

The VVA

Veteran

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2005



THE OFFICIAL VOICE OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

VOL. 25 NO. 1 \$4.00





THE FIFTH DIMENSION



THE DOBBIE BROTHERS



THE FOUR TOPS



FISHING TOURNAMENT, JUNE 16



GRAND PALACE THEATRE: headquarters of Operation Homecoming



MARY WILSON & THE SUPREMES

WELCOME HOME...

America's Tribute to Vietnam Veterans



SADDLEBROOKE: site of grand finale



THE BEACH BOYS

June 13-19, 2005 THE HOMECOMING YOU NEVER RECEIVED

DIGNITY MEMORIAL® VIETNAM WALL EXPERIENCE



REGISTER NOW!

888-265-VETS



GOLF TOURNAMENT, JUNE 15

Monday, June 13:

- > Preregistered attendees can pick up their registration packets at their reserved lodging site
- > Branson Shows & Entertainment Available

Tuesday, June 14:

- > Opening Ceremony & Reception for registered attendees only
- > Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall Experience
- > Branson Shows & Entertainment

Wednesday, June 15:

- > 1-Day Golf Tournament
- > Military Demonstrations & Displays – Locations TBA
- > Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall Experience
- > Vendor Village at the Grand Palace 12 am – 9 pm
- > Unit Activities
- > Branson Shows & Entertainment

Thursday, June 16:

- > 1-Day Fishing Tournament
- > Military Demonstrations & Displays – Locations TBA
- > Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall Experience
- > Vendor Village at the Grand Palace 9 am – 9 pm
- > Unit Activities
- > Branson Shows & Entertainment

Friday, June 17:

- > WELCOME HOME PARADE for all participants (Stage at 0800, Parade begins at 1000)
- > Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall Experience
- > Vendor Village at the Grand Palace 10 am – 9 pm
- > Unit Association Banquets

Saturday, June 18:

- > MORNING MEMORIAL SERVICE (At the Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall, Grand Palace Complex)
- > GRAND FINALE CONCERT for registered attendees only (An outdoor 10 hour event at Saddlebrooke)
- > Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall Experience
- > Vendor Village at the Grand Palace 11 am – 9 pm

Sunday, June 19:

- > Farewells & Departures
- > Dignity Memorial® Vietnam Wall Experience
- > Vendor Village at the Grand Palace 9 am – 12 pm

BRANSON, MISSOURI • 888-265-VETS(8387) • www.operationhomecomingusa.com

The VVA Veteran.

A publication of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.®
An organization chartered by the U.S. Congress



In Service to America®

Publisher

Thomas H. Corey

Editor

Mokie Pratt Porter

Managing Editor

Michael Keating

Associate Editor

Pam Turner

Arts Editor

Marc Leepson

Layout

Citizen X Design

Web Liaison

Carol Engle

Photographer

Michael Keating

Contributing Writers

Michael Arkush Jim Belshaw
Richard Currey Jim Doyle
Marc Leepson John Prados
Bill Triplett Karen Zacharias

President

Thomas H. Corey

Vice President

Edward Chow

Secretary

Jimmy Grissom

Treasurer

Alan Cook

Board of Directors

Lupe Alviar, Jr. Randy Barnes
Darrol L. Brown Al Cummings
Richard DeLong Frederick D. Elliott
Lee E. Fisher Marsha Four
Steven House Jerold Klein
Larry Klein John Koprowski
Allen J. Manuel Donald McDole
Dave McMichael Bill Meeks
Charles Richardson John Rowan
Bruce Whitaker Sandie Wilson

Mary Miller, AVVA

The VVA Veteran® (ISSN 1069-0220) is published
with issues in January/February, March/April,
May/June, July, August/September,
October/November, and December by:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.®

8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910
e-mail: theveteran@vva.org
1-800-VVA-1316
301-585-4000 FAX: 301-585-0519
Website: www.vva.org

Postmaster send address changes to:

The VVA Veteran, c/o Address Changes
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Periodicals Postage paid at:

Silver Spring, Maryland
and at additional mailing office
USPS 0729-490

Advertising Sales

J&S Publications, Inc., Cathy John
301-482-0720 FAX: 301-482-0726
cathy.john@jpublications.com

Non-members:

Subscriptions and Renewals payable
in advance \$20.00 per year.
Single copies at \$4.00 each.
Bulk rates on request.
Canadian and Foreign Postage \$8.00 per
year additional to subscription price.

Make checks payable to:

The VVA Veteran® Subscriptions
P.O. Box 64306
Baltimore, MD 21264-4306



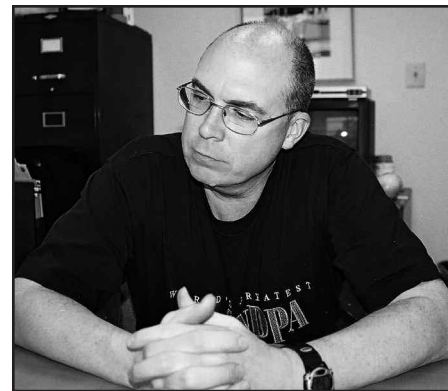
CONTENTS

Features:

- 18 WARRIORS**
William D. Whaley, Father and Son.
- 19 THE NEEDLE AND THE DAMAGE DONE**
Vaccinating America's Soldiers.
- 23 HE DREW THE WAR**
Carl "Les" Fordahl.
- 25 THE NUMBERS GAME**
How Many Vietnamese Fled South In 1954?
- 29 DIARY OF A WEATHERMAN**
Joel Rosenbaum.

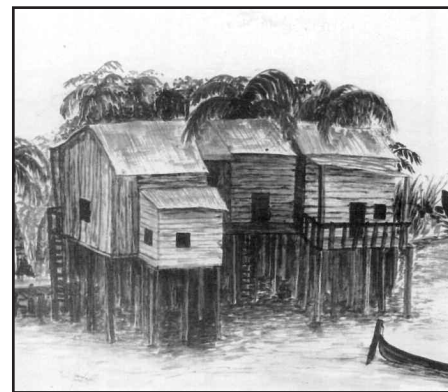
Departments:

- 3 LETTERS**
- 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**
- 4 VVAF REPORT**
- 5 GOVERNMENT RELATIONS**
- 8 PTSD/SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 8 VETERANS BENEFITS UPDATE**
- 10 PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 10 TAPS**
- 11 REGION 9**
- 12 MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**
- 12 CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 13 ETABO COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 14 VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 14 AVVA REPORT**
- 15 CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 16 RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 16 REGION 6 REPORT**
- 17 ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT**
- 22 CALENDAR**
- 33 ARTS OF WAR**
The Price of Freedom
- 35 BOOKS IN REVIEW**
Hero Mama.
- 37 MEMBERSHIP NOTES**
- 39 LOCATOR**
- 39 REUNIONS**



You've Gotta Have Heart

19



Mekongville

23



One If By Sea

25



Mostly Clear

29



A Still Life

33

ON THE COVER: The aftereffects of compulsory vaccination. Illustration: William L. Brown

What Do These People Have In Common?



MOKIE PRATT PORTER

At The Salute To Heroes Inaugural Ball: VVA national officers (l-r) Alan Cook, Jim Grissom, and Tom Corey with outgoing VA Secretary Anthony Principi.

THEY'RE A FEW OF THE PEOPLE WHO MAKE UP VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA. THEY'RE VETERANS, AND THEY INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM.

WHAT DOES VVA OFFER YOU?

Community involvement and networking • Programs targeted to help veterans and their families
Free VVA representation in VA claims cases • VVA informational and self-help guides
An award-winning newspaper • Hard-hitting work on Capitol Hill

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Vietnam Veterans of America was granted a congressional charter in 1986 as a nonprofit veterans service organization.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Return to: Vietnam Veterans of America, P.O. Box 64299, Baltimore, MD 21264-4299

Name _____ Male Female Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Chapter No. (optional) _____

Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ Sponsor (optional) _____

TYPE: Individual Member — 1 year @ \$20 Individual Member — 3 years @ \$50 Life Member \$250 (ages 49 and under) \$225 (ages 50-55) \$200 (ages 56-60)
 \$175 (ages 61-65) \$150 (ages 66+) Optional time payment plan—\$50 down, \$25/month

PAYMENT METHOD: Check Money Order
 Credit Card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, Discover)

ELIGIBILITY: Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961 and May 7, 1975, or in any duty location between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

New members and new life members must submit a copy of their DD-214 along with this application and dues payment.

THESE PEOPLE HAVE MADE A LIFELONG COMMITMENT TO VVA AND AVVA

ALABAMA

Grover Lee House
William E. Oldham
John W. Queen
Gary P. Ray
James B. Vaughn
Billy J. Wohlfel

ARIZONA

Gerard J. Berume
Thomas J. Brand
John G. Casey
Ronald J. Dean
Billie R. Fort
William R. Goodall
Lawrence L. Shaneman
Lynn O. Traylor

ARKANSAS

Milton Edward Brunson
Lawrence McDaniel
Gary L. Robinson
Kenneth A. Slater
James W. Stanley
Thomas E. Walker

CALIFORNIA

Donald D. Barnard
Louis Bickford
David Bouslaugh
Jose E. Bustamante
Jim M. Cahill
Nick Callas
Gerard Canevaro
Michael J. Casillas
Charles W. Cline
Thomas V. Contreras
Herbert Clarkson Corcoran
Floyd D. Cox
John Glazis
Alexander J. Griffith
Michael F. Herring
Benjamin F. Johnson
Joseph S. Kiraly
Stephen A. Lawson
Albert M. Manfredi
Donald L. Matter
Thomas B. McCullough
Donald James Miller
Harry R. Mixer
Theodore F. Oswald
Thomas D. Park
Lawrence R. Rodriguez
Vance C. Scott
Erskine L. Smith
George Vogel
Robert D. White

COLORADO

Richard M. Borchers
Gerald Mussett
David Peterson

CONNECTICUT

Thomas J. Brand
John G. Casey
Ronald W. Elliott
Ralph Hoag
Ronald James
A. Jay Jones
Bobby J. Manning
Donald R. McLeod

DELAWARE

Harold T. Avery
Richard Brooks
Raymond Erazo
John R. Hasselback
James C. Janicki
John G. Lynskey
Harold G. North
Dennis Michael Rice
Bill Vagianos
Eugene V. Van Den Eng

FLORIDA

Harold T. Avery
Richard Brooks
Raymond Erazo
John R. Hasselback
James C. Janicki
John G. Lynskey
Harold G. North
Dennis Michael Rice
Bill Vagianos
Eugene V. Van Den Eng

GEORGIA

Calvin Cribbs
Donald L. Haynes
James B. Herring
Frank V. Jones
Mike Lewis
Bonita Miracle
Johnnie D. Miracle
Donald D. Sams
Robert D. Wolford

HAWAII

Warren Imada

IDAHO

William O. Childs
Geroge W. Eldridge

ILLINOIS

Valentino L. Bravo
Clifford J. Coon
Lloyd A. Kidd
Levester Spearman
Charles E. Spencer
George H. Stroup
Grady C. Usrey

INDIANA

David W. Brallier
Robert M. Bridges
Donald L. Byers
Ken Jenniges
Michael R. Lieber
James R. Mossburg
Benjamin H. Nation
David R. Rabius
Bill Sass
Thomas E. Woodworth

IOWA

David B. Anderson
William B. Conner
Edgar Landon
Greenhaw
Richard Jones
Dennis C. Walker

KANSAS

Kenneth L. Bowen
Michael E. Bulger
William C. Cox
James A. Craig
Richard W. Lind
Samuel D. Parkins
James M. Steinert
James M. Stottlemire

KENTUCKY

Randy Beckner
Hugh Colbert
James Kuipers
Mark A. Leming
Cecil Smith

LOUISIANA

Miguel S. Macias
Calvin S. Mullen
Robert L. Square

MAINE

Carroll A. Spencer

MARYLAND

James M. Allingham
John F. Arnreich
John C. Bahner
Raymond Burns
William L. Cosans
Earle Dashiell
Ricardo A. DaSilva
James W. Doran
Clarence R. Dyche
Margaret M. Filon
Edward R. Griffith
William H. Johnson
William T. Kelley
Donna Kresal
Ronald L. Martin
Daniel P. McLain
David A. Sours
Herbert E. Stallings
Thomas A. Taylor
Lloyd M. Thomas
Peter M. Valerio

MASSACHUSETTS

Lee Cunha
Edward J. Desrochers
David Hardaker
Barton M. Hawks
Rich Levesque
David McAllister
Thomas I. Peirce
Harold Pierce
George A. Rispettoso
Alan Roy
Boyce W. Slayman
Francis A. Tremblay

MICHIGAN

Normand E. Anderson
Donald Barnard
Douglas M. Frye
John G. Glazier
Patrick Harrington
Lawrence M. Jarvis
Curtis E. Jenkins
Peter Kadish
Peter J. Krook
Leonard G. Murphy
Preston L. Plews
Leonard J. Russo
Timothy J. Sawyer
William Ronald Simpson
James Alden Stewart
Quintin Walker
Richard Leo Willey

MINNESOTA

Mark A. Poland
Dave Reinke
Thomas S. Slavik

MISSISSIPPI

David G. Angle
Robert H. Bramlett
Russell Wayne Burgess

MISSOURI

Robert J. Blake
James A. Brands
David L. Clark
Terry L. Cochran
Melvin Elliott
Robert K. Hardestly
Chris A. Neilsen
David L. Pickett
Jeffrey L. Sanchez
Kenneth W. Simpson
Larry G. Teaver

MONTANA

Herbert D. Depp
Gerald O. Pepke

NEBRASKA

Richard F. Bergstrom

NEVADA

Dennis E. Paquette
Warrick L. Pike
Richard Tichacek
Roy Trenoweth

NEW YORK

James D. Allen
Fred J. Bell
Robert J. Bennett
Barry Berger
David Nicholas Canazzi
Barbara W. Colon
John A. Delorme
Finn Donaldson
Donald W. Dresch
James E. Edick
Grant Finkbeiner
Clifford Fromm
Pat Hughes
Theodore T. Ives
Thomas J. Konopka
Frank T. Logan
William Parsells
Alan Peers
Thomas Podgraski
Daniel E. Quigley
Robert W. Schmitt
Lee E. Secor
John F. Smith
Phillip G. Stover
John E. Sujko
Franklin G. Taradena
Jay E. Voorhees
Claude Wagner
Dennis A. Walsh
Joseph J. Winowiecki
Walter Woodworth
James J. Yager

NEW JERSEY

William J. Campbell
Vincent N. DeTrollo
Richard A. Dorchak
Clyde W. Durham
John J. Goss
Arthur Greenwald
Joseph Gucek
Robert M. James
Hank Lapidus
Juan F. Malave
George C. Paylor
Dan C. Petrazzolo
Frank J. Sclafane
Wesley F. Spence
Terry H. Thompson
George A. Wallis

NEW MEXICO

Johnny D. Arellano
Larry A. Blair
Samuel J. Hall
William L. Parrish

NEW YORK

James D. Allen
Fred J. Bell
Robert J. Bennett
Barry Berger
David Nicholas Canazzi
Barbara W. Colon
John A. Delorme
Finn Donaldson
Donald W. Dresch
James E. Edick
Grant Finkbeiner
Clifford Fromm
Pat Hughes
Theodore T. Ives
Thomas J. Konopka
Frank T. Logan
William Parsells
Alan Peers
Thomas Podgraski
Daniel E. Quigley
Robert W. Schmitt
Lee E. Secor
John F. Smith
Phillip G. Stover
John E. Sujko
Franklin G. Taradena
Jay E. Voorhees
Claude Wagner
Dennis A. Walsh
Joseph J. Winowiecki
Walter Woodworth
James J. Yager

NEW YORK

James D. Allen
Fred J. Bell
Robert J. Bennett
Barry Berger
David Nicholas Canazzi
Barbara W. Colon
John A. Delorme
Finn Donaldson
Donald W. Dresch
James E. Edick
Grant Finkbeiner
Clifford Fromm
Pat Hughes
Theodore T. Ives
Thomas J. Konopka
Frank T. Logan
William Parsells
Alan Peers
Thomas Podgraski
Daniel E. Quigley
Robert W. Schmitt
Lee E. Secor
John F. Smith
Phillip G. Stover
John E. Sujko
Franklin G. Taradena
Jay E. Voorhees
Claude Wagner
Dennis A. Walsh
Joseph J. Winowiecki
Walter Woodworth
James J. Yager

NEW YORK

John R. Barger
Charles E. Brown
James Cheatwood
Paul B. Halas
Kurt Lammers
Richard L. Lenington
George L. Otto
Merle J. Pratt
Rosemary S. Smith
Grove M. Taylor
Henry R. Timman
Donald E. Weber

OREGON

Doug Cole
Vern J. Meyer
John Murnane
Ignacio D. Saenz
Dan Waldrop

PENNSYLVANIA

Keith Black
Harry S. Brauer
Thomas A. Britt
John O. Buerkle
James Bunting
Joseph N. Butler
Robin N. Chaousy
Richard V. Coulter
Charles W. Davis
Thomas H. Decker
Allen A. Dzambo
Duane Flaherty
Lavern G. Footit
Leland Roy Foy
Neil W. Frantz
Louis V. George
John H. Girting
Daniel Godich
Jerry A. Gogolin
Dennis L. Graham
John R. Gural
Jim R. Harley
William J. Harlow
Carlos Irvin
Roy Lee Jacobs
Ronald D. Johnston
James J. Kelly
Tracy A. King
Wayne Laughner
William J. Martin
Joseph E. Maverro
Richard D. McCracken
James P. McGeehan
John L. McGowan
Donald E. McNutt
David M. Mehara

RHODE ISLAND

Joseph D. Mello
Emil C. Smith

SOUTH CAROLINA

Richard J. Adams
Robert L. Farrington
Gabriel J. Smith

TENNESSEE

Kenny D. Anderson
Samuel H. Armes
Robert D. Browning
Mack O. Bruce
Jerry M. Butler
Tony S. Caldwell
Joseph D. Finn
Leonard C. Gray
Robert Lorenzo
James McLain
Elijah Oliver
Darrel D. Palk
Hershell Pettyjohn
Bobby Porter
Glenn W. Selby
Jimmie D. Stevens
Martin L. Tate
Leon T. Wall

TEXAS

Melvin Allan Armstrong
Roberto E. Banda
Edward N. Charley
Marlin K. Christopher
Wayne C. Collins
Robert Wayne Coulter
Jerald Crow
Loyce J. Deggs
Claude V. D'Unger
Marlene E. Foust
Richard D. Gulledge
Arnold M. Hairston
Edward M. Hall
Robert J. Herolt
Dennis J. Holcomb
Prophet Kately
Robert A.C. Martinez
Ray McManners
Butch Padier
Lee Wolfe
Charlene Thomas Scott
Carlos Sepulveda
Thomas J. Towle
James R. Williams

UTAH

Dale E. Mertlich

VERMONT

William J. Cannavan
Joseph P. Lynch
William A. Mason
William A. Orr
Robert Rhoads
Anthony L. Rossier

VIRGINIA

Nicholas H. Cheruka
Gary Ray Clark
Marvin A. Coleman
Steven Eugene Cook
Paul E. Grigsby
Joe Hancharick
Pat Jernigan
Herman H. Marquette
Ernest O. Metcalf
Robert L. Mowers
Adrian T. Rowley
Dudley J. Wiedenhoft
Larry D. Wiley
Jeffrey L. Williams

WASHINGTON

Norman J. Arnett
Beverly Harriman Babson
George H. Cooper
James J. Cox
Robert T. Griffin
Charles B. Porter

WEST VIRGINIA

James M. Adkins
William M. Copley
Samuel E. DePue
Phillip C. Firl
Richard W. Gross
David Kasten
Michael C. Keene
Henry W. Meade
Carl E. New
Roger G. Poling
Dennis L. Swiger
Roy H. Turpin
Lee Wolfe

WISCONSIN

Stephen L. Flannagan
Larry J. Gouine
Leroy Johnson
LuVern J. Marx
Richard W. McFarland
John L. Peterson
Douglas Schafer
Randolph L. Schuettpelz
Carolyn A. Tyler
James Weaver
James A. Zwicke
Robert Abel

PANAMA

Pablo Tola

PHILIPPINES

Rodolfo B. Manutang
Thomas B. Morado
William D. Pond

PUERTO RICO

Tomas Caraballo

FLORIDA

Joseph S. Acs
John J. Bolender

GEORGIA

Elizabeth L. Harrison
Mary A. Reed
Lillian Shurtleff

HAWAII

David C. Boucher

ILLINOIS

Anna Marie Dannenberger
Susie Empfield

MARYLAND

Anthony Averella
Rennes R. Ridings

MICHIGAN

Ronald J. Little

MINNESOTA

Gunther John Peterson

NEVADA

Timothy M. Boone
Cookie Stohr

NEW JERSEY

George Kupka
Donna Tutuian
Jean Weaver
Joseph Weaver

NEW YORK

Safyya A. Khan-Guzman
Benjamin P. Marrero

NORTH CAROLINA

Herbert W. Allen
Carol Archie
Kathi Holder

OKLAHOMA

C. Bud Arenz

OREGON

Delores V. Campbell

TENNESSEE

Donna J. Clemens

TEXAS

Thomas Jancula

VIRGINIA

Eloise S. Fralin

AWA LIFE MEMBERS

George Nakano
Virginia Sauvageau
Bishop David Wade
Rayburn H. Nelson

LETTERS



A CRYING SHAME

I read with great sorrow and anger Richard Currey's excellent article on the contaminated water supply at Camp Lejeune (August/September). To me, this represents our government's uncomprehending unwillingness to take care of those men and women and their families who have put their lives on the line for this great country of ours. I urge VVA and the editors of *The VVA Veteran* to keep up their vigilance and to continue to blow the whistle in matters of this kind. All veterans and all Americans need to know when the government's actions jeopardize our servicemembers.

John James Karris
Detroit

MUTUAL SUPPORT

On behalf of the Vietnam War In Memory Memorial, Inc., I would like to thank Vietnam Veterans of America and AVVA for their vital assistance in making the In Memory Plaque a reality. In 1997, Piedmont Area Chapter 752 in Culpeper, Va., and Battlefield Chapter 617 in Prince William and Stafford Counties welcomed our first presentations of the concept of a plaque on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., which would offer recognition to countless veterans suffering post-Vietnam, service-related casualties who are ineligible for a place on *The Wall*.

The Virginia State Council and national VVA representatives endorsed the project and provided invaluable guidance and moral support, as did AVVA.

During the legislative process, VVA officials affirmed, with authoritative and

effective testimony, the importance for veterans, their loved ones, and America of such an addition to the memorial. At the fundraising stage, you provided effective communication through the *The VVA Veteran*, and on Veterans Day eve, you orchestrated a beautiful, respectful, and emotionally fulfilling candlelight dedication ceremony.

We are honored to have worked toward this goal and to have had Vietnam Veterans of America and AVVA as our loyal and enduring allies.

Ruth Coder Fitzgerald, President,
Vietnam War In Memory Memorial, Inc.

FULL CIRCLE

Thanks for the review by Marc Leepson of my book, *Full Circle: A Marine Rifle Company in Vietnam*. I also thoroughly enjoyed "The Martians are Coming" by Steve Mason, as an example of the quirky, off-beat writing by veterans that should be encouraged to a greater degree. Your providing a platform for such expression is commendable.

Bill Buchanan
Mill Valley, California

WE CAN HELP

Great article on our exhibit, "A Thousand Words: Photographs by Vietnam Veterans," in the arts column in your October-November issue. Thank you very much for the excellent story and background on the project. The web site listing, www.sawtooth.org/vets.html was also very helpful. Hopefully we'll get the exhibit out to a lot of new areas as a result.

Martin Tucker
Sawtooth Center for Visual Art
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

I spoke with John Kerr, the California winemaker we profiled in the December issue. Since the issue was published, he has had inquiries about his wine from all over the country. He's thrilled.

John went into the Palo Alto PTSD inpatient program on January 4. This article, he says, has made a real difference in his life. Thanks so much for allowing his skill and talent to be presented to our membership.

Jim Doyle
Fresno, California

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Is Anyone Listening?

BY THOMAS H. COREY

I hope you had a happy holiday with family and friends. We lost many friends in 2004, and as a family—VVA and AVVA together—we share the grief of all those who lost loved ones.

My personal gratitude goes to all those VVA members who have stepped forward over the years by taking on a role or assignment and those who have introduced themselves as candidates at the chapter, state, and national levels. You are the roots that firmly hold our family tree on solid, defensible ground. We need you to continue to hold our position as the leader in the battle for veterans' rights.

It would be foolish to believe that over these past 25 years we have labored in vain, but we must face the undeniable reality that we have all become soldiers again. We will not retreat, and we certainly will not surrender.

With the resignation of Secretary Anthony Principi, we welcome Jim Nicholson as Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Nicholson, a West Point graduate and Vietnam veteran who says his Army service was the defining experience in his life, surely hasn't forgotten the struggles and heroic efforts to secure basic veterans' rights, benefits, and services.

Who would have thought that those returning from America's latest ground war would face the same problems and obstacles we faced more than 30 years ago when we returned from Vietnam? Yet with current inadequate services for Post-traumatic Stress Disorder and other health care, plus the projected cuts, that is just what is happening.

Secretary Nicholson has never held an elected public position. He is a well-known fundraiser and national political strategist who does not have background or experience in veterans affairs. He has said he will only support Priority 1 through Priority 6 veterans. He will have a steep learning curve in a very hostile fiscal environment, with the administration and Congress looking to cut all domestic funding to allow for yet more tax cuts.

As to hostile changes in Congress, it is unconscionable that Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) was ousted as chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. This was a partisan rebuke of his advocacy on behalf of those who served this nation. Smith often angered his fellow Republicans with his vocal support for a pro-veteran agenda, and he challenged the Republican leadership when he felt Congress and the Bush administration were not adequately funding veterans' programs. Veterans will miss the leadership of Chris Smith and his determination to make things right for those who served. He has been and will remain a true friend to veterans.

He was replaced by Rep. Steve Buyer (R-Ind.), an Army Reserve colonel and Gulf War veteran who has been a member of the committee for 12 years and is considered fiscally conservative. Buyer has stated that federal budget constraints do not always allow every former servicemember to have full access to VA medical benefits. He has publicly said that there is more than enough money in the VA health care system, and he has criticized veterans' advocates for engaging in partisan politics and promoting a national health care system for veterans.

Though he refused to name those "veterans advocates," he could be referring to the Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform, a group of



MICHAEL KEATING

continued on page 43

VVA President's Award for Outstanding Documentary

IN THE SHADOW OF THE BLADE



STRAP IN. PULL PITCH. AND TAKE YOUR HEART FOR A RIDE!

Now on DVD
at

WWW.INTHESHADOWOFTHEBLADE.COM
ORIGINAL MUSIC SOUNDTRACK ON CD

POLICY FOR LETTERS We welcome letters to the editor for publication in *The VVA Veteran*. We are interested in your criticism as well as your praise. Letters may be edited for purposes of clarity or space. Regrettably, because of the volume of mail we receive, we are unable to acknowledge or return unpublished material.

Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund Report



The Gift Of Thanksgiving

BY RANDY BARNES, PRESIDENT, VIETNAM VETERANS ASSISTANCE FUND

The Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund's Homeless Veterans Program in West Haven, Conn., offers transitional and permanent housing to homeless veterans. The program runs four multi-family homes that house 27 veterans and is located near the West Haven VA Medical Center. The veterans avail themselves of VA hospital services and receive daily support from two case managers employed by the program who help the veterans regain their independence.

For several years, the members of VVA Chapter 647 in West Haven have demonstrated their support, solidarity, and generosity toward those veterans. In 2004, as in the past, the chapter donated complete,

traditional Thanksgiving dinners. The turkey, trimmings, and dessert were cooked, frozen, and delivered to each apartment. All the veterans had to do was reheat and eat.

Lori Greenfeld, president of Chapter 647, said: "We really want to be more involved with helping the vets here in West Haven. We are working on plans for continued and future collaboration."

The officers and the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund congratulate and thank VVA Chapter 647 for its thoughtful and caring gesture. ■

Vietnam Veterans Assistance Fund (VVAFF) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded by Vietnam Veterans of America in 1991. VVAFF is organized and operated exclusively for scientific, charitable, and educational purposes. The major objectives are to assist disabled and needy veterans and the widows and orphans of veterans. VVAFF is funded primarily by contributions from federal employees and members of the uniformed services who choose to support the organization through the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), the federal government's workplace fund-raising drive.

Federal employees may support the work of VVAFF by designating **2115** on their CFC pledge forms. All donations are tax-deductible to the donor.



Check 2115





GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Everything Changes... And Remains the Same

**BY AVERY TAYLOR, CHAIR, VVA
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE,
WITH GOVERNMENT RELATIONS
STAFF**

As President George W. Bush begins his second term, it is a time for endings and for new beginnings. Despite all the changes, some things remain the same. First, the endings.

Anthony J. Principi resigned as Secretary of Veterans Affairs after four grueling years on the job. This was not unexpected. Secretary Principi served his nation and his fellow veterans with honor and integrity under very trying circumstances. He earned the respect and admiration of the majority of the veterans service organizations. VVA President Tom Corey called him "a true champion for the rights of veterans."

"While we did not always agree with the decisions he made," Corey said, "we came to respect him as a man of principle and moral courage."

When Secretary Principi did not agree with the amount requested by the White House for the VA's medical operations for

the current fiscal year, "he exhibited great integrity in answer to a direct question from Rep. Lane Evans (D-Ill.) by saying publicly that his department needed an additional \$1.2 billion to serve the 4.2 million veterans who turn to the VA for the treatment and care to which they are entitled as veterans," Corey said.

With Principi gone, veterans have lost a sincere and staunch advocate.

CHRIS SMITH DEPOSED

Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) is also leaving his post, involuntarily and not without rancor. Rep. Smith was deposed as chairman of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. He served only two of the three terms customarily granted to chairs. Smith often was at odds with the House leadership because he battled for improved benefits—and more money—for the veterans he served. Despite their claims to the contrary, the House Republican Steering Committee punished Smith because the team he preferred to play on in recent budget battles was the veterans' team.



Rep. Chris Smith (R-N.J.) is leaving his post as chair of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Smith worked well with his Democratic colleagues, particularly the Ranking Member on the Committee, Lane Evans. Their stewardship of the committee was bipartisan

THIS MONTH:

Smith, Specter Out, Buyer & Craig In

New Chief At The VA

Optometrists/Ophthalmologists Resolved

Stamp Act

and nonconfrontational. Evans, a VVA life member, will continue to press on issues of concern to all veterans, and especially to Vietnam veterans. These issues include a fresh approach to dealing with the psychological problems associated with Agent Orange—and with service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Smith, however, will leave the committee, having been prevented from achieving his legislative goals to help veterans.

It is a sad day when a member of Congress is punished for being too pro-veteran, particularly during a time of war.

SPECTER DEPARTS

Sen. Arlen Specter (R-Pa.) has stepped down as chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee after nine years at the helm. Under his leadership, significant progress was made on many issues pertaining to justice for veterans, particularly for women veterans. Sen. Specter championed proper care for veterans with

continued on page 6

A Proud Symbol of Your Service



Call 1-800-872-2853 for a **FREE** color catalog showing all 150 rings available.

Are you looking for something different than a school-style military ring to commemorate your Vietnam service?

Classic Military Rings are boldly designed and incredibly detailed. Your branch, unit or rank insignia stands out in bold relief on the ring top - instantly recognized by your fellow veterans.

Cast solid for comfort and strength

We carefully designed these rings to be both durable and *incredibly comfortable to wear*. Here's why:

- Your ring is cast solid (not hollow or plated) using the ancient lost-wax method. This is how the finest jewelry is made.

- This solid construction means you get a rugged ring

that's substantial in weight without being bulky.

- They're balanced (not top-heavy) to prevent turning on your finger.

- Low-profile: won't snag on clothing.

- Unlike hollow-back rings, Classic Rings won't dig into your skin or cause irritation.

- No large stone to crack or chip.

Choose from sterling silver; silver/gold; or solid gold (10, 14 & 18K). Men's ring prices start at \$147 and easy payment plans are available.

Risk-free guarantee

All rings come with an ironclad 60 day money-back guarantee, guaranteed fit, and a full manufacturer's lifetime warranty.

Over **25,000** servicemen and women, both active

duty and veterans, wear a Classic Military Ring. Each ring is hand-crafted in the USA by our master jewelers. Our family has been designing and manufacturing fine jewelry since 1938.

Call or write today for a free color catalog

- Call **1-800-872-2853** (free 24 hour recorded message - leave your name & address and we'll rush it to you).

- Or, to speak directly with a sales representative call 1-800-872-2856 (8:30-5 Pacific time, M-F).

- Or write: Mitchell Lang Designs Inc., 435 S.E. 85th Ave. Dept. ER-205, Portland OR 97216.

www.ClassicRings.com

Code ER-205

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

continued from page 5

mental-health problems, particularly those who suffer from combat-related traumatic wounds that are neuropsychiatric in nature.

In the fall of 2003, when the House of Representatives wanted to redefine "service-connected disabled veteran," it was Sen. Specter who stepped in with an emergency hearing that headed off that misguided move. He also repeatedly championed proper resources for veterans' health care, and often stood up to very heavy pressure to stand with America's veterans. His leadership was, and is, appreciated.

Now, the beginnings.

BUYER AT THE HELM

Rep. Steve Buyer (R-Ind.), who campaigned for the post, was selected to chair the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. He is a veteran of the Gulf War, having served with the Judge Advocate General's office as an attorney. He remains in the Army Reserves as a colonel. Buyer has been a member of the committee for 12 years, since he was first elected to Congress. Most recently, he chaired the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations. "I am honored to be selected by my fellow colleagues to lead the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. I appreciate their trust and confidence in my commitment to our nation's veterans,"



Outgoing Secretary of Veterans Affairs Anthony J. Principi (right) with VA Deputy Secretary Gordon Mansfield.

Buyer said in his first public statement as chair. "Chairman Smith leaves a legacy of accomplishments for which veterans should be thankful."

Buyer's statement also telegraphed the direction he intends to go: "The soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who have served on behalf of our country deserve to know that the VA will be there to help the disabled and the indigent," he said. "Having served in the military for 24 years

in peace and in war, I have an intense appreciation and understanding of the sacrifices of our veterans and their families. I will focus the VA on its core constituency to honor our commitment to insure that VA benefits and health care are sustainable in the future."

It is also clear that a narrowing of the parameters for eligibility for VA health care and other benefits is in the offing. So, too, is a cutback in funding for veterans health care. The VA system is grossly underfunded even now, to the tune of about 58 cents for every \$1 spent on Medicare, which also is commonly acknowledged to be underfunded.

VVA will continue to fight for the rights of veterans. Eventually, we will win this war. In the meantime, however, thousands of veterans will be harmed by the effort to cut back funding for the VA's medical operations in a time of war. It seems that too many political leaders are quick to praise our active-duty troops, but once they can no longer fight, the troops and their rehabilitation and health maintenance needs are pushed into the background.

CRAIG TAKES OVER

Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho) has been named chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Sen. Craig is known in the Senate as a "budget hawk" who believes that the U.S. government spends too much money on most domestic (non-military) programs. To our knowledge, Sen. Craig has not taken a strong role on most issues of significance to veterans. Now that he is chair, VVA looks forward to working with him to preserve, improve, and properly fund services needed by veterans of every generation.

NICHOLSON AT THE VA

To replace Secretary of Veterans Affairs Principi, President Bush has chosen a Republican Party loyalist, Jim Nicholson, who has no history of advocacy for veter-

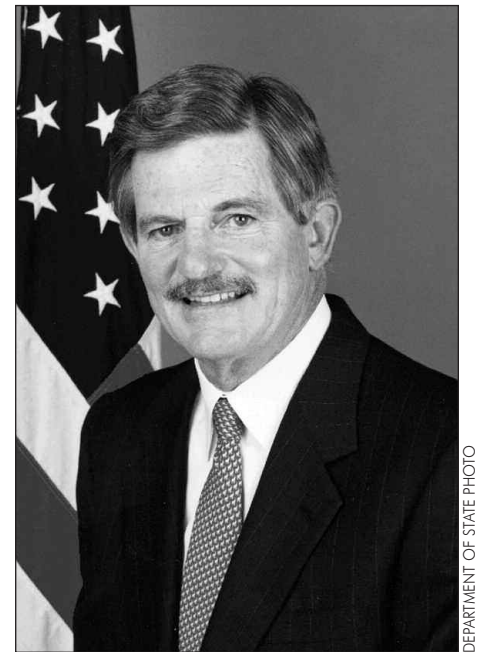
ans, so far as we—or the other VSOs—can tell.

Ambassador Nicholson "will have a high bar of accomplishment to follow," VVA President Tom Corey noted, adding: "We look forward to working closely with him to protect and to advance the interests of our nation's veterans."

The veterans' community soon will learn about Amb. Nicholson. Will he be an advocate for veterans? Or will he be an apologist for a budgetary bloodletting? We had our first inkling of his stewardship at his January 24 confirmation hearing.

That morning, the hearing room was jammed to capacity. Nicholson, who has been Ambassador to the Vatican for the last three years, arrived with his wife and a small entourage. He was billed by enthusiastic Committee Chairman Larry Craig as a "remarkable man" with an "extraordinary background." Sen. Craig cautioned that Amb. Nicholson will face "a fiscal environment that will be considerably less friendly than the relatively flush times of recent years."

Sen. Craig then summarized the Ambassador's background: He is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He served eight years as an Army Ranger. During his 1965-66 tour of duty in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze



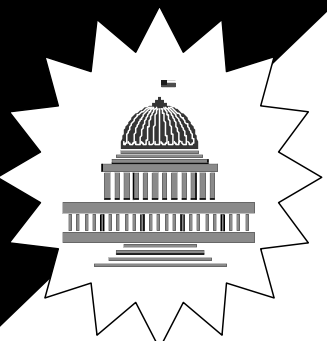
Incoming VA Secretary Jim Nicholson.

Star, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Meritorious Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Vietnamese Cross for Gallantry, and two Air Medals. He spent 22 years in the Army Reserve, exiting with the rank of colonel.

Amb. Nicholson holds a master's degree in public policy from Columbia University and a law degree from the University of Denver. After briefly practicing law, he was involved in real estate development in Colorado. He also involved himself in Republican politics and in 1997 was elected chair of the Republican National Committee, a post he held until his appointment to the Vatican.


At the confirmation hearing, Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), the Ranking Member on the committee, warned that "it is a non-starter to cut back on health-care services" to veterans in a time of war. This

continued on page 42



VVA Advocacy Training Workshop

Workshop Registration fee \$80 includes workbook custom-made for your state/district, containing extensive information about Capitol Hill and the Legislative process.



(Travel, lodging, meals not included)

Monday - Thursday, April 11—14, '05

Concluding with attendance at VVA's Annual Testimony before the Congressional Veterans Affairs Committees.

For more information and to register, please contact
Sharon Hodge at
(301) 585-4000 x-111
or email @ shodge@vva.org

- Learn how to effectively lobby Congress
- Explore the House & Senate Office Buildings
- Meet with your Senators, Congressmen, and their staff

You will experience these things and much more when you attend the VVA Advocacy Training Workshop!

Classes Held at: Vietnam Veterans of America
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

BRING BACK THE BEST YEARS OF YOUR LIFE!

**FREE
30 DAY
SUPPLY!**

See details below

MAXODERM™
(Vasotran Auctum™) topical lotion

**Aging is Natural.
Giving up on Your
Sexual Health Isn't!**

No Pills. No Patches. All Natural.

Maximize Your Performance

More than half of all men experience difficulty performing sexually at some point – regardless of age. The key to successfully combating these problems is taking a proactive approach. Delivered as a topical lotion, MAXODERM™ is designed to help maintain blood flow and create firmer, fuller erections and great sexual performance starts with firm, quality erections.

MAXODERM'S VASODILATION properties immediately open vessels and capillaries to increase blood flow. Its exhilarating sensation is delivered through an Aloe & Vitamin E based lotion to:

- Improve Erection Quality and Firmness
- Intensify Orgasms
- Increase Sexual Stamina

Best of all, you will begin to experience these benefits literally within seconds of your first use.

Maximize Your Value

Studies have shown when substances are taken orally, as little as 5% make it to the targeted cells where they're needed ... ONLY 5%! Financially, if you invest \$70 - \$100 on pills that claim you MAY see a result in 3 - 4 weeks, you're only realizing \$3.50 to \$5.00 of effectiveness, if at all. The rest is waste, discarded by the organs of the body. Since MAXODERM is delivered through the skin, as much as 95% of its powerful formula reaches the desired area. **DON'T BE FOOLED BY CHEAP IMITATIONS AND INEFFECTIVE PILLS OR PATCHES.**

"I know once you try MAXODERM™, you'll continue using it - it's that simple. We have over a 97% customer satisfaction rate to back that up. I'm so confident, that I'm providing an unheard of 90 DAY FULL MONEY BACK GUARANTEE! Order RISK-FREE TODAY and I'll also give you a 30 day supply for FREE with every purchase of 2 tubes or more. Call 1-800-513-8819 or visit www.MAXODERM.com. You have nothing to lose and everything to 'GAIN!'"

John R MacKenzie
Executive Vice President
Barmensen Labs
www.MAXODERM.com

1-800-513-8819



Feels Great!

"At my age, it's natural to experience sexual performance issues – Maxoderm helped me get around them. My driver's license says I'm 57, but my wife says I'm 18 again."

Jim, S.



SATISFACTION MONEY BACK GUARANTEED

**The ONLY PATENT PENDING
sexual performance product
on the market that drastically
improves erection quality
and firmness!***

All Major Credit Cards Accepted - Discreet Billing - Privacy Ensured
Send check, money order, or credit card information to:
Barmensen Labs, P.O. Box 120073, Staten Island, NY 10312
Phone Orders Call 800-513-8819

	Qty	Price	Total
Over 17% off (\$120 Value) SPECIAL LIMITED TIME OFFER 2 Tubes MAXODERM™		\$99.99	
Over 33% off (\$180 Value) BUY 2 TUBES AT FULL PRICE. Get the 3rd Tube FREE!		\$119.99	
1 Tube MAXODERM™		\$59.99	
Shipping & Handling:			
Standard Delivery		\$9.99	
2-3 Day Rush Delivery		\$19.99	
International Shipping		\$24.99	
N.Y. residents add 8.625% sales tax. Personal checks allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.			
			TOTAL

Credit Card Information (if applies):

Type of Card: VISA MasterCard DISCOVER American Express Cards

Name on the card: _____

Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip Code: _____ Signature: _____ VVA0205

Individual results may vary. These statements have not been evaluated by the FDA. This product is not intended to diagnose, treat, cure, or prevent any disease.
* Based on customer evaluations.

PTSD/SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

2005: Focus On PTSD

BY TOM BERGER, CHAIR

According to an article in the *Los Angeles Times* in August, the VA health-care system, with 7.5 million veterans enrolled, has struggled to keep up for decades. At any one time, more than 3,000 veterans are waiting for a first visit to see a doctor. Those whose injuries from battle qualify them for disability compensation often wait six months to two years.



Although the VA has taken steps to cut the wait for veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, newly discharged soldiers have waited 54 days on average to get their first veteran disability compensation checks. In addition, the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq have now become terrorist counterinsurgencies that have put American troops into sustained close-quarter combat on a scale not seen since the Vietnam War.

Many mental health professionals say that kind of fighting—spooky urban settings with unlimited hiding places; the impossibility of telling friend from foe; the knowledge that every stretch of road may conceal an explosive device—is tailored to leave lasting psychological scars. And not since World War II have so many troops faced such uncertainty about how long they will be deployed. More importantly in this regard, the Government Accounting Office published a report in September that noted the VA lacked a count of the total number of veterans currently receiving PTSD treatment, not to mention the information needed to determine whether it could meet an expected increased demand for mental-health services as a result of the Afghan and Iraq wars.

That's why we have titled this column to reflect the PTSD/SA Committee's commitment for 2005: "Focus on PTSD." Our efforts during the year will focus on three goals: (1) raising PTSD awareness; (2) assisting our fellow veterans (especially Afghan and Iraq veterans) and their families in obtaining timely access to meaningful PTSD- and substance-abuse diagnoses and treatment programs; and (3) strongly advocating for a significant increase in appropriations for the VA health care system, particularly in the areas of mental health, PTSD, and substance abuse.

What can you do? Borrowing from a recent VVA Communications release, "What you can do is visit the district offices of your Senators and Members of Congress. Don't ask them about funding of veterans health care—ask them how they plan to do their part to appropriate more money to meet the needs of the veterans who use the VA health-care system today. Remind them of the thousands of critically wounded casualties who will need the expertise of VA doctors." By doing so, I believe we will be living VVA's founding principle: "Never Again Will One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

CONTEST WINNER

I would like to thank everyone who submitted designs or ideas for the VVA/PTSD Awareness poster contest. The winner was John Monaghan of Wilmington, Delaware. A VVA life member, he claimed \$225 worth of VVA merchandise. Congratulations, John. ■

VETERANS BENEFITS UPDATE

VA Benefits Changes

BY LEONARD J. SELFON, DIRECTOR, VETERANS BENEFITS PROGRAM

Here's a summary of recent changes to Department of Veterans Affairs veterans' benefits and services.

COST OF LIVING INCREASES

Pursuant to recent legislation, the VA has increased the dollar amounts of disability compensation, pension, and survivor's benefits by 2.7 percent. The rate increase, which became effective December 1, 2004, is designed to keep pace with increased costs of living. These increases were reflected in beneficiaries' January 2005 VA payment checks.

The general pay rates for veterans without dependents are:

Disability Percentage	Rate
10	\$108
20	\$210
30	\$324
40	\$466
50	\$663
60	\$839
70	\$1,056
80	\$1,227
90	\$1,380
100	\$2,299

The general Maximum Annual Pension Rate (MAPR, the maximum allowable household income for eligibility for nonservice-connected pension) is \$10,162. To be eligible for deduction from the MAPR, out-of-pocket medical expenses must exceed 5 percent of MAPR (or \$508).

The basic amount of Dependency and Indemnity Compensation in which the cause of the veteran's death is service-connected and whose death occurred on or after November 1, 1993, is \$993.

There also have been increases in the rates for special benefits allowances, including the automobile allowance (\$11,000 once), the clothing allowance (\$616 per year), and the Medal of Honor Pension (\$1,027 per month). Burial, headstone, and plot allowances have increased to \$2,000 for service-connected and \$300 for nonservice-connected.

Monthly benefits amounts for children of in-country Vietnam veterans with spina bifida are now: Level I, \$244; Level II, \$844; and Level III, \$1,440. Monthly benefits for the children of female Vietnam veterans who are born with certain birth defects are now: Level I, \$111; Level II, \$244; Level III, \$844; and Level IV, \$1,440.

Additional compensation, pension, and DIC amounts are available for veterans with dependent spouses, children, and parents. For more details, go to the VA website, www.va.gov, and link on "Compensation."

HOME LOAN PROGRAM

Pursuant to the Veterans Benefits Act of 2004, the VA has increased the limits on guaranteed home loans to veterans. VA-guaranteed home loans are made by banks and mortgage companies to veterans, servicemembers, and reservists, with the VA guaranteeing a portion of the loan. The loans are made at favorable interest rates with no down payment required. The maximum home loan guarantee rate has been increased from \$60,000 to \$89,912. In addition, veterans with permanent and total service-connected disabilities due to the loss of—or loss of the use of—both upper extremities are now eligible for a specially adapted housing grant of up to \$50,000. The grant may be used to improve an existing residence to accommodate the veteran's disability.

OPERATIONS ENDURING FREEDOM AND IRAQI FREEDOM

The VA has launched a web site for returning active duty, National Guard, and Reserve servicemembers of Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Aside from information on benefits, medical care, dependents issues, and transition assistance, the web site contains links to other federal agencies and organizations that offer related benefits and services. The web site is www.vba.va.gov/EFIF ■

DENIED BY THE VA?

We handle veterans' benefits claims *exclusively*.

If you've recently had a claim denied by the Department of Veterans Affairs, or if you have a claim pending before the VA, we can help.

The Law Offices of
JOSEPH R. MOORE

We welcome PTSD claims.

e-mail: jmoore@veteranlaw.com web site: <http://veteranlaw.com/>

CALL
TOLL
FREE

1-877-VET-ATTY
8 3 8 2 8 8 9

In-Country: Videos That Bring Back Memories

Filmed In Vietnam & Thailand By The Military

Videos With Narration

Navy

- **USS Repose & Corpsman Vietnam**, films on 1 video) 1. Doctors, nurses, wounded Marines aboard USS Repose; and 2. Corpsman in Vietnam, 60 min.
- **Small Boat & American Navy Vietnam**, films on 1 video) 1. PBRs, monitors, operations in the delta. 2. Carriers, destroyers, operations off coast, 60 min.
- **Marine Engineers & Seabees In Vietnam**, films on 1 video) building bases, uncovering mines/explosives 5 min.
- **Navy SEALs, Training & In Vietnam**, films on 1 video) Training in Coronado to deployment; training counterparts, 60 min.

Army

- **Army Inf. Training & Physical Fitness 1960s**, films on one video, 60 min.
- **Rifle Squad in Attack and Defense 1965**, films on one video, 50 min.
- **Helicopter Door Gunner Vietnam**, from Training in Hawaii to Operations in Vietnam, 30 min.
- **Army In Vietnam 1965 & 1966**, operation Washington Irving, 101st Airborne, more, 30 min.
- **Army Advisor In Vietnam**, Mekong Delta Area, early 1960s, 30 min.
- **4th Infantry Div. In Vietnam**, overview of the role and operations of division, 30 min.
- **Army Basic, Fort Ord 1960s**, from haircut to graduation, rifle range, drills etc., 30 min.
- **Army Helicopter Operations In Vietnam**, 30 min.
- **USNS Corpus Christi Bay**, first Transportation Battalion Maintenance Depot, Seaborne, 30 min.
- **R&R From Vietnam**, Follow Marines & Soldiers From Camp Alpha to the Bars And Geisha Houses Of Taipei, 30 min.

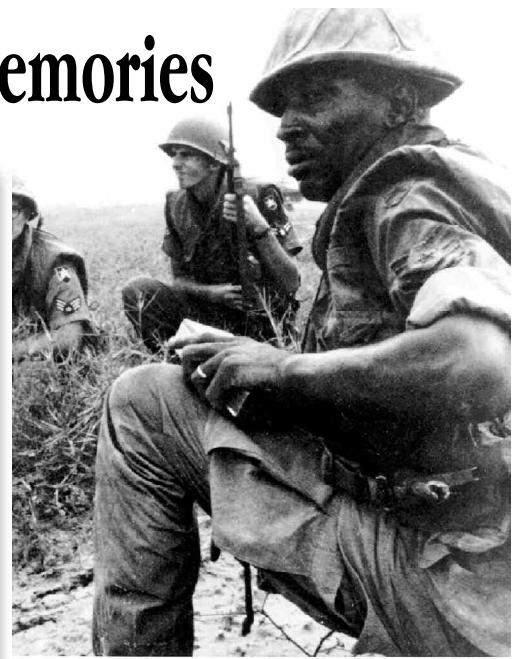
Scenes From U.S. Navy Carriers

- Landings & Launches • Aerial Views • Underway Replenishment • Flight Deck Activities • Maintenance • Recreation & Much More
- **USS Wasp (CV-18) 1944-1972, 60 min.**
- **USS Ranger (CVA-61) 1949-1980, 60 min.**
- **USS Randolph (CV-15) 1945-1967, 45 min.**
- **USS Valley Forge (CV-45) 1949-1966, 60 min.**
- **USS Shangri-La (CV-38) 1944-1968, 45 min.**
- **USS America (CVA-66) 1965-1968, 60 min.**
- **USS Midway (CVA-41) 1945-1970, 60 min.**
- **USS Constellation (CVA-64) 1964-1970, 45 min.**
- **USS Enterprise (CVAN-65) 1960-1970, 90 min.**
- **USS Coral Sea (CVA-43) 1965-1970, 50 min.**
- **USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63) 1961-1979, 75 min.**
- **USS Boxer (CV-21) 1950s, 70 min.**
- **USS Ticonderoga (CVA-14) in Vietnam, 30 min.**
- **USS Bon Homme Richard (CVA-31) 1950s-60s, 45 min.**
- **USS Franklin (CV-13) in WWII, 90 min.**
- **USS Oriskany (CV-34) in Vietnam, 40 min.**
- **USS Franklin D. Roosevelt (CV-42) 1960s, 85 min.**
- **USS Hornet (CV-8, CV-12) & Torpedo Sqd. 8/ WWII, 60 min.**
- **USS JF Kennedy (CVA-67) 1970s-'80s, 70 min.**
- **USS Independence (CVA-62) in Vietnam, 60 min.**
- **USS Forrestal (CV-59) 1950s-60s, 90 min.**
- **Hook Down, Wheels Down, Carrier History, 60 min.**
- **Carrier Pilot Training Pensacola 1970s, 60 min.**
- **Essex Class Carriers WWII ("Fighting Lady"), 60 min.**
- **Carrier Action Off Korea, 45 min.**

Please Note! Each of the carrier titles is different. Some have narration, some do not. All footage was shot by Navy Combat Cameramen. Most have aerial views of the ship, a few do not. Some have scenes below the flight deck, some do not. Call for additional information.

Gulf Of Tonkin Fires: See Them The Way They Really Happened!

- **USS Enterprise Fire 1969** 45 min. **USS Forrestal Fire 1967** 72 min.
- **USS Oriskany Fire 1966** 60 min.



- **Army Artillerymen Vietnam & Fire Support Bases** films On 1 Video/ 1. 1966 training film (narrated) featuring Vietnam battle actions with the 1st Cavalry Division, 101st Airborne Division and 173rd Airborne Brigade; 2. Fire Support Bases in Vietnam, (no narration, music soundtrack) a compilation of films taken at FSBs Birmingham, Normandy, Whip, Geronimo & Nancy. Great aerial views/ movement of artillery between fire bases/ CH-54 and C-5 helicopters, 80 min.
- **Weapons Of The Artilleryman 1960s & 1970s** films On 1 Video (both narrated) Excellent details setting guns up, loading, firing etc./ 1. Vietnam-era training film featuring 105mm howitzer, 155mm howitzer, 8-inch howitzer, 155mm gun, 115mm Toxic Rocket, Little & Honest John and Pershing missiles. 2. Features Chaparral and Vulcan missile battery, 70 min.
- **Shadow Strikes, AC-119G Stinger Operations, AC-119K** Two films On 1 Video

1. Scenes of a crew training in 119G. Maintenance/operation on Shadow strike mission, and the turnover of AC-119G by 17th SOS to crew VNAF. Excellent details of interior of aircraft and guns firing. Overview of AC-119K gunship and its employment by the 18th SO (Stinger) in Vietnam, primarily at Phan Rang AB. Excellent details of gunship (both interior/exterior), as well as the gunship's weapons systems & 18th SOS crewmen on actual combat mission. (No narration, music soundtrack) 95 min.

□ **Tug & Beach Master In Vietnam 1966-1970** interviews with Army marine pilots & harbor masters on location at North Beach, Long Pier. Day-to-day activities aboard tugs. Tugs working. Aerial view of area. 12th Transportation Command. Sounds of the tugs and the harbor, 60 min.

□ **Special Forces In Vietnam** includes recruitment and training of Montagnard by Green Berets; Green Hornets, Ban Me Thout Special Forces Camp and Combat Weathermen, Katum Special Forces Camp. Also includes interviews at Katum with officer in charge and member of the team, and officer in charge informing camp commandant of the team will play, as well as wild sound of radio traffic between radioman and aircraft delivering cargo. Additional scenes at 430th Special Forces camp at Don Phouc, 412 Special Forces camp at Ca 425 Special Forces camp at Thuong Thoi & Camp Nam Dong (narrated and non-narrated with music soundtrack) 75 min.

□ **New Soldier In Vietnam (90th Replacement Battalion & Alert, Stay Alive)**

Two Films On One Video: 1. 90th Rpl. Btn. "Camp Long Binh June from the time of the soldier's TWA arrival at Bien Hoa AB to pro to unit assignment. Includes soundtrack actually recorded at the processing center. 2. Stay Alert, Stay Alive examines the four-phase training program that gave replacements (new soldiers) in Vietnam their baptism of fire before engaging the enemy. Produced at 1st Brigade, 101st Airborne Division's base camp at Phan Rang, 60 min.

□ **Battle For Hue City 1968** includes some of the most dramatic combat film footage of the Vietnam War of soldiers and Marines fighting to retake the city one block at a time. Also includes a Vietnamese government film (narrated in English) of the massacre civilians by the VC, 45 min.

□ **Armored Commando Car (V-100) & Armored Jeep (M-151 Vietnam & Military Police Unit, Saigon)** includes excellent film footage of these two vehicles operating in Vietnam. Also includes 1 "sound bites" of armored car personnel (MPs) describing their vehicle and capabilities and MPs (18th Brigade) explaining their mission in Vietnam. Video shows MPs on night patrol in Saigon in their jeep. Excellent scenes on both vehicles on patrols (actual sound taken at location). Also shown are various scenes of Army Military Police in Vietnam, in 1966, 30 min.

□ **Attack On Tan Son Nhut Air Base, 1968** dramatic coverage of the Viet Cong attack on the air base in January and the mortar at February. Shows Air Force Security Police, Army soldiers and South Vietnamese troops in combat. Includes several very graphic scenes. narration, music soundtrack), 60 min.

□ **Vietnam From The Air** one solid hour of incredible aerial view: base camps, fire support bases, highways, waterways, cities and countryside shot via helicopter by combat cameramen. Vivid colors. Excellent quality! Some of the most dramatic and beautiful film you'll see of Vietnam, (no narration, music soundtrack) 60 min.

Have Questions? Call Us Because "All Sales Are Final!"
1-800-277-1977

Now Get Free Air Shipping
Anywhere In The USA & Canada
Pay No Sales Tax

First Video **\$29.95**

"Additional Videos" With Same Order
only **\$19.95 Ea.**

(In The Same Shipment)

call toll-free when using SA/MC/DISCOVER/AMEX

1-800-277-1977

Outside The USA Call 760-735-9313

To order by fax: (760) 735-8734

Send Check/ Money Order To:

Traditions Military Videos, Dept VVA
1525 South Escondido Blvd, Suite B
Escondido, CA 92025

Military Bases

Experience Day-To-Day Life

Aerial Views • Barracks • Messhalls • Flight Line Activities • Security Patrols • Maintenance • Recreation & Much More

- **Ubon & Udorn Thailand 1966-1972, 60 min.**
- **Long Binh: 1967-72, 60 min.**
- **Cu Chi: 1967-1970, 50 min.**
- **Phu Bai: 1968-1971, 60 min.**
- **Camp Enari (Dragon Mtn): 1967-1969, 50 min.**
- **Camp Eagle: 1971, 35 min.**
- **Camp Evans & Op Delaware 1968, 60 min.**
- **Bien Hoa AB: 1964-1969, 80 min.**
- **Da Nang AB & USMC areas: 1965-1970, 100 min.**
- **Phu Cat AB: 1966-1968, 60 min.**
- **Phan Rang AB: 1965-1970, 60 min.**
- **Cam Ranh Bay AB: 1966-1968, 70 min.**
- **Tan Son Nhut AB: 1965-1968, 60 min.**
- **Dong Tam Base Camp: 1967-1969, 45 min.**
- **Chu Lai AB: 1965-1968, 75 min.**
- **An Khe AB: 1965-1967, 75 min.**
- **Nha Trang/ Camp MacDermott 1965-72, 60 min.**
- **U-Tapao AB Thailand: 1967-1972, 60 min.**
- **Camp J.J. Carroll & The Rockpile: 1967-1970, 40 min.**

Scenes From In-Country Base Videos Do Not Have Narration. They Have A Music Soundtrack & Actual Armed Forces Radio Broadcasts From Vietnam.

Marines In Vietnam

Marine Aviation In Vietnam: 1st MAW

6 films on one video documenting the role of Marine Aviation in Vietnam. Includes: "Counter Punch," featuring USMC Phantoms and Skyhawks at Da Nang with pilot briefings, missions, ground crews, maintenance; "Sand & Steel" Marines & Seabees at Chu Lai; "On Target" with VMFA 323; "Ugly Angels" the role of Marine helicopters; and "VMCJ Photo Recon." video includes **bonus film:** Marine Helicopter Squad. At Soc Tran in 1962: 90 min.

Boot Camp: Videos That Take You Back to San Diego and Parris Island

- **MCRD, San Diego 1969 & 1975** two films, from haircut to graduation, 45 min.
- **Parris Island & Your First 80 Days**: films, boot camp 1960s & '70s, 45 min.
- **For Drill Instructors Only**: Boot Camp in the 1960s at San Diego and Parris Island from the Drill Instructors' point of view, 60 min.

The following videos provide overviews of Marine Corps activity during these years.

- **Marines 1965** with Operations Starlite, Piranha & Harvest Moon, 90 min.
- **Marines 1966** with Operations Macon, Hastings & Prairie, County Fair, 70 min.
- **Marines 1967** with Operations Buffalo & Independence, 90 min.
- **Marines 1968** with Operations Baxter Gardens & Mameluke Thrust, 80 min.

□ **Smoking Holes: Aircraft Accidents Of The 20th Century** includes scenes from B-52 crash landing March AFB, 1978; F-105D crash landing Da Nang AB, 1966; C-130B crash at Tan Son Nhut, AB, 1967; F-100 crash in 1970; F4J crash in 1968; B-47E crash in 1955, and much more. (Narrated & with music soundtrack.), 60 min.

□ **430th TFS "Invades" Takhli, RTAEB** fast-moving, irreverent and comical look at an Air Force Squadron's daily routine at Takhli Air Base in Thailand. This film was produced on location in 1964 by members of the 430th Tactical Fighter Squadron out of Cannon AFB, New Mexico. (No narration, music soundtrack.), 50 min.

□ **Korat, RTAFB & Camp Friendship 1965-1970** includes excellent aerial views of the base, Prime Beef base construction, LBJ's 1967 visit, flight line activities: 388th TFW ("There Is A Way"). Army areas on the base include barracks, 7th Maintenance area, Hq 44th Engr Grp, M-41 tanks and M-114 includes scenes shot at the infamous off-base bar "The Castle Club" and follow-up visits with airmen and soldiers by the 712th Preventive Medicine 70 min. (Narrated & non-narrated film footage with music soundtrack.)

□ **F-105 Thunderchief: From Production To Vietnam** on one incredible video! The most comprehensive collection of Air Force films ever released on the Thunderchief. The video covers from the F-105s early development, production, tests to its ultimate employment in the Vietnam War. Includes walk-around, weapons systems, gun camera footage and interviews with F-105 pilots in Vietnam, 100 min. (Narrated & silent with music soundtrack.)

□ **President Johnson's 1967 Visit to Cam Ranh Bay & Why Vietnam** films On 1 Video Highlights of LBJ's visit with the troops (no narration), medal ceremony, Johnson addresses troops (actual speech), hospital visit. Why Vietnam (narration): Johnson explains U.S. buildup in Vietnam, 60 min.

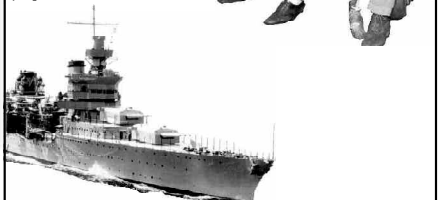
Latest Arrivals:

• Bien Hoa 1965 Flight Line Disaster

Dramatic Coverage of B-57 explosions and subsequent fire at Bien Hoa AB On May 16, 1965. Shows damage aircraft, firefighting, evacuation of casualties to Tan Son Nhut airport. Described by the U.S. government as "an accidental explosion of a bomb on one aircraft which spread to others" at Bien Hoa, it leaves 27 U.S. servicemen and 4 S. Vietnamese dead and some 95 Americans injured. More than 40 U.S. and South Vietnamese planes, including 10 B-57s, were destroyed. 60 min. (Narration & silent with music soundtrack.)

• Crossing The Line: King Neptune Over Time

From pollywog to shellback, 50 years of time-honored traditions now on video. Featuring historic scenes of the infamous ceremony from 1918 - 1965. Guaranteed to bring back memories. 50 min. (Captions & music soundtrack.)

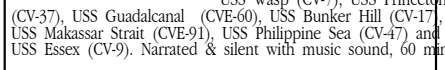


• Heavy Cruisers: 1930s-1960s

Hands down, the best video available on the "Queen Of The Seas." Video includes action-packed film footage focusing exclusively on heavy cruisers. A must-have video for sailors who served aboard heavy cruisers. 90 min. (Narrated and silent with music soundtrack)

• Hit The Deck: Incredible Carrier Crashes & Landings

The most dramatic carrier landing accidents ever recorded. Film footage from the 1940s to the 1960s of planes ripping into & exploding on the flight deck; dramatic rescues of pilots; planes ramming the island. Featuring USS Wasp (CV-7), USS Princeton (CV-37), USS Guadalcanal (CVE-60), USS Bunker Hill (CV-17), USS Makassar Strait (CVE-91), USS Philippine Sea (CV-47) and USS Essex (CV-9). Narrated & silent with music sound, 60 min.



• Buy Your Videos Securely Online • See Actual Scenes From The Videos • Read In-depth Reviews

www.MilitaryVideo.com

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

A Plan For Spring

BY JIM DOYLE, CHAIR

The committee has been extremely busy working on several large projects as directed by the VVA Board of Directors and President, and fulfilling the wishes of our membership.

The Public Affairs Committee was closely involved with the organization, promotion, planning, and presentation of the candlelight dedication of the In Memory Memorial Plaque. Without the participation of the committee, the ceremony would not have been successful. In words overheard at the conclusion of the dedication, it "was of, by, and for veterans. No egos were allowed." I would like to commend our newly appointed committee vice chair Charlie Montgomery and the Communications and Publications Department staff for their outstanding contributions to the success of this event.



Local efforts in the VVA Get Out The Vote 2004 project were successful in bringing new veterans and their supporters to the polls. In our political system, the supreme power lies in a body of citizens entitled to vote for representatives responsible to them. We celebrate the success of our process and our members' grassroots participation in that process.

VVA staffer Sutton Thumprasert is a leader in the Thai community in the United States. In an effort to help his organization provide relief directly to tsunami victims in Thailand, Jim Porter created one hundred "tsunami relief" candy bars for sale to VVA members, staffers, volunteers, and others. Labels were produced and the bars were wrapped by the Communications Department. They were joined by AVVA members who also collected money for tsunami victims by packaging Nancy Switzer's homemade chocolate raspberry creams. Sutton's tsunami relief fund is the beneficiary of more than \$300 from the candy sales.

The committee will help the organization promote two VVA conferences this spring. A one-day conference at the National Press Club will bring together a group of experts to discuss the parallels between the Vietnam and Iraq experiences. VVA is uniquely qualified to present this kind of objective examination. The committee is pleased to have been asked to help present this important forum.

The PTSD and Substance Abuse Committee will present a conference on the immediate mental-health needs of veterans of the War on Terror. The Public Affairs Committee will support this project. VVA maintains our primacy in presenting timely, intellectually sound, and reasonable public discourse. We have a long history, including the Conference on the 25th Anniversary of the End of the War in 2000 (cosponsored by the College of William and Mary), and the 2002 Yale Conference on Agent Orange.

The committee is eager to join the team that will insure the success of the 15th anniversary of Sons and Daughters In Touch over Father's Day (June 19) weekend. The Public Affairs Committee is on call for SDIT.

The Poetry Project is complete and will be included as an insert in an upcoming issue of *The VVA Veteran*. Although Poet Laureate Steve Mason continues his battle against cancer, he is determined to see this project completed. VVA has been asked to help promote the newly published book, *Hero Mama* by SDIT member Karen Spears Zacharias, who traveled to Vietnam in March 2003 with the SDIT delegation.

Awards are coming up. Remember that all VVA awards are self-nominating. If you believe you or someone else is entitled to any of the several categories of awards presented annually by VVA, it is your responsibility to submit the documentation supporting that recommendation to the Awards Committee, chaired by Charlie Montgomery. The forms are published in this issue on page 32. ■

FROM THE NATIONAL CHAPLAIN



Taps

BY REV. PHIL SALOIS, M.S.

Patrick L. Baddgor died May 4, 2003, in Davenport, Iowa, of cancer. He was born November 8, 1947. Baddgor served in the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Rock Island (Illinois) Chapter 299.

Michael Paul Badget died May 28, 2004, in Waipahu, Hawaii, of pneumonia and cancer. He was born December 28, 1951. Badget served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Ewa Beach (Hawaii) Chapter 858.

Ronnie Batts died recently in Philadelphia. He was born February 6, 1943. Batts was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Graterford Chapter 466.

Mack A. Bennett died June 22, 2004, in Mountain Home, Tennessee. He was born October 7, 1943. Bennett served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Elizabethton Chapter 824.

Karl R. Berger died January 26, 2004, in Southside, Alabama. He was born November 24, 1939. Berger was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Gadsden Chapter 637.

Anthony Bisbano died February 13, 2004, in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. He was born May 1, 1924. Bisbano served in the U.S. Navy and retired with the rank of Captain. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Providence Chapter 273.

Jose M. Blanco died May 31, 2004, in Miami, Florida, of heart failure. He was born August 23, 1939, in Cuba. Blanco served in the U.S. Army in 1963-64 during the Vietnam era. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Miami Chapter 620.

Howard H. Bloom died October 28, 2004, in White Plains, New York. He was born January 14, 1940. Bloom served in the U.S. Air Force and retired as a Master Sergeant. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Pleasantville Chapter 49.

James Knox Blount died in October 2004. Blount was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Birmingham Chapter 416.

Marvin E. Boelter died recently in Tecumseh, Michigan. He was born May 30, 1950. Boelter was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Jackson Chapter 109.

Roger J. Booth died in August 2004. He was born January 26, 1944. Booth served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was an at-large member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Florida.

Dennis Delton Bratz died June 4, 2004, in Willmar, Minnesota, of Agent Orange-related type II diabetes mellitus, ischemic heart disease, congestive heart failure, and multiple myeloma. He was born on November 20, 1946. Bratz served in the U.S. Army from 1966-69, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Minot Chapter 374.

Donald E. Butz died recently in Hubbard Lake, Michigan. He was born November 7, 1943. Butz served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Alpena Chapter 583.

Lonnie C. Carter died December 30, 1998, in Rutledge, Tennessee. He was born June 6, 1940. Carter was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an at-large member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Tennessee.

Russel Jay Carver was murdered September 10, 2004, in Dallas. He was born November 20, 1929. Carver served in the U.S. Army with a tour of duty in Vietnam as a hospital chaplain and retired from the Army with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Dallas Chapter 137.

Stanley C. Clark died in January 1995 in Rutland, Vermont. Clark was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Rutland Chapter 1.

John Ross Cokelette died October 9, 2004, in Milford, Pennsylvania. He was born December 10, 1949. Cokelette served in the U.S. Air Force from 1969-73 during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Dingman's Ferry Chapter 623.

continued on page 41

The national office of VVA is attempting to build on its collection of Vietnam War literature and history.

Should you wish to contribute books to the library at the national office, contact The VVA Veteran office at 301-585-4000.

REGION 9 REPORT

Much Oath-Taking

BY DARROL BROWN

It has been a busy time since we convened in Nashville. As Region 9 Director, I had the pleasure again of swearing in new officers across the region. California had some new officers at the November meeting in Fresno, where I swore them in. I also swore in new officers at my home Chapter 388 last year. Arizona allowed me to swear in their new officers and so did Nevada. I'm getting pretty good at swearing. My next trip is to Angeles City in the Philippines to visit with members of Chapter 887. I know it's a tough trip, but I'll sacrifice myself for the good of VVA.



January 29 was another historic day for the leaders of VVA Region 9. That's the day we assembled again in Las Vegas to plot the direction of VVA in the Southwest. After the enthusiasm of the July 2004 meeting, I feel that we are taking great strides on how veterans can affect the lives of fellow veterans throughout the region.

To recap the July 2004 meeting: Several VVA leaders from Region 9 met to discuss projects, issues, and the future direction of Region 9 as part of Vietnam Veterans of America. Although this was a small gathering of about 20 leaders, the six-plus hour meeting sparked some great interest in identifying VVA Resolutions that Region 9 can accomplish over the next two years. Jerry Yamamoto was our scribe and gave us great notes to keep us on track.

The January 29 meeting included a workshop on the new Code of Disciplinary Policy and Procedures, follow-up on Resolutions, and preparation for the 2005 Convention in Reno, Nevada. The Nevada Office of Veterans' Services presentation was given by Steve Long, NOVS deputy executive director and a former Vietnam War POW. He spent September 1969 to March 1973 in the infamous Hanoi Hilton.

My best wishes to everyone for a wonderful and happy 2005. ■

Combat Graphix

PO Box 1724

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57101

1-605-335-1493

Get your Vietnam and Purple Heart T-shirts, Sweatshirts, and Polos today!

T-Shirts start at just \$12.95

Sweatshirts start at just \$19.95

Polos start at just \$22.95

Please add \$2.00 for each size XX shirt and \$3.00 for each size XXX shirts.



Shipping and handling is only \$5.00 for the first shirt and \$1.50 for each additional shirt!

- * Top Quality silk Screened T-shirts and Sweatshirts.
- * Embroidered Polos.
- * Several sizes to choose from.

Mail order available by telephone or printable order form on the web!

<http://www.combatgraphix.com>

SPORTS TECH NEWS-2005

New lure's catch rate may be too high for some tournaments.

Out-fishes other bait 19 to 4 in one contest.

Uses aerospace technology to mimic a real fish.

ORLANDO, FL— A small company in Connecticut has developed a new lure that mimics the motion of a real fish so realistically eight professionals couldn't tell the difference between it and a live shad when it "swam" toward them on retrieval. The design eliminates wobbling, angled swimming and other unnatural motions that problem other hard bait lures. It swims upright and appears to propel itself with its tail.

Curiously, the company may have designed it too well. Tournament fishermen who have used it said it's possible officials will not allow it in contests where live bait is prohibited. They claim it swims more realistically than anything they have ever seen. If so, that would hurt the company's promotional efforts. Winning tournaments is an important part of marketing a new lure.

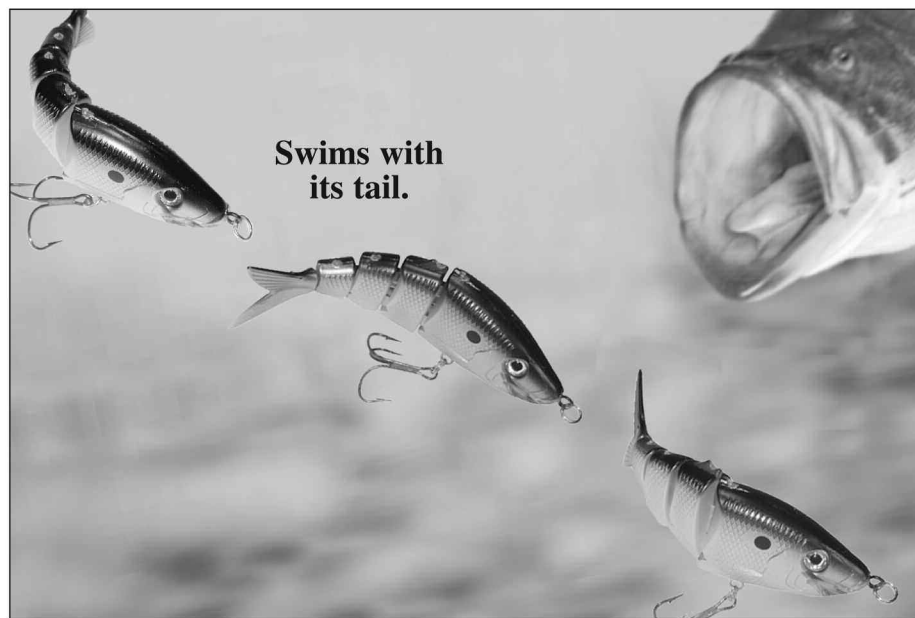
Fish would probably prefer to see it restricted. I watched eight veteran fishermen test the new lure (called The KickTail™) on a lake outside Orlando FL for about four hours. Four used the KickTail™ and four used a combination of their favorite lures and shiners (live bait).

The four using the KickTail™ caught 41 fish versus 14 for the other four. In one boat the KickTail™ won 19 to 4. The KickTail™ also caught bigger fish, which suggests it triggers larger, less aggressive fish to strike. You can see why the company needs to get it into tournaments. An almost 3 to 1 advantage can mean thousands of dollars to a fisherman, and hundreds of thousands in sales to the company.

The KickTail's™ magic comes from a patented technology that breaks the tail into five segments. As water rushes by on retrieval, a little-known principle called aeronautical flutter causes the tail to wag left and right, as if the lure were propelling itself with its tail. Unlike other hard baits, the head remains stationary—only the tail wags. A company spokesman told me this.

"Fish attack live things, and they determine if something is alive by watching its movements. Marine biologists will tell you that the more a lure swims like a real fish, the more fish it will catch. Well, the only live thing the KickTail™ doesn't do is breathe. It's better than live bait! It lasts longer and it never hangs half-dead from a hook. It's always swimming wild and free. Fish can't stand it. We've seen fish that have just eaten go for the KickTail™. It's like having another potato chip.

"Here, reel it in and watch it swim toward you. Can you tell the difference between it and a live fish? (I said no.) Neither can the fish."



Swims with its tail.

New lure swims like a real fish--nearly triples catch in Florida contest.

Whether you fish for fun or profit, if you want a near 3 to 1 advantage, I would order now before the KickTail™ becomes known. The company even guarantees a refund, if you don't catch more fish and return the lures within 30 days. There are three versions: a floater for top water, a diver and a "dying shad" with a weed guard for fishing lily pads and other feeding spots. The company says it's the only hard bait of its kind in existence. Each lure costs \$9.95 and you must order at least

two. There is also a "Super 10-Pack" with additional colors for only \$79.95, a savings of almost \$20.00. S/h is only \$6.00 no matter how many you order.

To order call 1-800-873-4415 or click www.ngcsports.com anytime or day or send a check or M.O. (or cc number and exp. date) to NGC Sports (Dept. KT-810), 60 Church Street, Yalesville, CT 06492. CT add sales tax. The KickTail™ is four inches long and works in salt and fresh water.

KTS-5 © NGC Worldwide, Inc. 2005 Dept. KT-810

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Convention Planner, Part 2

BY BOB THOMPSON, MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

This is the second in a series of articles to help you plan for this year's National Convention in Reno, Nevada, August 9-14. In the December issue, we pointed out that the number of delegates a chapter may send is based on the chapter's active VVA membership as of February 28, 2005. To be represented by a delegate at the Convention, a chapter must have at least 25 active members on that date.

Look at your current membership roster, the "Detailed Membership Report." Do you have at least 25 VVA members paid through February? If not, you'll need to do some fast recruiting and convincing your lapsed members to renew. Also, if your chapter membership is near one of the multiples for additional delegates (50, 100, 150, and so on), you need to be sure that you have at least that many members paid through February or later.

The next step is for state council and chapter presidents to look for their delegate authorization letters. By mid-March, we'll complete the processing of February's membership transactions and calculate the number of delegates each state council and chapter is authorized to send to the Convention, in accordance with the VVA Constitution, Article I, Section 6. We'll send a letter to each state council and chapter, showing the number of active VVA members and the number of authorized Convention delegates. Contact the VVA Membership Department if you believe there are discrepancies in the numbers shown in the delegate letters.

The Convention registration form will be published in each issue of *The VVA Veteran* until the Convention. The form also is available on our web site at www.vva.org/meetings/05reno.html. Most chapters begin registration after their elections are held in April.

Next issue, we'll cover the details of the delegate registration process. In the meantime, focus on planning your active-member numbers as of February 28, so you can be sure to be represented at the Convention. Contact the VVA Membership Department at membership@vva.org or 800-882-1316, ext. 115, if you have questions on planning your delegate representation at the Convention. ■

VETERANS AGAINST DRUGS TASK FORCE REPORT

Make A Difference

BY HERB WORTHINGTON, CHAIR

As we emerge from the holiday season, we reflect with pride on the good we, as members of VVA and AVVA, did in our local communities. Although we are not millionaires, we try to help our fellow men and women. We go to schools, detention centers, and boot camps to talk to our young people and deliver the positive message of how they can make a difference in the future. We let them know of our mistakes and hope the next generation will learn from our transgressions.

Evidently, we are not doing enough. I know that the VAD Program is working and growing in many areas. But gangs are growing across the nation.

You have heard about the drug epidemic. If you think it is not real, you are mistaken. Kids today are getting involved with drugs, gangs, and violence at younger and younger ages. Why? Because the gangs know that young kids are easily swayed and impressionable. Plus, they are told that because of their ages, they won't be punished harshly when arrested. The amazing part is that kids are duped and the parents have no idea what is going on.

The problem is exacerbated by the rising number of latch-key children. Families increasingly are unable to survive on a single salary, so both parents work. Some have more than one job. Single parents have it even tougher. That is where VAD comes in. We can help before things get totally out of hand.

If you don't get involved now, later you may be saying you don't understand how your grandchild became hooked on drugs or how terrible it is that she was killed by gangs. It can happen to you. One in five families has been devastated by drugs and violence. That is the sad reality.

You can make a difference. If enough of us get together, we can make a difference. It is up to you. ■



CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Amendment Process

BY BARRY HAGGE, CHAIR

The 2004 Nashville Leadership Conference opened the Constitutional Amendment process that culminates with delegates acting on proposed amendments at the Twelfth National Convention in Reno.

Proposed Constitution Amendment forms have been distributed to VVA chapters and state councils in separate mailings. This is the last time the form will be published in *The VVA Veteran*. It also has been made available on the VVA web site for electronic submission of Proposed Constitutional Amendments. We urge you to use the electronic form; when you submit Proposed Amendments electronically, you will receive an e-mail acknowledging their receipt.

Using the Leadership Conference to open the amendment process marked the third time that the committee sponsored a seminar on the Constitution and provided a forum for the membership to present issues and questions.

The postmark deadline for all Proposed Constitution Amendments is March 31, 2005. Proposed Amendments postmarked after March 31 will be returned. Only amendments mailed to the national office or e-mailed to Bhagge@vva.org will be accepted. The Proposed Constitution Amendment format must be used. Faxes are not accepted. Please write your amendments clearly. Any VVA member may submit amendments. While having the support of a chapter or state council is not necessary, it does enhance the chances of an amendment being accepted at the Convention. In cases where an amendment duplicates an amendment submitted by a committee, the amendment will not be reported out, and delegates will debate and be free to amend the committee-sponsored amendment.

Please be sure that your membership number is entered on the form. This is the only way we can insure that only VVA members submit Proposed Amendments. The National Constitution Committee will meet in open session following the submission deadline, review all proposed amendments, and prepare its report to the membership. The committee's report will be made available via e-mail, the VVA web site, and postal mail within two weeks following the April meeting.

The committee will again hold open hearings at the Convention before the amendments are presented to the delegates for action. We encourage everyone to attend the hearing and to make their opinions known. ■



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC. Proposed Change to the National Constitution NATIONAL CONVENTION - AUGUST 9-14, 2005

(Note: This form must be used for submission of the 2005 Proposed Constitutional Amendments. If additional sheets are needed, please attach to this form.)

Submitted by:

Name (REQUIRED) _____

Address (REQUIRED) _____

City/State/Zip (REQUIRED) _____

Phone _____ E-mail (REQUIRED) _____

Has this amendment been endorsed by chapter? Yes No If yes, what chapter number? _____

Date endorsed by Chapter Board _____ by chapter membership _____

Has this amendment been endorsed by a State Council? Yes No If yes, what state? _____

Has this amendment been endorsed by the Conference of State Council Presidents? Yes No

Section Affected:

Article _____ Section _____ Paragraph _____

Related Articles/Sections/Paragraphs Affected: Article _____ Section _____ Paragraph _____

Proposed Change _____

Reason for Proposed Change _____

Constitution Committee Action

Date Received _____

Reported Out With Recommendation Negative Recommendation No Recommendation

Not Reported Out Reason: _____

2005 Constitutional Amendments must be postmarked no later than March 31, 2005. Mail to: Vietnam Veterans of America, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910. ATTENTION: CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE or E-mail to bhagge@vva.org

Form available at www.vva.org/Forms/constitutional_amendment.html

ETABO COMMITTEE REPORT

Veterans Products First

BY ALAN GIBSON, CHAIR

If you have not done so, please visit vva.org and check out the ETaBO page. Every week Carol Engle has been adding new information. She has done a great job of getting us up and running, and the committee appreciates her work beyond words. All of the guides are on the site and may be printed out. One new item is the list of veteran-owned businesses that answered our Survey of Business Owners. We hope that you will visit this site from time to time and see what our brother and sister veteran-owned businesses are doing. Remember to buy veterans products first.

If you are a business owner, please complete the survey and get it to us so we can list you on the web site and get you information to help market your product. You cannot beat the price. It's free. You already have paid the price by serving your country, so take advantage of it.

The committee also is looking for VVA members interested in helping keep up with legislation or proposing legislation that will help all veterans with employment, training, and vocational rehabilitation. If you would like to help, please contact the committee, or let your State Council president know that you would like a recommendation to be added to the committee. Attendance at meetings would be at your or your State Council's expense. However, attendance is not mandatory. You can work from home and keep us informed about what you are doing, or you can make recommendations.

Remember: You do not have to be a member of the committee to make recommendations or suggestions on any of our issues. We work for you—not the other way around. ■



Returning to Viet Nam?

Return with us. Be a member of team made up of your fellow veterans. Spend a month helping build clinics, housing or schools and traveling to places where you served. See Viet Nam as a country, not a war.

The Veterans Viet Nam Restoration Project (VVRP) has helped over 100 veterans return to Viet Nam. Consider joining Team 21 which will depart in the Spring of 2006.

The cost: \$3,000.

For more information contact:

Scott Rutherford
(906) 483-3183

email: scottru@chartermi.net

Visit the VVRP Website:

www.vvrp.org



IN-COUNTRY VETS

- * Successful PTSD disability writeups and more
- * Usual ratings from 50% to 100%
- * One phone call - we will know if I can help
- * PTSD Expert - 1983-1988 team leader, satellite coordinator VA Vet Centers
- ✓ it out - nothing to lose

Steve Ryan (ICTS) MA. M.S.
Certified Trauma Specialist
Licensed marriage family Therapist
1-888-306-5255

WILD CARD ADVENTURES

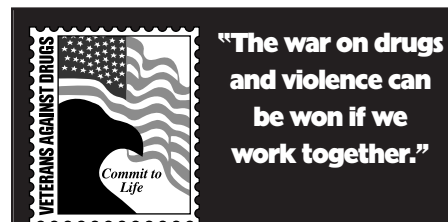
CUSTOMIZED TOURS FOR VIETNAM VETS

1-800-590-3776 E-mail: swild7@juno.com

Free Cancer & Agent Orange Info



www.waroncancer.us



Black Listed Cancer Treatment Could Save Your Life

Baltimore, MD— As unbelievable as it seems the key to stopping many cancers has been around for over 30 years. Yet it has been banned. Blocked. And kept out of your medicine cabinet by the very agency designed to protect your health—the FDA.

In 1966, the senior oncologist at a prominent New York hospital rocked the medical world when he developed a serum that “**shrank cancer tumors in 45 minutes!**” 90 minutes later they were gone... Headlines hit every major paper around the world. Scientists and researchers applauded. Time and again this life saving treatment worked miracles, but the FDA ignored the research and hope he brought and shut him down.

You read that right. He was not only shut down—but also forced out of the country where others benefited from his discovery. That was 38 years ago. How many other treatments have they been allowed to hide? Just as in the case of Dr. Burton's miracle serum these too go unmentioned.

Two-Nutrient Cancer Breakthrough...

Decades ago, European research scientist Dr. Johanna Budwig, a six-time Nobel Award nominee, discovered a totally natural formula that not only protects against the development of cancer, but people all over the world who have been diagnosed with incurable cancer and sent home to die have actually benefited from her research—and now lead normal lives.

After 30 years of study, Dr. Budwig discovered that the blood of seriously ill cancer patients was deficient in certain substances and nutrients. Yet, healthy blood always contained these ingredients. It was the lack of these nutrients that allowed cancer cells to grow wild and out of control.

By simply eating a combination of two natural and delicious foods (found on page 134) not only can cancer be prevented—but in case

after case it was actually healed! “Symptoms of cancer, liver dysfunction, and diabetes were completely alleviated.” Remarkably, what Dr. Budwig discovered was a totally natural way for eradicating cancer.

However, when she went to publish these results so that everyone could benefit—**she was blocked by manufacturers with heavy financial stakes!** For over 10 years now her methods have proved effective—yet she is denied publication—blocked by the giants who don't want you to read her words.

What's more, the world is full of expert minds like Dr. Budwig who have pursued cancer remedies and come up with remarkable natural formulas and diets that work for hundreds and thousands of patients. *How to Fight Cancer & Win* author William Fischer has studied these methods and revealed their secrets for you—so that you or someone you love may be spared the horrors of conventional cancer treatments.

As early as 1947, Virginia Livingston, M.D., isolated a cancer-causing microbe. She noted that every cancer sample analyzed (whether human or other animal) contained it.

This microbe—a bacteria that is actually in each of us from birth to death—multiplies and promotes cancer when the immune system is weakened by disease, stress, or poor nutrition. Worst of all, the microbes secrete a special hormone protector that short-circuits our body's immune system—allowing the microbes to grow undetected for years. No wonder so many patients are riddled with cancer by the time it is detected. But there is hope even for them...

Turn to page 82 of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* for the delicious diet that can help stop the formation of cancer cells and shrink tumors.

They walked away from traditional cancer treatments...and were healed!

Throughout the pages of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* you'll meet real people who were diagnosed with cancer—suffered through harsh conventional treatments—turned their backs on so called modern medicine—only to be miraculously healed by natural means! Here is just a sampling of what others have to say about the book.

“We purchased *How to Fight Cancer & Win*, and immediately my husband started following the recommended diet for his just diagnosed colon cancer. He refused the surgery that our doctors advised. Since following the regime recommended in the book he has had no problems at all, cancer-wise. If not cured, we believe the cancer has to be in remission.”

—Thelma B.

“I bought *How to Fight Cancer & Win* and this has to be the greatest book I've ever read. I have had astounding results from the easy to understand knowledge found in this book. My whole life has improved drastically and I have done so much for many others. The information goes far beyond the health thinking of today.”

—Hugh M.

“I can't find adequate words to describe my appreciation of your work in providing *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. You had to do an enormous amount of research to bring this vast and most important knowledge to your readers.

My doctor found two tumors on my prostate with a high P.S.A. He scheduled a time to surgically remove the prostate, but I canceled the appointment. Instead I went on the diet discussed in the book combined with another supplement. Over the months my P.S.A. has lowered until the last reading was one point two.”

—Duncan M.

“In my 55 years as a Country Family Physician, I have never read a more ‘down to earth,’ practical resume of cancer prevention and

treatments, than in this book. It needs to be studied worldwide for the prevention of cancer by all researchers who are looking for a cure.”

—Edward S., M.D.

“As a cancer patient who has been battling lymphatic cancer on and off for almost three years now, I was very pleased to stumble across *How to Fight Cancer & Win*. The book was inspiring, well-written and packed with useful information for any cancer patient looking to maximize his or her chances for recovery.”

—Romany S.

Don't waste another minute. There are only a limited number of books in stock—and unless order volume is extraordinarily high we may not be able to print more life-saving copies. Claim your book today and you will be one of the lucky few who no longer have to wait for cures that get pushed “underground” by big business and money hungry giants.

To get your copy of *How to Fight Cancer & Win* visit our website at www.agorahealthbooks.com/vva2 or call 1-888-821-3609 and ask for code P6F24 to order by credit card. Or write “Fight Cancer—Dept. P6F24” on a plain piece of paper with your name, address, phone number (in case we have a question about your order) and mail it with a check tofor \$19.95 plus \$4.00 shipping to:

Agora Health Books
Dept. P6F24
P.O. Box 925
Frederick, MD 21705-9838

If you are not completely satisfied, return the book within one year for a complete and total refund—no questions asked. This will probably be the most important information you and your loved ones receive—so order today!

ID# P6F24

©2005 Agora Health Books, LLC

VETERANS AFFAIRS COMMITTEE REPORT

Making Your Voice Heard

BY BRUCE WHITAKER, CHAIR

The Veterans Affairs Committee is the custodian of Convention Resolution V-6-95—Participation in the Process of Accrediting DVA Medical Centers. The issue is consumer input into the accreditation process. The resolution “encourages chapters and state councils to become familiar with the accreditation standards currently used by the JCAHO” and encourages chapters and state councils to participate appropriately in providing consumer input, both positive and negative, during accreditation surveys by requesting public information interviews. The VVA Board of Directors insures that information pertaining to this process is disseminated to all chapters and state councils.”



In an effort to comply with the resolution, we are providing the following information:

JCAHO (the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Health Care Organizations) is an organization that accredits hospitals and other health care facilities in the United States. Although it is a private nonprofit organization, JCAHO—with input from professional and consumer groups—establishes the standards by which health care facilities are evaluated. Accreditation status is used to establish eligibility for non-federal institutions to receive Medicare funds and, in some cases, to determine eligibility for licensure. Although Department of Veterans Affairs facilities can continue operating without accreditation, all VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) participate in the JCAHO accreditation process. Loss of accreditation or conditional accreditation is viewed as an extremely serious matter by the VA.

The JCAHO review process is conducted at least every three years. It includes on-site visits to health care facilities. JCAHO requires that hospitals provide an opportunity for the presentation of information by consumers and the public.

Recent changes in the accreditation process by JCAHO include unannounced accreditation surveys. The surveys focus on organization, safety of care, and safety of the environment in which care is provided. If you have information on these areas, you can request a public information interview with a JCAHO field representative. You must make the request in writing and include the information you wish to discuss.

The request should be sent to: Division of Accreditation Operations, Office of Quality Monitoring, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Boulevard, Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181. You also can fax the information to 630-792-5636 or e-mail it to complaint@jcaho.org

JCAHO's Office of Quality Monitoring acknowledges requests in writing or by telephone ten days before a survey begins. If your request is granted, an account representative will let you know the interview time and location as well as who will speak with you. The information you share will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process.

You may also go to the JCAHO web site www.jcaho.org to find updated information on the accreditation of the VAMC nearest you. ■

AVVA REPORT

New In 2005

BY MARY MILLER, PRESIDENT

Another new year has begun, and with that, a new Project Friendship. In Reno during our conference we will be collecting for the Fisher Houses. The houses are located around the country near military hospitals and offer housing for families of service people while their loved ones are being cared for. The Fisher House Foundation is in need of funds and airline miles. American Airlines, Delta Airlines, Independence Air, Northwest Airlines, Southwest, and U.S. Airways allow one to donate air miles for families to reach their loved ones.



While in Reno, AVVA will also be collecting for transitional housing for women and families in recovery. Many items are needed, and financial contributions are welcome. Please make checks out to AVVA Project Friendship, with the name of the project in the memo line. Checks will be collected by Sonja Holybee, AVVA Treasurer. Direct your questions regarding Project Friendship to Sonya at sholybee@avva.org

Elections will be held for State Presidents and State Representatives between January and June. Affiliated Chapter Representatives also will be elected in April. Affiliated Chapter Representatives may be elected every one or two years to correspond with the affiliated VVA chapter. Contact your Region Director or Kathy Andras if you have any questions regarding elections at kandras@avva.org

I would like to remind everyone that homeless grants are available. Grant forms are on our web site. Nancy Montgomery is chair of the homeless grants program. Contact Nancy at nmontgomery@avva.org ■

2005 AVVA Annual Fellowship Award

BY JUDY BOLIO

It is again time to consider nominations for the Fellowship Award to be presented at the AVVA Leadership Conference in Reno in August. Past recipients were recognized for their work for veterans and their country. We in AVVA want the Fellowship Award to remain a prestigious honor. Honorees who have received the Fellowship Award in the past three years are:

Marge and Loren Herrick
John Kahler and Lynda Greene
Nancy and Charlie Montgomery
Kate Pantorello
Janis Roznowski

The award goes to individuals who go one step beyond. The requirements for nominations are:

1. Applicant must be a current member in good standing of AVVA with no pending disciplinary actions.
2. Applications must be postmarked no later than June 10.
3. Applications must include a report of no less than one page, but no more than two pages, describing the individual's attributes and accomplishments.
4. Application must include documents or articles that reinforce your submission.
5. The Awards Committee is responsible for the selections. All submissions will remain the sole property of the Awards Committee until the AVVA Leadership Conference is closed, at which time submissions will be stored at the national office in Silver Spring, Maryland.
6. Submissions should be sent to:
Judy Bolio, Awards Committee Chair
326-16th Ave.
Silvis, IL 61282-1809



FISHER HOUSE



AVVA is supporting Fisher House, which provides homes away from home for military personnel and their families while they are recuperating from injuries or illness.

We are collecting donations of cash for upkeep of the various Fisher houses and for the construction of additional facilities.

We also would like donations of airline miles to use to fly families to the bedsides of their wounded family members and to fly military personnel to their homes while they are on leave. Our participating partners are American Airlines, Delta Air Lines, Independence Air, Northwest Airlines, Southwest Airlines, and U.S. Airways.

In Reno, AVVA will support Step 2, a transitional housing unit for women and families in recovery. Among the items needed are: toothbrushes, deodorant, shampoo, conditioners, nail files, emery boards, hair ties (scrunchies), lotion, bar soap, and shower gel. Other needs include cleaning supplies, twin bedding, and cash.

Please make checks payable to Project Friendship and stipulate Fisher House or Step 2 in the memo. Checks should be sent or given to AVVA treasurer Sonja Holybee.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Door Keeper's Duties

BY JIM BLOUNT, CHAIR

PURPOSE

To insure the proper credentialing of delegates to the VVA National Convention and to help in the seating of the delegates in accordance with the VVA Constitution.



MEMBERSHIP

The Credentials Committee consists of the nine VVA Regional Directors and a chair nominated by the VVA national President and approved by the VVA National Board of Directors. The national staff liaison is the Director of Membership.

CREDENTIALING

The VVA member strength as of February 28 shall determine both the chapter and state council delegate count for the Convention, in accordance with Article I, Section 6, of the VVA Constitution.

No transfers of VVA members shall be authorized 90 days prior to the start of the Convention until after the end of Convention. Transfers for the purpose of starting new VVA chapters or transfers into a different chapter when a member changes his or her residence may continue.

New delegates attending their first VVA Convention must attach a copy of their DD Form 214 to their convention registration form. Delegates who attended VVA Conventions in 1999, 2001, and 2003, or are life members or state council presidents do not need to attach a copy of their DD-214. All delegates are encouraged to have a copy of their DD-214 with them at the Convention to help answer any potential credentialing questions.

When a chapter elects not to send a delegate, the chapter may transfer the delegate's vote to another eligible VVA member in good standing from any chapter within the chapter's state or the chapter's state council. If a state council elects not to send a delegate, it may transfer the delegate's vote to another eligible VVA member in good standing from any chapter within its state. Transfer authority must be in writing and signed by two chapter officers or, in the case of a state council, signed by two state council officers.

All challenges should be brought to the attention of the Credentials Committee chair. The chair will confer with the applicable regional director, state council president, and VVA membership staff for clarification of a delegate's credentials. If a challenge cannot be resolved at that level, a meeting of the Credentials Committee will convene and arbitrate.

If VVA national has not received a copy of a state council or a chapter's annual financial report, that state council or chapter's delegates will not be credentialed. They will not be allowed on the Convention floor until the annual financial report has been received. Annual financial reports may be turned in at Convention. It is recommended to bring a copy of the annual financial report to the Convention.

The Credentials chair will make an oral report each morning to the assembled delegates notifying them of the total number of delegates seated that day.

SEATING

The Credentials Committee is responsible for setting up delegate chairs on the Convention floor by region and state, according to the number of delegates each state is allotted.

Delegate seating will be assigned by the following procedure: The host region will be assigned the center front section, with the host state seated in the front row or rows. The Credentials chair will then draw numbers (1-9 for each region, except the host region). The first region number drawn will be seated behind the host region, the second region number drawn will be seated behind the prior region, and so on. As soon as the first section is filled, the seating will move to the right section (stage left) and continue as before. When the right section is filled, the left section (stage left) will be seated.

All efforts will be made to keep region seating intact. Adjustments may have to be made in the order drawn depending on the size of the region and the space available. Resolution of this issue is the responsibility of the Credentials chair.

Unassigned seats may be added at the end of each region or state to accommodate delegates expected to be added after the Convention convenes.

continued on page 43

DID YOU SERVE IN A LRRP-LRP-RANGER UNIT?



If so, you are eligible for membership in the 75th Ranger Regiment Association, Inc.

Benefits include access to LRRP-LRP-Ranger gear, health and welfare updates, and a quarterly magazine.

Contact our National Secretary, John Chester, at landline 410-426-1391 or e-mail john.chester3@verizon.net.

Assisting Veterans with VA Disability Claims Appeals Only*

Theodore C. Jarvi
Attorney at Law

Retired JAG - VVA Member
3030 S. Rural Road, Suite 114
Tempe, AZ 85282

Tel: (480) 838-6566
Fax: (480) 838-8810

E-Mail: Theodore.Jarvi@azbar.org

* Federal law prohibits the payment of attorney fees by the veteran for assistance with any VA claim prior to a final, negative Board of Veterans Appeals decision.

eMARINE PX
"NOT YOUR STANDARD ISSUE"
2% of our net sales are donated to a scholarship fund supporting Marine Corps families.
ONLINE STORE FOR USMC SPECIALTIES
WWW.EMARINEPX.COM

Call: 877-915-6772

email: sales@eMarinePX.com

Apparel • Collectibles • Toys
Novelties • Patches • Home Decor
Accessories • Flags • & Much more!

eMarine PX • P.O. Box 6029
Vallejo, CA 94591
Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm pst

The Itch? The Rash? Cracked Dry Skin? Dandruff? Troublesome Skin.

Psoriasis?

Restore your skin to a healthier, clearer state in just days!



- ✓ No steroids
- ✓ No burning
- ✓ Non-prescription
- ✓ Medicated
- ✓ Won't stain clothing
- ✓ Spray goes on like water
- ✓ Safe for all skin types
- ✓ Broad Spectrum Relief
- ✓ Easy application-No oily mess

with tea tree leaf oil



*These results are not typical. Individual results will vary.

The Advanced SkinZinc™ Relief system is a powerful double action medication that can't be matched. The medicated "mist" spray goes on like water to help eliminate the painful, stubborn symptoms of itching, scaling, flaking, redness and other skin irritations. Combine with the feather-light, fast absorbing specially medicated Cream helps eliminate your irritating symptoms of Psoriasis and Dermatitis. As your skin becomes smoother, the SkinZinc Relief System promotes healing and help manage future flare-ups and controls recurrence of your skin irritation.

Call now for a 30-Day Risk-Free Trial of **Advanced SkinZinc™ System**
Mention Discount Code 12B and qualify for **FREE SUPPLY** with your purchase!

1-800-841-7086



*Free Supply with your Purchase offer valid when you call this number only.
Original SkinZinc™ System available at **CVS/pharmacy**



CONVENTION RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

Resolved That...

BY FRED ELLIOTT, CHAIR

Get ready, get set, send in those Convention Resolutions. This year we hope again to improve on the process for submitting, evaluating, presenting, and finalizing Convention Resolutions submitted by you, the members of Vietnam Veterans of America.



Like the committee before us, we are encouraging you to submit resolutions that are workable, concise, and have attainable objectives. We realize that resolutions will range from the feel-good to the serious. We will gladly accept them all, as directed by the VVA Constitution.

Each state council and chapter will receive the "Policies and Procedures" of the 2005 Convention Resolutions Committee to be used as a guide for the submission of resolutions. Included in each package will be an official resolution submission form—the only form acceptable for a submission.

When you are considering a resolution, give it this litmus test: (1) Can this be accomplished through the regular action of the National Board of Directors, my state council, or other VVA leadership? (2) Is this something we are already or should be doing? If so, can we get this accomplished with a simple request of a national officer or director?

If the answer to any one of these questions is "Yes," reconsider submitting your resolution and follow one of the paths described previously. If "No" was the answer, then you should ask yourself: Can we accomplish this without breaking the bank? Does the funding required match the priority of the resolution? Does it fit within the long-range goals of the organization? If you can answer all with a definite "Yes," then bring that resolution to the committee for consideration at the Convention.

Once your resolution has been received at the national office, it will be assigned an official resolution number. A letter of acknowledgment will be sent to the author of the resolution informing him or her of the resolution's assigned number and the committee or task force that it has been referred to for completion. The proposed resolution then will be reviewed by the Resolutions Committee to be sure the official submission form was used, to be sure it was postmarked no later than April 11, 2005, and to be sure the required financial statement of cost and funding is attached when a resolution requires funding. If a proposed resolution passes the committee's review, it will be sent on to the appropriate committee or task force. However, if a proposed resolution is found to be incomplete, it will be returned to the author by certified mail, return receipt requested. You will then have until April 11, 2005, to resubmit your resolution.

The National Board of Directors will be presented the proposed resolutions at its April 2005 meeting for review and comments. A final package of resolutions with a committee and task force recommended action for each proposed resolution will be sent to all state councils and chapters by first-class mail no later than June 10, 2005.

At the Convention, committee hearings will be held to allow the committees, task forces, and delegates to review all resolutions pertaining to particular committees and task forces before the resolutions are presented to the delegates on the Convention floor.

The 2005 Convention Resolutions Committee is chaired by Fred Elliott. The other members are Darrol Brown, Region 9 Director; Lee Fisher, At-large Director; Ned Foote, NYSC Treasurer; and Sharon Hodge, Staff Coordinator. ■

REGION 6 REPORT

Opportunity Knocks

BY STEVE HOUSE

With another year in front of us, another year of opportunity presents itself. Take time to be proud of the past year's accomplishments and start planning for new projects. Every year seems to give us new challenges as we carry the torches forward from the past.



Al Gibson, Missouri State Council president and the chair of VVA's Employment, Training & Business Opportunities Committee, continues to provide us updates. He wants to hear from you if your state has new, interesting, and important programs in this area. Send him an e-mail, Agibson@vva.org, and he will include it in his updates.

New State Council presidents include Ed Gaudet from Iowa. I attended a meeting in Marshalltown, and it was organized, efficient, and orderly. Good job, Iowa. Wisconsin also has a new State Council president: me. Yes, with my retirement, I decided I would have the time to commit to the region and my state. Wisconsin has a new program called "Mission Welcome Home." It's a statewide effort to support our newest generation of veterans. VSOs, the state, and other governmental agencies—along with businesses and citizens—are joining together to help new veterans get what they have earned.

Our seasoned presidents—Mike Kuhn from Kansas, Jerry Kyser from Minnesota, Dottie Barickman from Nebraska, Dan Stenvold from North Dakota, and Al Gibson from Missouri—will be there for us, always willing to share their experiences from their many years of hard work.

A regional meeting is scheduled for April 29, 30, and May 1 in Milwaukee. The meeting begins on Saturday and concludes early Sunday morning. All candidates running for national office are invited. They will be asked to address our region. There will also be a 30-year commemoration of the end of the Vietnam War. Call to make your reservation at the Holiday Inn City Center, 414-273-2950. Rates are \$69 per night. The group name is Vietnam Veterans of America. Hope to see many of you at this meeting. ■

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA 2005 PROPOSED CONVENTION RESOLUTION

Attention: Resolutions must be received or postmarked no later than April 11, 2005

INDIVIDUAL SUBMITTING RESOLUTION: (PLEASE PRINT) DATE: _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____ Email _____

Has this Resolution been endorsed by a Chapter? _____ If yes, What Chapter? _____

Date endorsed by Chapter Board _____ By Chapter Membership _____

Has this Resolution been endorsed by a State Council? _____ If yes, what State? _____

Date endorsed by State Council delegates _____

RESOLUTION INFORMATION

Responsible Committee: Agent Orange ___ ETaBO ___ Gov't Affairs ___ Membership ___ Minority ___

POW/MIA ___ Public Affairs ___ Benefits ___ Veterans Affairs ___ Incarcerated ___ PTSD ___ Women ___

Homeless ___ Community Svc ___ Healthcare ___ Veterans Initiative ___ Other _____

Is this a revision of an existing Resolution ___yes ___no If yes, number of existing resolution _____

ISSUE _____

BACKGROUND _____

PROPOSED POSITION _____

NOTE: A statement of total expected expenditures for implementation of the Resolution **must** be attached

Proposed 2005 Convention Resolutions **MUST** be received or postmarked no later than April 11, 2005. Mail or fax to: Vietnam Veterans of America, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring 20910, Attn: Sharon Hodge, Resolutions Committee or Fax (301) 585-0519 or Email: shodge@vva.org
Reminder: This form **MUST** be used for submission of all 2005 Proposed Convention Resolutions. If additional space is needed and/or supporting documents are appropriate, please attach to this form.

Colon Cancer.
Get the test.
Get the polyp.
Get the cure.



1-800-ACS-2345 or cancer.org



ELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Let The Games Begin

BY JOHN KAHLER, CHAIR

Vietnam Veterans of America will conduct its election of all National Officer and Board positions during the 12th National Convention. The Convention will be held August 9-14, 2005, in Reno, Nevada.

POSITIONS OPEN FOR ELECTION

VVA National President, VVA National Vice President, VVA National Secretary, VVA National Treasurer, VVA National Board Of Directors (At-large) [All Ten Seats], VVA National Board Of Directors (Regional) [All Nine Seats].

TERM OF OFFICE

All National Officer and National Board positions are for terms of two years, beginning at the close of the 2005 National Convention, through the close of the 2007 Convention.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates for all positions open for election must be individual members of VVA in good standing. Candidates for any of the National Officer positions must meet the requirements to hold office, as set down in the VVA National Constitution, under Article I, Section 5, Paragraph A, as revised August 1, 2003.

To Wit: "To qualify for election... to any of these offices a candidate must have been an individual member of the Corporation, in good standing, for a continuous period of (1) not less than twelve months immediately preceding the opening of the National Convention at which such candidate seeks election;... and such candidate must have held a position as an officer or board member at the National level or as an officer at the State Council or Chapter level, during any continuous period of twelve months prior to the date of the opening of the National Convention at which such candidate seeks election."

Candidates for At-large and Regional Board of Directors must meet the requirements to hold office as set down in the VVA National Constitution, Article I, Section 4, Paragraph B (1 and 2) for Regional Directors and Article I, Section 4, Paragraph B (1 and 3) for At-large Directors as revised August 1, 2003.

To Wit: "To qualify for election, a candidate must have been a member of the Corporation, in good standing, for a continuous period of not less than the twelve months immediately preceding the opening of the National Convention at which candidate seeks election.... The candidate must have held an elected position at the national, state, or chapter level, for any continuous period of twelve months prior to the date of the opening of the National Convention."

Candidates for Regional Board positions must reside within the region they wish to represent.

ANNOUNCEMENT DATES

The time period this election announcement covers is from October 22, 2004, to March 31, 2005.

LETTER OF INTENT

A prospective candidate must submit a Letter of Intent to the VVA Elections Committee, providing his or her name, address, phone number (home and work), and the position he or she is a candidate for.

A prospective candidate may announce and run for only one position.

With regard to the paragraph entitled "Eligibility," prospective candidates for National Officer and Board positions must include in the Letter of Intent a signed statement that includes the National, State Council, or Chapter positions they have held and the dates they held these positions.

The Elections Committee is accepting Letters of Intent at the following address: VVA ELECTIONS COMMITTEE, 5500 Olympic Dr., A-105, Box 143, Gig Harbor, WA 98335.

IMPORTANT NOTES

Those who plan to run for an elected position from the floor at the Convention cannot distribute any campaign materials or announce or campaign on any web site, including their own, or accept any authorized contributions prior to

continued on page 42

AMERICAS MILITARY MALL
OFFERING THE INTERNET'S LARGEST MILITARY SELECTION
www.americasmilitarymall.com



Military Items Galore, Plus
Discounts, Reunion Information,
Unit Home Pages and More



ALL AT ONE LOCATION FOR YOUR
ONE STOP INTERNET SHOPPING CONVENIENCE

"ENTERTAINING VIETNAM"

an award winning documentary by Mara Wallis

"...compelling...topnotch documentary." VVA Veteran
"...a rapid-fire recounting of little-known performers cheering up isolated posts."
Savannah Morning News.
"...performers who went places where Bob Hope and Twiggy wouldn't be caught..."
Santa Fe New Mexican
"Bob Hope was not the only one who entertained the troops...an excellent piece of work." www.nooniefortin.com/moviereviews.htm
Now available \$29.95 at www.entertainingvietnam.com or 1-888-232-0439



#1041
\$4.95

#0125

\$1.95



#0994 \$8.95

Veterans Collectibles™

By Mail: Veterans Collectibles™
P.O. Box 17416, Baltimore, MD 21297
By Phone: 1-800-NAM-VETS (1-800-626-8387) 9 am - 4 pm (ET)
By FAX: 1-888-919-VETS (1-888-919-8387)
Website: www.veteranscollectibles.com

VETERANS BENEFITS APPEALS

Appeals of Veterans benefits claims denied by the Board of Veterans Appeals in the last 120 days
ALSO Medical Malpractice and Grievous Personal Injury Claims

Peter J. Meadows
Attorney At Law

Mr. Meadows is a member of the Florida Bar and is Licensed to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals For Veterans Claims

Vose & Meadows
Phone (954) 462-4323
1-800-868-2813

1314 E. Las Olas Blvd., Suite 1088
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301

* The hiring of a lawyer is an important decision and should not be made only on the basis of advertising

VIETNAM TOURS

Panorama of Vietnam • \$2,542

March 12-27: Hanoi to the Delta

III Corps Tour • \$2,240

Oct 16-24: Saigon, Vung Tau, Cu Chi, Tay Ninh, etc.

Central Highlands Tour • \$2,725

Oct 20-30: Saigon, Pleiku, Kontum, Dak To, An Khe, Quy Nhon, Nha Trang, etc.

Mekong Delta Tour • \$1,965

Nov. 1-10: Saigon, Tan An, My Tho, Can Tho, Camu, etc.

Another 82nd Airborne Tour • \$2,583

Nov. 1-10: Hanoi, Hue & I Corps, Saigon to Tay Ninh, etc.

Thailand Tour • *Send for brochure!*

Nov. 28 - Dec 7: Bangkok, U-Tapao, Pattaya, etc.

Airfare • Hotels • Ground transport, English speaking guide & more! Send for a free brochure today!

Vietnam Veteran Owned and Operated



MiSpec Tours

Dept. VN, Post Office Box 340
Flourtown, PA 19031 • 1-215-248-2572
Email: Gomilspec@aol.com
Webpage: gomilspec.com



"Soar with the Eagles"



All Screaming Eagle veterans are invited to link up with your former buddies and your Division's proud heritage as we support the young troopers of today as they carry out their current rendezvous with destiny. Get involved, renew your ties, and rejoin our "Band of Brothers"!

"Once an Eagle, always an Eagle"

Check our website at www.screamingeagle.org or contact the 101st Airborne Division Association at 101stairbornedivisionassociation@comcast.net or 270.439.0445.

101st Airborne Division Association
P.O. Box 929
Fort Campbell, KY 42223

WARRIORS: A TRADITION OF SERVICE

WILLIAM D. WHALEY, FATHER AND SON

In 1965, VVA Buckeye State Council President William D. (Dave) Whaley, Sr., served with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, outside Danang. His namesake, William D. (David) Whaley, Jr., serves with the 82nd Airborne Division. He fought in Afghanistan and went to Fallujah, Iraq, twice. He currently is serving with the Ohio National Guard in Columbus.



William Whaley, Sr., in Vietnam.



William Whaley, Jr., in Iraq



WOULD YOU SEARCH YOUR MEMORY FOR A WAR CASUALTY?

WOULD YOU LOOK BACK TO A TIME LONG AGO?

What is the Veterans Initiative?

A humanitarian, veteran-to-veteran effort to help gain more information about American POW/MIAs still unaccounted for by providing information about Vietnam's war casualties to the Vietnamese Veterans Association.

What kind of information is needed?

Letters, diaries, photos, other personal items taken from dead or captured Vietcong or NVA regulars, or topographic or hand-drawn maps of burial sites.

How can I help?

Please complete this form to the best of your ability, and send this and any other information you may have to VVA, c/o Veterans Initiative. Please provide as much detail as possible. Originals or readable copies are acceptable, as are anonymous submissions. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

If you know other Vietnam veterans who may have information, please copy this form and send it to them. Please send all Veterans Initiative information to VVA by registered mail, FedEx, or UPS.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
c/o Veterans Initiative
8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3710
301-585-4000

THE VETERANS INITIATIVE NEEDS YOUR HELP

VETERANS INITIATIVE INFORMATION FORM

(please print) _____ Today's date _____

Your name _____ Phone number(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Description of item _____

Location of incident _____ Date of incident _____

Province _____ VC or NVA unit _____

District or nearest village _____ U.S. unit _____

Map coordinates _____ Military Region _____

Name(s) of VC or NVA, if known _____

If grave site, number of remains _____

Other relevant information (attach additional pages as necessary) _____

Where did you learn of the Veterans Initiative? (Check the most appropriate box)

The VVA Veteran newspaper A VVA member A VVA chapter

Local media Other _____

The Needle ^{and the} Damage Done

Vaccinating America's Soldiers

By Richard Currey

Army medic Michael Berger was told he would be at Walter Reed National Army Medical Center “for a couple weeks, for a check-up and a few tests. And then,” he said, “they told me I’d be on my way home.”

Berger reported to Walter Reed on February 17, 2004—and he has been there ever since.

One year earlier, in February 2003, Berger reported for active duty after being called up from his home in Marquette, Michigan. A 50-year-old staff sergeant with 20 continuous years of service in National Guard units and the Army Reserve, Berger was assigned to the 452nd Combat Support Hospital out of Milwaukee and sent to Ft. McCoy, Wisconsin, where he launched into “SRP,” the Soldier Readiness Program.

“We were headed overseas,” Berger said, “into the sand.” Although he wondered how he might fare serving next to soldiers in their twenties, Berger was fit, a runner, and a senior NCO with years of experience in medical care. He was fully prepared to do his part. An enthusiastic participant in the mobilization process, Berger volunteered for instructional duties. He met the other soldiers in the unit, including a lively young specialist named Rachel Lacy.

In short order, the soldiers of the 452nd underwent a day of paperwork, including a detailed medical history. With a strong family history of cardiovascular disease, including the loss of his mother to a heart attack at age 43 and a brother who suffered a stroke in his early forties, Berger underwent a heart catheterization procedure in 1996. “My doctor thought I should have the test because of my family history,” he said. “And the results were negative. I wrote it all down on my medical history form at Ft. McCoy. But if anybody took note of that history or thought it represented any sort of concern or risk, I never heard about it.”

A month after arriving at Ft. McCoy, in March 2003, Berger received the standard battery of inoculations administered to soldiers preparing for overseas deployment. The battery included vaccines for anthrax and smallpox, as well as several other infectious diseases.

Within 48 hours, Berger was feeling “lousy.” It was as if, he said, “I was working on a case of the flu. Along with that, I was experiencing some shortness of breath and a heaviness in my chest. I figured it was the vaccinations, but just in case, I checked in for sick call at the TMC—the troop medical center.” Doctors gave Berger a “cold pack” (a standard collection of medica-

tions to relieve symptoms of colds and flu), and he returned to duty.

Another week passed with no significant improvement in his condition. If anything, he was worse. In addition to chest heaviness and breathing difficulties, Berger said he “felt constantly exhausted.” He returned to the TMC but was merely advised to “let the medications work.”

The symptoms persisted over the next two weeks, but Berger dismissed his discomfort as the physical stress of keeping up with younger soldiers. On April 1 he was in the field, in the midst of a training exercise and about to conduct a class on intravenous fluid administration. Inside the tent where he was slated to teach the class, his symptoms suddenly worsened. “I just couldn’t catch my breath. I was feeling weak, light-headed, and dizzy.” Within another few minutes “things got a little hazy,” and Berger said he “went down on one knee. I told the guys around me, ‘I think I’m in trouble.’ And sure enough I was. All of a sudden it was as if I had a thousand pounds on my chest. It was the textbook version of a heart attack.”

Berger was evacuated to a hospital in nearby La Crosse, Wisconsin, where the heart attack diagnosis was confirmed. He was placed in the hospital’s coronary care unit. Tests done the following day revealed that Berger had almost complete obstruction of a major artery supplying his heart. A stent was placed in the clogged artery, and the attending cardiologist contacted Ft. McCoy regarding Berger’s disposition.

The cardiologist was told that appropriate cardiac rehabilitation services were available at Ft. McCoy, and he released Berger back to the Army’s care. But when Berger returned to Ft. McCoy on April 4, he quickly learned there was, in fact, no cardiac rehab program of any sort on the base. The point quickly became moot, since Berger was placed on convalescent leave the following day. He was instructed to call his family and “get someone to come down and pick you up.”

Berger realized there was no treatment plan, no doctor, and no rehab in store for him. “They had no idea what to do with me,” he said. “I guess it was easier for the Army to put me on medical leave and get me out of there. Then my health problems were my own.”

What Berger did not know was that Rachel Lacy, the young soldier he met when he first arrived at Ft. McCoy—and who received the same battery of vaccines—had died following the abrupt onset of debilitating respiratory symptoms. She was, like Berger, evacuated by ambulance to La Crosse where the first civilian physician to see her immediately suspected she was suffering from a vaccine reaction.

Berger, unaware of her death as he traveled north, found himself “lying on the backseat of the car, in pain, undermedicated, five days out from a major heart attack, on my way home to no specific care or doctor and unsure of my Army status.” He felt reject-



ILLUSTRATION: WILLIAM L. BROWN

continued on next page

The Needle and the Damage Done

continued from previous page

ed by an institution he had served for 20 years, and he traveled with an anxious uncertainty about what might happen to him in the weeks to come.

There was still more Berger was unaware of at the time he huddled in the backseat of his family car on the long ride home. On March 18—two weeks after Berger was immunized at Ft. McCoy—an American Indian nurse named Deerheart Cornitcher received the smallpox vaccine at Peninsula Regional Medical Center in Salisbury, Maryland. That evening she felt nauseated and attributed it to a minor vaccine reaction or, possibly, a mild case of food poisoning. Five days later she was dead of a heart attack.

Cornitcher was among seven health professionals vaccinated as part of a civilian readiness program, all of whom developed post-vaccine problems. Another vaccine recipient suffered a heart attack but survived, two developed inflammation of the lining around the heart, and two developed angina, the type of chest pain associated with heart disease.

Three days after Cornitcher's death, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a national health advisory regarding smallpox vaccine and the apparent risk of associated heart problems. The advisory recommended that "persons with known cardiac disease not be vaccinated."

Civilian smallpox vaccination efforts were suspended throughout most of the country. On March 28, three days before Michael Berger suffered a heart attack, the CDC issued a formal report on adverse cardiac effects in association with the smallpox vaccine. On that same day, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)—the nation's presiding arbiter for policies related to vaccine safety—held an emergency meeting. ACIP did not restrict its assessment to civilian programs, noting that 10 cases of myopericarditis (heart inflammation) already had been reported among the 240,000 primary military vaccinees.

ACIP called the post-vaccine rate of illness in the military "substantially elevated," and found "a causal relation between [heart inflammation] and smallpox vaccination. Persons receiving smallpox vaccine should be informed that [heart ailments] are a potential complication of smallpox vaccination and they should seek medical attention if they develop chest pain, shortness of breath, or other symptoms of cardiac disease within two weeks after vaccination."

Meanwhile, the autopsy report on Rachel Lacy noted that her death was, in all probability, related to a severe vaccine reaction. Her death certificate cites "post-vaccination pericarditis" as an underlying cause of death. It also includes "recent smallpox and anthrax vaccinations" as a contributing factor.

At the time Michael Berger had a heart attack, a national smallpox vaccine advisory was in effect and the smallpox story had been carried by all wire services, CNN, and covered in hundreds of newspapers, as well as on many professional medical web sites. But if medical officers at Ft. McCoy knew anything about the controversy, the newly issued directives from both the CDC and ACIP, or the results of Rachel Lacy's autopsy, Berger said he—a medic assigned to a combat support hospital—heard nothing about any of it.

While on convalescent leave, Berger received a call from Ft. McCoy advising him to be back by May 6, at which time he would be transferred to Ft. Knox, Kentucky, where, he was told, "they have the facilities to handle your kind of case." A good thing, he thought, because he had visited the local ER with chest pain twice while he was home, afraid both times he was having another heart attack.

The ride from Ft. McCoy to Ft. Knox took nine hours on a rickety Army bus, which arrived at a barracks Berger characterized as "World War II vintage." There wasn't room enough in that building for the entire group, so Berger and a few other soldiers were taken to a second building which was padlocked—with a condemned sign nailed to the door. Finally, at a third building, Berger was billeted on the third floor where, despite his post-heart attack status, he had to struggle up three flights of stairs with his duffel bag.

Although Berger had been advised that Ft. Knox was "where I would get the best care available," he quickly learned there was no cardiologist assigned to the base, nor was there a cardiac rehab program. In fact, there were inadequate numbers of Army doctors in general, and a civilian contract physician handled Berger's case.



Michael Berger

Hired just days before Berger's arrival, the doctor had received no orientation on Army medical policies. Although sympathetic to Berger's predicament, he felt there was little he could do. A civilian cardiologist, however, visited the base, although he was a specialist in heart disease in children. Still, that doctor renewed Berger's medications and prescribed an exercise regimen. As he performed his examination, the doctor happened to inquire if Berger had ever received either smallpox or anthrax vaccinations.

Berger said that he had.

"The doctor told me it looked like the vaccines that some of us soldiers got might not be all that safe," Berger said. The doctor added that with Berger's family history of heart disease, "he was surprised the

Army gave me the shots at all." Berger had heard something to this effect when he had follow-up care in La Crosse before shipping out to Ft. Knox, but this cardiologist seemed to speak with greater certainty. "I asked the doctor what was going on, and he told me there was evidence of a strong correlation between a family history of heart problems and bad, even fatal, reactions to the smallpox vaccine."

During Michael Berger's frustrating summer in Kentucky, medical hold living conditions similar to those at Ft. Knox were revealed on other bases, and the military vaccine issue became more convoluted and contentious.

In addition to the connection between smallpox and heart disease, the anthrax vaccine was implicated in a parade of catastrophic health effects, including an abrupt and lethal pneumonia, heart failure, and blood disorders. In May, as Berger was en route to Ft. Knox, Judge Emmet G. Sullivan, a federal judge in Washington, D.C., ordered the Department of Defense to stop using anthrax vaccine on the grounds that it was an experimental drug.

The vaccine (the same one that was used in the first Gulf War) never cleared U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) standards for human use before it was administered to thousands of military men and women. Those recipients were given the vaccine without their awareness or consent, a flagrant violation of federal guidelines regulating the use of experimental drugs or medicines in human subjects. The FDA, how-

"The doctor said there was evidence of a strong correlation between a family history of heart problems and bad, even fatal, reactions to the smallpox vaccine."

ever, outflanked the court order on a bureaucratic technicality, solicited no public comment, and quietly reapproved the vaccine.

By late July, the military vaccine program had notched a trail of questionable deaths and chronic illnesses, along with the outrage of those who were finding themselves the targets of disciplinary proceedings, even courts-martial, for refusing smallpox or anthrax vaccines. As soldiers and their families began to alert congressmen and senators, Assistant Secretary of Defense William Winkenwerder, Jr., reported that the Army had identified 37 cases of heart inflammation in the wake of smallpox vaccination—but no deaths.

Rachel Lacy's death, it seemed, was still categorized as "unexplained" by DoD. But in early August, Rachel's father told a UPI reporter that he was convinced a proper investigation into the cause of his

daughter's death was being blocked by the Army. He believed his daughter died as a result of the smallpox vaccine, and the Army was stonewalling in an attempt to avoid the criticism such a revelation might bring.

Rachel Lacy's father was seconded in this opinion by Dr. Jeffrey Sartin, a physician who cared for Rachel early in the course of her illness. Sartin, an infectious disease specialist based in La Crosse—at the same hospital where Michael Berger was taken after he collapsed at Ft. McCoy—said he believed that Rachel Lacy's illness and death should be classified as vaccine related. "If she had been a civilian," Sartin said, "the case would almost certainly have been reported as such."

At the same time, conditions in medical hold facilities at several bases were reaching a breaking point. In the course of his stay at Ft. Knox, Berger recalled living in a decrepit barracks some 60 years old that featured a roof open to the elements. Buckets dotted the floor during thunderstorms. When base authorities failed to respond to complaints, two soldiers from the company—both on patient status—climbed onto the roof and positioned a tarp. "Before they put the tarp up," Berger said, "you could see the stars at night through that hole."

Michael Berger's living conditions at Ft. Knox proved to be symptomatic of overwhelmed Army medical facilities in general, a system that seemed to be grossly unprepared for the many wounded and ill soldiers who would inevitably be returning from a combat theater—or whose illnesses, like Berger's, would keep them from deployment. UPI reporter Mark Benjamin, in a series of articles that brought him a prestigious journalism prize, detailed med-hold barracks in such poor repair that they were in danger of collapse, and waits for doctor appointments and therapy stretching out four to six months and longer. Benjamin wrote that "in nearly two dozen interviews" soldiers consistently "described substandard living conditions" and interminable waits for any kind of medical attention.

After being at Ft. Knox for nearly eight months (during which time all his heart care was delivered by contract civilian doctors), a medical board found Mike Berger unfit for duty. He was offered a ten percent disability. Berger objected, noting that "a ten percent disability wouldn't even cover the cost of medications I have to take for the rest of my life. Plus ten percent doesn't entitle me to full VA care." Berger thought that, since he had suffered his illness in the line of duty—and very possibly in direct connection with vaccines the Army had ordered him to take—he deserved more support in managing the results.

"But," Berger said, "the med board told me, in so many words, that this wasn't their problem."

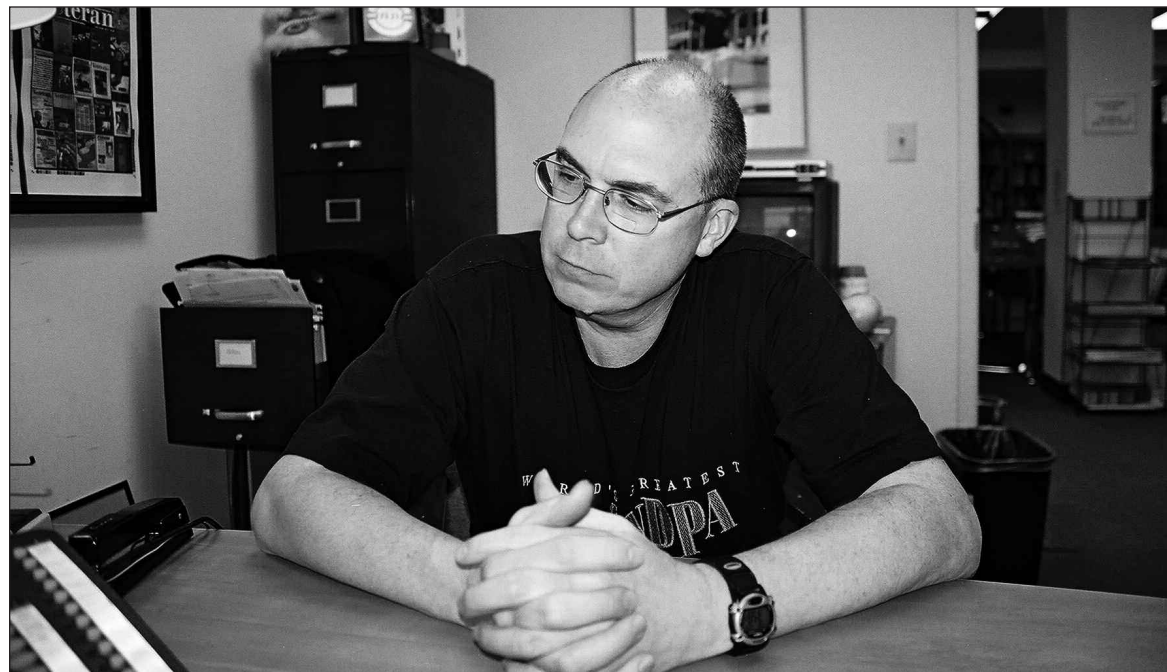
Berger fought the decision, but the board refused to budge. By this time he had been officially classified as a "vaccine reactor," and while the board acknowledged his heart problems "could have been caused by the smallpox vaccine," there was clearly no chance of improving their offer. Berger reluctantly accepted the package and returned to Ft. McCoy for his discharge.

Just two days before Berger was to pick up his discharge papers, he had a phone call from Janette Williams, a case manager at Walter Reed's National Vaccine Healthcare Center. "She knew a lot about me," Berger said. "But I'd never met her or spoken to her. She told me that from my records it looked like I was a possible positive smallpox reactor and the Army would like to bring me up to Reed for a few days of study."

Although Williams told Berger he was free to decline her offer, she also advised him that his DD-

214 "was unavailable" and his medical board decision had been rescinded. Which meant that, despite the suggestion that Berger had a choice in the matter, he had no real option except to report to Walter Reed. Still, Berger recalled, "Ms. Williams said I'd only be here for a couple of weeks to a month. Just a few tests, and I'd be on my way."

Around this time the Army issued a statement that vaccines "might have led to the death of Rachel Lacy," and Sen. Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.) introduced a Senate resolution calling on Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld to "review the military vaccine program amid growing reports of serious side effects."



Michael Berger enjoyed the holiday season at home with his family in Michigan, and reported as ordered to Walter Reed on February 17, 2004, where his "two-week stay" now approaches a year.

And in that time his heart condition continued to deteriorate.

Berger has characterized his care at Walter Reed as "first rate," even as his medical condition worsens. Now struggling with leakage in two heart valves and the re-closing of the artery that was stented after his heart attack, he takes several medications and has been told by his doctor that adhering to this regimen will give him "a normal lifestyle for three to five years."

Mike Berger has entered the medical territory where doctors can watch, monitor, and intervene when necessary—but do little or nothing to turn back the course of disease.

And just when he thought he understood the medical verdict and the challenges ahead, Berger was dealt another blow. In view of his declining health, Berger requested a reevaluation of his earlier medical board decision. "My condition is worse than it was at Ft. Knox," Berger said. "Nobody denies anymore that my problems are related to the smallpox—and possibly the anthrax—vaccines. My doctor tells me that I can anticipate a so-called normal life for only three to five more years."

It seemed reasonable to revisit the disability question, and a hearing was scheduled for November 23. But there was never any actual hearing. Berger was never given the opportunity to offer testimony. He was never even called into the hearing room. After Berger waited in a corridor for seven hours, his attorney finally spoke, alone, to the hearing officer. "My lawyer told me that my disability was sticking at ten percent,

and that if I argued about it, the board would rescind the offer and put me back on active duty."

Berger asked his lawyer if he could accept but file an objection in writing. That counteroffer earned the same threat to rescind the disability and return Berger to active-duty status.

"I recognized this was probably an empty threat," Berger said, "but the fact that the Army thought intimidation was either needed or justified—I've kept the faith, followed orders, gone where they sent me, cooperated with all medical instructions, participated in the program here at Reed. I've given the Army its due at every step of the way. But enough is enough."

Berger signed off on the medical board's decision, "under duress," as he put it—but he also contacted the office of Sen. Debbie A. Stabenow (D-Mich.), who launched a formal inquiry into his case.

Michael Berger's continuing story is emblematic not only of an Army vaccine program gone awry, but the deeper confusions and missteps that plague the use of vaccines in the military at large. Service personnel are ordered to receive immunizations that are judged to be in their best interests—and also in the best interests of the service. This stance is rooted in the very essence of command, where the good of the many always supercedes the good of a few, and the primacy of the mission is all.

Yet the fact remains that, at least since the first Gulf War, vaccines have been administered to U.S. troops that were not approved for human use and carried significant questions about safety and even their ability to induce immunity. Any soldier might question the wisdom of receiving vaccines that never cleared standard FDA guidelines, or carry known health risks for a significant percentage of individuals, or have only marginal capacities to confer immunity to any biological agent that might conceivably be used in a combat scenario.

Michael Berger recalled what all of us who served in any branch of the military recall: there is no written or verbal "consent to treat" in military medical settings. There is no opportunity to discuss or opt out of "shot day" in recruit training or during mobilization. And if all recruits are men in their late teens or early twenties who are "vaccine-naïve" (as was often the case through the Vietnam era) many less-adverse reactions are seen.

continued on page 43

CALENDAR

VVA National, Regional, and State Meetings

EVENT	DATE	PLACE	CONTACT
California State Council Meeting	February 25-27, 2005	Fresno, California	Ken Holybee State Council President
Virginia State Council Meeting	March 4-6, 2005	Roanoke, Virginia	Charlie Montgomery State Council President
Pennsylvania State Council Meeting	March 5-6, 2005	State College, Pennsylvania	Jeff White State Council President
Kansas State Council Meeting	March 6, 2005	To Be Announced	Mike Kuhn State Council President
Florida State Council Meeting	March 11-13, 2005	St. Petersburg/Clearwater, Florida	Craig Tonjes State Council President
New York State Council Meeting	March 11-13, 2005	Owego Treadway Owego, New York	John Rowan State Council President
Indiana State Council Meeting	March 19, 2005	Indianapolis, Indiana	Pat Bessigamo State Council President
Region 3 Conference	March 31-April 3, 2005	Hilton Wilmington Riverside Wilmington, Delaware	Bruce Whitaker Region 3 Director
Kansas State Council Meeting	April 3, 2005	To Be Announced	Mike Kuhn State Council President
Nebraska State Council Meeting	April 3, 2005	American Legion Omaha, Nebraska	Dottie Barickman State Council President
Alabama State Council Meeting	April 9, 2005	Clanton, Alabama	Wayne Reynolds State Council President
Indiana State Council Meeting	April 16, 2005	Indianapolis, Indiana	Pat Bessigamo State Council President
Board of Directors and Conference of State Council Presidents Meeting	April 21-23, 2005	Silver Spring, Maryland	VVA National Office
Idaho State Council Meeting	May 5, 2005	Ada County Veterans Memorial Building Meridian, Idaho	Donald McDole State Council President
Kansas State Council Meeting	May 8, 2005	To Be Announced	Mike Kuhn State Council President
California State Council Meeting	May 13-15, 2005	Fresno, California	Ken Holybee State Council President
Indiana State Council Meeting	May 21, 2005	Indianapolis, Indiana	Pat Bessigamo State Council President
Kansas State Council Meeting	June 9, 2005	To Be Announced	Mike Kuhn State Council President
Alabama State Council Meeting	June 9, 2005	Tuscaloosa, Alabama	Wayne Reynolds State Council President
Florida State Council Meeting	June 10-12, 2005	West Palm Beach, Florida	Craig Tonjes State Council President
Virginia State Council Meeting	June 10-12, 2005	Galax, Virginia	Charlie Montgomery State Council President
North Carolina State Council Meeting	June 19, 2005	To Be Announced	Paul Crowell State Council President
Pennsylvania State Council Meeting	June 25-26, 2005	State College, Pennsylvania	Jeff White State Council President
Indiana State Council Meeting	June 28, 2005	Indianapolis, Indiana	Pat Bessigamo State Council President
Twelfth National Convention	August 9-14, 2005	Silver Legacy Reno, Nevada	VVA National Office
Indiana State Council Meeting	August 20, 2005	Indianapolis, Indiana	Pat Bessigamo State Council President
Florida State Council Meeting	September 9-11, 2005	Kissimmee/St. Cloud, Florida	Craig Tonjes State Council President

Send additions to the calendar to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Attn: Calendar, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3710

BY JIM BELSHAW

As art often does, VVA member Les Fordahl's sketches invite the viewer into his images. Drawn largely in pencil, the scenes evoke a time and a place whose details will come easily to those who are intimate with them. But even the casual viewer will have little problem inserting himself into the artist's world. The Vietnam War is woven into the fabric of America, and Fordahl's art takes us back to it.

A two-man crew working in a gun emplacement. Houses built on stilts on a riverbank and shaded by palm trees. A hootch with a bare light bulb overhead and cans of Coke nearby. A close-up of a Huey crew. A denuded landscape with concertina wire stretching around its perimeter. Grunts with weapons walking toward helicopters. A Chinook flying over an empty, battle-scarred ground. A row of small Vietnamese river boats lined up along a dock. A Donut Dolly. Sandbag bunkers on a firebase. A Special Forces camp near the Cambodia border.

"I drew the war," Fordahl said. "I sat on firebases and sketched. I sketched on the streets. I sketched on the rivers. Wherever I was."

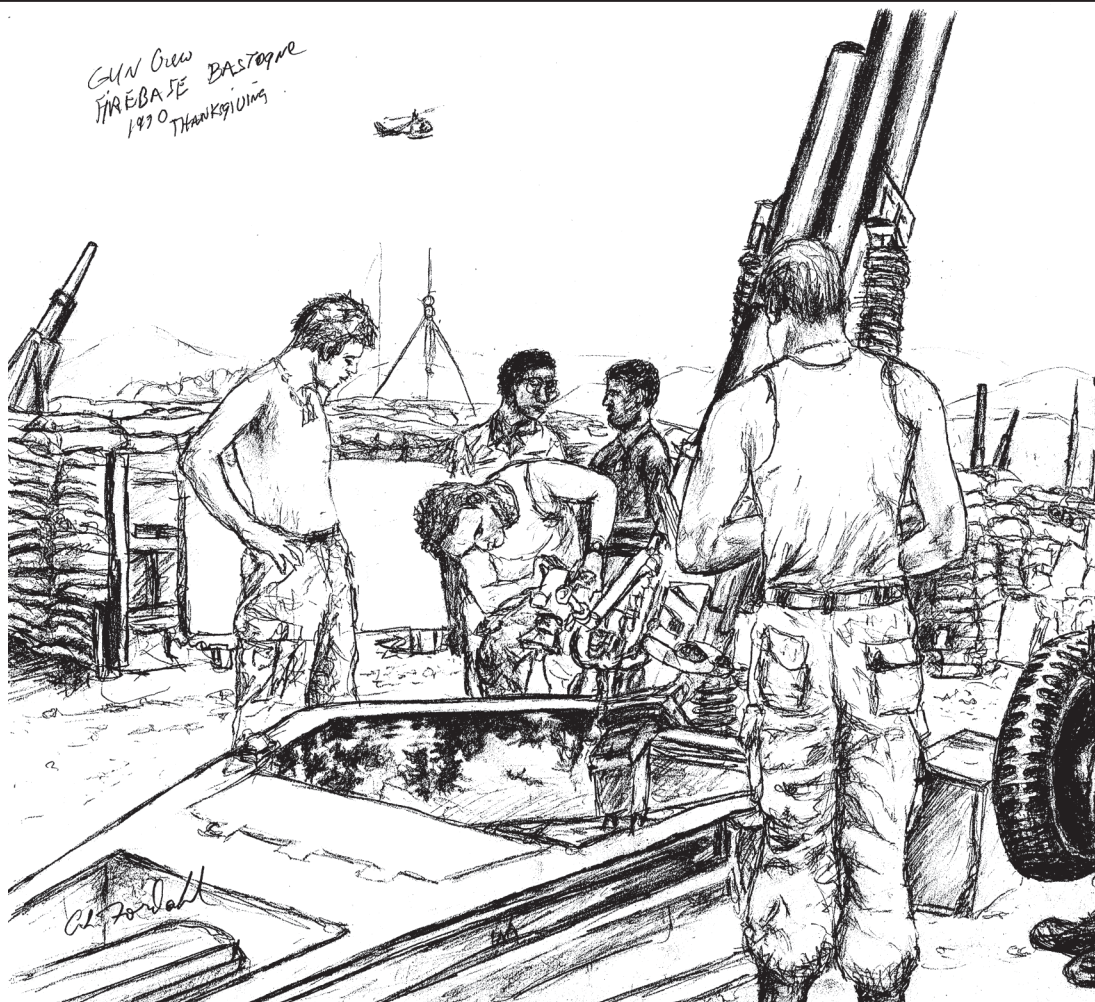
The artist's path to Vietnam wasn't drawn in a straight line. After high school and a year of commercial art training, he went into the Army and initially was assigned to train for the Army Security Agency. ("Spooks," he said.) But an inexplicable and temporary bout of deafness washed him out of spook school.

Declining a medical discharge, Fordahl transferred to the ASA art department at a base in Virginia. His interest in art went back a long way

"I was eight years old when I started sketching," he said. "Then I went to painting by the numbers and then painting without the numbers."

Fordahl's first commissioned artwork, a waterfall landscape, came when he was 14 years old. A woman in his neighborhood paid him handsomely to do the painting.

He worked for six months at the ASA base as a draftsman/illustrator. Then it was on to Europe and, finally, Vietnam in 1969. His first six months were at Cam Ranh Bay, where Fordahl worked on communication system charts. When that assignment came to an end, he was asked where he wanted to go.



Carl "Les" Fordahl

HE DREW THE WAR



"I knew guys in the Combat Arts section," he said. "I'd already started sketching on my own. I got transferred to the section. We had a four-man team that traveled all over Vietnam."

Pleased to be doing the work, a question remained: Why was he doing the work?

"I assumed it was historical," Fordahl said. "We were unit combat artists. Working in the war environment provides unique challenges for an artist. There were times when other matters took precedence over art."

"I did a painting of junks on the Saigon River," he said. "There was an intelligence building in the background. I had to remove all the identifying marks from the painting. It ended up a nice scene of Vietnamese junks. It had a Renaissance look. But it didn't have an intelligence building in it."

continued on next page

HE DREW THE WAR

continued from previous page

At the firebases, the artists drew straws to see who would go on ground operations or ride in the helicopters or stay at the firebase to work. From Firebase Bastogne, Fordahl brought back a memory that stays with him, though it was not something he drew.

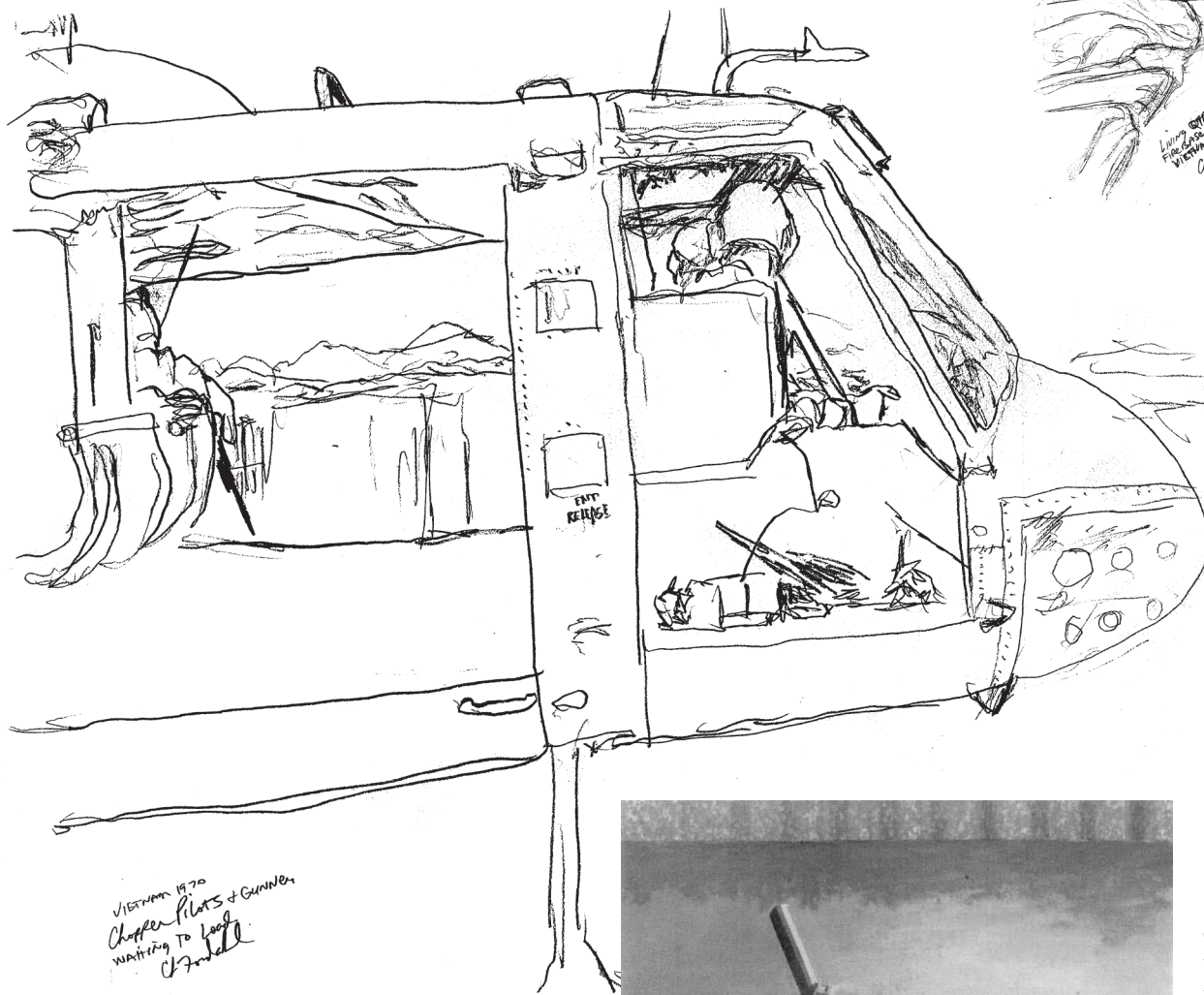
Having drawn the straw that meant he would stay at the firebase to sketch, Fordahl watched as a patrol returned from a two-day operation. He was well aware of the striking difference between himself and the men returning from the jungle. His uniform was clean and starched; theirs were ragged and filthy. The patrol had the look of men who had been somewhere he had not.

"You could tell we weren't grunts and they were," he said. "And one of them came up to me and to this

Back home in Minnesota after the war, Fordahl went to work for the U.S. Postal Service, where he is a 29-year employee today. He remained active in art, though, continuing to paint and sketch. As a member of the board of directors of the Bloomington Arts Center, conversations naturally enough led to his work in Vietnam. One day, a fellow board member asked if he was familiar with the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum in Chicago.

"I hadn't heard of it," he said. "I called them and told them what I did over there, and they said they wanted some of my stuff."

In Minnesota, he found his artwork to be surprisingly effective in meeting other Vietnam veterans. At a fundraiser for a friend dying of can-



Having drawn the straw that meant he would stay at the firebase to sketch, Fordahl watched as a patrol returned from a two-day operation. He was well aware of the striking difference between himself and the men returning from the jungle. His uniform was clean and starched; theirs were ragged and filthy. The patrol had the look of men who had been somewhere he had not.

day I don't know who he was, but he comes up to me and he had to be dead tired from walking in the jungle for two days. And he says, 'If you need a place to stay, there's a bunk down there.' He pointed to a hole in the ground where everyone slept. He tells me to grab the bottom bunk on the right. It was his bunk."

Fordahl said he couldn't imagine something like this happening back at Long Binh, where the artists were based.

"If I went back to Long Binh and I was filthy dirty and I was hitchhiking, nobody would pick me up. Neither would the buses," he said. "I don't think they knew there was a war going on at Long Binh. It was such a contrast in attitude. Those guys on the front line and up in the hills didn't have much, but they'd give you what they could."



cer, he was working with his Vietnam sketches when the president of his union asked, "Where did you get those?"

Fordahl told him about his work in Vietnam.

"He said, 'I know those guys,'" Fordahl said. "He asked where I was. I told him Firebase Bastogne. He had been there."

Then came the janitor.

"He recognized one of the sketches from Camp Eagle," Fordahl said. "He was there. He saw this pastel I did of an artillery crew. It had three guys in it. He recognized one of them. He said, 'Hey, that's Corporal Parker.' It kind of blew my mind that they were recognizing these people and places."

In his work at the Bloomington Art Center Les Fordahl finds himself often working with young people in the schools on projects that promote art. He's continuing his own art education as well.

"I studied Monet last summer," he said. "Light, color, impressionism. That's what I'm doing in my old age." ■

the numbers game

HOW MANY VIETNAMESE FLED SOUTH IN 1954?

BY JOHN PRADOS

One old chestnut of Vietnam lore is that following the 1954 Geneva agreements a million civilians fled what became North Vietnam to seek safety in the South. Stanley Karnow, in *Vietnam: A History*, writes of a “massive movement of refugees from north to south.” *National Geographic* magazine called it “an epic migration.”

The situation began with Article 14 of the central agreement reached at Geneva, which required government authorities in both the North and the South of Vietnam to furnish all necessary assistance to anyone who wished to relocate. What is almost never noted is the extent to which this apparently humanitarian measure remained bound up in the ideological war being waged against communism by President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

At the battle of Dien Bien Phu, the climactic combat action of the Franco-Vietnamese war, a major force of elite units of the French Expeditionary Corps was defeated and the remnants captured by Ho Chi Minh’s Vietnamese communist forces, then called the Viet Minh. War-weary France opted to negotiate a military cease-fire at Geneva, which included a provision that the forces of the two sides would regroup in the zones that became North and South Vietnam. Political issues were to be settled by an election two years following the agreement.

American authorities started out with the requirement—a simple concept but difficult in practice—to evacuate equipment provided as military aid to the



Vietnamese refugee in Saigon after being evacuated from North Vietnam aboard a U.S. Navy vessel.



An American sailor served food to refugees aboard the USS Bayfield, one of the ships that took part in Operation Passage to Freedom.

Expeditionary Corps, the French soldiers themselves, and their Vietnamese allies from the Red River delta area of Tonkin. The ideological competition imbued this matter of military logistics with political overtones. The Eisenhower administration wanted to use the evacuation to show that Vietnamese had “voted with their feet” against communism. What follows is the story of this early skirmish from the American war in Vietnam.

The highest American authorities discussed an evacuation of Tonkin as early as January 1954, before the battle of Dien Bien Phu even began. At the time, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Arthur F. Radford, told President Eisenhower and his National Security Council that a couple of years earlier, when Radford had been Pacific regional commander and had been instructed to discuss this matter with the French, Expeditionary Corps commander-in-chief Marshal Jean De Lattre had termed the idea preposterous. De Lattre said that before any such action could be completed, the last groups awaiting evacuation would be massacred.

In February, when an Eisenhower senior official met with Vietnamese emperor Bao Dai, the American considered it manifestly unsound when Bao Dai suggested that military forces could gain a free hand to fight the Viet Minh in the Tonkin delta by moving up to four million villagers to the provinces in central Vietnam and the Central Highlands. Bao Dai also lob-

bied for this plan with other Americans, including ambassador Donald Heath, but never received the slightest encouragement. In the wake of defeat at Dien Bien Phu, the emperor changed his position and opposed any evacuation of Tonkin, even though U.S. official Robert McClintock expected “a last-minute appeal for U.S. aid in a Dunkirk-type sea lift.” When Bao Dai’s last prime minister, Ngo Dinh Diem, met with McClintock for the first time in late June, shortly after his arrival in Saigon, he raised the issue of an evacuation of Tonkin and believed rapid action was necessary to prevent the Viet Minh from scattering the population.

Nevertheless, the United States had fashioned an evacuation plan after that Radford-De Lattre conversation. It took a year to do, was completed in early 1952, and involved a huge amphibious operation. The plan predicted a need to move 80,000 French regular troops, 40,000 Vietnamese soldiers, and 10,000 civilians.

This plan was a focus of discussion between the Joint Chiefs and State Department officials at a meeting on May 7, 1954, the day Dien Bien Phu fell. News of the French defeat arrived as the discussion was in progress. Notions of evacuation then hinged on the French successfully defending some portion of the delta. President Eisenhower also would have had to declare a national emergency to get the authority to divert ocean shipping for the effort.

continued on next page

numbers game

continued from previous page

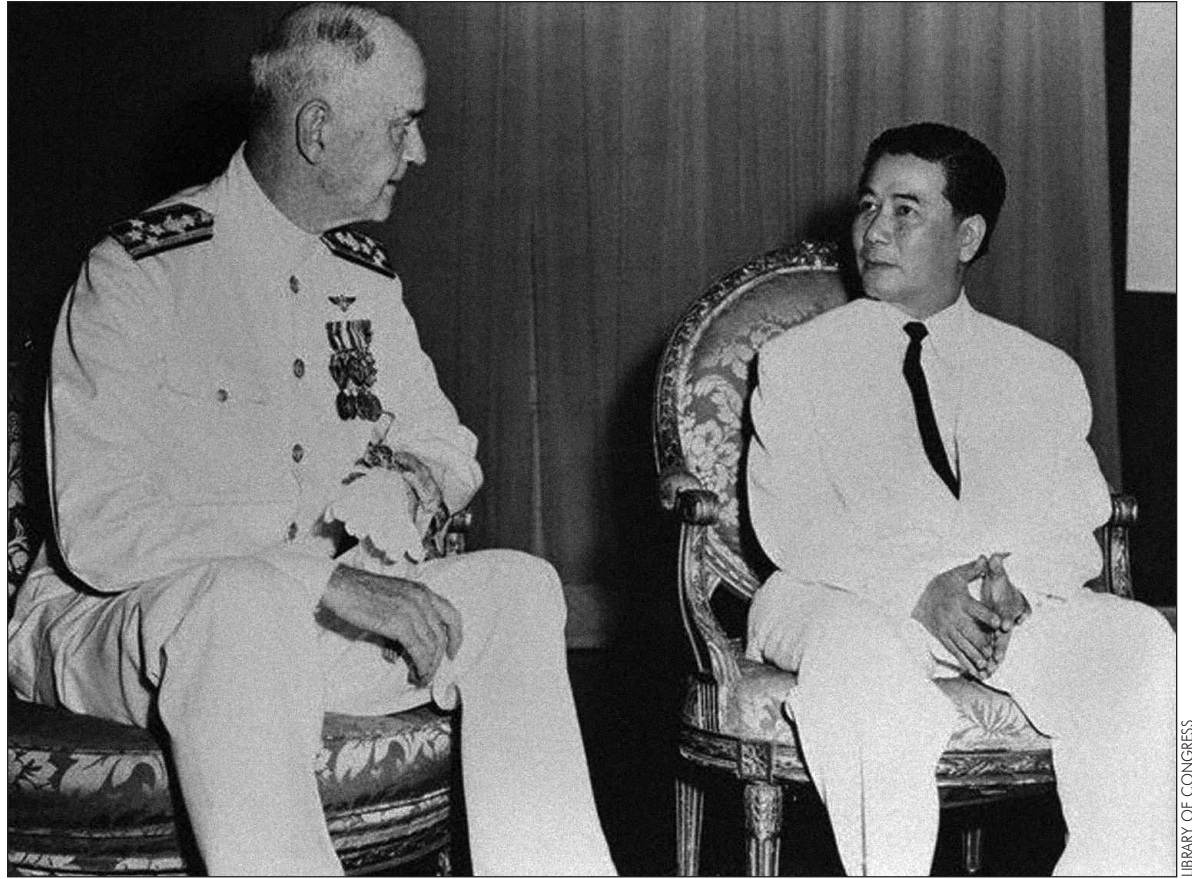
By late June, the plan was revised. The CIA estimated there were 600 planeloads of materiel to be moved from the Hanoi area alone. The Navy expected to move 10,000 vehicles and 382 artillery pieces, along with 110,000 civilians. Military personnel figures were not available, but the CIA estimated there were 83,000 militiamen in the delta, along with 65 regular and 19 light battalions of French or Bao Dai troops. At typical unit strengths, those figures suggest overall military numbers of some 150,000. The Viet Minh also would return slightly more than 9,600 prisoners, most of them in Tonkin.

By the time the diplomats signed the Geneva agreement on July 21, one of Diem's ministers estimated that the potential number of refugees from Tonkin was 700,000. Diem spoke of one to two million. France's minister for the associated states of Indochina, Guy La Chambre, anticipated 500,000 to a million refugees. The French commander-in-chief, General Paul Ely, put the figure at 200,000. In a meeting with American diplomats, though, Ely said that "dramatic propaganda" by Diem might persuade as many as a million people to leave North Vietnam for South Vietnam. As this guessing game continued, the refugee question steadily acquired greater importance. Eleven million people lived in North Vietnam.

United States participation began on July 28 when officials of the new South Vietnamese government told American diplomats they needed 2,000 big tents immediately or the refugee program would be over before it started. Then, on August 4 and 5, the Saigon foreign minister, followed by prime minister Diem himself, asked for American help. Until then it had been assumed that the French



American sailors aboard the U.S.S. *Montague* clock in a Vietnamese refugee woman and her two children, as the hour of the communists' takeover of Haiphong loomed.



Felix B. Stump, Commander in Chief U.S. Pacific Command, conferred with Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem, October 1954.

were in full control. General Ely had, in fact, begun pulling combat units out of Tonkin to reinforce central Vietnam the day the Geneva agreements were signed.

Now, however, officials in Saigon were warning that the French could move only 80,000 people during August, while 120,000 Vietnamese had entered French-held areas in hopes of evacuation. On August 5, the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration announced that the United States would help. The French promptly asked for enough ships to move 100,000 people. Washington formed an interagency working group on Indochina to manage this operation.

Chief of Naval Operations Admiral Robert B. Carney instructed Pacific commander Admiral Felix B. Stump to prepare to respond to shipping requests. Orders to provide ships came on August 7. Washington dubbed the effort Operation Passage to Freedom. It would be carried out by Task Force 90 under Rear Admiral Lorenzo S. Sabin, commander of amphibious forces in the Western Pacific.

Admiral Sabin flew into Haiphong on August 10 to make arrangements with the French, who would provide the port and piloting services. The first American ship, the naval transport *Menard*, arrived that day from Hong Kong, but Admiral Sabin instructed her to remain out of sight of land until more vessels were present to provide a more impressive display of the American contribution. The *Menard* began loading off the beach at Do Son on August 16.

The airfield at Do Son, a village on the seacoast south of Haiphong, had been home to a detachment of U.S. Air Force mechanics helping the French Air Force refurbish their planes for the war. Now it became the first evacuation site for the defeated side in the war. Meanwhile, two more transports, *Montrose* and *Telfair*, and two attack cargo ships, *Montague* and *Algol*, steamed as a flotilla into Haiphong. At this point, there were an estimated 132,000 refugees awaiting transport at Haiphong.

The *Menard* left for the South with more than 1,900 Vietnamese aboard on August 18, arriving at Saigon three days later. Red Cross representatives met the ship and gave each refugee a care package. At the time, the Diem government had just begun construction on the first of five planned reception camps in

Saigon. That one had just thirty tents in place. Ho Quan Phuoc, the responsible South Vietnamese official, had been on the job for only three days and had a meager staff of three.

These points were not emphasized for the reporters from NBC, CBS, and the United Press who were brought up to film the pending arrival of the next transport, *Montrose*. That ship was met by Admiral Stump. On August 22, President Eisenhower issued a press release extolling the evacuation effort. "Fortunately, Free Viet Nam is a country with ample land resources for the resettlement of almost any number of Vietnamese who desire to flee from Communist domination," Eisenhower said.

By August 28, according to French records, 65,706 persons had left Tonkin aboard aircraft and 81,074 by boat.

Because Ike's message invited the world to view the evacuation as a political event, the number of refugees became more important than ever. Suddenly it became opportune to generate refugees for the flow, and the Central Intelligence Agency entered the picture. Frank G. Wisner, the CIA's deputy director for plans—and its director for covert operations—had argued for an effort to remain in Hanoi through the evacuation to drive a wedge between the Viet Minh and the People's Republic of China. The CIA had sent a team there under Edward G. Lansdale, working undercover as a U.S. Air Force colonel. Lansdale's group swung into action with propaganda and harassment activities in the North.

Although Lansdale arrived in Saigon in June, it was not until August that most of his unit, the Saigon Military Mission (SMM), was in place. Lansdale sent in Army Major Lucien Conein, an old Indochina hand and a friend of the South Vietnamese military commander in Tonkin, to lead the mission in Hanoi. The SMM started rumor campaigns in Hanoi, the first centering on a planted report that a Chinese communist unit had entered North Vietnam and massacred Vietnamese villagers. Another psychological warfare ploy was a lurid poster campaign suggesting the Viet Minh would be out of control. One poster featured

Viet Minh soldiers looming over the Hanoi skyline with an atomic mushroom cloud rising behind them.

There were about 6,000 French civilians in Hanoi and about 24,000 in Tonkin overall. It would have been a propaganda disaster if they decided to stay on under a Viet Minh government. One ploy was a leaflet that looked like official Viet Minh regulations for their assumption of control, containing draconian provisions for monetary reform, abolition of property, and an instruction that workers could leave their jobs for three days, a holiday to mark the Viet Minh arrival. Lansdale records show that registrations for evacuation tripled the day after the leaflet was distributed.

As the evacuation began, the CIA proprietary Civil Air Transport (CAT, later Air America) asked SMM's help to get a contract to participate. Lansdale complied. The CAT flights then gave him a means to insert people and carry materials to the North. Conein organized a variety of clever anti-Viet Minh maneuvers. He recruited a senior

Yokosuka, was Lieutenant (j.g.) Thomas A. Dooley III. A medical doctor, Dooley initially functioned as medical officer and interpreter. In August, he was sent ashore at Haiphong as part of a preventive medicine and triage unit set up by Captain Julius Anderson. Before long, the unit began conducting research on the other side. Infectious diseases, parasites, and medical intelligence became its function just as much as delousing the Vietnamese awaiting passage to the South. Dooley's highly stylized account of the events, *Deliver Us to Freedom*, could have been written by one of Ed Lansdale's CIA propaganda experts and its publication subsidized by the CIA. From November on, Dooley was the officer in charge of the Haiphong unit.

Some social engineering took place on the evacuation vessels. American officers saw the Vietnamese as a simple people capable of being swayed. Aboard the transport *Bayfield* in late August, some Vietnamese passengers insisted on viewing the Americans as priests and all 320 crewmen were regarded as full-fledged clergy. American officers did not dissuade such thinking, believing it useful to maintaining order on the ship. Admiral Sabin endorsed this method. On

A peak occurred in September when 10,000 people arrived in Saigon on a single day. That month nearly 101,000 people moved by sea. On October 2, the 400,000th person left Tonkin. After that, numbers began to decline steadily—75,000 in October, 46,500 in November, 24,500 in December. An additional 82,000 moved during the first three months of 1955.

Efforts to move passengers by air were complicated by the withdrawal of French Air Force transport units. Air efforts compared favorably with sea lift in August 1954, when over 72,000 persons left the North on airplanes. In September, there were more than 54,000 aerial evacuees. Air travelers from October through December averaged only about 15,000 a month. From January to March 1955, airplanes moved some 15,600 refugees.

The sea lift moved roughly twice as many people as aircraft, until 1955 when the disparity became even greater. Through December, the sea lift moved 17,517 vehicles and 171,625 long tons of military cargo, plus about 185,000 additional tons of government and private items. Additionally, roughly 45,000 people went South overland, crossing the provisional military



Chaplain (Lieutenant) Francis J. Fitzpatrick, USN, acted as interpreter for Vietnamese refugees evacuated by the USS *Bayfield* from communist-held Haiphong.

Hanoi police official to release any of his people arrested on their missions. But the move backfired when the policeman insisted on helping distribute the phony Viet Minh regulations leaflet. The official, apprehended by French Sûreté after a high-speed chase through downtown Hanoi in the dead of night, was jailed as a Viet Minh agent. Viet Minh radio denounced the leaflets, but within days their currency had lost half of its value. Conein's network of agents also contaminated the oil supply of the local bus company so that its machines would malfunction and collaborated with a CIA sabotage team from Japan to set explosive charges on the Hanoi-Haiphong railroad line as the French pulled out of Tonkin's capital in early October.

The medical officer aboard the transport *Montague*, reassigned on temporary duty from the U.S. base at

the *Mountrail*, just as aboard *Bayfield*, American sailors went out of their way to help the passengers, many of whom were destitute.

Meanwhile, the evacuation had reached full stride. The French were moving about 3,400 people per day by air, plus about 20,000 per month by sea. Although the British lent their aircraft carrier HMS *Warrior*, Admiral Sabin's Task Force 90 remained the main source of the sea lift. The burden carried by the Navy's amphibious ships and those vessels of the Military Sea Transportation Service was considerable. Sabin's plans had envisioned the use of four Landing Ship Docks, four attack cargo ships, eight transports, and eighteen Landing Ship Tanks. At French request, in mid-September the Navy added a hospital ship to move French Union wounded. In all, more than fifty ships participated.

Aboard the *Bayfield* some Vietnamese passengers insisted on viewing the Americans as priests, and all 320 crewmen were regarded as full fledged clergy. American officers did not dissuade such thinking, believing it useful to maintaining order.

demarcation line of the 17th Parallel, known to Americans later as the Demilitarized Zone.

President Eisenhower reviewed the Passage to Freedom program with his National Security Council on October 22. The group was briefed by undersecretary of state Herbert Hoover, Jr.

Many civilians remained to be brought out. Those who had been were still living in temporary shelters in the Saigon area. There would be a need to resettle some 250,000 people in South Vietnam.

The United States had allocated \$40 million for the Passage to Freedom effort, which amounted to more dollars per refugee than the per capita annual income of a Vietnamese. Despite the major logistics problems Hoover's report indicated, Eisenhower's NSC devoted its entire discussion to the military and political difficulties of the Americans, the French, and Diem in Saigon.

Aside from the scheduling and logistics problems of shipping, the biggest difficulty with the evacuation of Tonkin involved people—in this case the largely Catholic population of two provinces, Phat Diem and Bui Chu southwest of Hanoi. In the immediate aftermath of Dien Bien Phu, French

continued on next page

numbers game

continued from previous page

commander-in-chief General Ely made plans to regroup his forces in Tonkin to secure a corridor between Hanoi and Haiphong. That meant abandoning the Catholic provinces to the Viet Minh.

Phat Diem and Bui Chu had been the provinces most loyal to the French. They had recruited Catholic militias, sometimes led by parish priests. Many Vietnamese had no doubt the Viet Minh had it in for them and begged the French to stay. When Ely began his withdrawal, a military operation codenamed Auvergne, there were incidents in which villagers and even the pro-French militia threatened or fired upon the retreating French troops. Several times, Lansdale's CIA secret warriors intervened to avert disaster. In one case, they stopped hungry militia women from tossing hand grenades at French soldiers guarding a warehouse. In another, the Americans dissuaded the militia, which wanted heavy guns to fire at the Viet Minh, from attacking a withdrawing artillery unit.

The number of Vietnamese who chose to "vote with their feet" works out to about 450,000. These numbers still represent a huge human tide, but it is less than half the figure that has entered the mythology of the Vietnam War.

Auvergne was in progress during the Geneva conference. The new Saigon leader, Ngo Dinh Diem, as well as his influential brother, Ngo Dinh Nhu, feared for the people of the Catholic provinces. Diem made many appeals to American diplomats to take action. In July, Diem visited the provinces and then went to see the Americans. But because the Viet Minh were about to take over Tonkin, the Americans could do nothing. Ed Lansdale, however, found in Phat Diem and Bui Chu ideal audiences for his propaganda about the horrors of the coming Viet Minh regime.

The French were aware of the plight of the Catholics, but the measures they took in Geneva were invisible in the provinces. French diplomats negotiated a codicil in the Geneva agreement that obliged the sides to recognize the freedom to travel of those who wanted to relocate. The provision remained untested until August when the Viet Minh took control of the provinces. Conscious of the political impact of their behavior, the Viet Minh made special efforts to win over Catholic priests and their parishioners. But the occupation seemed onerous to these people. However, Vietnamese culture, with its strong attachment to ancestors buried on the land, caused many to want to remain.

In the end, even with CIA propaganda, Catholic religious pressures, and French importunings, about half the people of Phat Diem and Bui Chu chose to stay behind. Nevertheless, a steady stream of villagers applied for travel permits. Many were denied—only some 15,000 of those evacuated to the South traveled on the basis of permits issued by the Viet Minh.

General Ely attempted a special evacuation from the Catholic provinces in October and November 1954, when the French abandoned Hanoi and confined themselves to an enclave around Haiphong. The idea was that villagers could paddle out to sea where they would be picked up by French Navy ships, primarily landing craft that would shuttle them to larger vessels.

Several incidents occurred during these operations. The most notorious took place at Tra Ly and Ba Lang. At Tra Ly, Viet Minh troops forcibly dispersed most of a group of about 10,000 refugees. Some villagers who fled to sandbars offshore hoping for sanctuary were trapped by rising tides. The French asked the International Control Commission to dispatch mobile teams to Tra Ly, but the Viet Minh hindered ICC movement and had finished their job before the team arrived. French naval officers on the scene reported that the Viet Minh fired upon villagers in the dunes.

At Ba Lang in December, the Viet Minh arrested refugee leaders who had contacted a French ship. This

prompted villagers to clash with soldiers, killing one and capturing three, before barricading themselves inside a church. Troops forced their way into the church and dispersed the Vietnamese peasants, arresting several hundred. The village leader and a priest were tried by People's Court and sentenced to prison.

Another thread of the story concerns Viet Minh troops and Vietnamese who elected to move North. The Soviet Union and Poland provided ships for this traffic. Many people also were carried aboard French ships returning to Haiphong for new boatloads of evacuees. Almost all those who went North traveled aboard French or Polish ships. Some 90,000 Viet Minh troops and 40,000 Vietnamese civilians went north by sea. Some 12,000 crossed the 17th Parallel.

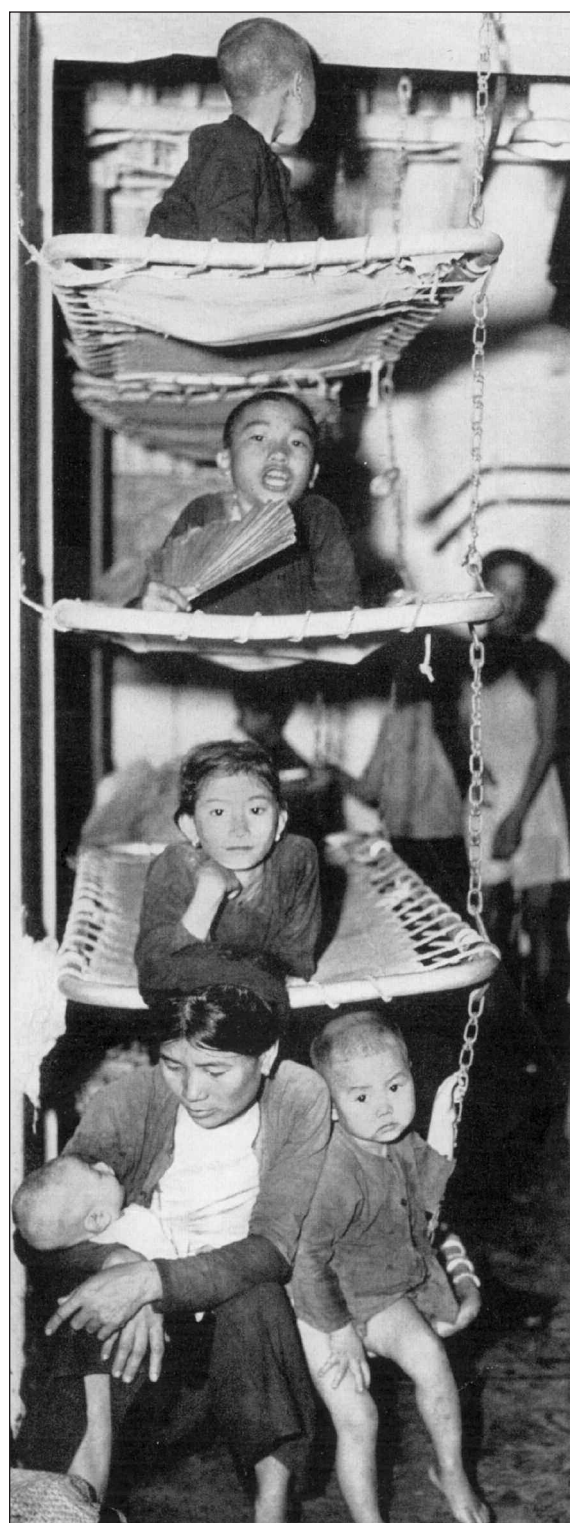
As in other areas of this political war, the CIA's psychological warriors were active on this front, too. Lansdale's group tried to stimulate riots among returnees and fomented a rumor that the ships transporting Vietnamese really were taking them to forced labor camps in Russia.

Then there were games with the numbers. The Diem government said 2,598 went North and induced the ICC and the British government to use that figure. A reporter for *National Geographic* who looked into the evacuations to the North in 1955 cited "reliable estimates" putting the number of civilians at "about 40." There was political hay to be made by maximizing the flow of Vietnamese to the South and minimizing that northward.

With the French presence in the North reduced to the Haiphong area and many people already moved, the United States revised its attitude toward participation. By mid-November, Task Force 90 phased out its amphibious ships, despite a French request to keep the LSTs in service so as to complete removal of French equipment from Haiphong by January 1955. One troop transport was kept in service until early December. Four civilian-manned MSTs ships and Admiral Sabin's flagship stayed on the job. Sabin advised that no more than one ship be kept available for the Indochina evacuation operation. "It has been my experience," he wrote in a January 9, 1955, dispatch, "that predicted great influx of refugees have failed to materialize."

So, despite the CIA psychological warfare campaign masterminded by Lansdale, the heavy funding made available by the Eisenhower administration, and all the reasons the French could adduce for people to go to the South, Operation Passage to Freedom fell far short of expectations. Not two million—not even one million people responded to the call. The final number was just under 800,000. Even that figure included 190,000 French and Saigon soldiers and returned prisoners, some 43,000 military dependents, 15,000-25,000 Nung tribesmen who were military auxiliaries, between 25,000 and 40,000 French citizens, and about 45,000 Chinese residents. It also included several thousand people who had worked for the French and Vietnamese administrations in the North.

The net number of Vietnamese who freely chose to "vote with their feet" therefore works out to about 450,000. And that figure doesn't take into account those Vietnamese who chose to move to the North. Of course, these numbers still represent a huge human tide. But it is less than half the figure that has entered the mythology of the Vietnam War, and the diaspora was by no means the exodus of simple peasants it was made out to be. Once more, the conventional wisdom on Vietnam is misleading at best. ■



A Tonkin Family "Racks Up" in four-tier bunks aboard a Navy ship.

U.S. FOREIGN OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

WEATHERMAN

continued from previous page

flight plan. The prime issue was safety and people wanted to cut corners all the time.”

May 8 Rain showers formed about 0100 local. We had .11 inches of rain by 0600 local. Heavier rain occurred at 0900 local. Clearing by noon. Numerous towering cumulus observed over water. I picked up radar echoes as far out as fifty miles east of us over the South China Sea. The cause of the rain was an over-the-water trajectory non-stop from RCTP to Cam Ranh. A typical northeast monsoon rain shower situation plus a major convergence at 700 millibars. Expect rain showers tomorrow.

May 9 Rain showers occurred at about 0500 local and broke up about 0600 local. According to the synoptic discussion these rain showers are due to offshore flow (Sea Breeze Front) and southeast winds along the coast. Rest of day clear. Signs of Southwest Monsoon in western Thailand.

Rosenbaum found it difficult to mark the passage of time in Vietnam. He likened the year to being “abducted by aliens” and being returned a year later. Time seemed to stand still. The best way to mark the time was keeping a weather diary.

“There are two major seasons in Vietnam,” he said. “The northeast monsoon, when it’s dry inland and wet on the coast; and the southwest monsoon, when it’s wet inland and dry on the coast. There are no seasons as I knew them. You lose track of time.”



LT. JOEL ROSENBAUM (LEFT) BRIEFS PILOT AT THE WEATHER STATION, 1969.

COURTESY JOEL ROSENBAUM

Rosenbaum lives in New Jersey now, an at-large Garden State member. He was diagnosed with Agent Orange-related non-Hodgkins lymphoma in 1997 and is 100 percent disabled. He is grateful to VVA for its help when he confronted obstacles with the VA during the period of diagnosis.

In 2001, through the efforts of his congressman, Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.), he was able to complete the requirements for a degree in meteorology from Texas A&M.

He contacted the Air Force history office and was asked to copy all the pages of the weather diary; the National Archives expressed an interest in it, as well.

“At least it’s going somewhere so if people have any research interest it will be available,” he said.

May 15 Mostly clear. Afternoon cumulonimbus clouds west.

May 16 Mostly clear. Intertropical convergence zone appeared at 5 degrees North. It should be moving up soon and give us a few thunderstorms. Cumulonimbus clouds west of us during the afternoon.

May 17 Mostly clear: ■

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America



Together Always

A parallel organization of Vietnam Veterans of America, working side by side for the betterment of Vietnam-era veterans, their families, and others.

Our Mission is to advance the work of Vietnam Veterans of America through cooperative projects and programs. We wish to facilitate, enhance, and improve communication with our members and the general public and continue legislative efforts to insure the rights of, and benefits for, all veterans. Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America is dedicated to the aggressive advancement of realistic goals with integrity and in the spirit of unity reflecting our commitment to Vietnam Veterans of America, all veterans, their families, and communities.

Won't you join us?

Application for AVVA Membership

Return to: AVVA Membership Affairs, P.O. Box 64732, Baltimore, MD 21264-4732

Name _____ Sex _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (_____) _____ Affiliated with VA Chapter # _____

- ◆ **Type:** Individual Member — 1 year @ \$20 annual Life Member Payment Plan — \$50 down, \$25/month Check/Money Order Credit Card
 Individual Member — 3 years @ \$50 Life Member **select age group:** ages 49 and under (\$250) ages 50-55 (\$225) ages 56-60 (\$200)
 ages 61-65 (\$175) ages 66 and over (\$150)

◆ **Payment Method:** Check Money Order Visa MasterCard ◆ **Card Number** _____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

VVA's 12th National Convention

RENO, NEVADA • August 10-14, 2005

VVA's Twelfth Annual Convention will be held August 10-14 at the Silver Legacy Resort & Casino in Downtown Reno, "The Biggest Little City in the World." The room rate is \$89 per night, plus 13.5% tax. Reservations may be made by phone, 800-687-8733, or on line, <http://www.silverlegacyreno.com> The group code is VVA05.



Free shuttle service runs from the Reno/Tahoe International Airport to the hotel every half hour between 5 a.m. and midnight.

Vietnam Veterans of America 2005 National Convention Registration Form

Membership # _____ Life Member Chapter Affiliation _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Day phone _____ Evening phone _____

Fax number _____ E-Mail address _____

	by 7/7/05	after 7/7/05
VVA Delegate Registration <small>Includes full registration, delegate notebook, name badge, and all Convention materials DOES NOT INCLUDE MEALS & SPECIAL EVENTS</small>	\$100	\$135
AVVA Attendees <small>Includes name badge and admission to AVVA seminars and activities</small>	\$40	
	QTY	TOTAL
AVVA Luncheon Wednesday, August 10, 2005	_____ @ \$20 =	_____
Service Representative Breakfast Thursday, August 11, 2005	_____ @ \$20 =	_____
Women Veterans Breakfast Friday, August 12, 2005	_____ @ \$20 =	_____
Legislative Coordinator Breakfast Saturday, August 13, 2005	_____ @ \$20 =	_____
VVA Awards Banquet & Dance Saturday, August 13, 2005	_____ @ \$25 =	_____

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Early bird discount registration by mail July 7, 2005 (postmarked date) save \$35. Do not send registration by mail after July 7, 2005. It may not reach our office in time to be processed. You can register on-site at the Convention.

PLEASE USE ONE FORM PER INDIVIDUAL

Send completed form with appropriate fees to:

VVA Convention Registration
PO Box 64619
Baltimore, MD 21264-4306

CANCELLATION / REFUND POLICY: After July 7, 2005, no refunds will be made for cancellation of registration. Any refunds occurring prior to July 7, 2005, will incur a \$15 service charge.

Total Registration & Event Fees
\$ _____

Check (Payable to VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA) Check Number _____ Charge to Budget _____

MasterCard VISA Discover American Express

Account/Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____

Fill out the information below as you want your name badge to appear. ONLY ONE LETTER OR SPACE PER BOX

NAME

CHAPTER/STATE COUNCIL

CITY & STATE

TITLE/POSITION (optional)

FOR DELEGATES ONLY

Representing Chapter # _____ OR _____ State Council

- ▶ The annual financial report for the fiscal year ending February 28, 2005, of the chapter or state council you are representing must reach the national office no later than July 15, 2005, in order for you to be credentialed and seated as a delegate at the Convention.
- ▶ If you are not a Life Member, State Council President, or you were not a delegate at the 1999, 2001, or 2003 Conventions, you must include a copy of your DD214 with this form as proof of service.
- ▶ Signatures of two chapter officers (if you are representing a chapter) or two state council officers (if you are representing a state council) are required. Delegate registrations received without required signatures will not be processed.

SIGNATURE #1		SIGNATURE #2	
Print Name _____	Title _____	Print Name _____	Title _____
Signature _____	Date _____	Signature _____	Date _____



AND THE NOMINEES ARE...

Each year, VVA presents awards to VVA members and organizations. The awards are for outstanding service and dedication to Vietnam veterans and the issues affecting them and their families. Nominations are submitted by VVA leaders or are a result of a committee recommendation. Award decisions are made by VVA's national officers, by the National Board of Directors, or by the national Awards Committee, depending on the type of award. An exception to the criteria for the nominations in the following categories may be considered only by the VVA National President.

CRITERIA FOR AWARD NOMINATIONS

VVA MEMBER OF THE YEAR, INCARCERATED MEMBER OF THE YEAR, AND AVVA MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Nominations may be submitted only by the president of the member's chapter. Nominations cannot be accepted from other members of the chapter or from a member. If the nominee is the chapter president, the state council president (in consultation with the other chapter officers) may make the nomination.

For each Member of the Year nomination, the State Council president must sign the nomination form and attach a separate letter of support. If no president exists for the state, or if the state president is the nominee, the regional director should submit and sign the form and provide the letter of support. In addition to information that supports and strengthens the nomination, the following must be included for each Member, Incarcerated Member, and AVVA Member of the Year nomination:

1. Evidence of individual's commitment to the goals and purposes of VVA.
2. Details of individual's service to VVA.
3. Average time volunteering for VVA (per week, per month, or per year).
4. Information about individual's personal goals in VVA and how they help further the organization's goals.
5. Individual's efforts and success in recruitment and retention of members.
6. Details of individual's service to his or her community.
7. Notable accomplishments.
8. Positions held in VVA.
9. Required letter(s) of support and signatures.

VVA CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AND STATE COUNCIL OF THE YEAR

Submissions for these two awards are by **self-nomination**. For VVA Chapter of the Year, the official nomination form must be submitted by the chapter president and must contain his or her signature, as well as that of the State Council president (if one exists) and the regional director. Both the state president and the regional director must attach letters of support for the nomination. For VVA State Council of the Year, the nomination form must come from the state president and must contain the signatures of, and a letter of support from, both the state president and the regional director.

What follows is the information required for nominations for these two awards: A. Details about the chapter or State Council's service and accomplishments, and B. financial information.

A. Service and Accomplishments:

1. Evidence of chapter or State Council's commitment to the goals and purposes of VVA.
2. Details of chapter or State Council's service to its members.
3. Chapter or State Council's efforts and success in recruitment and retention of members.
4. Details of chapter or State Council's service to its community.
5. Notable accomplishments.
6. If a chapter, the year it received its charter; if a State Council, the year it was founded.
7. Required signatures and letters of support.

B. Financial Requirements:

Nominees for Chapter of the Year and State Council of the Year must be in good standing with the VVA national office. This means that the fiscal year ending 2/28/05 financial statement, along with evidence of, or a waiver for, bonding must be on file with the national office. Please insure that this obligation is met prior to making a nomination. Additionally, nomination submissions must contain the following financial information:

1. How the finance committee of the chapter or State Council functions (see VVA Constitution, Article IV, Section 6, M).
2. A copy of the most recent treasurer's report (financial statement) submitted as part of the last regular meeting of the chapter or State Council.

3. A copy of the current budget of the chapter or State Council, or an explanation of why there is no budget.
4. A list of any chapter or State Council fund-raising programs that are considered restricted activities (in accordance with the VVA Constitution). If the chapter or State Council is engaging in such activity, a copy of any contracts or agreements, along with the approval form from the national office, must be included with the nomination form.

CHAPTER NEWSLETTER/STATE COUNCIL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

The submission process for Chapter Newsletter of the Year and State Council Newspaper of the Year is by **self-nomination**. For the Chapter Newsletter of the Year award, nominations should be submitted by the chapter president and contain his or her signature, as well as that of the newsletter editor and the State Council president. The state president also must attach a letter of support to the nomination form. If no state president exists, the nomination form with signature and letter of support should be submitted by the regional director.

For the State Council Newspaper of the Year award, nominations must be submitted by the state president and contain his or her signature, as well as that of the newspaper editor and the regional director. The regional director also must include a letter of support.

To be eligible for an award, a newspaper or newsletter (1) must be published by a VVA State Council that is tax-exempt under Section 501(C)(19) (war veterans organizations) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) must have a publisher who is an officer or director of the VVA State Council; and (3) must say that it is the publication of the VVA State Council. A newspaper or newsletter that is published by an organization that is tax-exempt under Section (501)(c)(3) (religious, charitable, scientific, or educational organizations) is not eligible for an award.

A nomination for the newsletter or newspaper award must include the official nomination form along with five copies of the three most recent editions of the publication. Publications will be judged on editorial content, readability, organization and clarity of expression, layout, and graphics.

NOMINATION FORM FOR VVA NATIONAL AWARDS

CHECK ONE:

- Member of the Year Chapter of the Year Chapter Newsletter of the Year (199 members or less) Chapter Newsletter of the Year (200 members or more)
 Incarcerated Member of the Year State Council of the Year State Council Newspaper of the Year AVVA Member of the Year

Complete this form in full and include all required signatures, information, and materials as listed in the criteria for each award category. All information is necessary for your nomination to be considered. You may make more than one nomination, but please use a separate form for each nomination you submit. **NOMINATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED by July 5, 2005.**

Mail this form to: VVA Awards Committee, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910

YOUR NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR PHONE NO. _____ FAX NO. _____ YOUR CHAPTER OR STATE COUNCIL _____

NOMINEE'S NAME (individual, chapter, etc.) _____

NOMINEE'S REPRESENTATIVE (if nominee is an affiliate) _____

ADDRESS OF NOMINEE/REPRESENTATIVE _____

NOMINEE/REPRESENTATIVE PHONE NO./FAX _____

YOUR SIGNATURE: _____

OTHER REQUIRED SIGNATURES* _____

OTHER REQUIRED SIGNATURES* _____





The Smithsonian Makes History With The Price Of Freedom



Clockwise from upper left: The entrance to the World War II section of *The Price of Freedom* exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History; a uniform worn by an American POW in Vietnam; a bicycle used to transport materiel down the Ho Chi Minh Trail; soap, comb, cup, and toothbrush salvaged by American POWs confined at the Hanoi Hilton in North Vietnam.

BY MARC LEEPSON

"The doors to the museum open every day at 10:00, and every day at 10:01 people begin streaming into the exhibit." The museum in question is the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History in Washington. The exhibit is the massive 18,200-square-foot "The Price of Freedom: Americans at War," a masterful look at America's wars from the Revolution to today. "It's the most comprehensive exhibition of military conflicts in American history," said David Allison, the exhibit's project director, who recently guided us through the stunning exhibit.

This permanent exhibit, which opened on Veterans Day 2004, is located in the museum's new Kenneth E. Behring Hall of Military History, which replaces the American History Museum's former military history exhibit. This multi-dimensional examination of America's wars represents a giant step forward in the museum's approach to the subject. "Until this exhibit opened, there had been no change in the way we presented military history since this building opened in 1964," Allison told us.

The change is evident the minute you enter the exhibit. One of the first things a visitor may do is "fire" the first shot of the American Revolution. You press a button

in front of a giant video screen and the opening of the Battle of Lexington and Concord (as interpreted by veteran re-enactors) explodes on a huge TV screen in front of you.

You wind your way through other wars, getting up close and personal with Gen. George Armstrong Custer's buckskin coat; the name plate from the battleship U.S.S. *Maine*; an original copy of the CINPAC teletype, saying "THIS IS NO DRILL" and dated December 7, 1941; Audie Murphy's field jacket. Not to mention hundreds and hundreds of other artifacts, including weapons, uniforms, paintings, photographs, newsreels, maps, and newspaper articles.

The Vietnam War section is dominated by a real Huey helicopter, which saw duty with the 173rd Helicopter Assault Co. in the war, and was used in the documentary film, *In the Shadow of the Blade*. It's one thing to see a real-life Huey in the Air and Space Museum, surrounded by other aircraft; it's quite another, more intense, feeling to see it amid the much smaller museum exhibits.

A huge TV screen sits in one opened side door. Visitors have a choice of taking in five personal stories of the war on the screen: from Gen. Hal Moore, nurse Donna Rowe, infantrymen Fred Castleberry and

continued on next page

ARTS OF WAR

Continued from previous page

Carson Walks Over Ice, and Medal of Honor recipient Clarence Sasser. A VVA "Welcome Home" decal graces one of the helicopter's windows.

Befitting the sobriquet as the nation's first "televised war," the Nam section also includes a bank of 16 vintage television sets that spin out cleverly edited five-minute loops of TV clips that provide an encapsulated history of the war. Then there's the eight-foot-high vintage country map, to which Vietnam veterans have been drawn since the exhibit opened. "Veterans love that map," Allison said. "On Veterans Day we had vets hanging out here all day."

The Vietnam War section also contains a long wall made up of an effective montage of photographs, reproduced newspaper front pages, and artifacts, again chronologically chronicling the American War. Next to the helicopter is a bicycle used to ferry material down the Ho Chi Minh Trail and an array of other enemy material, including an AK-47, punji stakes, a VC uniform, and an NVA uniform.

There's also a set of GI fatigues (just like the ones you probably have hanging in a closet), a grouping of items left at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and a sobering recreation of a cell at the Hanoi Hilton put together with the advice of several former POWs. Encased on the outside wall are a handful of small objects the POWs managed to bring home, as well as a POW uniform worn by Cmdr. Allen Carpenter and an NVA prison guard's uniform.

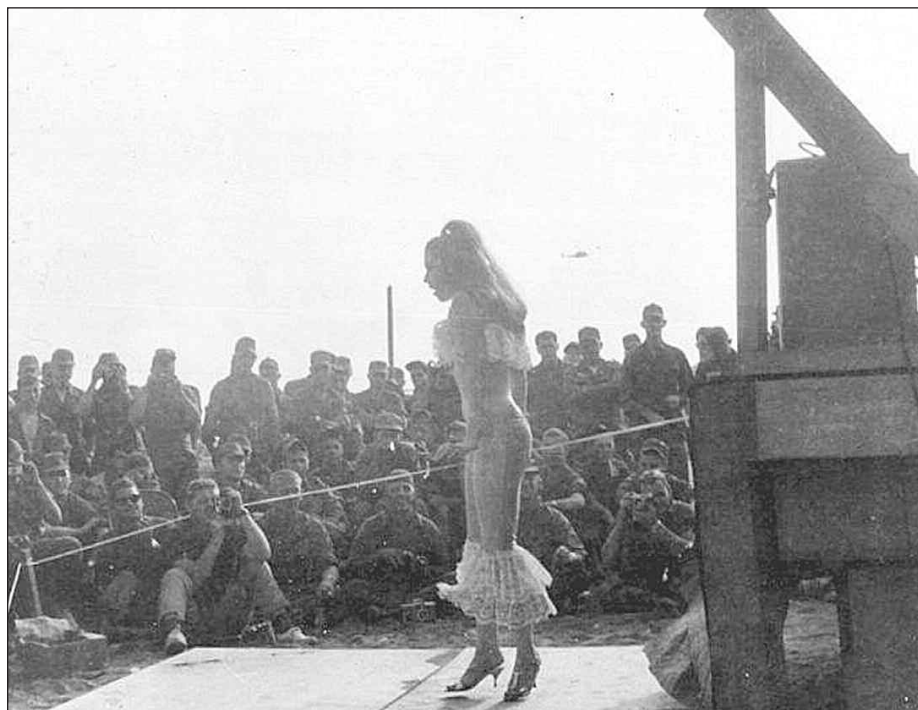
"There are lots of war and veterans' memorials in Washington," Allison told us after our visit. "This is the first time, though, that we have told the history of the wars they memorialize."

You can visit the exhibit virtually at: <http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory>

THE THINGS WE SCRIBBLED

Former Marine Corps Reservist Art Beltrone, who collects military memorabilia and is a long-time film and museum military technical adviser, made an interesting discovery early in 1997 while he was working on the movie *The Thin Red Line*. Beltrone's assignment was to find a ship that could be used in the movie to simulate a WWII troop carrier. Beltrone, who lives in Central Virginia, ferreted one out at a maritime-reserve installation on Virginia's James River. It was the rusting, decommissioned *General Nelson M. Walker*, a P-2 troopship that last saw active duty in 1968 and was slated for demolition. The *Walker's* last mission was a series of Pacific voyages that took American soldiers and Marines to the Vietnam War.

While poking around below decks, Beltrone spotted graffiti scrawled by Nam-bound GIs on the canvas undersides of the sardine-like berths. "There was a little of everything," Beltrone told *Smithsonian* magazine last year. "Obscenities, drawings, even poetry." That included phrases such as "Bong the Cong," "George Washington



Entertaining Vietnam is a well-done documentary by Mara Wallis about lesser-known show biz folk who brought music to the troops during the war.

Slept Here," "Will I Return?" and "Capitalist Yankee Dogs Go Home!"

"I knew I'd stumbled on a unique sort of personal history," Beltrone said. "These young men were going to war, while I had spent those years on Long Island."

Beltrone and his wife, Lee, a photographer, recorded the inscriptions, and put together a book about it, *Vietnam Graffiti: Messages From a Forgotten Troopship*. They also talked the U.S. Maritime Administration into donating 127 of the canvasses to seven museums around the country, including the under-construction National Museum of the U.S. Army and the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.



INSPIRED BY LIGHTERS

It's safe to say that you've never heard a CD like *Zippo Songs: Airs of War and Lunacy* (Cantaloupe Music) by Phil Kline, an eclectic music maker *The New Yorker* calls "one of downtown [Manhattan's] most skillful composer-provocateurs." Kline mixes elements of classical, rock, and ambient electronic music in his works, some of which use strange combinations of boom boxes and acoustic and electronic instruments. That includes "Unsilent Night," an outdoor event for massed boom boxes, and "The Garden of Divorce," an electronic guitar concerto.

In *Zippo Songs*, Kline has taken words G.I.s in Vietnam had etched on their Zippo lighters and turned them into ethereal lieder featuring Theo Bleckmann on vocals. The dirge-like songs include many

of the well-know bon mots we used back then. Such as: "When I die, bury me face down so the whole world can kiss my ass." "We are the unwilling led by the unqualified doing the unnecessary for the ungrateful." "When I die, I'll go to heaven because I spent my time in hell." "Death is my business, and business has been good."

Kline also includes a group of "Rumsfeld Songs," tunes written to words spoken by the current Defense Secretary, and his melancholy version of "The End," the Doors song that forever will be associated with the bombastic last scene in *Apocalypse Now*. The CD, Kline says, amounts to "a sequence of varied moods and activities—getting bummed, getting high, getting horny, getting bored, dying, finding God."

USO TODAY

Blake Clark, the actor and comedian who served as a U.S. Army LT in the Vietnam War, took his riotous stand-up routine on the road late last year: to Afghanistan and Iraq as part of a star-studded USO holiday show to entertain the troops. The group also included Robin Williams, John Elway, and Leeann Tweeden. They followed in the footsteps of other celebs who've made the trek, including Al Franken, Toby Keith, Joan Jett, Sheryl Crow, James (Tony Soprano) Gandolfini, David Letterman, and the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders.

At the 2004 holiday show, Clark wowed 'em with lines that included: "We can't find Osama bin Laden, but Martha Stewart is in jail. I know I sleep better. How hard can it be to find a six-foot-eight Arab with a kidney problem? Just find the camel with the dialysis machine and follow it." The irrepressible Williams—who portrayed former AFVN DJ Adrian Cronauer in the movie *Good Morning, Vietnam*—greeted troops with: "Gooooood Morning, Iraq!"

ARTS IN BRIEF

The NEA's "Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience," a series of two-day writing workshops at military installations for troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan, will be extended three

months until March 31 because of an overwhelming response from the nation's newest war veterans. Those who cannot take part in the workshops, may submit work electronically at www.operationhomecoming.org

The best works will be published in an anthology, due out in late 2005. The anthology, NEA announced in November, will be edited by Andrew Carroll, the director of the Legacy Project, which encourages Americans to preserve wartime letters and e-mails. Carroll edited the highly regarded book, *War Letters: Extraordinary Correspondence from America's Wars*. The new book will be distributed to military installations, schools, and libraries, and sold in bookstores. A percentage of the proceeds from bookstore sales will go to military charities.

The University of South Mississippi's award-winning Vietnam Studies program is sponsoring what it dubs an "Academic Excursion" to Vietnam, May 16 to June 5. The USM students who go to Vietnam will learn about the American War on the ground where it happened. In addition to Professor Maureen Ryan, the instructors will include American Vietnam veterans. They will make extended stays in Saigon, Hanoi, and Hue, and then travel around the entire nation, taking in the Cu Chi Tunnels, the Hanoi Hilton, and battle sites in and around Danang, Hue, and Khe Sanh. In addition to learning about the war, students will experience life in Vietnam today. Students receive four semester hours for completing the course.

Brian Lamb, who served as a U.S. Navy officer during the Vietnam War, presented his 801st—and last—"Booknotes" program December 5 on C-Span. Lamb, who also is C-Span's CEO, started the popular hour-long weekly author-interview program in April 1989, and often featured authors of books dealing with the Vietnam War. In fact, the idea for the show originated with a three-hour interview Lamb did with Neil Sheehan in 1988 about *A Bright, Shining Lie*, the excellent biography of John Paul Vann and history of the Vietnam War.

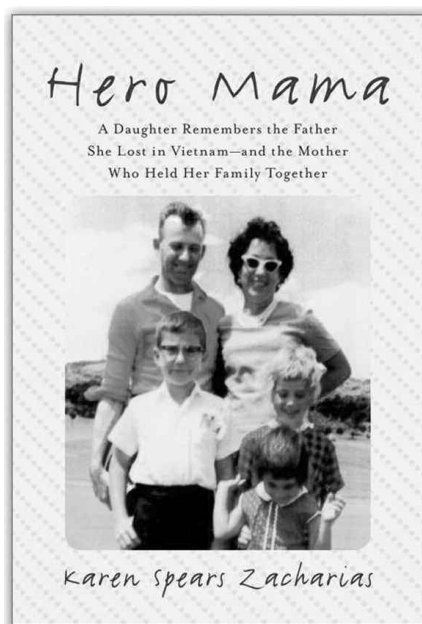
"Everyone was waiting for that book," Lamb told *The New York Times*. "Long after the Vietnam War ended, it was still discussed in Congress." C-Span aired the Sheehan interview in weekly half-hour segments beginning in September 1988. "The viewer response was such that it became clear that there was an audience for a long-form author interview program," Lamb said.

Larry Brown, the novelist whose first book, *Dirty Work* (1989), was a tour-de-force treatment of the personal legacy of the Vietnam War, died November 24 at his home in Yocona, Mississippi. Brown, 53, who succumbed to a heart attack, served in the U.S. Marine Corps.

For info about *Entertaining Vietnam*, a well-done documentary by Mara Wallis about lesser-known show biz folk who brought music to the troops, go to www.entertainingvietnam.com ■



A Daughter In Touch: Karen Zacharias's *Hero Mama*



REVIEWS BY MARC LEEPSON

Regular readers of this newspaper know the name Karen Spears Zacharias, one of the leading lights in *Sons and Daughters in Touch*. Zacharias also is an accomplished journalist who has written many SDIT columns in these pages and has won feature-writing awards. Her book, *Hero Mama: A Daughter Remembers the Father She Lost in Vietnam—and the Mother Who Held Her Family Together* (Morrow, 367 pp., \$24.95), melds Zacharias's writing ability and advocacy on behalf of families who lost loved ones in the Vietnam War.

Zacharias was nine years old in 1966 when her father, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. David P. Spears, was killed in Vietnam. It was a blow that hit Karen and her family—her mother, Shelby, her older brother, Frankie (who was 11 at the time), and younger sister, Linda (six)—particularly hard. “As I tried to sleep that first night, fear blanket-ed me,” Zacharias says. “Never warm, it at least wrapped me up real tight. I took refuge in fear’s cocoon. Sometimes I still do.”

Hero Mama—the title comes from a statue Zacharias saw in Danang—lives up to its subtitle. It is a loving tribute to David and Shelby Spears and an insightful memoir of their oldest daughter’s quest to deal with her father’s death. Karen Zacharias took a giant step in that direction in 2003 when she was among the SDIT members who went to Vietnam on a trip co-sponsored by VVA. Zacharias writes movingly of what she calls “the trip of a lifetime.”

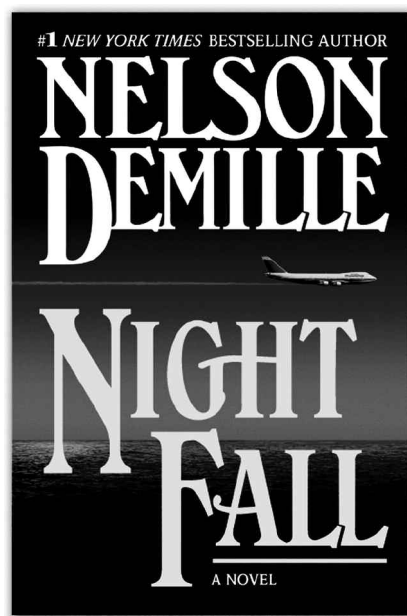
“I did not go to Vietnam seeking closure,” she says. “Grief is a journey with a beginning, but it does not have an end, not in this life anyway. But my trip helped me

realize that Vietnam isn’t the scary jungle I’d always imagined it to be.”

ANOTHER BIG DEMILLE HIT

Here’s what I look for in a detective novel, a mystery, or a thriller: a rapid read, a clever plot that keeps me guessing, a few laughs, a few memorable characters, and a decent dose of insight into the human condition. Nelson DeMille’s *Night Fall* (Warner, 480 pp., \$26.95) comes through splendidly in all of the above.

DeMille, a 1st Cav LT Vietnam veteran, has been spinning out bestsellers for more than two decades. *Night Fall* proves that DeMille is getting better in his middle years. DeMille brings back his wise-cracking,



former NYPD detective John Corey, who—to put it mildly—does not put up with bureaucratic B.S. It’s the summer of 2001, and Corey’s working for a federal terrorism task force in New York, a job that leads to his completely unauthorized investigation into the events surrounding the explosion of the TWA jet that exploded in 1996 off Long Island.

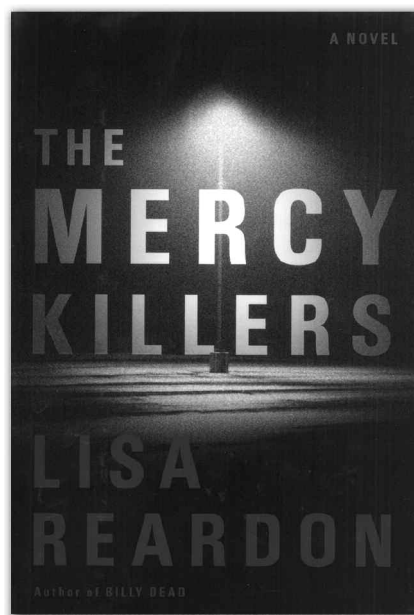
What Corey finds through dogged detective work and uncompromising anti-establishment stubbornness is the heart of this compelling page-turner. *Night Fall* is a riveting tale that DeMille tells perfectly. Plus, the ending’s a mystery right up to the last page.

MERCY, MERCY

Books that offer up stereotypical mal-adjusted Vietnam veterans—and writers who either cannot or will not create

multi-dimensional, fully fleshed out characters—are not well received. Often, the result is a clichéd Nam vet who is as untrue to life as he is an insult to every Vietnam veteran who came home from a rough tour, took a deep breath, and went on with his or her life.

On the other hand, we welcome those writers who come up with true-to-life Vietnam veteran characters who—like all the rest of us human beings—have flaws, and who—like many of those who came home from the war—suffered psychologically and acted antisocially. That is the case



with the two veterans at the center of Lisa Reardon’s *The Mercy Killers* (Counterpoint, 256 pp., \$24), a well-executed novel that tells the stories of some working-class folks in Ypsilanti, Michigan.

Two of her characters get drafted, undergo bruising Vietnam tours, and come home to lives of petty crime and substance abuse. It’s not a pretty picture, but Reardon makes it all work. She bores deeply into the veterans’ psyches, and we discover they are victims of child abuse and abandonment and were troublemakers before they went into the Army. Their stories, in other words, are eminently believable.

Reardon acknowledges the help she received from Vietnam veterans, including members of VVA Chapter 109 in Jackson, Michigan. She listened to the voices of experience. Her gritty, readable book is the proof.

FICTION IN BRIEF

Michael Lund’s *Route 66 to Vietnam* (Beach House Books, 217 pp., \$14.95,

paper) is an engaging tale that flashes back to the narrator’s Vietnam War tour. “Ninety-five percent of my experience in Vietnam,” he says, “was, at least on the surface, either banal or comic. Unfortunately, the remaining five percent was especially tragic.” This is the sixth book in Lund’s *Route 66* series. The author served as a U.S. Army combat correspondent in Vietnam in 1970-71.

VVA Life Member Mike Sutton’s *No Survivors* (Author House, 375 pp., \$19.75, hardcover; \$12.25, paper) is a well-told novel that does not shrink from graphically portraying brutal in-country Vietnam War action. Sutton, who served three Vietnam War tours, evokes the ground war well from the perspective of a small advisory team working in the Delta. His epilogue, set in 1986 at *The Wall* in Washington, is a moving and cathartic tribute to those he served with.

John F. Mullins’ *Into the Treeline* (Pocket Star, 357 pp., \$6.99), is an action-heavy, evocative, broadly sketched Nam novel focusing on a Green Beret LT who becomes a Phoenix Program op. This is the second in Mullins’ “Men of Valor” series. Mullins did three Special Forces tours in the Vietnam War.

Robert Vaughan’s *Brandywine’s War: Back In Country* (Skyward, 259 pp., \$24.95) is a sequel to the author’s 1971 novel, *Brandywine’s War*. In the new book, the title character, an Army CWO helicopter pilot, gets involved in a series of misadventures revolving around the publication of his novel. The dialogue-heavy book moves swiftly with a wacky cast of characters. Vaughan flew helicopters in the war.

WAR VOICES

In *Voices of War: Stories of Service from the Home Front and the Front Lines* (National Geographic, 336 pp., \$30), editor Tom Weiner has taken the stories of Americans who took part in the two world wars and the Korean, Vietnam, and Persian Gulf I Wars and shaped them into a meaningful narrative. Weiner and a group of National Geographic staffers combed through the more than 30,000 oral histories collected by the Library of Congress’s Veterans History Project and chose the

continued on next page

BOOKS

Continued from previous page

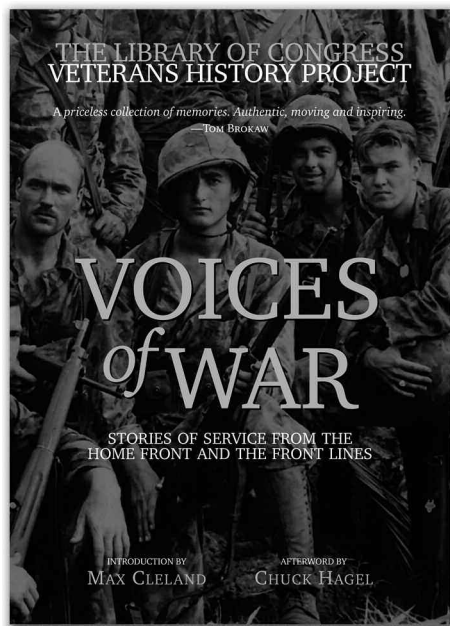
impressions of some sixty men and women.

Two Vietnam veterans—former Sen. Max Cleland and Sen. Chuck Hagel—contribute the introduction and the afterward. The book contains scores of brief entries organized by topic and war, enhanced by dozens of photographs.

SPORTS NEWS

In 1969, while hundreds of thousands of troops were in Vietnam, life continued back home. That year, three New York teams—the Mets, the Knicks, and the Jets—won world championships. Art Shamsky, the former Met outfielder, and writer Barry Zeman tell that amazing story in *The Magnificent Season: How the Jets, Mets, and Knicks Made Sports History and Uplifted a City and the Country* (Thomas Dunne, 266 pp., \$24.95).

The authors put those big seasons in their social and political context by giving the thoughts of, among others, Vietnam veterans, including New York VVA mem-



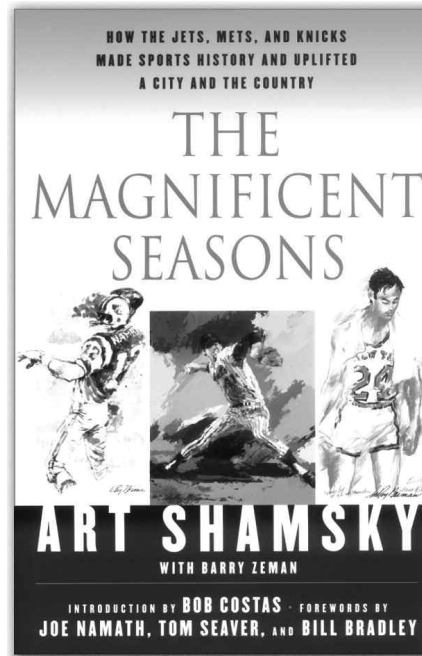
bers Ned Foote and Stanley Kuchewski. Listening to the Jets win the Super Bowl over the radio at a remote firebase, Kuchewski said, was one of the few things that “could bring you away from the war.” Following the Mets that season while he was recuperating from his war wounds at the VA Medical Center in Albany, Foote said, “made me feel good. It took my mind off my problems. There wasn’t much else to make me feel good.”

NONFICTION IN BRIEF

Charles Henderson does an exceptionally thorough job of setting forth the details of the end of the American pres-

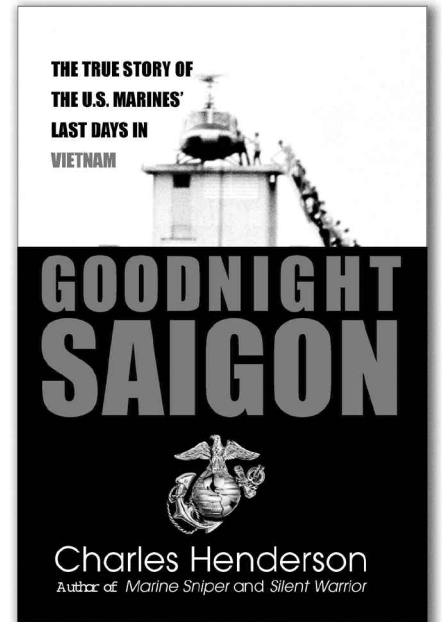
ence in Vietnam in *Goodnight Saigon: The True Story of the U.S. Marines' Last Days in Vietnam* (Berkley, 420 pp., \$24.95). Henderson, a Marine Vietnam veteran who has written three books about the war, turns the story into a personality-driven tale, featuring the voices of those who took part in the April 1975 events on the ground and in Washington. And there are plenty of voices from all sides, including former NVA high-ranking officers and VC cadre and the thoughts of then-President Gerald R. Ford. It makes for a solid, inclusive, and very readable tale.

Few people are more qualified to write about the Soviet Union’s impact on the American war in Vietnam than Ilya V.



Burns notes that some 260,000 Californians fought in Vietnam and that more than 5,800 were killed. The book was published last November in conjunction with the Oakland Museum’s extensive exhibit of the same name.

Gene D. Phillips’ *Godfather: The Intimate Francis Ford Coppola* (University of Kentucky, 464 pp., \$35) contains a long, and enlightening chapter on Coppola’s



two Vietnam War films, *Apocalypse Now* and *Gardens of Stone*. Phillips, an English professor at Loyola University in Chicago, provides inside-baseball anecdotes on both films, including the fact that the producer of *Gardens* convinced the Pentagon to cooperate with that film (as it did not with *Apocalypse*) by reminding a “high-ranking general” that Coppola wrote the screenplay for the movie *Patton*.

Marine-turned-author Johnnie M. Clark’s latest book, *Gunner’s Glory: Untold Stories of Marine Machine Gunners* (Presidio/Ballantine, 302 pp., \$6.99, paper), focuses on seven Marines who fought from WWII to the Vietnam War. The profiles from Vietnam are Melvin Earl Newlin, who received a posthumous Medal of Honor, and Jack Hartzel. The stories (except Newlin’s) are told in the first person by the one-time machine gunners.

The classic village-level “hearts and minds” examination of the Vietnam War, Stuart A. Herrington’s 1982 memoir *Silence Was a Weapon*, is out in a new paper edition re-titled *Stalking the Vietcong: Inside Operation Phoenix: A Personal Account* (Presidio/Ballantine, 279 pp., \$6.99). Herrington writes of his 1971-72 tour as an Army intelligence officer in Hau Nghia Province and especially about the life-threatening pressures faced by South Vietnamese villagers from the Viet Cong and North Vietnamese Army, as well as from their own military and government.

New in paper: Bill Shanahan’s top-notch Vietnam War memoir *Stealth Patrol: The Making of a Vietnam Ranger* (Da Capo, 296 pp., \$15.95), written with John P. Bracken and first published in 2003. ■

Truman Publishing

Specializing in books authored by Vets

For Free Catalog or To Order Visit
www.echoesofwar.com

Or call toll free 888-852-3694

Also visit: www.nammagazine.com

Announcing an Epic Novel of Early America

‘The Major’

He was a brash, young frontiersman from New Hampshire’s border frontier of New England. He had courage, guile and a daring dream.

-----By 1763, he became the stuff of legend-----

‘Hannah’

A young woman, swelled with passion for the young, bold, lad. Yet, she’d be forced to betray him.

-----An act that will put his life in peril-----

‘The Fable’

Amid blood and savagery of the ‘Seven Years War’ a hearsay-lore had beckoned the Major. His vision lay between myth and dream, yet he felt it existed. Now, he planned to search for the source of a distant, coursing river that could lead to the Pacific, thirty years before Lewis and Clark. The expedition would’ve made history if not for a momentous event.

-----The American Revolution-----

Coming This Fall From Xlibris.com.

The Greatest Fable of Colonial North America Is Told.

A New Novel by Henry Nary

THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

NEVER AGAIN

Joe Jennings, executive director of the **Buckeye (Ohio) State Council**, shares a message of gratitude from a U.S. Marine, Maj. Brian Bresnahan, in Iraq who learned the lesson of Vietnam. "No matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking everything," Maj. Bresnahan said. "We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned was even worse. It is a national scar, a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us."

His essay concludes with a simple pledge: "But when I get back, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam vet I encounter for their sacrifices. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one thing did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors."

Sgt. Kelley L. Courtney, 28, of Macon, Georgia, was killed in Iraq November 1. He left behind a wife and two small children. During the funeral procession from the church to the cemetery, motorists pulled over to the side of the road, exited their vehicles, and rendered hand salutes as the hearse passed. The road was lined with hundreds of people, some holding American flags, others standing at attention and bearing silent witness.

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America member William J. Burkamp, chaplain of **Chapter 55** in **Newark, Ohio**, officiated at the services honoring LCPL Joseph Lee Nice, 19, killed in Iraq, August 4. The tribute took place at the Levi Phillips American Legion Post 85 in Newark. Members of Chapter 55 ringed the perimeter of the service to demonstrate their respect for a fellow warrior.

If you would like to correspond with someone in the military who is deployed overseas, go to www.eMailOurMilitary.com and sign up for this free service.



VVA President Tom Corey was host to the Gold Star Mothers at the Salute to Heroes Inaugural Ball.

WHAT MAKES US DIFFERENT

At the January VVA Board of Directors meeting, "tsunami bars" were sold to raise money for victims in Thailand, to be administered by VVA staffer Sutton Thumprasert, who is a leader of the Thai-American community

Rochester, New York, Chapter 20 continued to provide relief to those still displaced and distressed by the fall hurricanes in Florida. The chapter donated \$3,300 and more than 3,500 pounds of clothing to the victims of Hurricanes Charlie, Frances, Ivan, and Jeanne.

NEVER AGAIN II

Brit Garner and three of her classmates have invited **Florida State Council**

President Craig Tonjes to be a contributor to National History Day activities they are coordinating at Leon High School in Tallahassee in June. Garner explained in her invitation that she and her friends are very interested in looking at the impact of the Voice of America's music during the Vietnam War. If you can help, contact Tonjes by e-mail at cltonjes@comcast.net For more information about National History Day, go to www.nationalhistoryday.org

IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

Chapter 77 in **Buffalo, New York**, and the Western New York Veterans Housing Coalition opened a satellite office for Veterans Employment Services in January. A grant was received from the U.S. Department of Labor Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program to provide training, education, and job placement activities in support of homeless veterans. The office is located at the Vietnam Veterans Museum in Tonawanda, New York. For more information, call Eric Nilson or Rick Wright at 716-882-6308.

Jim and Terry Blount of **Virginia Tidewater Chapter 48** have taken on the daunting task of "adopting" a platoon in Iraq. The Blounts provide 34 men and three women with items that are either difficult for them to obtain or which help ease the tension and boredom. They have been joined by three local schools, several small businesses, and many friends in assembling packages of foodstuffs, toiletries, music and video discs, money, and cards. By Thanksgiving, the Blounts had

mailed out more than 63 packages weighing over half a ton. Postage alone exceeded \$800.

West Haven, Connecticut, Chapter 647 sponsored a Support the Troops collection. The drive netted 750 pounds of supplies, which were sent to the 118th Med. Bn. in Iraq.

HONORS

Buffalo Chapter 77 announced that two chapter members have been appointed to the Advisory Board of the Small Business Development Center at Buffalo State College. Patrick W. Welch, president of Chapter 77, and Tom Konopka, Director of Business Development to the Advisory Board, look forward to their participation in the programs offered by the Business Center. Welch is vice president and chief operating officer of an international software services firm headquartered in Williamsville, New York. Konopka is a consultant to the medical device industry.

Beaver County Chapter 862 recently held its annual Awards Dinner Dance. Lee Corfield was declared Vietnam Veteran of the Year, and Blaine Allinder received the President's Award for Outstanding Service. Phyllis Weiss was AVVA Member of the Year, and Pete Petrosky received the John Namath Distinguished Service Award.

ANNIVERSARIES

Richard Early reports on the Massachusetts Tribute to Vietnam Veterans,

continued on page 38



West Haven, Connecticut, Chapter 647 sponsored a Support the Troops collection. The supplies were sent to the 118th Med. Bn. in Iraq.

All submissions to "Membership Notes" are read; regrettably, not all can be included. To increase the likelihood of your news item being printed, include "after-action" reports in your newsletter, or send a letter with your project results to: Membership Notes, The VVA Veteran, Vietnam Veterans of America, 8605 Cameron Street, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3710

MEMBERSHIP NOTES

continued from previous page

commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War, 1975-2005. The event was co-sponsored by the VVA **Massachusetts State Council**, the Foundation for the Advancement of Vietnam Veterans, and the Leominster Elks Lodge. Former Regional Director Early said Vietnam veterans remember all who served. A special edition of *The Boston Herald* saluting Medal of Honor recipients reported an old soldier saying, "The older brother of World War II would rely on the public embrace they received. A generation later the men and women of Vietnam came home from a deeply unpopular war and were largely ignored."

DONATIONS

Ohio State Council Incarcerated Staff Representative of the Year Bill Homer presented a check for \$500 from **VVA Chapter 616 in Mansfield Correctional Institution** to the "Relay for Life Team" of Richland County to promote and increase breast cancer awareness. Joining Homer in the presentation ceremony was Alice Cain, a breast cancer survivor, and Warden Margaret Bradshaw.



Miami, Florida, Chapter 121 had a surprise for patients in the Spinal Unit at the Miami VAMC. Instead of the usual sweets, they brought four Hooters girls along for a visit.

of the non-profit, tax-exempt corporation that raises scholarship money for children of active-duty and former Marines. Randolph served in the Marine Corps from 1967-70,

Ellis, made a Christmas visit to the Mississippi Veterans Home in Oxford.

Brian Mulcrone reports that **Chicago Northwest Suburbs Chapter 311** sponsored a Veterans Day event that featured the award-winning documentary, *Be Good, Smile Pretty*, by Tracy Droz Tragos, who received a VVA Excellence in the Arts award at the 2003 National Convention in St. Louis.

After the area around Junior, West Virginia, suffered the ravages of floods, members of **Barbour County Chapter 37**

jumped on the chance to help their neighbors. Cheryl Savage and her husband, Larry, joined Jack and Angie Raines and Charles Mitchum to distribute blankets to the local emergency squad for use by other first-responders in the area.

ODDS 'N' ENDS

Beaver County, Pennsylvania, Chapter 862 held a Life Membership Drive and signed up 34 new life members. The chapter elected to underwrite half the cost of the memberships.

Public Affairs chair Sarah Thompson reports that **Ray Strength Chapter 842 in Northeastern Mississippi** recently recruited three new VVA members and one new AVVA member. Vietnam veterans Tommy Hall, Billy Holly, Thomas Edwards, and his wife, Jean, became members of VVA.

Stephen Murray, vice president of **Chapter 100 in Athens, Ohio**, proudly displays the Vietnam Service ribbon on the tail of his private aircraft.

VETS ON THE NET

The Virtual Vietnam Archive at Texas Tech University now provides free access to more than 12,000 documents (one million pages) of official U.S. Marine Corps documents from 1954-1975. These materials are available to anyone with Internet access; there is no registration fee. For additional information, contact Stephen Maxner, Archivist and Associate Director, The Vietnam Archive in Lubbock, Texas, at 806-742-9010 or e-mail steve.maxner@ttu.edu The archive web site is www.vietnam.ttu.edu ■



Note the Vietnam Service ribbon on the tail of this airplane. Stephen Murray, vice president of Chapter 100 in Athens, Ohio, proudly displays it wherever he flies.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Buffalo Chapter 77 has established the Peter P. Tycz II Memorial Scholarship in honor and memory of Tonawanda native U.S. Army Special Forces Sergeant First Class Tycz, who was killed in Paktika Province, Afghanistan, in 2002. The chapter chose Tycz in recognition of his involvement in the community, his devotion to his family and country, and exemplary military service. The scholarship is designed for a graduating high school senior. Writing about the scholarship, chapter president Pat Welch quoted Albert Einstein: "Everything that is really great and inspiring is created by the individual who can labor in freedom."

Chapter 100 in Athens, Ohio, has distributed more than \$12,000 in scholarships to college-bound children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans.

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation has named Christopher F. Randolph the new president and chief executive officer

including service as executive officer and commanding officer of Mortar Battery, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines, in Vietnam and in Okinawa between 1969-70. Following active duty, he served as a U.S. senatorial staff assistant.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

For nearly 13 years, **Miami, Florida, Chapter 121** has volunteered at the Miami VAMC. Typically, chapter members bring candy, cookies, and chips to the patients in the Spinal Unit and coffee and donuts to the PTSD and Addiction Wards. For a change, chapter members decided to bring something different: eye candy. Four Hooters girls visited patients in the Spinal Unit. They also brought three hundred chicken wings, which left plenty for the residents of the other wards.

Mississippi Ray Strength Chapter 842 members, led by Bill West and Jamie



Salute To Veterans

Fran Davis, vice president of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, presented Tony Orlando a Certificate of Appreciation after the closing ceremonies of the November 11 Veterans Week Celebration in Branson, Missouri. Orlando was commended for the countless hours that he has given to Vietnam veterans and all veterans and their families. ■

LOCATOR

A VVA STAFF REPORT

The Locator is intended to help veterans find former fellow servicemembers. We do not run items for those seeking employment, selling merchandise, or "personal" ads. Nor do we run notices for children searching for absent parents. VVA does not guarantee the accuracy of any information, nor does VVA endorse any group, individual, or cause cited herein.

FYI FROM THE VA

As a federal agency, according to the Privacy Act, the Department of Veterans Affairs is obliged to protect the privacy of veterans' personal information. Therefore, the VA cannot release personal information about a veteran from its records system without the person's permission. The VA can, however, forward a message to the veteran, providing the veteran has filed a claim with VA and the agency has an address on record.

Please write your message and place it in an unsealed, stamped envelope. Also include a note to VA explaining whom you are trying to reach and add as much identifying information as you can. Place all of this in another envelope addressed to the nearest U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Regional Office (you can find the addresses at www.vba.va.gov/ro/ro_inter.htm or in the blue pages of the telephone book).

If the veteran is in the VA records, the message will be sealed and the envelope sent to the address the VA has on file for the veteran. It is then up to the veteran to contact the letter-writer. If you have any questions, you can reach the regional VA office at 800-827-1000. This process is designed to protect the privacy of veterans as required by law.

Looking for those assigned to U.S. Army, **B-11-4, 2nd Plt.**, Ft. Knox, Basic Training, May to July 1969, especially Vorick, Whitney, Moreford, Puckett, Thames, Silva, Parker, Ledanyi, Martin, Misiasz, Poteet, Jones, Brennan. Also Ernie Rose and James Porter, who served with **3rd Plt.** Most of them were draftees from Michigan. Contact: Gerry Wright, 248-874-7589, 800-632-2370; hexmate70@aol.com

Would enjoy hearing from anyone who served with **118th Aviation Co.**, 1963-64. Contact: Gary Cole, garyleecole@comcast.net

Looking for anyone who served with **1st Inf. Div., 1st Bn., 16th Inf., A Co.**, December 1965 to February 1966. Did you know **SP4 Steve Laier**, RTO? Contact: Joe Laier, harleyjoe40@yahoo.com

Looking for anyone who served aboard the **USS Oxford AGTR-1**, January 1968 to March 1969. Also anyone who might have helped me with the mail pick up at An Thoi, January 1968 to March 1969. Contact: Raymond Bronco, rbronco@hotmail.com

Looking for anyone who was on **LZ Jane**, January to July 1968, and has information regarding perimeter firefights and mortar attacks during this period. Also looking for anyone who was at **MACV**, 1968, during Tet Offensive in Qui Nhon. Contact: Bill Overton, 800-321-9180; gwjuice@sbcglobal.net

Looking for members of **River Section 524**, June 1967 to May 1968. **River Patrol Boats 738 and 737** were involved in a firefight in the Rung Sat Special Zone, January 7, 1968. The officers in charge of the mission were Lt. Stubbs and BMI Pribnow. Contact: Frank R. Handy, 2809 Iron St., Bellingham, WA 98225; 360-734-9362; frankhandy@msn.com

Searching for anyone who served with my dad, **J.J. Buterbaugh**, on **USS Oriskany CVA 34**, 1964-66, and Det. Charlie, 1971-72, for possible reunion. Contact: Joetta Depaepe, 104 Aspen Cir., North Richland Hills, TX 76180; 817-581-1625.

Searching for **Dan Giardina**, U.S. Army. Class of '64 wants to contact you. Contact: Maria Clitli Workman Love, 5283 King Rd., East China, MI 48054.

Trying to locate **Sgt. Johnson** who served in 39th Bn., Camp Eagle, Hue/Phu Bai area and also **SSgt. Noble** and **SSgt. Worthington**, 1970-71, or anyone who knows their whereabouts. Contact: Jim Barker, 4941 Dickinson Dr., San Jose, CA 95111; 408-226-6204; 408-806-1559 (cell).

Searching for **Kenny Dick** from Pasadena, California, who served in Vietnam, 1968-70, or anyone who knows his whereabouts. Would like to find out if he made it back. Contact: Georgia Vitale, godsgal416@yahoo.com

I was 1st Lt. with **Delta Trp., 3/17th, Air Cav., 1st Aviation Bde.**, Lai Khe (Blue Tiger 16), April 1971-72, and need to contact any officers who served with **Alpha, Bravo, or Charlie Troops** who had company orderly rooms at Lai Khe and reported to First Sergeant, especially anyone who served with Delta Trp. and remembers Capt. Beck and 1st Sgt. Kitt. Contact: Otto W. Fox, ottowfox@yahoo.com

Searching for anyone who served with **San Diego Recruit Plt. 279**, 1959-60. Contact: Lou Rosgen, lrosen14@aol.com

Searching for anyone who served with my dad, **Charles Anthony Miller**, in **101st Airborne Division**. Would like to know more about the division and those who served with him. Contact: Betty Kramer, stardreamcatcher@yahoo.com

Trying to locate Vietnam veteran **Pete Caban**. His last-known address was in Alabama. Contact: Ann Lancaster, 919-515-6078; ann_lancaster@ncsu.edu

Looking for anyone who served with my brother, **SP4 Dennis E. Gest, 1st Inf. Div.**, who was KIA 1/22/69 when I was four years old. Would like a copy of a photo of him, as all was lost. Contact: Lisa Gest Gibson, Bndanaher1@aol.com

Searching for **Don Naylor** from Tripoli or anyone who knows his whereabouts. We grew up together in Winnipeg, Manitoba. He served in Vietnam as an air traffic controller. Contact: Gillian Binnie, gbinnie@tbaytel.net

Looking for anyone who served with **12th Sig. Grp., JAGS**, Phu Bai CID/MPs or others and knows about the **fragging of an E-7** in the **63rd Sig. Bn.**, Phu Bai, in the spring/summer of 1971 for PTSD claim. Contact: joebay@davispc.com

Would like to return a rosary to the family of **SFC Jose Garcias** from Los Ebanos, Texas, who was KIA 11/10/68. My husband was wounded on the same day, and the rosary got mixed in with his personal belongs. Contact: Shirley Caudill, 417-683-2368; sjcaudill@getgo.in.net

Looking for **battalion surgeon** or anyone who served with me and can confirm my hospitalization at **HSB, 4th Bn., 42nd Arty., 4th Inf. Div.**, (UNOINDC), Pleiku. Contact: Jeter B. Harrison, 5105 N.W. Cherry Ave., Lawton, OK 73505-5730; 580-355-1748.

Trying to locate **Patrick Shonny Kelley**, who served in Vietnam toward the end of the war, or anyone who knows his whereabouts. Contact: Yvonne Burden, yvonneburden04@aol.com

Looking for anyone who served with **557th Lt. Maint. Co.** assigned to Cam Ranh Bay in 1967 from Ft. Hood, Texas. Contact: Joe Goebel, Siranvill1@aol.com

Looking for anyone who served with me on **Hill 689, Khe Sanh**, especially Thom (Mouse) Mosell from Wisconsin, Cowboy, Stuckey, and Larry Wells, or any information on unit. Contact: Tim (Swinger) Brauns, TBLAURA@wmconnect.com

Looking for **Richard Stringer** from Louisiana who served with me in **13th Avn. Bn.**, 1965-66. Contact: Phil Ahrens, roxie_7@msn.com

Would like to contact anyone who served with me in **Advisory Team 63**, Soc Trang, Ba Xuyen Province, 1967-68. Contact: David Zeckser, dzeckser@cfl.rr.com

Looking for anyone who served with me in **D Trp., 2nd Sqd., 1st Cav. Div.**, 1969-70, Pleiku. The group was transferred May 1969 to **Task Force South**, Phan Thiet, and attached to **1st Field Force, Armored Div.** and later departed from Cam Ranh Bay for reassignment to 2nd Armored Div., Ft. Hood, Texas. Contact: Pat Bell, 2468 Attala Rd. 5238, Ethel, MS 39067; pbell47@bellsouth.net

Looking for anyone who served with **169th Eng. Bn., 159th Grp., 20th Eng. Bde., 46th Eng. Co.**, 1969. Contact: Bill Shaw, larboardside@att.net

Looking for anyone who served with **C Co., 40th Sig. Bn.**, Bien Hoa and Long Binh, April to December 1971. Contact: Charlie Shores, 703-447-3140; cshores52@adelphia.net

Trying to contact **William Bond**, USMC Recon, Vietnam, prior to 1973. He attended Defense Language Institute, Monterey, 1973-74, and was promoted from major to lieutenant colonel. Contact: Chuck Ford, chuckford@frontiernet.net

Looking for anyone who served with **SP5 Ralph D. Smith, 147th Avn. Co.**, APO 96291, EDCSA, October 4, 1969. Contact: G.A. Smith, krumb1@hotmail.com

Looking for graduation book of Basic Training at Ft. Jackson, **C Co., 6th training B, 2nd Bn.**, January to February 1967. Contact: Bruce A. Botsford #235804, 2500 South Sheridan Dr., Muskegon Heights, MI 49444.

Looking for anyone who served with me in **97th LCU Boat Co.**, Cam Ranh Bay, 1965-66; **1099th Medium Boat Co.**, Cat Lai, 1968-69; and **557 MP Co.**, Long Binh, 1971-72, PBR River Patrol. Contact: Charles Kidwell, P.O. Box 297, Jackson, TN 38301-0297; 731-803-2857.

Trying to locate **SFC Howard L. Foster**, who was assigned to the Michigan Army National Guard Advisory Group, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 1963-64, and later to a MACV Advisory Group with an ARVN division, 1967 or 1968. He served in Okinawa, Japan, and Germany. Contact: James L. Hughes, 1906 NW Couch St., Camas, WA 98607-1051; 360-834-4376; gyla@pacifier.com

Searching for anyone who served with me in **2nd Field Force, 1st/27th, FA**, Danang, Bear Cat, Long Binh, July 1970-71. Need to find someone who remembers me carrying wounded from the perimeter. I remember Lumpy, McCaddy, Bigham, and Tom Martin. Contact: Mario Montes, 42 Lodi Dr., Storrs, CT 06268; lbailey@biblio.org

Looking for **John Evans, 9th Inf. Div.**, Dong Tam, 1969. He has dragon tattoos on his forearms. Contact: Joseph Boggs, 2173 Forestlake Dr., Sacto, CA 95670; jrboggs@gmail.com

Looking for **Sgt. James Kelly, A Co., 2nd/8th, 1st Cav. Div.**, 1968. Last-known address was Queens, New York. Contact: Rod "Doc" Dockstader, P.O. Box 10213, Golden Valley, AZ 86413; 208-520-2447.

Looking for **Senior Medical Corpsman Mike**, 3/5 Plt., 1st Mar. Div., **E3 Sonnet**,

REUNIONS

USS Chicago CA14, CA29, CA136, CG11, SSN721 reunion April 27 to May 1, Jacksonville, Florida. Contact: Scotty McClurg, 904-261-8944; LYNNESCOT@aol.com or visit web site at www.usschicago.org; West Coast contact: 206-824-4814.

Second Battalion (2/4) Fourth Marines Association reunion, including any attached personnel, July 13-16, San Diego. Contact: Becky Valdez, 8221 E. Birch Tree Ln., Anaheim Hills, CA 92808; 714-281-2846; fxala@hotmail.com

USMC Vietnam Tankers Association reunion, August 17-21, Doubletree Hotel Philadelphia. Reservations: 215-893-1600. Mention USMC Vietnam Tankers. Contact: Dick Carey, 508-477-5957; warvet@comcast.net or John Wear, 215-794-9052; Johnwear@comcast.net

Calling all Gators, Crocs, and Swamp Rats for a **119th Assault Helicopter Company** reunion, July 23-24. Contact: Eugene Carroll, ECarroll@clark.edu

Third Marine Division 2005 Annual Family Reunion, August 15-21, Arlington, Virginia. Contact: Bill Krueger, 7622 Highland St., Springfield, VA 22150; 703-451-3844.

USS Renville APA 227 reunion for crew and Marines who were aboard for 67-day cruise around Vietnam and those who served anytime from 1944 on to be held on 60th anniversary of Okinawa invasion, March 30 to April 2, Norfolk, Virginia. Contact: Don Wright, 4289 Alex Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45211; 513-481-8317; jdwrightstuff@cs.com

Red Cross Donut Dollie reunion, July 8-10, Albuquerque. Contact: Jenny Young, P.O. Box 42, Mabank, TX 75147; redcrossservice@yahoo.com

17th Infantry Regiment reunion of "Buffaloes," WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and Cold Wars. Lightfighter, Thundering Herd, all eras and peacetime, Ft. Benning, Georgia, October 5-9. Contact: Donald Shook, 1010 Manor Rd., New Kensington, PA 15068; 724-334-8876; 724-575-2286; deshook@7thininfantry.com or visit web site, www.17thininfantry.com

and **Danny McKay**. My right hand was injured in March/April 1969 at An Hoa Firebase, and I did not receive Purple Heart. Contact: Raul E. Vela, 14820 New Lothrop Rd., Byron, MI 48418; 810-266-4233.

Looking for units that had **special logos on vehicles** that were state-of-the-art. Please send photos. Contact: Norma Ryman, #137652, P.O. Box 534, Jessup, MD 20794-0534.

Trying to locate **Sgt. David Joseph Dreher**, a medical specialist, USAF, stationed at 358 USAF DISP, KORAT, RTAFB, Thailand, 1967-68, and transferred to Japan in 1968, or anyone who knows his whereabouts. Contact: Robert A. Kochenderfer, 1904 Riata Rd., Warrensburg, MO 64093; 660-747-2750.

Seeking anyone who had **Basic Training in B-5-1**, June to August 1965 (Tank Hill), Ft. Jackson. Most were draftees from New York City. My nickname was "Rosie." Contact: Ed Rosado, 14654 467th St., Lucas, IA 50151.

145th Combat Aviation Battalion and attached units active in Vietnam, December 1961 to April 1972, will hold its reunion September 28 through October 1, Kansas City, Missouri. Contact: Jim Bodkin, 850-747-4710; Jbodkin145@aol.com

554th Engineer reunion planned for all Vietnam-era veterans, weekend of May 20, Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Contact: Peter Kreutzfeldt, 1797 Sunvale Dr. SW, Wyoming, MI 49509; 616-249-0125; sunvale1@sbcglobal.net

Saigon Mission Association, U.S. Embassy/DAO 30th annual reunion, April 29-30, Holiday Inn and Suites, Anaheim, California. Military, civilian, and contractors welcome. Contact: John Guffey, john.guffey@netzero.net or visit web site www.saigonmsn.org

USS Reeves DLG/CG-24 reunion tentatively scheduled for fall 2006. Contact: John H. White, TechWrite, Inc., 65 Perry Ave., Monroeville, AL 36460; 251-575-7396; jhwhite@techwriteinc.com or Michael E. Lalancette, 17 Drury Dr., Essex Junction, VT 05452; 802-878-9942; melalancet@aol.com

Charlie Company, 2/12th, 25th Infantry Division reunion for grunts who served from 1969-70 will be held Memorial Day weekend, May 26-30, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This is only the second reunion in 35 years. Contact: Danny Breeding, 423-345-5000; danbreedi@cs.com

45th Transportation Battalion (Aircraft) MACV and all attached units will be having a reunion in Kansas City, Missouri, September 28 through October 1. This was the first U.S. Army unit assigned to Vietnam, activated in December 1961. In September 1963, it became the 145th Aviation Battalion (MACV). Contact: Joe Boggs, 816-741-4014; boggsbt6@msn.com

Proud Americans, 2nd/32nd FA., Vietnam 2005 reunion, Hilton Crystal City Hotel, Arlington, Virginia, May 19-22. Contact: Ralph Jones, P.O. Box 498964, Cincinnati, OH 45249; 513-583-1632; www.militaryreunionplanners.com/Proud.htm or <http://proudamericans.homestead.com/proudamericans.html>

Looking for anyone who served at **LZ Ross**, 1970-71. Contact: Ken Auburn, 100 Betsy Ross Dr., Youngsville, LA 70592; SPR142@worldnet.att.net

Looking for **Cpl./Sgt. Ramon Fernandez**, who served with **B Co., 2nd Bn., 2nd Inf., 1st Inf. Div.**, December 1965-66. I was with him when he got wounded at Chu Chi while filling canteens. Contact: David W. Eister, 196 Pattie Ln., Maysville, NC 28555; 910-326-1072.

Looking for anyone who served in the U.S. Air Force with **62 OTCS, Det. 1, Radar Ops**, January to July 1968. Contact: Michael Bond, 1215 Colorado, Texarkana, TX 75503; michaelb@willingbond.com or michael.bond@LEISD.net

Would like to hear from all combat engineers, radio operators, or medics who served with **1st Eng. Bn., 1st Inf. Div.**, Big Red One, the "Die Hard" battalion. Contact: Bill Isaksen, 312 Versailles Dr., Apt. F.,

continued on next page

LOCATOR

continued from previous page

Melbourne Beach, FL 32951; billisaksen@yahoo.com

Looking for **photographs** taken in the field by any members of **Delta 1/503, 173rd Abn. Inf. Bde.**, February 1968-69. Contact: Bernie Maez, 21860 Towns Cir., #712, Caldwell, ID 83607; 208-989-9592.

Looking for **Kevin P. Knight**, a fireman with **61st AHC**, Lane Field, An Son. I lost contact when I transferred to gunships at LZ English, Bong Son. Also would like to hear from former **Star Blazer** crews. Contact: George Bittner, 3709 Blenheim Rd., Phoenix, MD 21131; 410-852-6469.

Looking for anyone who served with **C 2/8 Mech., 4th Inf. Div.** and has a picture of the truck I was driving, #31. It was hit by a B-40 rocket behind the driver's seat. Contact: Bob Byrne, 1832 Sanford Dr., Elizabeth City, NC 27909; 252-335-5693.

Looking for anyone who served with me in **92nd Eng. Bn., 515th Asphalt Plt. (ZomTom)**, 1969-70, Long Binh. Contact: Jim Trago, 8217 SW 61st Ct., Ocala, FL 34476; 352-245-8217; cjjTrago@aol.com

Looking for **Quinn** from Massachusetts who served with **Fox Btry., 2nd Bn., 12th Mar.**, 1966-67. Contact: Tom Hoover, 143 Prides Way, Seward, PA 15954; 814-446-6215; pmref@aol.com

Looking for **John Daley**, who served with me in the Marine Corps, for testimony for Purple Heart. Contact: Joe Demetski, 6 Conrad St., Sayreville, NJ 08872; 732-254-4447; 732-257-1535.

Looking for **Vinnie Reilley, Bob Smoke, Jack Henderson**, or **John Driessen** who

were stationed at Cam Ranh Bay Naval Repair Facility with me. Contact: Richie Kirshen, 946 41st St., Miami Beach, FL 33140; 954-816-3477; R5454@bellsouth.net

Looking for Vietnam veterans who landed at Long Binh, Bien Hoa, at the beginning of **1968 Tet Offensive** (January/February). I was put on temporary morgue detail from **90th Replacement Bn.** to unload choppers of wounded and dead soldiers. This is for a PTSD claim. Contact: Bruce Hutton, 1618 32nd St., Rock Island, IL 61201.

Looking for anyone who served with me in **1st MAW-MAG-11**, Danang Airbase, January 1969 to February 1970, especially **Rich Lovett**, Massachusetts; **Roger Hornbuckle**, Washington; **Frank Lamica**, New York; **Charlie Brown**, Delaware; and **Ralph Banks**, New Jersey. Filing for PTSD claim. Contact: John Petruska, 11137 Lakeland Cir., Ft. Myers, FL 33913; 239-768-5059.

Looking for anyone who served with **Victor Co., 2nd Bn., 2nd Bde.**, Ft. Dix, New Jersey, Basic Training, November 1965 to January 1966. Also, anyone who served at **Ft Dietrick**, Maryland, January to July 1966, and **HQ Co., 1st Log.**, Cam Ranh Bay, August 1966-67, especially D.S. Ssgt. Keenan, Hank Niemark, Lt. Tom Banskell, Pvts. Godkin, Baptiste, Capt. Shaw, and LTC Cippola. Contact: Walter J. Degnan, Wdegs88@optonline.net

Looking for **C.O. David Tompkins** from Texas who served with **2nd Plt., C Co., 1st Mar. MP Bn., 1st Mar. Div., I Corps**, 1966-67. I was transferred to 1st Mar., K-9 Plt., (Sentry Scouts) with C.O. Oliver and later to A Co. Contact: Tommy "Tee" Tucker, 302 Southwest Bay Pl.,

High Springs/Ft. White, FL 32038; 386-454-0464.

Looking for **John Reynolds**, who was appointed to the Air Force Academy, 1955 or 1956, for a 50th reunion of Grover Cleveland High School, Caldwell, New Jersey. Contact: George E. Deliduka, 11019 Swallow St., NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433; 763-755-1485.

Incarcerated veteran who served with **1st Inf. Div.**, 1966-67, who was shot in combat and suffers from brain damage, Agent Orange, type II diabetes, and bronchitis, needs help getting **Agent Orange relief**. Contact: Theodore A. Bray, Jr., TDCJ # 548305, 1697 FM 980 Ellis Unit, Huntsville, TX 77343.

Looking for anyone who served with me in **536th Ord. Co., 1st Air Cav.**, Anh Khe, 1965-66. Contact: Mitch "Greek" Argyris, 32447 Kelly Rd., Fraser, MI 48026; 586-293-6643.

Looking for **Richard Belanger, Msgr. Hunt**, medics, or anyone who served in **HHC, 317th Eng. Bn.**, Eschborn, Germany, and remembers accident at Rhine River in spring 1970 when I almost drowned in gasoline. Contact: William Barnes, #923651, D-311, Wabash Valley Correctional Facility, P.O. Box 111, Carlisle, IN 47838.

Looking for anyone who was stationed at Ft. Leonard Wood, 1969-70, and has had health problems such as cirrhosis of the liver or liver cancer. I served with **B Co., 4th Bn., 3rd Bde.** Contact: Glenn Evans, 148 Hays, Pea Ridge, AR 72751; songrafter2002@yahoo.com

Looking for anyone who served with **Gary T. Murphy**, New York, in **199th Light Inf. (Red Catchers)**. He was an RTO with **HHC, 4th Bn., 12th Inf.**,

January 1968 to March 1969. Contact: Donald C. Amorosi, 14 Catherine St., South Glens Falls, NY 12803; 518-792-2057; kris@capital.net

Looking for **Sgt. Guy Ambrose**. Need to know if he made it back to Okinawa and if he remembers getting shelled on the **Denver**, Tonkin Bay and Tiger Island. Also, looking for corpsman who served with **HQ Co., H&S Bn., 3rd Mar.**, and remembers when I struck O.D. when he woke us up. Contact: Edward Day, 23610 Elm Cir., Waterloo, NE 68069; 402-779-2078.

Looking for anyone who served with me in **India Co., 3rd Bn., 1st Mar.**, 1969-70, specially **Sgt. Guy Cornwell, J.L. Wharton**, and **Mike King**. Contact: Richard Van Dyk, 220 Wave Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050; 609-660-1658, rickann@comcast.net

Looking for anyone who served with or knows **Sgt. Ronald Ray Williamson** who served in Vietnam, June 1966 to September 1967. Contact: classiclil2@aol.com

Looking for anyone who served with **Edward Anthony Sousa**, who possibly served in U.S. Army as a photographer stationed in Vietnam and Ft. Huachuca. Contact: Sal Murillo, sal_murillo2003@yahoo.com

Trying to locate **Ron Harris**, who served with me in **Co. D, 87th Eng. Bn.**, Camp Evans, Phu Bai. I was with **HHQ Co.** as operations clerk. Contact: Bill Place, rocky194887@msn.com

Looking for **Thomas Vallincourt**, who served in **Surgeon's Office**, USARV HQ and **44th Medical Bde.**, Vietnam, 1968-69. Contact: Marsha Mossing, Marsha@mmgiftshows.com

Looking for **CMSgt. John Sackett**, who served with **38th TAC MSL Wing**,

IG Team, 1960-62. He also served with **660 Radar Sqd.**, MacDill, 1968. Contact: Billy Byrd, bbyrd5@tampabay.rr.com

Looking for anyone who served with my uncle, **William Edward Cofield**, 1st Air Cav., February 1967-68. His basic training was at Ft. Bragg, November 1966, **1st Plt., Co. C, 5th Bn., 1st Bde.** He is having major problems and can't remember much. Contact: Kenneth Perry, jabbo@clis.com

Looking for anyone who served on the **Coast Guard Cutter Modoc**, 1971-73, who remembers me falling through a covered hatch into the after-steering compartment. Can anyone explain how I can get copies of the ship's records? Contact: Virgil Boomgaarn, 225 Keeta Way, Grants Pass, OR 97526; 541-476-0522; 541-556-7643.

Looking for anyone who served in Okinawa, **L-3-1, 1st Plt.**, Pendleton, March 1965, and then to **G-1-9, 1st Plt.** at Schwab or Hanson, especially **Owen Litfin** of Minnesota and **Henry Bachich** of Wisconsin. We went to Danang in June 1965 and from there to Chu Lai to join with **K-3-3**. Contact: Charles Clark, 21264 Fair Oaks Dr., Nevis, MN 56467-4353; cc8410@unitelc.com

Looking for anyone who served with me in **1st/28th, 1st Inf. Div.**, Vietnam, 1965-66. Contact: Carmine Monaco, CarmiMona@aol.com

Looking for anyone who served with my brother, **SP4 Dario David Guerra, B Btry., 2nd Bn., 4th Arty., 9th Inf. Div.**, Binh Phouc, who was KIA November 23, 1968. Contact: Marcelo E. Guerra, P.O. Box 832789, Miami, FL 33283; 305-752-9939. ■

Locator Message

To have a message appear in the "Locator," fill out the form below: **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Army Navy Air Force Marines Coast Guard Miscellaneous

Message: (Limit yourself to 50 words or less) _____

_____ ■

Return this form to: **The VVA Veteran, c/o Locator, 8605 Cameron Street, Suite 400, Silver Spring, MD 20910-3710**

Date _____ Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Number (Fill in only if you would like your telephone number printed) _____

ALLOW 2 TO 4 MONTHS FOR YOUR NOTICE TO APPEAR IN THE LOCATOR. YOUR NOTICE WILL APPEAR SUBJECT TO THE DISCRETION OF THE PUBLISHER AND MAY BE EDITED.
THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS SERVICE.

Thomas L. Costello died April 13, 2000, in Hyannis, Massachusetts. He was born August 12, 1943. Costello served in the U.S. Army from 1962-63 during the Vietnam era. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Hyannis Chapter 338.

John P. Coyne died August 30, 2004, in Minot, North Dakota, of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was born November 30, 1946. Coyne served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968-74, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Minot Chapter 374 and served as the chapter president until his death.

Ray G. Creasey, Jr., died in 2002 in Halifax, Virginia. He was born March 18, 1949. Creasey was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Halifax Chapter 840.

Patrick Cunningham died February 21, 2004, in East Rutherford, New Jersey, of cancer. He was born March 14, 1952. Cunningham served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1970-73 during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-East Rutherford Chapter 800.

Richard Arnold Day died September 8, 2004, in Grants Pass, Oregon, as the result of an automobile accident. He was born March 24, 1942. Day served in U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Grants Pass Chapter 867.

Lloyd A. Dunham died July 15, 2004, in Eagle River, Alaska. He was born November 9, 1941. Dunham served in the U.S. Army from 1967-70, with a 1968-69 tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Anchor Point Chapter 914.

Albert N. Earle died December 4, 2004, in Hayden, Idaho, of a massive heart attack. He was born May 4, 1943. Earle served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1961-66, with service in the Vietnam War.

Benjamin Lee Ebert died August 31, 2004, in Toms River, New Jersey. He was born November 9, 1908. Ebert served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a medic with the 5th Infantry Division. He served in North Africa, southern France, Italy, Sicily, and was in the Battle of the Bulge. He was a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America-Lanoka Harbor Chapter 855.

Tommy A. Formby died October 18, 2004, in Springhill, Louisiana. He was born September 25, 1948. Formby served in the U.S. Army from 1968-71, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Shreveport Chapter 94.

Gerald Forstner died recently in Chula Vista, California. He was born May 19, 1936. Forstner was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-San Diego Chapter 472.

Danny Franks died March 14, 2004, in Houston, Mississippi. He was born

September 26, 1953. Franks was a veteran of the Vietnam War and an at-large life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Mississippi.

Harry A. Fuller died September 19, 2004, in Ark, Virginia. He was born September 26, 1934. He was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Gloucester Chapter 813.

Roger W. Gaede died recently in Rochester, New York. He was born July 18, 1945. Gaede was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Rochester Chapter 20.

Ernest F. Garon died September 3, 2004, in Providence, Rhode Island, of renal failure and heart disease. He was born May 15, 1949. Garon served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War with the First Air Cavalry Division from 1969-70. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-James Michael Ray Memorial (Lincoln) Chapter 818.

Dennis A. Gershman died recently in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Gershman was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was an at-large life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Pennsylvania.

Edward Ronald Grabenstein died September 1, 2004, in Washington, D.C. He was born January 24, 1933. Grabenstein served in the U.S. Army from 1953-73, with a tour in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Cumberland Chapter 172.

Alvin H. Gurkins, 58, died December 4, 2004, in Greenville, North Carolina. Gurkins served in the U.S. Navy with the Fighting Sea Bees and served two tours of duty in the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Greenville Chapter 272.

Donald Charles Hare died September 4, 2004, in Jacksonville, North Carolina. He was born May 10, 1927. Hare served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a gunnery sergeant and retired from the service. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Jacksonville Chapter 654.

Rex Don Hare died October 13, 2004, in Bay City, Michigan, of cancer related to Agent Orange exposure. He was born December 9, 1934. Hare retired from the U.S. Air Force, having served a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Bay City Chapter 494.

Charles James Harper, Jr., died August 26, 2004, in Leavenworth, Kansas. He was born January 17, 1949. Harper served in the military and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Leavenworth Chapter 75.

Lawrence A. Hawthorne died October 14, 2004, in Mexia, Texas, of liver cancer. He was born December 17, 1942. Hawthorne served in the U.S. Air Force and was a flight engineer during his tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Emporia (Virginia) Chapter 627.

Martha Jane Hendricks died September 6, 2004, in Oklahoma of massive head injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident. She was a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America-Tulsa Chapter 216.

June Marie Hettinger died July 1, 2004, in Wernersville, Pennsylvania. She was born June 11, 1927. Hettinger served in the U.S. Air Force and retired at the rank of major. She served as a nurse and nursing administrator while in the service. She was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Reading Chapter 131.

Robert Hicks died October 13, 2004, in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Hicks was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-New Philadelphia Chapter 857.

Robert T. Hoehn died recently in Pleasantville, Ohio. He was born March 27, 1948. Hoehn was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Mount Clemens (Michigan) Chapter 154.

William Turner Huggett died August 31, 2004, in Miami, Florida, of a massive brain hemorrhage. He was born May 25, 1940. Huggett served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Coral Gables Chapter 121.

Douglas G. Inks died June 2, 2000, in Floral Park, New York. He was born November 8, 1950. Inks was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Hicksville Chapter 82.

Kenneth Gillis Irwin, Jr., died August 30, 2004, in Seattle. He was born March 7, 1945. Gillis served in the U.S. Army, 1968-71, with service in Vietnam from 1968-69 as an aircraft maintenance crewman. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Vancouver (Washington) Chapter 512.

Harry Kessler died recently in Brooklyn, New York. He was born December 30, 1942. Kessler was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Thomas P. Coughlin Memorial (Brooklyn) Chapter 72.

Robert J. Kinloch, Jr., died September 28, 2002, in Chicago Ridge, Illinois. He was born May 6, 1957. Kinloch was a Vietnam-era veteran. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Orland Hills Chapter 796.

Erwin H. Koehler died October 5, 2004, in El Paso, Texas. He was born February 9, 1939. Koehler retired from the U.S. Army after 27 years of service and served during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-El Paso Chapter 844.

William Koontz died October 14, 2004, in Michigan City, Indiana. He was born January 2, 1953. Koontz was a Vietnam-era veteran. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Lawrence Chapter 434.

Loy D. Knight died recently in Princeton, Kansas. He was born April 8,

1934. Knight served in the U.S. Air Force from 1968-74, with service during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Ottawa (Kansas) Chapter 912.

Joseph M. LaFatch died February 16, 2004, in Akron, Ohio. He was born April 23, 1948. LaFatch served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War with the First Brigade of the 101st Airborne Division and was awarded the Purple Heart. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Akron Chapter 34.

L. David Lamb died October 4, 2004, in Lawton, Oklahoma, of liver failure. He was born December 3, 1947. Lamb served in the U.S. Army from 1969-71 with a tour of duty in Vietnam, and he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Lawton Chapter 751.

William L. Lederer died recently in Wells, New York. He was born June 28, 1943. He served in the U.S. Army from 1968-69 in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Pleasantville Chapter 49.

Jennie Lefevre died September 7, 2004, in Shadyside, Maryland, of cancer. She was born April 20, 1932. Lefevre was the creator of The Quilt of Tears, a memorial tribute that honors victims of Agent Orange-related diseases which began in 1998 under the auspices of the Agent Orange Victims and Widows Support Network. She was a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America-Riva Chapter 712.

Gary J. Lewington died October 27, 2004, in Columbus, Ohio. He was born February 14, 1940. Lewington served in the U.S. Air Force from 1958-62. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Thomas Davis, Jr., Memorial (Mansfield) Chapter 616.

Ronald Malet died August 28, 2004, in Sayreville, New Jersey, of cancer. Malet was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member and second vice-president of Vietnam Veterans of America-New Brunswick Chapter 233.

Stephen Arthur Maphet died October 31, 2004, in Vancouver, Washington. He was born January 8, 1941. Maphet served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Vancouver Chapter 512.

Ruford Rex Marcum died November 5, 2004, in True, West Virginia. He was born February 22, 1954. Marcum served in the U.S. Army in the Vietnam War. He was a member and vice-president of Vietnam Veterans of America-Princeton Chapter 628.

Tommy Eugene McCulloch died October 14, 2004, in Monett, Missouri, of lung cancer. He was born January 9, 1945. McCulloch retired from the U.S. Army with service in the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Lawton (Oklahoma) Chapter 751.

Patrick McKiernan died April 24, 2004, in Pensacola, Florida. McKiernan was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was

continued on page 43

ELECTION COMMITTEE

continued from page 17

being approved as a candidate by the Elections Committee at the Convention. Any violation of the above will result in disqualification.

Letters of Intent must be postmarked on or before March 31, 2005.

All Letters of Intent must be sent to the Elections Committee's Gig Harbor, Washington, address.

Any Letters of Intent that does not meet the postmark requirement or is sent to any other address will be considered invalid and will not be accepted by the Elections Committee.

CANDIDATE'S PACKETS

The Elections Committee began mailing Candidate's Packets to those prospective candidates who have submitted their Letters of Intent on January 31. To avoid possible loss or destruction of these packets, they are being sent via Certified Mail-Return Receipt Requested.

These packets contain information, instructions, and rules regarding the conduct of the election process that are of vital importance to every candidate. Included in these packets will be some forms. Candidates are required to complete the forms and return them to the Elections Committee.

NOTE: The Candidate's Packet will include a Cut-off Date Calendar that lists events and dates that are very important to each candidate's campaign for office. Failure to meet any of the deadlines will be grounds for disqualification.

CONDUCT OF CAMPAIGNS

Candidates may not use the VVA National logo or flag, nor that of any State Council or Chapter in or on their campaign materials. Campaign materials are considered to be (but are not limited to) buttons, pins, brochures, and the like. A photograph of a candidate wearing his or her VVA National, State Council, or Chapter lapel pin is acceptable. Additionally, a photograph of a candidate who is wearing a coat, jacket, shirt, or hat that has a VVA National, State Council, or Chapter logo on it also is acceptable.

Candidates may not solicit or accept campaign contributions in any form from

VVA, or any VVA State Council or Chapter. Campaign contributions are considered to be (but are not limited to) money, paper, envelopes, postage, free printing, free phone calls, use of web sites, or e-mail.

Candidates may not solicit or accept any campaign endorsement from VVA, any VVA State Council, Chapter, or VVA newsletters, newspapers, web, or electronic mail sites.

Candidates may solicit and accept campaign contributions and endorsements from any member of VVA, provided that the contributions or endorsements are not in violation of rules and that any written endorsements are on the individual's personal stationery. It is strictly prohibited for any person to use VVA National, State Council, or Chapter letterhead stationery, web, or electronic mail for the purposes of writing letters of endorsement.

A candidate's own web site or electronic mail may be used to campaign, but the restrictions mentioned above remain in effect.

It is not the wish, nor is it the intention, of the VVA Elections Committee to embroil prospective candidates in unnecessary red tape in order for them to have their names on the 2005 VVA National Election Ballot. There are, however, certain steps that must be followed by all candidates in order to keep the election process within the guidelines of the VVA National Constitution and to make the process fair and even.

The rules, instructions, and requirements set down in this announcement, as well as those that will follow in the Candidate's Packet, are easy to read, understand, and follow. Therefore, the failure of a candidate to play by the rules or meet the requirements of the VVA National Constitution and the Elections Committee will cause that candidate to be disqualified and his or her name removed from the ballot.

The VVA Elections Committee welcomes those members who are about to step forward and take part in a most important part of VVA: the election of Officers and Board Members who will guide VVA for the next two years.

Members of the 2005 Elections Committee: John Kahler, Chair, Washington, D.C. 202-416-7721 (work), 832-216-6368 (cell); Scott DeArmen, Prescott Valley, Arizona; Jill Mishkel, Portsmouth, Virginia; Cheryl Nicol, Gig Harbor, Washington. ■

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

continued from page 6

theme was echoed by most of the other Democrats who attended the hearing.

Texas Republican Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison praised Nicholson as "a straight shooter who always does what he says he will do." She advised that she has a special interest in Gulf War syndrome and the effect of returning veterans from Operation Iraqi Freedom on veterans' health care services provided by the VA.

When the former Republican and now Independent senator from Vermont, Jim Jeffords, queried Nicholson, he brought up the fact that Priority 8 veterans are no longer permitted to enroll to obtain health care from the VA. To this Nicholson replied: "My commitment to veterans is to find that balance in a world of finite resources." This theme was echoed several times by Sen. Craig and others on the committee.

When Sen. Jeffords queried Nicholson on PTSD, saying that it is an "absolute necessity" for the VA "to spend more to understand the nature of PTSD," Nicholson was quick to agree. He said that mental health issues will command his attention, noting that early intervention is critical.

It was quickly obvious, however, that the Ambassador has a steep learning curve on the issues. His response to several questions was, "I don't know." When Sen. Craig asked what he expected to accomplish in his first hundred days, he was short on specifics and long on the cliché of making a "seamless transition" from active duty to the VA system.

Responding to freshman Sen. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.), Nicholson said he was "not aware [that any VA medical center was] turning away claimants."

Another freshman senator, Richard Burr (R-N.C.), asked one of the more probing questions of the morning: "Are funds following the migration of veterans" to southern locales, and is there "a need to adjust VA's funding formula?" Again, Nicholson's response was an entirely understandable, "I don't know, but I'll look into this and get back to you."

When Sen. Akaka brought up the concept of mandatory funding for the VA's medical operations, Nicholson appeared to parrot the administration's stated policy: "Given the mission of the VA and given the exigent conditions of the war in Iraq," he said, "having the flexibility [of the current method of funding] is a plus. The present system," he added, "seems good to me."

It was the freshman Democratic senator from Illinois, Barack Obama, who brought up what he considers a glaring disparity in the amount of compensation Illinois veterans receive in comparison to veterans with similar disabilities in other states. To this Nicholson replied: "I don't know the issue. I will look into it and provide the answer to you."

The hearing broke for lunch at one o'clock. The confirmation of Amb. Nicholson was a foregone conclusion. He was confirmed as head of the VA unanimously by the Senate the next day.

VVA will seek to interview Nicholson after he familiarizes himself with the

issues of concern to our members—and to all veterans who depend on the VA for their health care.

GOOD EYESIGHT IN HINDSIGHT

After five months of criticism from VVA and a wide range of veterans and medical organizations, the VA rescinded a policy initiative that would have permitted optometrists to perform laser eye surgery on VA patients in VA facilities.

"Permitting optometrists, who are not licensed surgeons, to perform this procedure not only puts patients at risk," VVA President Tom Corey said, "it also carries significant legal liability issues. The VA deserves credit for recognizing an unworkable policy and ending it. Surgery should be performed by surgeons."

One of the problems acknowledged by VA officials was that a working group of optometrists and ophthalmologists could not agree on how supervisory rules would be implemented. "Instead of seeking to push through an agreement, the VA cut its losses and opted to do the right and honorable thing," Corey said.

VA policy now calls for therapeutic laser eye procedures to be performed only by ophthalmologists with the requisite training and expertise. Each Medical Center director will be responsible for insuring that privileges to perform these surgeries are granted to ophthalmologists who meet the stated criteria.

KUDOS FOR VA MEDICAL OPS

Patients in the VA health care receive significantly better care than private-sector patients, according to a recently released study. The study by RAND, an independent think tank that came to prominence doing studies of the Vietnam War, found that VA patients were "significantly more likely" than non-VA patients to receive needed preventive care. The study also found that VA patients with chronic medical problems received the treatment they needed more often than private-sector patients.

STAMP ACT

VVA and 28 other VSOs have joined together in an effort to get a stamp approved by the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee of the U.S. Postal Service. The theme is simple and straightforward: "Still Serving America." A sheet of stamps would feature the individual logos of the 29 VSOs.

Because this is a long shot, the VSOs involved are calling on their members to "clamor" for this stamp by contacting their senators and representatives to ask for their support in securing a positive nod from the stamp committee.

We believe that our efforts need to be focused on preserving veterans health care and protecting the VA from draconian budget cuts. But VVA members certainly can help lobby for this stamp sheet when they visit the local offices of their congressional representatives. ■

To receive information
about advertising
in *The VVA Veteran*, contact:

J&S Publications, Inc.
301-482-0720
FAX: 301-482-0726

TAPS

continued from page 41

a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-New City (New York) Chapter 333.

James B. McPherson died July 3, 2002, in Grass Valley, California. He was born June 17, 1940. McPherson was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Grass Valley Chapter 535.

Robert S. Need died July 24, 2004, in Norfolk, Virginia. He was born October 11, 1929. Need was a retired Master Sergeant (E-8) in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam era. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Tidewater (Norfolk) Chapter 48.

Gary W. Neisz died March 4, 2004, in Douglas, Massachusetts. He was born September 2, 1949. Neisz served in the U.S. Marine Corps, with a tour of duty in Vietnam where he was awarded three Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star, and a Navy Commendation Medal for Bravery. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Auburn Chapter 554.

Andrew Oakley died January 16, 2004, in Philadelphia of congestive heart failure. He was born June 6, 1951. Oakley served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1968-71, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Liberty Bell (Philadelphia) Chapter 266.

Robert T. O'Brien died August 18, 2004, in Gladwyne, Pennsylvania, of cancer. He was born October 7, 1941. O'Brien served in the U.S. Air Force from 1960-67 during the Vietnam era.

Loren A. O'Neil died recently in Bloomington, Minnesota. He was born August 9, 1936. O'Neil served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1962-68, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Minneapolis Chapter 363.

Richard Orejuela died recently in Indianapolis, Indiana. He was born February 9, 1945. Orejuela was a veteran of the Vietnam War and an at-large member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Indiana.

Robert J. "Herm" Ouellette died October 1, 2004, in Diorite Location, Michigan, of cancer. He was born March 7, 1947. Ouellette served in the U.S. Army, with a tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Negaunee Chapter 380.

Paul E. Petersen, Sr. died December 2, 2003, in West Roxbury. He was born September 25, 1949. Petersen served in the U.S. Army from 1968-70 and 1974-84, with a one-year tour of duty in Vietnam. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Providence (Rhode Island) Chapter 273.

Roy J. Piskor died November 15, 2004, in Baltimore. Piskor was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of

Vietnam Veterans of America-Baltimore Chapter 451.

Carl J. Pitts died August 23, 2004, in Racine, Wisconsin. He was born August 19, 1949. Pitts served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Racine Chapter 767.

David W. Prestidge died December 10, 2001, in Port Charlotte, Florida. He was born October 26, 1946. Prestidge was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a life member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Battle Creek (Michigan) Chapter 313.

Tommy Provance died July 18, 2004, in Bastrop, Texas, of cancer. Provance served in the U.S. Marine Corps in Vietnam and was severely wounded, which resulted in the amputation of a foot. He was a member and past president of Vietnam Veterans of America-San Jacinto Chapter 343.

Joseph Lee Pryor died September 19, 2004, in Frostburg, Maryland. He was born December 29, 1942. Pryor served in the U.S. Air Force during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Cumberland Chapter 172.

Howard Pugh died recently in Yeadon, Pennsylvania. He was born March 9, 1948. Pugh was a veteran of the Vietnam War and a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Media Chapter 67.

Paul Rose died recently in Grafton, North Dakota. He was born January 20, 1947. Rose was a veteran of the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Mayville Chapter 374.

Ronald Michael Roussel died September 28, 2004, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, of a heart attack. He was born April 30, 1947. Roussel served in the U.S. Army with the First Cavalry Division in the Vietnam War. He was also a life member and charter member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Jacksonville Chapter 654.

Elmer Lee Rowland, Sr. died August 26, 2004, in West Virginia of a heart attack. He was born March 6, 1947. Rowland served in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-London Chapter 746.

James Alton Royal died August 7, 2004, in El Paso, Texas. He was born February 14, 1938. Royal served in the U.S. Navy as a Seabee in Vietnam. He was a member and past president of Vietnam Veterans of America-El Paso Chapter 844.

Stephen R. Ruby died September 25, 2004, in Kansas City, Missouri. He was born February 21, 1950. Ruby served in the U.S. Army from 1967-70, with a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1968-69. He was a member of Vietnam Veterans of America-Kansas City Chapter 317.

Pat Sadler died November 6, 2004, in Baltimore of cancer. He was born November 30, 1950. Sadler was a member of Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America-Baltimore Chapter 451.

NEEDLE

continued from page 21

But times have changed. Women serve. Older men serve. People who have received other vaccines earlier in their lives serve. And many of these servicemen and women may well have health histories—like Michael Berger—that preclude receiving certain vaccines. At the moment, servicemembers who refuse vaccination, even if on solid medical grounds, are usually punished, more than a hundred so far by court-martial.

On October 1, 2004, Rep. Christopher Shays (R-Conn.) proposed a bill that would exempt servicemembers from punishment for refusing to take smallpox or anthrax vaccines. An act of Congress may well be the only way to force the military to create and promulgate the regulations and training needed to improve this aspect of its vaccine program.

On October 28, 2004, Judge Emmet G. Sullivan (the judge who was foiled a year earlier when the FDA hurriedly approved the anthrax vaccine under dubious circumstances) ruled that the Department of Defense must cease anthrax vaccination immediately, noting that FDA "acted improperly when it approved the experimental injections for general use," and flatly called the military's mandatory vaccination program (which has immunized more than a million troops in the last six years) "illegal."

As for the dismal inadequacies at inferior and overcrowded medical holding facilities at Army bases, a cascade of complaints instigated a Senate investigation from the office of Sen. Kit Bond (D-Mo.). But it remains unclear if this Army-wide problem has been fully or adequately addressed.

"I'm not interested in playing the disgruntled soldier," Berger said. "I'm not looking to hurt anybody or to get even with anybody or make a lot of noise for no reason. From what I've been told the Army knew there was a category of people that should not receive the smallpox or anthrax vaccines, and I'm simply asking for accountability on the part of the service I've served proudly for 20 years."

Berger sees his situation as similar to an injury sustained in the line of duty. "I was ordered to get the vaccines. I did so. And doing so proved to be detrimental to my health. In what way am I personally responsible for that? If I were wounded in combat, there'd be no questions asked—I'd be cared for until I recovered, and if I were disabled, I'd receive a realistic disability pension. How is my situation different?"

Michael Berger is not sure what comes next. Sen. Stabenow's investigation is underway, and the labyrinth of the VA medical system is waiting for him at home in Michigan. "It's a step at a time," he said. "Right now, I'm just looking forward to being back with my wife and kids." ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

continued from page 3

nine veterans service organizations that came together last year in an historic common appeal "with one voice to make a case for the change the veterans health care system so desperately needs."

From my vantage point, the opposition is quite clear, in the open, and vulnerable. VVA and our colleagues in other veterans' organizations are seeking proper funding for health care, on a non-partisan basis. It happens that the Democrats are supportive of that effort. It is also true many Republicans who privately agree with us are afraid to say so publicly, now more than ever, as the administration and the Republican leadership in the Congress will punish them and their constituents. This is not a partisan statement on our part; it is a fact.

Without the votes of veterans, none of them or their fellow Democratic lawmakers would be there. They must be constantly reminded who they represent. We put them in office and it is our responsibility—no, it is our duty—to haunt their district offices and let them know why adequate funding of veterans' services, care, and treatment must be a priority.

As a team with a persistent message, we have enjoyed countless successes and some failures. Now, more than ever, we need your support as we prepare for the clash ahead of us. We will keep you advised of our activities in the field and on the Hill.

Adding to the current shortfall of at least several billion, the VA's own budget projections over the next several years show that figure ballooning to nearly \$6 billion as another quarter million Americans earn the title of "veteran."

We are only asking for everyone to live up to their affirmations of support for moral values and acknowledge that it is a moral value—a uniquely American moral value—to care for all who served and their families.

We will work with the new VA Secretary, with Congress, with the administration, and with anyone else who will listen. The question is: Is anyone listening?

Remember our troops. My personal best wishes for a year of peace, health, and good fortune for all. Peace. ■

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

continued from page 15

THE BUSINESS MEETING

The Credentials Committee is responsible for establishing and certifying absences of delegates during the business meeting.

To this end, the Credentials Committee shall at all times when the delegates are in session maintain an easily identifiable presence on the main floor of the Convention.

In the event a delegate is unable to attend the Convention, or is excused during the Convention, his or her chapter or state council may register an alternate to be credentialed and seated as a delegate to the Convention, with full powers, to act in the stead of the delegate who has been excused by the Credentials Committee. ■



Veterans Collectibles™

VISIT OUR WEBSITE!!! WWW.VETERANSCOLLECTIBLES.COM



VVA ITEMS

Item #	Description	Price
0228	VVA Chrome License Plate Holder	\$ 8.95
0229	VVA Black License Plate Holder	3.95
0210	VVA Zippo® Brass Lighter	22.95
0211	VVA Zippo® Chrome Lighter	22.95
0212	VVA Zippo® Black Lighter	22.95
1061	VVA 10" Magnet	14.95
1060	VVA 18" Magnet	29.95
0236	VVA 3" Patch	3.25
0240	VVA 2.5" Patch	3.00
0244	VVA 8" Patch	25.00
0173	VVA 5/8" Pin	3.00
0179	USA/VVA Flag Pin	3.00
0191	VVA with Wreath Pin	3.00
0195	VVA 5-Year Service Pin	3.00
0196	VVA 10-Year Service Pin	3.00
0197	VVA 15-Year Service Pin	3.00
0672	VVA 1" Pin	4.00
0135	VVA Bumper Sticker	1.25
0136	VVA 18" Decal	9.95
0979	VVA 10" Decal	6.95
0160	VVA 3" Decal	1.25
0166	VVA 3" Window Decal	1.25
0223	VVA 1" Medallion	2.95
0221	VVA 2" Medallion	5.95
0222	VVA 8" Medallion	17.95

FLAGS

Item #	Description	Price
0083	VVA Outdoor Flag 3' x 5' nylon flag with fringed edges. Full-color VVA logo with 17 Vietnam campaign stars. One sided with room for chapter designation. Sleeve for pole.	\$59.95
1604	VVA Double-sided Outdoor Flag	140.95
0086	VVA Parade Flag	79.95
0090	VVA Fringed Desktop Flag Miniature, full-color VVA nylon flag with fringe. Black plastic pole and base.	9.95
0085	VVA/U.S. Fringed Desktop Flags VVA and U.S. flags in full color. Nylon flag with fringe. Black plastic pole & base.	15.95

LIFE MEMBER ITEMS

Item #	Description	Price
0162	Life Member 3" Decal	\$ 1.25
0168	Life Member 3" Window Decal	1.25
0238	Life Member 3" Patch	3.25
0241	Life Member 2.5" Patch	3.00
0245	Life Member 8" Patch	25.00
0175	Life Member 5/8" Pin	3.00

VVA CAPS

Item #	Description	Price
0589	VVA Cap—Navy	\$ 9.95
0589L	VVA Life Member Cap—Navy	9.95
0599	VVA Cap—White	9.95
0599L	VVA Life Member Cap—White	9.95
0579	VVA Cap—Full Coverage	12.95
0579L	VVA Life Member Cap—Full Coverage	12.95
0583	VVA Cap—Wool	14.95
0583L	VVA Life Member Cap—Wool	14.95

VVA CUPS & MUGS

Item #	Description	Price
0124	VVA Koosie Hugger Blue with white VVA logo. Holds 12 oz. beverage, can, or bottle.	\$ 1.95
0132	VVA White 15 oz. Ceramic Mug	8.95

ART

Item #	Description	Price
0046	Reflections Beautifully framed in oak and mounted in dark green. Special processing gives an original oil painting finish. Moving portrait of a Vietnam veteran at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. 25 1/2" x 31".	324.95
0045	Reflections—unframed print	59.95
0957	Left At The Wall Full-color photograph by Michael Keating	14.95

WINTERWEAR

Item #	Description	Price
0557	VVA Aviator-Style Leather Jacket Popular aviator-style jacket with VVA full-color logo embroidered directly onto the jacket. Brown, weather-treated leather, poly insulation with 100% nylon lining. Available from S-XXXL. (Special Order — 4-week delivery time)	\$245.95
0664	VVA Navy Sweatpants 50/50 cotton/poly heavy-duty sweatpants. VVA initials in large white letters on right leg. Available from M-XXL.	24.95
0277	VVA Blue Denim Shirt	54.95
0269	VVA Khaki Denim Shirt 100% cotton, stone-washed. denim. Long-sleeved, triple-stitched seams. Color VVA logo embroidered. M-XXL. Also available in Life Member (M-XXXL)	54.95
0285	VVA Crewneck Sweatshirt 50/50 cotton/poly heavy-duty navy sweatshirts. Full-color screen printed VVA logo. Available from M-XXL.	27.95
0293	VVA Navy Hooded Sweatshirt 50/50 cotton/poly heavy-duty with drawstring hood and front pouch. Color screen printed VVA logo. M-XXL.	34.95

AGENT ORANGE ITEMS

Item #	Description	Price
0746	Agent Orange 1" Pin	4.00
0747	Agent Orange 4" Patch	4.00
0748	Agent Orange Bumper Decal	1.25
0749	Agent Orange 4" Window Decal	1.25
0741	Agent Orange Outdoor Flag Black 3' x 5' outdoor flag with Agent Orange Tree and Bar in orange.	59.95

POW/MIA ITEMS

Item #	Description	Price
0125	POW/MIA Koosie Hugger Holds 12 oz. beverage can.	\$ 1.95
0994	POW/MIA Black Ceramic 15 oz. Mug	8.95
0157	3" POW/MIA Magnet	2.25
0246	3" POW/MIA Patch	3.00
0691	4" POW/MIA Patch	4.00
0783	12" POW/MIA Patch	12.00
0177	POW/MIA 5/8" Pin	3.00
0876	POW/MIA 1" Pin	4.00
0178	POW/MIA Stamp Pin	4.00
0176	POW/MIA with Eagle Pin	3.00
0192	POW/MIA with Wreath Pin	3.00
0872	POW/MIA 1" Black Flag Pin	4.00
0873	POW/MIA 1" White Flag Pin	4.00
0879	"Remember our POW/MIA" Pin	3.00
0878	"Free Them Now" POW/MIA Pin	3.00
0977	POW/MIA Cross with Ribbon Pin	4.00
0158	POW/MIA Decal	1.25
0788	POW/MIA Window Decal	1.25
1047	12" x 15" POW/MIA Decal	6.95
1041	POW/MIA Licence Plate	4.95
0084	POW/MIA Flag Black and white nylon flag with emblem. Printed on one side. 3' x 5'.	29.95
0774	POW/MIA Zippo® Lighter	22.95
0213	POW/MIA Brass Bracelet*	10.95
0215	POW/MIA Silver/Brass Bracelet*	10.95
0690	POW/MIA Stainless Steel Bracelet*	12.95
0689	KIA Black Bracelet*	9.95
0265	POW/MIA Dog Tag & Necklace* Highly polished brass dog tag and 17" necklace with POW/MIA information on one side and emblem on other.	9.95

* For specific names you must include name, rank, branch of service, home state, date, and region of missing POW. Please allow 3-4 weeks delivery time.



Veterans Collectibles™

ORDER FORM

Mailing Address: Please Print

Name _____ Date _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone _____

I would like to make a donation to Vietnam Veterans of America \$ _____

To Place An Order:

By Mail: Veterans Collectibles™
P.O. Box 17416, Baltimore, MD 21297

By Phone: 1-800-NAM-VETS (1-800-626-8387)
9:00am to 4:00pm (ET)

By FAX: 1-888-919-VETS (1-888-919-8387)

website: www.veteranscollectibles.com

Item No.	Size	Description	Quantity	Price	Amount

* All prices are subject to change without notice

Type of Payment



Check _____
 Credit Card Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card No. _____ Expiration Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Subtotal	+
Shipping & Handling	+
Donations	+
Rush Shipping	+
TOTAL	=

VETERAN 24-DEC

Rush Shipping

Next-day Air available (\$16.50 minimum, subject to shipping weight)
2nd-day Air available (\$12.50 minimum, subject to shipping weight)
3-day Air available (\$6.50 minimum, subject to shipping weight)

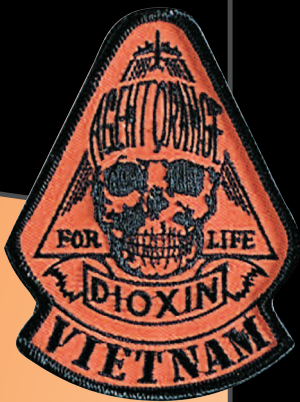
Shipping & Handling:

\$20.01-\$50.00add \$ 6.00
\$50.01-\$75.00add \$ 7.00
\$75.01-\$100.00add \$ 8.00
\$100.01-\$150.00add \$ 9.00
\$150.01-\$250.00add \$ 10.00
\$250.01-\$500.00add \$ 13.00
\$5 and underadd \$ 2.50
\$5.01-10.00add \$ 4.00
\$10.01-\$20.00add \$ 5.00

(Please allow 2-3 weeks delivery on certain items.)

AGENT ORANGE

PATCH
\$4.00 #0747



#0007
(FRONT)



AND THE BODY COUNT
CONTINUES

#0007
(BACK)

STICKERS



#0748 Bumper Sticker \$1.25
#0749 Window Sticker \$1.25

T-SHIRTS \$19.99

#0007 "Sprayed" Tee - Available M-4XL

#0022 "Skull & Bones" Tee - Available M-3XL

(\$2.00 2XL surcharge, \$3.00 3XL surcharge, \$4.00 4XL surcharge.)



#0746 \$4.00



#0852 \$3.00



#0851 \$3.00

PINS



BRASS MONEY CLIP

#1068 \$14.95

#0022
(FRONT)



#0022
(BACK)

DIOXIN DOESN'T ONLY KILL VEGETATION



OUTDOOR FLAG

3' x 5', #0741, \$59.95

Veterans Collectibles™

see page 44 for our order form

Order By Mail

Veterans Collectibles™ Box 17416,
Baltimore, MD 21297

By Phone

1-800-NAM-VETS (1-800-626-8387) 9 am - 4 pm (ET)

By FAX:

1-888-919-VETS (1-888-919-8387)

Website:

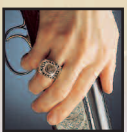
www.veteranscollectibles.com

★★★ EXCLUSIVELY DESIGNED TO HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS ★★★

UNITED STATES MILITARY VIETNAM SERVICE RINGS

Featuring the Official Vietnam Service Medal and Ribbon, The Vietnam Memorial Wall and Your Service Branch Emblem

We proudly honor you with our Official Vietnam Veteran's Ring. The top of this exclusive ring bears the words "Vietnam Veteran" in high relief letters and frames a beautiful, solid 10KT Gold Military Service Emblem of your choice (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine or Coast Guard), mounted on a genuine black onyx stone (Marine on red stone).



The sides of the ring are highly detailed, original artistic sculptures created especially for these Vietnam Veterans rings. On one side a Veteran visits a lost friend and hero at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, echoing the inscription "You Are Not Forgotten". On the other side the powerful Vietnam Service Medal stands below the Vietnam Service Ribbon, which is hand-enameled in its official colors.

The completed ring stands as a tribute to the Vietnam Veteran who will wear it with pride, as a symbol of honor to treasure for a lifetime.

MADE IN AMERICA - PERSONALIZED WITH YOUR INITIALS AND YEARS OF SERVICE

Your ring will be custom-made by one of America's finest makers of Commemorative Military Jewelry. The ring is crafted of pure sterling silver, richly detailed in 22 karat gold, antiqued and polished by hand. Your Service Branch emblem is solid 10 karat gold. The entire inner band is solid and smooth for comfort fit, and will be engraved with your initials and year dates of your service as a permanent mark of ownership.

INTEREST-FREE PAYMENT PLAN. SATISFACTION-GUARANTEED 100%

"Thank you" priced at a remarkably low \$195*, an affordable payment plan is also available. See order form for details. Your satisfaction is guaranteed or you may return your ring within 30 days for replacement or refund - no questions asked. So, order yours today!

YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO WEAR THIS SPECIAL RING

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: 1-800-255-3048
Monday - Friday from 9am - 5pm EST Have Credit card and ring size ready when ordering.

ORDER FORM

Or, Mail to: Veterans Commemoratives™ Vietnam Rings
1250 Easton Road, Suite 290, Horsham, PA 19044

YES. I wish to order the following Exclusive Vietnam Veteran Ring, personalized with my initials and year dates of service.
Check (✓) choices:

Army Navy Air Force Marine Coast Guard

Initials Desired (3): _____ Service Yrs: _____ to _____

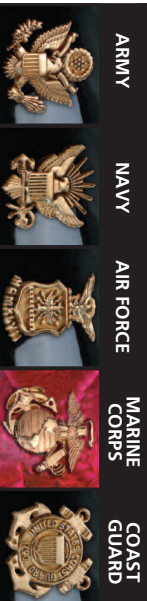
I NEED SEND NO MONEY NOW. Bill me in three monthly installments of \$65 each, with the first payment due prior to shipment. A custom ring size will be sent to me before shipment to assure my comfort fit.
And my satisfaction is completely guaranteed.



Our rings are registered with the U.S. Copyright Office, as sculpture.

NOTE: BEWARE OF IMITATORS WHO SELL YOU LOOK-ALIKE, UNAUTHORIZED AND INFERIOR QUALITY RINGS. TRUST VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVES - PROUDLY SERVING AND HONORING VETERANS LIKE YOU SINCE 1967.

YOUR CHOICE OF SOLID GOLD SERVICE BRANCH EMBLEM ON TOP OF RING



SHIPPING ADDRESS (We CANNOT ship to P.O. Boxes)
Allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Signature _____

Phone # _____
* Plus \$9.95 for engraving, shipping, and handling. NEWCOH-VVA-0205
PA residents add 6% (\$12.30) sales tax.
© ICM 2002/2004

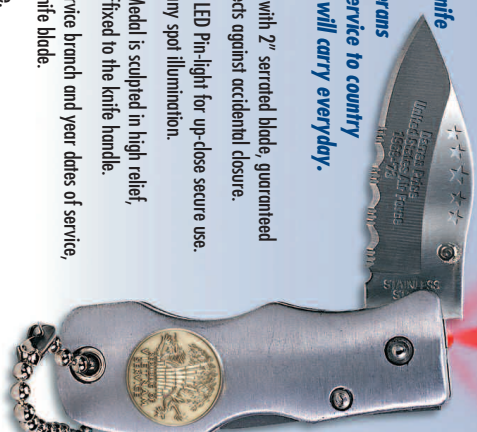
ANNOUNCING THE EXCLUSIVE VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL POCKET KNIFE

With Your Full Name, Service Branch & Years of Service Engraved on the blade.



With Built-in Red LED Light

Presenting a Military Pocket Knife so special it is U.S. patented (#5467256). This Official Veterans Commemorative honors your service to country and provides a useful tool you will carry everyday.



THE KNIFE: Solid Stainless Steel case with 2" serrated blade, guaranteed for life. Safety lock blade release protects against accidental closure.

THE LIGHT: Built-in push-button RED LED Pin-light for up-close secure use. Serves as magnifying, keyhole locator - any spot illumination.

THE EMBLEM: The Vietnam Service Medal is sculpted in high relief, finished in antiqued 22kt. Gold, and affixed to the knife handle.

PERSONALIZED: Your full name, service branch and year dates of service, laser engraved on the stainless steel knife blade.

THE PRICE: Just \$29.95* per knife.

FOR FASTEST SERVICE CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER 1.800.255.3048

MAIL TO: Veterans Commemoratives™
1250 Easton Road, Suite 290, Horsham, PA 19044

YES, send me my Vietnam Military Pocket Knife engraved with the following (print clearly):

Full Name: _____
Service Branch: Army Navy Air Force Marine Coast Guard
Years of Service: _____ to _____

I WISH TO PAY AS FOLLOWS:

Enclosed is my Check or Money Order for \$29.95*, made payable to Veterans Commemoratives OR,

Charge my Credit Card \$29.95*:
 Visa MasterCard Amex Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: ____ / ____

Signature: _____

SHIPPING ADDRESS:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: (____) _____

*plus \$4.95 per knife for Engraving, Shipping and H. PA residents add 6% sales tax. © ICM 2002/2005 TAGMVA-VVA-0205

VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVES™ ANNOUNCES ITS OFFICIAL VIETNAM SERVICE MEDAL

DOG TAG WATCH

FEATURING A GOLD PLATED SERVICE MEDAL, YOUR NAME, RANK, SERVICE BRANCH, SERIAL NUMBER & YEARS OF SERVICE

We are pleased to honor your service to Country by issuing a unique Veterans Commemorative Watch, in the form of a Military Dog Tag, with 28" neckchain. The watch is precision quartz for years of accurate timekeeping. The Vietnam Service Medal is sculpted in high relief and finished in antiqued 22kt gold.

Shown Actual Size.



The watch caseback will be engraved with your Full Name, Rank, Service Branch, Serial Number & Years of Service. Can be worn around your neck, or as a pocket watch or on a key chain.

"Thank You" priced at just \$47.50* plus \$7.50* for engraving, shipping & handling. Your Satisfaction is Guaranteed or Your Money Back!

CALL TOLL FREE TO ORDER: 1-800-255-3048



Mail to: Veterans Commemoratives™
1250 Easton Road, Suite 290, Horsham, PA 19044

YES! I wish to order my Vietnam Dog Tag Watch, with Vietnam Medal, personalized as follows: (Please print clearly)

Full Name: _____

Rank: _____ Years Served: _____

Army Navy Air Force Marines Coast Guard

Serial Number: _____

I wish to pay as follows:

Enclosed is my check or money order for \$55.00*, made payable to Veterans Commemoratives OR,

Charge my Credit Card \$55.00* as payment in full.

Visa MasterCard AMEX Discover Exp. Date ____ / ____

Credit Card#: _____

Signature: _____

Daytime Phone Number: (____) _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
*PA residents add \$ 3.30 for state sales tax. © ICM 2002/2005 TAGMVA-VVA-0205

VISIT VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVES™ ONLINE AT WWW.VETCOM.COM