as fortunate as I was.

You will find John Parham's name on Panel 29 w - line 71. John served in the 1st Infantry Division. Tour in Vietnam began on Jan 7, 1969. On March 18, 1969, John was killed under hostile ground action in Bin Duong, South Vietnam at the young age of 24 years old with multiple fragmentation wounds.

A very personal comment from his sister, Peggy, is posted at the Memorial. She states: "Bubba (my nickname for Johnny) was my only sibling. He didn't have to go because he was an only surviving son but he went. He thought it was his duty to serve his country. I remember going ice skating with him a couple of days before he left for Vietnam and joking with him that he should fall and break his legs so he wouldn't have to go. I wish he had. I loved and still do love him, so much. He always took care of me because he was 'my older brother'. We were very close and not an hour goes by that I don't think of him and I miss him."

Peggy concludes: "Every Memorial Day, I see a vivid image of young, energetic, and smiling face of John marching his Basic Trainee back to the barracks."

John, you will always be remembered by me, you will never be forgotten by me, May God bless you and your sacrifices.

OR GUARD, WELCOME, PRAYER, ADD NAMES, FIRING SQUAD & TAPS.



Short History of Dinuba's Vietnam Memorial Wall. This will be the third year the Wall was brought to Di-



nuba. Its a full name of over 58000 names on the Wall. Same as Washington but 3/4 the size. If you lost a buddy in Vietnam he is here on the Wall. We are adding 18 new names to the Wall. Maybe he is the MIA that you knew?



Refreshments will be served. Bring yourself and Family.

Adding a few more comments: the Wall was purchased for over \$200,000. The committee has had fundraisers from ticket sales and dinners to Brick Sales and Public Donations for a total of \$160,000. All donations have been small but every penny counts. We badly need to retire the debt but with God behind our backs we will do it.

Dinuba CA is located 12 miles inland from 99 Freeway/Exit Mountain View East. You will run into the Memorial Hall as you can see it from the Main intersection of Alta Ave (road 80) and Mountain View (becomes El Monte Way) as you enter the City.

Our Guys on the Wall never got a chance to be Fathers or even Grandfathers. Let's make it a day to remember and be happy come August 5th, 2017. See you here at 9:00AM

Questions:

Wall Committee

Joe Rivera US Marines 559-315-5177 559-798-4391

Moses Ibarra US Army 408-460-8708

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter #643

George Madrid US Navy Seabee 559-623-3233

email: geodrid@sbcglobal.net

Chapter 201

CHAPTER 201 HOLDS ANNUAL ELECTION

Chapter 201 held its annual election of officers for 2017 to 2018 on April 17th. Over thirty-five Chapter members, Associates and guests witnessed the election of Warren Finch as President, Gene Fanucchi as Vice President, Stephen Thompson as Secretary and the reelection of Treasurer Dennis Foggie. Dennis Whittaker was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, Warren Finch, John Hassenplug and Randy Sessler were elected as Chapter delegates to the 2017 VVA Convention. Chapter 201 Election Committee members elected were Larry Douthard, John Hassenplug and Dennis Whittaker. The Chapter was honored to have CSC Central District Director Al Sickle conduct the installation of the new officers following a dinner at Holder's Country Inn Restaurant in San Jose.

Ranch Activities This Spring

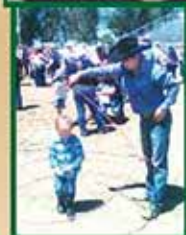
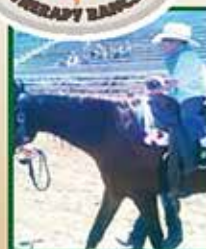
April provided Chapter Members volunteering with the Heart of the Horse Ranch with several chances to be of service. The first was a visit to Fresno's Children's Hospital



where members helped unload horses and equipment and set up corrals behind the Hospital so that patients escorted by parents, therapists, and doctors would get a chance to interact with Bandit, Nada, and Lucy, including some brisk trots around the old corral. This month's event included several food booths, music, and games for the kids.



The Annual PRCA Rodeo in Clovis included, on April 29, the Rodeo Parade, now expanded nearly to the size of the Veteran's Day Parade in Fresno. A new tradition is developing in which Steve and Don Hayhurst, besides helping with the parade set-up, are the proud bearers of the Heart of the Horse banner.



The Children's Rodeo was as usual a big hit with everyone attending. Rodeo champs taught the kids from Break the Barriers trick roping and bull (barrel) riding, and the horses from the H of the H Therapy Ranch provided rides. Four beautiful Rodeo Queens from around the state added sparkle to the event, and every kid went home with a trophy and a heart full of memories. Besides helping with set-up, Chapter members helped man the ranch information/donation booth at the

entrance to the rodeo grounds.

Veterans Work - Day Wednesdays

Note: Wednesday has become veterans' volunteer day at the ranch. Many Chapter 933 members are working now on a variety of projects there. If you wish to visit the ranch on Wednesday or another day, contact Paul Kaser, 435-2464, to get your name on the list.

PBS Heart of the Horse Special

The local PBS channel recently filmed a mini-documentary on veterans' therapy at the Heart of the Horse. It provides insightful interviews with younger veterans who have found benefits from visits to the ranch and includes footage of these veterans riding a couple of our beautiful horses. You will also get to see some Chapter Members in this film. PBS will be running this randomly through August. You may see it on the PBS local website or the Heart of the Horse Facebook page.

Photos by Paul Kaser



VVA California State Council Central District Director Al Sickle Installs Newly Elected Chapter 201 Officers on April 17, 2017 In San Jose California



Ed Sawicki and VVA-201 Member Fran McVey Place the POW/MIA Wreath during the 2017 Memorial Day Ceremony in San Jose, California



Outgoing President Dave Sanders receives a Gavel Plaque in recognition of his service from new Chapter 201 President Warren Finch



VVA-201 Members Jack Wells, Dennis Whittaker and Mike Frangadakis Place The Vietnam War Wreath



CSC Central District Director Al Sickle receives a Certificate of Appreciation From new Chapter 201 President Warren Finch



Back row: President Warren Finch, Treasurer Dennis Foggie and Fran McVey
Front row, Secretary Steve Thompson and Director Dennis Whittaker

Incoming Chapter 201 President Warren Finch presented a "Gavel Plaque" to outgoing Chapter 201 President Dave Sanders recognizing his outstanding performance as Chapter 201 President between 2015 and 2017.

Newly elected Chapter 201 President Warren Finch presented CSC Central District Director Al Sickle with a Certificate of Appreciation for his outstanding performance as the Installation Officer for the newly elected Officers of Chapter 201 on April 17, 2017 In San Jose California

Chapter 201 Participation in Memorial Day

Each year, on Memorial Day, ceremonies are held at Oak Hill Memorial Park in San Jose, California that attract up to 3,000 spectators. This year VVA Chapter 201 participated in the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) ceremony to honor the fallen of all wars since the establishment of Decoration Day (now Memorial Day) in 1868. Chapter 201 members posted the VVA colors and placed the POW/MIA and Vietnam War wreaths at the Veterans Section in Oak Hill Memorial Park.

VVA Chapter 201 member Fran McVey, assisted by former Army Special Forces SSGT Ed Sawicki, placed the POW/MIA Wreath during the UVC Memorial Day Ceremony.

VVA Member Mike Frangadakis assisted Chapter-201 member Jack Wells and Chapter Director, Dennis Whittaker in placing the Vietnam War Wreath during the UVC Memorial Day Ceremony Oak Hill Memorial Park.

Following the ceremony in the Veterans Section, Chapter 201 held it's annual service at the Oak Hill "Field of Honor" which included a "POW/MIA Missing Man Table" tribute. Assisting the members of VVA Chapter 201 at the Field of Honor were members from the VVA-



Left to right: Vice President Gene Fanucchi, Rose Herrera and Chaplain Randy Richmond

201 Associates who posted the colors, fired the rifle salute and provided the playing of Taps.

VVA Chapter-201 President Warren Finch, Treasurer Dennis Foggie, Fran McVey, Secretary Steve Thompson and Director Dennis Whittaker participated in the VVA Chapter 201 annual Field of Honor Service on Memorial Day at Oak Hill Memorial Park.

VVA Chapter 201 Vice President Gene Fanucchi presided as Master of Ceremonies while Chaplain Randy Richmond provided the invocation and Benediction for the VVA Field of Honor service at Oak Hill Memorial Park. Air Force veteran, and new Chapter 201 member, Rose Herrera, former Vice Mayor of San Jose, conducted the "POW/MIA Missing Man Table" tribute.

Chapter 982

Hello from Chapter 982

Our WHVVD in March was a great success. Thank



you to our members and family and friends for all their work. We were able to again meet our scholarship goals. In May we had our Chapter trap shoot and lunch at the Santa Maria gun club. We had a good turn out. So much fun to watch first time shooters, they smile from ear to ear. Many of our members and families got together at the Elks in Santa Maria for a Cook Your Own dinner. Good times had by all. On Memorial Day we set up an information booth at a concert in Avila Beach. We picked up some new members and had a good response from the public. Our members also participated in other local events in the area on Memorial Day.. Thank you to all that could attend. Memorial Day week-end was also a big event at Santa Margarita Ranch for military vehicles, war bird fly ins, old trucks, old tractors and equipment. It was a great show especially watching the World War II planes taking off and landing. Our Chapter thanks go to Gary Haines and the Oceano Elks for inviting us to participate. Gary and his crew had a whole base camp set up with more a dozen World War II vehicles. A big THANK YOU to our Chapter scholarship chairperson - Penny Chamousis, and all the scholarship committee, Teresa Brewer, Erma Estrada, Chris Kaufman, Delia Bernstine, George Chavez and Gerry Estrada. We attended different schools at their Awards Night and presented six deserving students with a \$1000 scholarship It is so rewarding to meet these young folks and their families. And they are so thankful to Veterans helping out. And of course our monthly Chapter bowling night continues to be lots of fun. See you next issue.

Jerry Kaufman
Support Our Troops - May God Bless

OC VETERAN CEMETERY

VETERANS' CEMETERY WILL BE NEAR 5/405 INTERCHANGE AFTER IRVINE VOTES TO SWAP GREAT PARK LAND FOR STRAWBERRY FIELDS

After nearly three hours of public comments and debate, the Irvine City Council at a special meeting Tuesday, June 6, voted 3-2 to change the site originally designated for a veterans' cemetery.

Instead of moving forward with a 125-acre parcel in the Orange County Great Park for the cemetery at the for-

mer El Toro Marine base – expected to cost \$80 million – the council will pursue a proposal from Aliso Viejo-based developer FivePoint for farmland the company owns near the I-5/I-405 interchange.

FivePoint will swap that land, currently a strawberry field, to build the cemetery at no cost to the city in exchange for the property from the first proposed cemetery site.

FivePoint has also offered to fund the first phase of cemetery construction.

"The Irvine council's decision is a win-win-win for the city at-large, our communities, and most importantly, our veterans who deserve a special place to honor their own that is worthy of the service they have given this country," FivePoint chairman and CEO Emile Haddad said in a written statement.

No details on the company's plans for the land it acquires in the swap were given.

Mayor Don Wagner and council members Melissa Fox and Christina Shea voted in favor of the FivePoint proposal. Mayor Pro Tem Lynn Schott and Councilman Jeffrey Lalloway turned in the dissenting votes.

That prompted Wagner and Fox to ask for Tuesday's special meeting.

Irvine taxpayers would have to make up the \$50 million difference, Wagner said.

"That's not fair to our taxpayers and won't get the veterans cemetery they deserve."

Lalloway said there are too many unknowns in FivePoint's proposal and there is no way to determine the actual costs to Irvine without more research.

"We're just going to shove this down people's throats without proper study," Lalloway said. "This is ludicrous, absolutely ludicrous."

Schott called the FivePoint proposal "nothing more than a real estate business deal."

"I think what we are seeing here is the giveaway of our Great Park and I'm not going to facilitate that," Schott said.

The panel heard from about 50 speakers, with nearly an equal number expressing support and opposition to the FivePoint site.

Some said the process of selecting a site had become too political.

"Let's set aside all the politics," said Peter Katz, an Army veteran and member of the Orange County Memorial Park Committee.

"I favor the strawberry field," Katz said. "The costs are cheaper. The access is easier."

Some veterans who addressed the council said they support either site.

"What I want to see is a cemetery for our veterans," said James Torres, a disabled Vietnam veteran and past



commander of the Disabled American Veterans Department of California. "Whatever you decide, I will back you 100 percent."

Fox addressed the speakers during the meeting.

"I appreciate all the passion in this room to support the veterans, no matter what your opinion is," she said.

SACRAMENTO – Prior to the start of Memorial Day weekend, Assemblywoman Sharon Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton) made the following statement on the inclusion of a \$30 million allocation of funds in the 2017 California State Budget Report for an Orange County Veterans Cemetery.

"This is a fitting announcement for Memorial Day Weekend, when we honor those American heroes that made the ultimate sacrifice. An Orange County Veterans Cemetery reflects the values and priorities of our community and gives local veterans the option of a military burial that is closer to home."

This allocation came directly after Quirk-Silva hosted California Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. in Orange County, where they had a private tour of proposed sites for a new state veteran cemetery in Irvine. Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva and Governor Brown also met with local officials and community groups, in order to facilitate the budget appropriation of funds.

In 2014, Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva authored legislation that set the way for State and Federal approval of plans, leading to the construction and operation of the Orange County Veterans Cemetery project.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR - *THE VETERAN*

The last edition of the Veteran, April 2017 touched my heart dearly. As an operating room and emergency nurse in Nam in '68-'69, I can relate to many of the articles. There is a correction for "Lessons Not Lost" on page 30. The picture of Capt. Bernice Scott was taken at the 2nd Surgical Hospital when it was in Lai Khe, September 1969. I know because I was her tent mate when she was assigned there in late Spring of '69. There were a total of 8 women nurses stationed there and we shared 2 tents. Her husband, Mark, was an officer with Big Red One and came to visit when his unit would come in from the field. The 2nd Surg came in-country in '66 in An Khe/Qui Nhon to support 1st Cav. It moved to Chu Lai '67 and grew to over 300 beds. This hospital was then taken over by the 312th Evacuation hospital reserve unit from Winston Salem, N. Carolina. The 2nd Surg moved December, 1968 to Lai Khe and was converted to a MUST unit (Medical Unit Self Contained Transport). It was one of four used during Vietnam War as a new model for a MASH (Mobile Army Surgical Hospital) type unit. These were expandable, mobile shelters with inflatable ward sections. Expandable sections were also provided for the radiology, laboratory, pharmacy, and kitchen areas. The operating rooms(3) were each similar to ½ of a semi-tractor trailer with all parts fixed in place for secure transport and quick set up. Time was critical for care of the wounded and so we were placed closer to the fighting for quick trauma care and transport on to an evacuation hospital after stabilizing the soldiers. Our motto was "Second To None." It was an honor to serve with this great hospital unit. See the two attached websites for a video on the set up for a MUST unit and an army map of hospitals in S. Vietnam 1968-1970.

Kate O'Hare-Palmer. VVA Women Veterans Comm. Ch.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8L3-MTpKNc>
Video of MUST unit : Medical unit self contained transport. 1966.

<http://www.medicalinspection.net/the-mobile-army-surgical-hospital-vietnam-war-must-vs-mash.html>
ARMY HOSPITAL MAP: 1968-1970

COMMENTARY:

IT'S TIME FOR EVERY AMERICAN TO THANK THOSE WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM

By: Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey

Note: The following is a guest commentary by retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey.

Combat in Vietnam produced vivid memories that are seared there forever. And when the veterans who fought in Vietnam returned home, they were mostly shunned by their fellow Americans. It hurt us then, and it still hurts us now. But one federal organization – The Vietnam War Commemoration – is trying to remedy that. They are taking their congressional mandate very seriously. They are on a full court press thanking and honoring Vietnam veterans and their families for their service, sacrifice and valor 50 years ago. Indeed, across the nation, Americans are uniting to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families. Because of the challenges of the time, The Commemoration's efforts to thank Vietnam veterans and their families include all 9 million U.S. veterans who served from Nov. 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, and their families, regardless of location.

The President recently signed S. 305 – The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017. This established March 29 as the date, from here on, that all Americans can pause and consider the cost of that conflict to the lives of the many who fought there. In the years to come, many more will travel to the Nation's Capital and visit the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. That sacred place is a reminder to its four million annual visitors of the service and sacrifice of more than 58,300 Americans whose names are on "The Wall." During a ceremony at The Wall on Memorial

Day 2012, President Obama said "one of the most painful chapters in our history was Vietnam – most particularly, how we treated our troops who served there. You came home and sometimes were denigrated, when you should have been celebrated. It was a national shame and we resolve that it will not happen again."

A key to the Commemoration accomplishing its primary objective is its hometown-centric Commemorative Partner Program. To date, more than 10,000 organizations at the local, state and federal levels have committed to conducting two events per year, in their local communities, that recognize and honor Vietnam veterans and their families. We Vietnam veterans are proud we carried out our duty as the country ordered us to do. We fought for each other over there. We fought to stay alive. There were no parades when we came home, as there were for almost every other conflict America has fought in. Members of my company all went back to their homes, farms, families and carried on with life. Many Vietnam veterans stayed in the Army, the Marines, the Air Force, the Navy, the Coast Guard and helped forge the Armed Services into the amazingly effective fighting forces they are today.

Now is the time for all Americans to fully embrace the brave men and women who returned home from Vietnam, often to shame and disgrace, by publicly thanking them with honor and dignity, as well as recognizing the sacrifices of their families. To quote retired U.S. Army Colonel Albert Nahas, a Vietnam veteran, "We had no expectations but to serve where duty called us. We asked for no reward except a nation's thanks." Please join the nation... thank a Vietnam veteran! Find out more at www.vietnam-war50th.com. Retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey. Photo Credit: Alan Lessig/Staff

Gen. Barry R. McCaffrey is president of his own consulting firm based in Arlington, Virginia (www.mccaffreyassociates.com). McCaffrey received two Distinguished Service Crosses and two Silver Stars for valor in Vietnam. He commanded the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) during Desert Storm and led U.S. Armed Forces Southern Command.

VIETNAM WAR ON PBS

KEN BURNS AND LYNN NOVICK: VIETNAM'S UNHEALED WOUNDS

By Ken Burns And Lynn Novick

Photo Credit Owen Freeman

On April 23, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford delivered an address at Tulane University in New Orleans. As the president spoke, more than 100,000 North Vietnamese troops were approaching Saigon, having overrun almost all of South Vietnam in just three months. Thirty years after the United States first became involved in Southeast Asia and 10 years after the Marines landed at Danang, the ill-fated country for which more than 58,000 Americans had died was on the verge of defeat.

"We, of course, are saddened indeed by the events in Indochina," the president told the crowd. The United States could soon "regain the sense of pride that existed before Vietnam," he said, but only if we "stop refighting the battles and the recriminations of the past." The time had come, the president concluded, "to unify, to bind up the nation's wounds" and "begin a great national reconciliation." Just seven days later, North Vietnamese tanks smashed through the gates of the Presidential Palace in Saigon. The Vietnam War was over.

It's been more than 40 years now, and despite Ford's optimism, we have been unable to put that war behind us. As one Army veteran, Phil Gioia, told us, "The Vietnam War drove a stake right into the heart of America."

For more than a generation, instead of forging a path to reconciliation, we have allowed the wounds the war inflicted on our nation, our politics and our families to fester. The troubles that trouble us today — alienation, resentment and cynicism; mistrust of our government and one another; breakdown of civil discourse and civic institutions; conflicts over ethnicity and class; lack of accountability in powerful institutions — so many of these seeds were sown during the Vietnam War.

In our own treacherously divisive moment, Americans would do well to take a long, hard look at the bitter and painful tragedy of Vietnam, as searing and difficult as that will be for our country. If we can unpack this enormously complicated event, immerse ourselves in it and see it with fresh eyes, we might come to terms with one of the most consequential, and most misunderstood, events in our history and perhaps inoculate ourselves against the further spread of the virulent disunion that afflicts us.

Nothing will ever make the tragedy of the Vietnam War all right. But if we are to begin the process of healing, we must first honor the courage, heroism and sacrifice of

those who served and those who died, not just as we do today, on Memorial Day, but every day.

As filmmakers, we have tried to do so by listening to their stories. "It's almost going to make me cry," another Army veteran, Vincent Okamoto, told us, remembering the infantry company he led in Vietnam in 1968. "Nineteen-year-old high school dropouts from the lowest socioeconomic rung of American society," he remembered. "They weren't going to be rewarded for their service in Vietnam. And yet, their infinite patience, their loyalty to each other, their courage under fire, was just phenomenal. And you would ask yourself: How does America produce young men like this?"

While Mr. Okamoto and hundreds of thousands of other soldiers were fighting and dying overseas, hundreds of thousands of other Americans were taking to the streets to protest a war they believed was not only not in our country's best interest, but immoral and unjust. As the antiwar activist Bill Zimmerman told us, "People who supported the war were fond of saying 'My country, right or wrong,' but the war's critics didn't 'want to live in a country that we're going to support whether it's right or wrong. So we began an era where two groups of Americans, both thinking that they were acting patriotically, went to war with each other."

Far too often when Americans talk about the Vietnam War, as the writer Viet Thanh Nguyen wrote, we are talking only about ourselves. But we will never understand what happened if we do not ask our allies and our enemies — the Vietnamese on both sides of the conflict — what the war was really like. For many of them, it remains as painful, unsettled and difficult to talk about as it is for us.

For the South Vietnamese who came to America as refugees after the war, and who suffered not only the loss of loved ones but of their country itself, questions linger. Did their leaders deserve the loyalty of their people? Without it, how long could their government have endured?

For the Vietnamese on the winning side, the war's cost in blood and bone was immeasurable. "The war was so horribly brutal," the North Vietnamese Army Gen. Lo Khac Tam told us, "I don't have words to describe it. How can we ever explain to the younger generation the price paid?" Having failed to reconcile with one another despite their enormous sacrifice, many Vietnamese have begun to ask themselves whether the war was necessary, whether some other way might have been found to reunite their country.

There is no simple or single truth to be extracted from the Vietnam War. Many questions remain unanswerable. But if, with open minds and open hearts, we can consider this complex event from many perspectives and recognize more than one truth, perhaps we can stop fighting over how the war should be remembered and focus instead on what it can teach us about courage, patriotism, resilience, forgiveness and, ultimately, reconciliation.

Ken Burns and Lynn Novick are the directors of the forthcoming documentary "The Vietnam War."

WALL CHANGES

FIVE SERVICE MEMBERS ACCOUNTED FOR FROM VIETNAM WAR NOW HAVE STATUSES CHANGED ON THE WALL

2017 Status Changes include:

SFC Alan L Boyer Army SFC Boyer went missing on March 28, 1968 while on a covert mission in Laos. A small portion of his remains were found and identified in March 2016.

LCDR Frederick P Crosby

Navy Lcdr Crosby was flying a RF-8A on a combat mission in North Vietnam on June 1, 1965. His aircraft was hit by enemy fire and crashed leading the Navy to classify him as KIA/BNR. His remains were recovered in late 2015 and identified in 2016.

COL William E Campbell

Air Force COL Campbell was flying a combat mission over Laos on January 29, 1969 when hit by a ground-to-air missile. Personal items were found in Laos including his Texas A&M class ring and sidearm. His remains were recovered in 2014 and identified in 2016.

MAJ Dean A Klenda

Air Force MAJ Klenda was flying a F-105 over North Vietnam on September 17, 1965. A small portion of his remains were recovered in 2013 and further excavation continued until he was fully identified in 2016.

COL Patrick H Wood

Air Force COL Wood was flying a HH3E helicopter on a mission to recover another aviator on February 6, 1967 near the border of Laos and Cambodia. After rescuing the aviator, the helicopter was shot down killing Wood

and the other crew and passengers. His remains were recovered in December 2015 and identified in 2016.

According to the National League of POW/MIA Families, the number of service members missing and otherwise unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War is 1,611.

VENICE WALL

VENICE VIETNAM WAR MEMORIAL UNVEILED

AFTER VANDALISM REPAIRED

ON MEMORIAL DAY, A YEAR AFTER VANDALS

COVERED VENICE'S VIETNAM WAR POW/MIA

MURAL IN GRAFFITI, THE COMMUNITY UNVEILED

THE RESTORATION EFFORT.

By SoCal Patch

A restored Vietnam War POW/MIA mural in Venice that had been vandalized was unveiled Monday.

Vandals sprayed a thick sheen of silver paint over most of the names on the mural on May 26, 2016, with four monikers among the names found at the scene, authorities said.

Though most, if not all, of the paint was removed by volunteers before Memorial Day 2016, the mural had no protective anti-graffiti coating so some of the original mural was destroyed in the process.

"Neighbors in Venice and veterans throughout the region were disgusted by the criminal defacement of this mural," said City Councilman Mike Bonin, whose district includes Venice.

"It took a focused and inclusive community effort to begin restoring the mural."

The mural was completed in 1991 and includes the names of 2,273 members of the armed forces counted as prisoners of war or missing in action for the Vietnam War. The words "You Are Not Forgotten" are on top of the mural.

VENICE (CBSLA.com) – An official re-dedication ceremony was held Monday morning for a Vietnam War mural in Venice that has been fully restored after being vandalized twice in the past year.



The POW MIA Mural , located at Pacific Avenue near Sunset Court, was first vandalized in on Memorial Day weekend in 2016. It was covered in graffiti from end to end.

In January, 24-year-old Angel Castro was sentenced to four years in state prison after pleading no contest to charges of vandalism and robbery in connection with the incident.

The mural was vandalized a second time in March of this year. No arrests have been made in the most recent case.

Dozens of volunteers spent the last year restoring the mural with the help of a \$10,000 donation from Southern California Gas Company. It now has a protective coating that will allow any new graffiti to be easily scrubbed away.

The mural was painted in the early 1990s by artist Patrick Stewart and bears the names of 2,237 soldiers counted as prisoners of war or missing in action in Vietnam.

VENICE
Chamber of Commerce

The Venice Chamber of Commerce would like to thank the major donors who made this restoration possible

SoCal Gas Company
Snap Inc
Councilman Mike Bonin
Venice Neighborhood Council
General Real Estate
Barak Raviv Foundation
George Francisco
Paul Jeser
Carl Lambert,
Venice Breeze Suites
Andy Layman,
Venice Beach Suites & Hotel
Steven Udoff
Nikita Volchetskiy, No Stress Accounting
Lee Zeidman, Staples Center
Johnathan Zucker

Thank you also to the committee for making this happen
Andy Layman, George Francisco,
Kelly Layne, Les Himes, and Paul Jeser



Keep March 30 As Welcome Home Vn Veterans Day!!

To: All Vietnam Veterans who served in and during the Vietnam war, Vietnam Veterans of America California State Council and to California State elected Representatives:

Most of us VN Veterans remember the less then poor "welcome" we received after our time of service was up and we attempted to return "home".

We VN Veterans did our best to get on with our lives after we got back to the States, unfortunately some, more successfully than others.

So many men and women have passed since the end of the VN war, many of whom never heard the words "welcome home". However, in Washington DC, in 2006, for the first time in American history our United States Congress and Senate, both unanimously passed resolutions proclaiming March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day (WHVVD)!

In California, on September 26, 2009, March 30, WHVVD became law! The first state in the nation to do so. Since 2009, every March 30, in Sacramento California we have held, celebrated and hosted our very own home grown WHVVD event. And it has been great!

Thirty days after California proclaimed march 30 as WHVVD,

Connecticut became the second state to pass legislation, and since then, so many other states have followed this wonderful lead.

Now, today, almost twelve years after the creation of WHVVD and after forty years of ignoring us, Washington DC attempts to jump in with a watered down version of what they titled "National Vietnam War Veterans Day" and they also changed the date to March 29 instead of March 30. Why?

Why are those in D.C. trying to reinvent something that already exists and works so darn well! I believe it's because they would like to make WHVVD their own idea. To make it a political Washington DC idea.

At WHVVD we also feel it is so unfair to ALL other Veterans who served during various wars/campaigns. If with have a Vietnam War Veterans Day, then obviously, in order to show respect to all who served, should we now have a National WW II Veterans Day? A National Korea War Veterans Day? A national Iraq, Afghanistan,etc?

Wrong! We have November 11! That's National Recognition Day for all who served.

The reason for the creation of WHVVD is simply because we were the only warriors to return home and treated with dishonor and disrespect, that is why the words WELCOME HOME are the MOST important part of our idea and our dream to recognize our VN Veterans.

After waiting nearly forty years for America to do something to fix the past, to try and heal the old wound that the "homecoming" left in the hearts of All Who Served in and during the VN War. WHVVD got tired of waiting for others, with a lot of work WHVVD was born in Whittier, Ca., It took us two years, however, in 2002 Whittier Ca. became the first city in the nation to proclaim March 30 as WHVVD.

In May 2004, in order to raise national attention, the WHVVD Cycling Team rode bicycles from Whittier Ca to Washington DC (with the strong support of Congresswoman Linda T. Sanchez in D.C.). After twenty eight days and twenty seven hundred miles we arrived in D.C. Where we gave birth to WHVVD in every Congressional Office on the hill!

Two years later, WHVVD was given national birth unanimously by both Houses on Capital Hill!

In California our Vietnam Veterans of America California State Council (VVA/CSC) not only supported WHVVD but strongly endorsed it at our State Capital and with the combined efforts of the VVA CSC, and (then California Senator) now republican Congressman Paul Cook along with Congresswoman Linda T Sanchez and fellow Veteran Pete Conaty WHVVD became a reality.

What WHVVD is asking of all who served in and during the VN War, what WHVVD asking the State of California elected officials, what WHVVD is asking VVA CSC AND all VN Veterans in California is to stand firm in what we have created and celebrated here at home, in our great state of California.

Washington DC wants to change what we have already established here in our own backyard, a day of honor and hope. Our strongest desire is that our welcome home goes on forever AS IT IS in our history books so that NEVER again will any Veterans coming home from any war will be spat on or treated with disrespect when they come home!

The words "Welcome Home" must remain in our day of celebration every march 30! California and ALL California Veterans WHVVD asks you to please respect and observe March 30 as WHVVD! DO NOT CHANGE THE DATE OR THE NAME OF OUR WELCOME HOME!

Thank you for your time and attention. May God bless America and ALL Her Veterans. To those who served, Welcome Home!

Jose Ramos CEO/Founder whvvd@aol.com



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

VVA Chapter 223 - Postal Permit
PO Box 1583
Santa Rosa, CA 95402

NON PROFIT ORG
NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE PAID
Santa Rosa CA 95402
Permit # 679

To:

In this issue:

- Chapter Activities-Events/Photos
 - Legislative News
 - Council Committee Info
- And more...

VVA & CSC Meeting Dates & Events

July 21-23, 2017, Fresno, CA
August 8-12, New Orleans, LA
October 27-29, 2017, Fresno, CA
Zephyr deadlines 5 weeks prior to each CSC meeting