

Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

VOLUME II, ISSUE 4

VVA Chapter 106

APRIL 1985

CALENDAR

- MAY 30 VVA GENERAL MEETING will be held at Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18 Hall, 4656 E. 1st St. (See map on back page) at 7:30 p.m.
- JUNE 12 VVA Arizona Women's Active League meeting. Call 790-7602 for information.

In The Shadow Of Change

By Chris R. Martin

It was only three weeks until our graduation, but our minds were not on the upcoming event. Some of my close friends and I went camping, drank and saluted the end of the war. We now realized the conflict would not suck us in and spit out our remains the way it had many of another generation. "So now the war is over?! F*** it! Let's party!" And so we did, into the wee hours of that warm May night near Pena Blanca Lake.

We were in the graduating class of 1975. Some of our friends graduating in 1976 felt the same as we did—a sense of relief and, in a strange way, indifference. We did not care who had won or lost the war. We were just glad it had ended.

My schooling had begun the same year John Kennedy's brains were splattered; the shape of things to come. I remember being upset because all the Saturday cartoons had been pre-empted for the pre-funeral show. I had no idea who the president was until the day he died. On the radio the Four Seasons had a hit called "Rag Doll." The drum beat in the song reminded me of the drum beat during the funeral.

By the time I was in third grade the world began to make its presence known. One of our class projects that year was to write letters to the soldiers in Vietnam and give them our support. We had to look to find out where Vietnam was. Frankly, it was really about the first time I had heard there was a war going on in that country. It was finally being called a war.

A year later we began to hear that not everyone supported the war and there were anti-war demonstrations on college campuses and in cities across the country, places like Berkeley, Madison, New York City and even Tucson. I remember a friend telling me his dad thought all those against the war should either leave the country or be put before a firing squad.

From a kid's point of view, such talk seemed rash. After all, if this was war, why wasn't it like World War II? We had heard so much about that great war and of the support the people of this country gave to the war effort.

Not this war! We were told how it was a guerrilla war. We had never heard the term before and so imagined hairy "gorillas" running around with guns. Slowly we began to comprehend what teachers and parents were telling us.

Horror stories reached us about the Vietcong and how those "bastard" communists would sneak up on our boys and cut their heads off with piano wire. We thought of communism like the flu or measles, something you did not want to catch.

Government reports and what we saw were two different things! We saw planes drop bombs, villages burn, people crying and dying while we ate our dinners. We saw the demonstrations go from peaceful events to riots, heard about ghettos burning and people being shot.

Slowly the war over there was replaced with the one at home. By the time I was in fifth grade places like Detroit, Newark and Watts had all felt the heat of burning buildings and the streets had been tainted with the blood of humans. New words like hippie, tear gas, long hair and acid entered our vocabulary. I remember hearing about people taking acid and not understanding why anyone wanted to burn their insides out.

By 1968, the split in the country had become painfully obvious. Martin Luther King and another Kennedy were shot. We were beginning to become accustomed to all this shooting, but we no longer knew the America that we had been taught about. We lived in one country and heard about another. I was beginning to think the latter had never existed.

I recall hearing about Chicago and the ugly riots there. My father and I had been in Chicago the summer before and it had seemed so peaceful. Yet here were all these people being beaten and tear gassed in the same areas we had been not one year before. Everything had changed.

In 1969 I was in sixth grade and our favorite song was "Hair." We were all starting to grow it longer and also wore peace signs. I recall one of my friends telling me the sign was for all those people who had perished in Hitler's camps. I did not know it had been a ban-the-bomb sign from the 1950s.

The war was still going on, but it had become so much a part of our lives that we paid little attention to it. The country had changed and so had we. Maybe the war would just go away. Nixon jokes had become popular, but most of my friends supported him.

We had about a month left in seventh grade when we heard the news about the Kent State shootings. More of the same, only now instead of politicians getting rubbed out, it was students. The whole country seemed to go "stark raving mad" and even my friends were wearing black arm bands and hating Nixon. I remember asking my father if there was really going to be a revolution. He ignored me at first and finally said, "no."

In 1972 I was a freshman in high school and went to my first (and second to last) anti-war march. The protest was in memory of those students who had died at Kent State University two years before. My friends and I ditched school, partied, and then went home.

That fall my friend Terry and I went to the state fair in Phoenix. As we were touring booths in the Veterans Memorial Coliseum we came across the Marine Recruiting Station. There was a lone NCO standing there being ignored. Two booths up was a group we had heard of called Vietnam Veterans Against the War. They had photos of the conflict that made our skins crawl; pictures of dead babies and such. We looked at those pictures and the faces of the long-haired veterans and then at the Marine. I guess he could see the disgust-or maybe it was hate-in our eyes because he looked away.

In January of 1973 I went to my last protest. The march was led by VVAW members and went from Reid Park to the entrance gate of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. That same day Nixon was sworn in for a second term. A week later peace was made in Vietnam and our country existed from the war, so to speak.

Continued on Page 6

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
TUCSON CHAPTER 106
P.O. Box 40903, Tucson, Arizona 85717

BULK RATE
Non-Profit Org.
PAID
PERMIT NO. 2458
Tucson, AZ

Fragments

By Chuck Hovey

A measure has been introduced in Congress to create an Air Force Reserve Wing to detect and track down smugglers. The proposed unit would utilize both airplanes and helicopters to locate those attempting to bring drugs into the United States from Central and South America. If the proposal is adopted, civilian law personnel will make any necessary arrests.

The Veterans Administration is again changing the method of verifying attendance to reduce educational overpayments under the GI Bill. Attendance will now be verified on a monthly basis rather than quarterly and payments will be made only after verification is received. This change affects those Vets and beneficiaries enrolled in farm cooperatives, OJT programs, voc-tech schools and other non-college degree certification programs.

Keith W. Nolan, author of *Battle For Hue: FEB 1968*, is seeking VietVets of the First Marine Division and AMERICAL Division who served in the Arizona Valley-Que Son Mountains-Hup Duc Valley area during the summer of 1969. He wants to interview these Vets for a third book on Vietnam. Write him at 220 Kingsville Ct., Webster Groves, MO 63119 or call (314) 961-7577.

Title 5 of the United States Code ensures Veterans preference in federal hiring for persons who served on active duty during a war or in a campaign/expedition for which a badge is authorized. Those who participated in Lebanon and Grenada are the latest to qualify. The beginning date of Lebanon campaign medal eligibility is August 20, 1982, with no cutoff date currently established. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Grenada service begins October 23, 1983, and ends November 21, 1983.

The 151st Infantry Association (NVA, II, Vietnam) will hold a reunion September 21-22 in Anderson, Indiana. Contact Lee Lortz, 5607 Columbus Ave., Anderson, IN 46015, for further information.

101st Radio Research Company (Vn) members are planning a gathering this Fall, September 4-6, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Contact person is Paige Sawyer, 416 Highmarket Street, Georgetown, SC 29440.

Swedish Agent Orange studies have been largely discounted by the US Government for years, but the Veterans Administration has discovered them anew! These research efforts indicate the possibility of a connection between phenoxy exposure and rare forms of cancer-soft tissue sarcoma. Now, both the VA and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology are conducting independent studies in this area. Collection of data has already begun and a final report is due in June, 1986.

A catalog of available Vietnam War literature is now available from the Vietnam Bookstore, owned and operated by VietVet Tom Hebert. For a free catalog, simply write:
The Vietnam Bookstore
PO Box 122
Collinsville, CT 06022

The National Vietnam Veterans Network has been established to put you in touch with special services, products, information, resources and advice from other Vietnam Era Vets. The Network connects talents, skills and abilities of VietEra Vets (1959-75) to give all a stronger advantage. If you are interested or need more information, call 1-800-826-6868 or write:

NVNN
2300 M St., NW
Washington, DC 20037

VietVet Bikers—a motorcycle club has begun and already possesses over thirty chapters and 1300 members nationwide. Interested!! Write to "Frenchie" c/o VietVets M/C, Box 351, South Houston, TX 77857.

The US Mint has made medals available that are replicas of the bronze pieces Congress authorized presented to Southeast Asian MIA/POW families. The medal, #678 in the Mint Catalog, can be ordered by mail for \$2.25 by writing:
The US Mint
Box 500
Philadelphia, PA 19105

The National Salute II Committee is soliciting help to eradicate debts on their books. As many know, this group coordinated the events culminating on November 11, 1984, with the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Statue. Salute II pins are being offered to Chapters for \$1.50. They may be ordered by making checks/money orders payable to National Salute II and sent to:

George Sullivan, Director
National Salute II
801 18th St., NW
Washington, DC 20006

For those who always wondered, USA TODAY reports 56 million potholes in the US road system—an average of 29 per mile. Ohio leads the pack with 6,893,939 which equates to 78.4 per mile and an estimated repair cost of \$6,000,000. For those driving to the National VVA Convention in Detroit, Michigan needs an estimated \$3,900,000 to cover filling 1,710,512 holes—34.3 per mile. The moral of the story—rent an APC in Ohio and a 4x4 for the convention. By the way, Arizona has only 236,454 potholes averaging 10.2 per mile/\$1,200,000 to repair. Apparently the USA TODAY staff has never driven down Alvernon!

Thomas K. Turnage, Selective Service Director, announced registrations of draft-eligible young men rose from a total of 11,939,865 on March 31, 1984, to a September 30, 1984 figure of 12,913,000. He claims registration is 98%, a figure widely disputed by other groups and Congress. The President supports reactivation of the draft and a bill has been introduced in Congress seeking to install a broadened National Service. National Service would offer all young men and women the opportunity of choice to serve in a service organization, i.e. Public Health Service, VISTA, ACTION, etc.

An improving economy has taken the eagerness of enlisting out of many young Americans, but the Pentagon is on record saying the last thing desired is a return to the draft. The recruiting numbers are good, but a recently released Pentagon study indicated the percentage of males, ages 16-21, polled on propensity towards military service has dropped. In 1982-83, the figure was 35% of those tasked, but 1984 indicated only 29% considered the armed forces. The baby-boom generation is drying up, but Pentagon demographers still indicate a draft is not needed. The problem, however, is not quantity, but quality as fewer high school graduates opt for military service.

Beginning June 1, 1985, US military bases will begin complying with the drinking age laws of the state in which the installation resides. Only three exceptions will be made to this policy: remote locations where there are no private cars; cases where health and safety would be endangered; and special "non-routine" occasions to mark a military holiday such as the birthday of a service, etc. As of September 30, 1984, servicemembers under age 21 numbered roughly 399,000 out of a total strength of 2.1 million on active duty.

*****BILLS TO WATCH*****

HR 83--Revises the formula for the payment of dependency and indemnity compensation (DIC) to surviving spouses of Vets who die on active duty or service-connected disability.

HR 178--Eliminates the time period in which a Vietnam Era Vet has to use educational benefits.

HR 180--Provides for the payment of service pensions to NVA Vets and the surviving spouses and children of such Veterans.

HR 362--PROVIDES ASSUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR THE OCCURRENCE OF PTSD IN VETERANS WHO SERVED IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE VIETNAM ERA.

HR 505--Improves the delivery of health care services by the VA.

The Annual First Cavalry Division Association Reunion will be held August 1-4, 1985, at Fort Hood, Texas. Contact is MAJ Lowell L. Day, ACoFS, G-2 ICD, Fort Hood, TX 76545, (817) 287-9229. Early registration is recommended!

The Vietnam Helicopter Pilots Association is gathering July 4-6, in Astro Village, Houston, Texas. More information is available from the association, Box 35699, Phoenix, AZ 85069.

Assigned or attached to the Third Marine Division, Don Decamara wants you to contact him c/o The Third Marine Association, 36 Oak In The Wood, Daytona Beach, FL 32019.

The 101st Airborne Division Assn is offering a history of that unit, entitled *Rendezvous With Destiny*, for \$14.00 postage included. The book is hard cover, 860 pages, illustrated and available from the Association, PO Box 101 AB, Parchment, MI 49004.

AMERICAL Division Veterans will meet June 6-9, 1985, in Hyannis, Massachusetts. The coordinator is Joseph Marotta, Schooner Pass, 6 Ships View Terrace, Bourne, MA 02532.

Hairline cracks ranging from one to six inches have been found on eight of the 140 sections of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. A spokesman stated the fractures do not pose a threat to the Memorial and appropriate contractor contacts have been made.

House Joint Resolution 20 has been introduced to designate the week beginning November 11, 1985, as National Women Veterans Recognition Week.

For those interested in Australia/New Zealand's contributions to the Vietnam War and resultant problems, etc., please feel free to write:
Vietnam Veterans Action Assn
37 Swanston Street
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Australian War Memorial
PO Box 345
Canberra City ACT 2601
Australia

University of Sydney
Parramatta Road
Sydney 2000 NSW
Australia

New Zealand Ministry of Defense
Private Bag
Wellington, New Zealand

A map showing where herbicides were sprayed can be obtained by writing to:
National Technical Information Ctr
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
(703) 487-4650
Acquisition No. ADA-090056
HERBS Tape Printout

Last year, the VA purchased over \$8 billion in goods and services from outside sources. Vietnam Era and disabled Vets who have small businesses and may be interested in selling goods and services to the VA should write to:
Franco Bejosa (005C)
Ofc of Small/Disadvantaged Businesses
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

The Veterans Health Care Act of 1984, Public Law 98-528:

- *Directs the VA to establish PTSD programs and to train staff in the causes, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD.
- *Requires the VA to establish a "Special Committee on PTSD" to study the VA's capacity to provide proper diagnosis and treatment of PTSD.
- *Requires the VA to establish a "National Center on PTSD" for research, training and exchange of information regarding the disorder.
- *Calls for a study to develop alternative approaches to furnish health care to Vets living far from VA Medical Centers.

TIDBITS---56 Canadian Volunteers gave their lives in Vietnam serving with the US Armed Forces---431 of the nearly 2,500 MIA/POWs were lost in the waters off the coast of Vietnam---20% of the 550,000 Vietnam Era deserters had served tours in Vietnam and were scheduled to return.



From the Top

I know the elections are a long way off, but this will give you plenty of time to think about them. All members should ask themselves, "Do I want to assume any responsibility or is there someone I think is more qualified to assume responsibility for directing this Chapter. Unlike the military, our democratic process allows us to choose the people we want to lead us. If you recall in the last elections, most of the officers who were elected ran unopposed. Hopefully in the upcoming elections there will be a larger field of candidates to choose from. There's an old saying: "If you don't vote, don't bitch." The same principle applies when it comes to selecting candidates.

Jim Randall
President, 106

OUR TREASURER IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD IDEAS

For fund-raising, that is! The treasury is at the lowest level it has been in one year! There are monthly obligations to be met-the newspaper and telephone bill to mention a few. So, if any members have ideas for fund-raising, please share yours with me. I will also gratefully accept any donations to the treasury.

Money is blood for us, so if you can, please help Chapter #106 to sustain its ongoing projects and also to expand its activities. Just about every member has an idea for something s/he would like to see the chapter do or some new direction s/he would like the organization take. BUT IT TAKES MONEY! I know that many members simply do not have the time to participate in various chapter activities, but if you want to be a big help or if you would like to do more, consider helping the chapter treasury. You would be doing a lot.

John K. Paulus
Treasurer, Chapter #106

IN AND FOR BROTHERHOOD

By Dan Glessinger

HEADS UP PEOPLE!
The VVA Food Bank is on line. For about a penny a day for the VVA Food Bank, you can provide a can of soup to a fellow Veteran or perhaps his/her family in a months time.

Remember: "The true greatness of a nation is founded on principles of humanity." Thomas Paine

For more information please call 747-7532 and ask for Dan, or just drop your can of food off at Gene Zabel, phone 326-2038.

CASA GRANDE SITE OF NEW VVA CHAPTER

Tucson Chapter #106 extends a hardy WELCOME ABOARD to newly designated VVA Chapter #183 in the beautiful city of Casa Grande, Arizona. Chapter status was achieved after a great deal of hard work by these Vets and their sights are already set on a myriad of public-spirited projects. The citizens of this rapidly growing city have fully supported Vietnam Vets in past activities and their enthusiasm has already become a primary characteristic of Chapter #183. Drop the new chapter a line of welcome at 413 E. Fifth Street, Casa Grande, AZ 85222. Again, WELCOME ABOARD!

QUOTE TO REMEMBER

"The people in the long run are going to do more to promote peace than our government. Indeed, I think that the people want peace so much that one of these days government better get out of their way and let them have it."

Dwight Eisenhower

STATE COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL



RESOLUTION

THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA'S FOREIGN POLICY DECISION MAKING AND FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS

Whereas, it is essential to safeguard against the duplication of any ineffective foreign policy which has failed in the past as a result of its lack of specific objectives and the support of the mainstream populous; and
Whereas, the Vietnam Veterans of America realizes its ability and obligation to add its unique perspective in the shaping of future foreign policy issues, with respect to that past; and
Whereas, historically, the commitment of military aid has lead to direct military incursion; and
Whereas, the efforts of both Congressional or Independent Fact Finding Missions of the past have failed to provide assurances of the delegation's safety; and
Whereas, the quality of the information gathered through Fact Finding Trips remain, at best, suspect; and
Whereas, those conclusions developed as a result of such trips have too often been ignored; and
Whereas, the reverberations of foreign policy issues are better echoed in the halls of Congress, than the jungles of Central America or the deserts of the Middle East; therefore be it

Resolved, that any authorization for "Fact Finding Trips" by or in behalf of The Vietnam Veterans of America, to anywhere, at anytime, be denied; and be it further

Resolved, that any and all foreign policy positions in the name of the Vietnam Veterans of America be drafted by the National Board of Directors, and withstand the scrutiny and approval of the State Councils and Chapters, prior to any external release; and be it

Resolved, finally, that once said position is formulated and representative of the Vietnam Veterans of America, et al, an aggressive lobbying campaign be conducted on Capitol Hill.

Michael R. Flannery
Michael R. Flannery, State Chairman

March 30, 1985
Date

John L. Hayden
for:
VVA Chapter 95

Tom R. Rinaldi
for:
VVA Chapter 106

Antonio Estrada
for:
VVA Chapter 183



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL



RESOLUTION

THE VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA'S SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRIPS

Whereas, resolutions G-9 (The Amerasian Children), V-3 (On-site Agent Orange Research), and V-10 (The Missing in Action/Prisoner of War [MIA/POW] issue) were passed by the voting delegates at the 1983 National Convention of the Vietnam Veterans of America; and
Whereas, these issues are of the utmost concern to the members of the Vietnam Veterans of America; and
Whereas, direct visitations were then the most immediate and most effective means in which to encourage the expansion of government to government dialogue of these issues; and
Whereas, recognition for progress in these areas is granted to the Vietnam Veterans of America for its bold initiatives and approach; and
Whereas, the direct or indirect results of visitations on the part of the Vietnam Veterans of America have yielded an understanding, flexible dialogue between the governments of Vietnam and the United States on a regular basis; and
Whereas, the furtherance of such direct contact with the government of Vietnam could be misconstrued as both interference in this normal process, as well as divisive among the membership of the Vietnam Veterans of America; therefore be it

Resolved, that the Vietnam Veterans of America immediately halt any and all scheduled or projected trips to that region known to all as Southeast Asia; and be it further

Resolved, that the Vietnam Veterans of America, National, State and Chapter, immediately initiate meaningful public awareness programs aimed at keeping our organization in the forefront of seeking solutions to these issues; and be it further

Resolved, that the Vietnam Veterans of America use its unique influence to encourage the furtherance of the talks between the governments of Vietnam and the United States, offering to each this organization's willingness to rescue progress, should talks breakdown; and be it

Resolved, finally, that the Vietnam Veterans of America direct all its time, energy and funds to securing an improved quality of life for those "At Home" veterans, as stated in the "Purpose" portion of our Constitution and Bylaws and those remaining resolutions adopted and ratified at our 1983 National Convention.

Michael R. Flannery
Michael R. Flannery, State Chairman

March 30, 1985
Date

John L. Hayden
for:
VVA Chapter 95

Tom R. Rinaldi
for:
VVA Chapter 106

Antonio Estrada
for:
VVA Chapter 183

POW/MIA Update

SOME PEOPLE CAN'T LET GO OF VIETNAM. Most of us left it behind with Woodstock, Kent State, and Watergate. But for some, Vietnam is still an everyday nightmare. That's because nearly 2,500 Americans are still missing in Vietnam, 2,500 people who disappeared, leaving questions in their place.

Over the years since we left the conflict, hundreds of firsthand sightings by refugees and others report Americans still alive in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. Growing older day to day in prison camps, while Hanoi denies knowledge of them. Other reports confirm bodies being held for ransom by that same Hanoi government.

Meantime, their wives and families live frozen in time. Not knowing whether to remarry. To move ahead. Or to hang onto hope.

Now, Washington has finally admitted some of the missing could still be alive. But the of government turn slowly. You can help speed them up. Write your senator or congressman at the following address:

(Name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

(Name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Write letters to the editors of local papers in an effort to draw public attention to the missing men.

Or write the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United Nations at the following address:

Vietnamese Ambassador
United Nations
20 Waterside Plaza
New York, New York 10010

Let Hanoi know that this time Americans are together on the question of Vietnam. And that we want out. Completely. AMERICANS ARE STILL IN VIETNAM. LET'S GET THEM OUT.

Recent Statistics:

Total returned POWs by March 1973
Homecoming, from the following areas:

North Vietnam 555 servicemen
28 civilians
(civilians included 23 Americans,
2 Philippines, 1 Canada, and
2 West Germany (1 female))
North Vietnam (died in captivity):
54 servicemen and 13 civilians
(includes 6 civilian women)
Laos 7 servicemen
3 civilians

Laos did not indicate any deaths of military or civilian while in captivity.

Total returned by March 1973: 660

Documented letters indicate that the United States was becoming involved in Southeast Asia as early as 1941.

The first POWs in Southeast Asia were two civilians, John T. Downey and Richard Pecteau. They were captured on 11/29/52, when their aircraft was shot down over China. They were prisoners of the Chinese government until Mr. Pecteau was released on 12/13/71 and Mr. Downey was released on 3/12/73.

The last known POWs captured in Southeast Asia were three civilians (1 female) whose yacht was taken over by the South Vietnamese on 5/15/79. They were later released on 7/2/79.

At the end of March 1973 Homecoming, there were 2500 missing servicemen. Of this count, Arizona has 27 missing men, the highest is California with 250 missing, and the lowest is the Virgin Island with 1 missing man.

Since Homecoming, 99 remains have been returned: 93 from Vietnam, 3 from resistance sources, 2 from China, and 1 from Laos.

The total "2500" is incorrect. Various members of the National League of families are being contacted for help from individuals whose man does not appear on the wall or on the State Department lists.

I have personal knowledge of one family searching for information about their loved one. They have been denied any information as it is "classified."

Basic knowledge is their loved one served as a military advisor with the U.S. Army. On 3/16/62, his aircraft carrying a crew of 97 disappeared!

The reported count as of 9/4/84, is 2483. This includes 16 civilians (1 female).

To date, there is only one serviceman still listed as POW:

Major Charles E. Shelton, U.S.A.F.
Date of Incident: 4/29/65
Aircraft: RF101C
Area: Laos

Since the U.S. Government has always carried Major Shelton as a POW, makes you wonder why they haven't negotiated to get this man home!

WE, INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY,
ARE THEIR COUNTRY. WHAT PART WILL YOU
PLAY IN THEIR REPATRIATION?

Eleanor D. Reitz, sister
Major Victor J. Apodaca, USAF
MIA North Vietnam June 8, 1967

Darts * And Laurels

DARTS AND LAURELS

Mr. Ed Paulus, his son John and Adams Chevrolet of Norman, Oklahoma, for donating an IBM typewriter to the MONSOON TRIBUNE Staff. The VVA salutes you!!!!

** David Stockman, Office of Management and Budget Chief, for ordering all VA testimony be written and then screened by the OMB before any VA testimony before Congress.

Doug Kreutz, TUCSON CITIZEN, gave us a well written and thought provoking article about a VietVet who is making it-our own Frank Gonzalez. Thank you, Doug, for your professionalism and you become the model for other journalists to follow.

** Eva Moya, Vet Center Director. The Vets Seminar was ejected from the Vet Center on Monday nights, but nary an official word, visit, or returned phone call from the Director. Is communications being replaced by PROFESSIONALIZATION?

Marie Babcock and The Arizona Families of MIA/POWs for their recent donation to the Spirit of 106. We'll bring them home together!

VFW VIETVET POST OUSTED

Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander-In-Chief Billy Ray Cameron, a Vietnam Veteran, revoked Post 5888's charter on March 18, 1985, "for failure to comply" with national bylaws. The Santa Cruz, California post had adopted a resolution critical of United States involvement in Central America last April which was in direct conflict with a VFW national position.

The 67-member post opposes the Kansas City based VFW headquarters' call to restore "American primacy" in Latin America and instead favors self-determination with the threat of United States intervention. Scant attention was given the measure until four post members began "fact-finding" missions and one, Bill Watkins, delivered a copy of the Resolution to Nicaraguan officials. Additionally, Watkins conveyed a message that "not all veterans agree with the Reagan Administration." Commander Cameron immediately suspended the post for 60 days in January pending an investigation, but may have violated bylaws himself by never personally meeting with postmembers as mandated by the same bylaws before a charter can be cancelled.

Richard Anderson, Post 5888 commander, which was founded two years ago, said his group would fight the charter revocation until "every last table and flag is forcibly removed from our building. We don't believe the law supports the concept of a gag order and that is the basis of our challenge."

An attorney for the post said he had filed a writ of mandate on March 19 in Superior Court to block VFW National from enforcing the charter revocation and confiscating the post's money, flags and other property. A judge ruled the same day the VFW must show by April 18 why it took action against the post.

In an official statement released by VFW in Kansas City, Camera stated he had no choice but to revoke the charter.

"I fully recognize the right of individuals to speak out on issues of concern," Cameron said. "However, elements of the organization must abide by the mandate of the national convention, myself included."

The post attorney, Eric Schenk, disagreed by saying, "There is nothing in the bylaws that forbids a local post from passing a resolution that does not conform to one passed by the National Convention."

The courts will be the final deciding voice on this question, but another major problem looms over the controversy.

Cameron believes his actions will not discourage Vietnam Veterans from joining the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Post Commander Anderson, 37, said he feels it could shake up the conservative 2.1 million-member organization.

"I do see a fundamental change among men (and women) our age who would like the VFW to do something for peace," Anderson said. The imbroglio, however, has gone beyond California with reactions from many Veterans and organizations alike.

Mike Leaveck, of the Vietnam Veteran of America, was quoted saying the VFW "is really stifling debate that is necessary for the country." Some VFW members like Leo Austin, Post 1114 in Evansville, Indiana, feels Post 5888 "got a raw deal." Austin, a Veteran of both Korea and Vietnam, continued by pointing out "the reason we fight wars is so we can have the right to (voice) feelings about policies of our government."

Melvin Cohen is the former commander of Post 10203 in West Madison, Wisconsin, said he has hard feelings about the VFW revoking their charter 14 years ago for their position on Vietnam.

"I don't see how a few guys in Kansas City (VFW HQ) can take away a post's rights."

It's this issue the courts will decide.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune are now available at the incredibly low rate of \$5 per year. Fill in the coupon below and send a check or money order payable to VVA Chapter 106 care of this newsletter.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



Chuck's Realm

Years ago, my Grandparents instilled in me an incessant desire to continually seek knowledge; wisdom laced with a very valuable ingredient, common sense. The definition of education was not confined to a classroom, but extended to the entirety of our environment and its inhabitants. Part of this early training was the reading and comprehension of ideas not particularly attractive nor conducive; in fact, boring, "not relevant," and with many, offensive. Later the purpose was understood-communication is easier if you understand the culture and ideas where someone is coming from. I was fortunate to have this early development, but whether it is this or the heightened sensitivity which came after the military, there are areas which concern me deeply.

Heightened sensitivity can be attributed to a variety of things, but mine seems to spring into action whenever some of the more common discriminatory cliches or attitudes expose themselves among Vietnam Era Veterans. Let me give you a few things to consider by group: **VIETNAM ERA VETERANS**-Over 8,000,000 men and women served during the Vietnam Era and of this figure 3,000,000 were in Southeast Asia. That means more than 5,000,000 servicemembers were scattered from the United States to Greenland, Germany, Libya, Korea and The Bering Straits among other locations. Vietnam Era Vets paid their dues just like the in-country servicemembers and lived on the thin line between orders to Nam, an increasingly nervous military and a growing anti-military attitude. Yet, some Nam Vets seem to feel and articulate these "Garrett Troopers" had it made and accordingly, feel dominant with their Southeast Asian experiences. The Vietnam Era Vet retreats into anonymity, fully frustrated by the lack of respect towards their service and expressions. Vietnam was part of the total Era experience; the most tragic and thus memorable, perhaps. Very few of us take the time to stop, listen and understand what these men and women were put through and the resultant effect. We need to explore the "big picture" and comprehend how a Korea DMZ Vet feels when his duty is denigrated. An exodus into the closet and a feeling of minor importance in the whole Era is their reward for service. Without them, VietVets would have been hard put to survive as long as we did and the gratitude needs to be extended. Welcome Home, Vietnam Era Vets!!!!!!!

Minority Vets still seem to feel outside of the general activity. Whether we like to admit it or not, some old prejudices still linger on and appear in both word and deed. These unfortunate manifestations are not difficult to observe or hear; just hard to understand. These particular Vets, whether ethnic or religious groups, are needed to help the rest of us understand their experiences, sacrifices and pain; hence, our own. Where are they? These men and women are out there waiting for a flicker of "perceived" acceptance. The VVA is open to all Vietnam Era Vets and those who served in Indochina irrespective of the time; male/female, race, creed, national origin, religion, all notwithstanding. Indeed, this organization, like the war, is equal opportunity! Each chapter, however, must take a step forward to let these servicemembers know we care as a body of people regardless of the seemingly omnipresent contrary individual viewpoints. Prejudice will probably always exist in some form, but we, as individuals and members, do not have to silently acquiesce nor tolerate these attitudes. When the welcome is perceived, the true learning will begin. Communication is needed desperately with all brothers and sisters, but tradition seems to be holding us back. Let's begin now---Welcome Home, Brothers and Sisters!

Women Veterans seem to be caught somewhere between acceptance, alienation and hostility. They have been taken for granted, mistreated and seen their experiences regarded as relatively unimportant. Upon their return from service, many were relegated to society's traditional role for women. Now they are struggling to regain the sense of importance once held while working within their given military profession. Vietnam was a classless war, yet individuals of both genders cling tenaciously to endless rhetoric and avoid coming together. Men

and Women Veterans need to come together to develop a mutual understanding not only for themselves, but for all and the future. Just as some men will have to concede the invaluable contributions of women, some women must reciprocate by admitting there are men who do understand where they are coming from. The respect and dignity shared by the majority of both is overshadowed by the excessive hyperbole continually reiterated by the minority. The result is simply the alienation of many individuals who are already trying or have already heightened their consciousness. It is past the time to come out of the closet! Welcome Home, Women Veterans!

Spouses and dependents did not, as some commonly believe, have it so easy either. The endless days of waiting; the fear of a green/blue car with an officer and NCO filled all with anxiety beyond description. Dealing with military bureaucracy is an experience every servicemember came to verbalize about, but the spouse was nearly outside the vaunted system. s/he often had to carry the efforts in a strange system all by him/herself. Spouses were predominantly women and very little of their story is being told. Dealing with a predominantly male-oriented military in the same type of society while, perhaps, caring for children would tax the patience of many of the most macho males. Horror stories exist of many spouses ejected from military housing after their sponsors were declared MIA/POW during the Vietnam War. The paychecks stopped and so did the official concern for their welfare. Male spouses, very much in the minority, were largely ignored and generally regarded as an aberration. Support was hard to find on military bases, i.e. NCO and Officer Wives Clubs, and many came to be regarded with the same suspicion as those "civilians." The obvious point to consider is the military was servicemember oriented particularly when it came to dealing with families and when that individual was absent, the spouse was only given a partial amount of authority to function with. Deaths, prisoner of war, missing in action, etc., status only meant grief and the end of the road. It is the type of story we all need to hear and the time has come. Where are they and where are we??? Welcome Home, Spouses and Dependents!

There are many others we need to openly welcome. The moral is a need exists to educate each other particularly in those areas which long and widely held dogma need to be challenged. All Veterans organizations need to quit talking about cherished social precepts and do it! Reach out and touch someone with your sensitivity and understanding. Until we do this, this organization, like many others, will never realize the dream yearned for and we know we are different. Perhaps the best way to end this is by simply asking----what type of legacy will you and the VVA leave your children?

MEMORIAL FUNDS APPROVED!

The State of Arizona may be the first in this country to appropriate state funds for a Vietnam Veterans Memorial. On February 20, 1985, Governor Bruce Babitt signed into law the final amended version of SB-1028, a bill appropriating \$250,000 towards building a monument in Phoenix bearing the names of 613 Arizona Viet Vets who died in the conflict and 27 more who are missing in action.

The original version of the bill was introduced by Senator West and Casa Grande Representative and VVA Member Jim Hartdegen. The bill passed through the legislature with the understanding that these funds were only a loan to be repayed through private donations.

Many of our legislature were uncomfortable with this outcome and felt that the state should pay outright for the memorial. Senator John Hayes finally introduced an amendment to fund the entire project and no dissenting votes were tallied. The state is still seeking donations to pay back this large amount of money along with maintenance costs.

With these funding concerns solved, Rep. Jim Hartdegen and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Board have now interviewed and selected out of a field of five finalists, the artist who will cast the memorial-Jasper d'Ambrosi of Phoenix. The bronze status will be situated on a hill within Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza and will be partially encircled by ten reflective black columns of granite bearing the names-reminiscent of "The Wall."

The Board is working from the lists put out by the Department of Defense, KIA/MIAs from the Vietnam War and other sources. THEY NEED CONFIRMATION OR INFORMATION ON THESE NAMES FROM FAMILY MEMBERS. Please call 255-1700 or write to the Arizona Vietnam Veterans Memorial Board, 700 West Campbell, Ste #17, Phoenix, AZ 85013.

"Coming Home"
Chapter #95, Prescott

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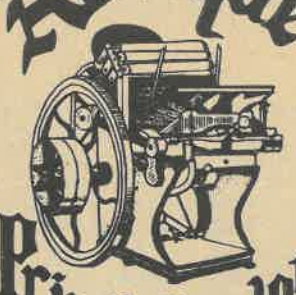
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Two months later, I was in a horrible car crash and watched my friend die in the ambulance as we were rushed to the hospital. That cloud was still hanging over me when graduation finally arrived.

Graduation came, went and so did the war. I was reading my Rolling Stone magazine one hot summer day following my transition into "adulthood" and saw this advertisement for a book by John Bryan entitled This Soldier Still At War. It was about a Vietnam Veteran who had come back from the war a changed man; an individual whose confusion and anger led him to train the Symbionese Liberation Army. I recall hearing about the SLA in conjunction with the kidnapping of Patty Hearst when I was a junior in high school in 1974. I had an urge to find out more information on the SLA and the war decade I had grown up in. What I discovered was I KNEW LITTLE ABOUT THE WAR YEARS! To my dismay, I realized I knew next to nothing about the people who had fought in the conflict.

I was seeing a side of the war that had been ignored in our history classes, in the media and by our government. I was hearing about the other war, the one "over there." I had been so involved with what had happened in this country that I had forgotten about the people who had had to go there and fight. I had forgotten about the soldiers we had to write to when I was in the third grade.

I was now aware of an aspect of the war very few people were willing to talk about or study. I had no way of pursuing my new interest. I still did not really understand the subject matter and decided to research some more on the war years. I first researched the home front literature and then, as more material developed, explored the subject of the Vietnam Veteran.

I was still in the process of learning about the war and the Veteran when I met Chuck Hovey at the University of Arizona. He helped reveal the extent of the Veterans' problems to me. Perhaps my main awakening to what the war had done to those who fought it came in the form of movies such as "Coming Home" and "The Boys in Company C." It was hard to tell

if anyone else was learning anything from these films, but they were still hitting home for me. There was still much more to learn and understand.

Veterans' problems were so hard to comprehend. The high divorce rates, suicides and the fact they were being avoided like the plague shocked me into realizing the wounds in this country were so much deeper than I had suspected. They had seen not one friend die, but many. There was a lot of pain out there and no one was willing to do anything about it.

Then, in 1979, the hostages were taken in Iran and a new nationalism was born. When they were finally released, the country gave them a welcome-home parade that had not been seen since the end of World War II. That was the problem; we, as a nation, had forgotten about the unsung Vietnam Veterans. I put a sign on my car that said simply: "Welcome Home Vietnam Vets." The reason for this was simply I had heard some of the comments from Vets who had asked "Where was our welcome-home parade?" In my own way I was trying to give it to them.

I found myself in a state of apathy by the time I graduated from high school. There was little reason to trust the government for they had lied to us for so long. My friends and I had witnessed the end of an America that we weren't sure ever existed. Gone were the glory days of John Wayne, charging cavalry coming over the hill, and the country with the perfect record. We questioned authority and everything else!

I realize now that I did and do care about what happens to this country. I don't want to see it come apart at the seams again. It is for this reason I am trying to grasp the problems of the Vietnam Veteran. It's time to quit pretending the war in Vietnam never happened. It is important that I understand what happened, and in my own way, try to help. I still have a long way to go, and so does my government.

The Sister Column

This month's column will consist mostly of a book review by Yolanda Randall on Lynda Van DeVanter's Home Before Morning. Ms. Van DeVanter's book, co-authored by Christopher Morgan, has received many and varied reactions. The national organization, Nurses Against Misrepresentation, felt the work "really maligns the medical teams who served in Vietnam." Columbia Pictures and actress Sally Field's Fogwood Productions found the autobiography's subject matter important enough to want to make a film and have already signed a contract with the authors towards that end. Ms. Field plans on playing the lead role.

I join Yolanda Randall in recommending Home Before Morning for an education in one woman's experience in Vietnam. We encourage the reading of this book and the reader forming his/her own opinion. Whatever opinion the reader may formulate, we can assure they will not be passive ones. Now, we will proceed with Yolanda's review:

Home Before Morning is a true story of Lynda Van DeVanter and her experiences as an Army Nurse in Vietnam. Lynda was an "all-American girl" who, like so many, was full of hopes and dreams in 1968. Those dreams were soon to change when Lynda decided to serve her country and was sent to Vietnam as a second lieutenant. Being in a strange country with a war going on was bad enough, but trying to do her job and stay alive was more than most people could have handled.

An example was her experience with Gene, a young soldier she was never to forget. He was brought into the neuro-surgery room with severe head and facial wounds in addition to bleeding so badly he needed three blood intravenous lines. Managing the IV lines kept her blindly busy until she kicked over the soldier's fatigues and a snapshot fell out. The picture of a young couple on prom night with "Gene and Katie, May, 1968" written on the back suddenly turned the wounded soldier into a person; a real person with memories, loves and future dreams. So she hoped against the worst the bleeding would stop. It did not. Later in post-op, she ordered him medication for the pain knowing he would die faster. Holding his hand, she watched him go and an important part of herself was lost with him.

The book takes the reader to the end of her tour, her return home and trying to pick up her life where she left it before the war. Difficulties beset her and even in her own home she felt like an outcast. The problems of Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, dealing with family, the military, the Veterans Administration and other Veterans is brought to light from a woman's point of view. All interested in how the Vietnam War affected some military women who served there would do well to read this book. Home Before Morning is now available in paperback at local bookstores.

Yolanda Hovey

Discussion was held on the various committees (i.e. PR, logistics, etc.) that would be necessary for fund raising events.

AWAL will be obtaining further information on the ordering of VVA merchandise to place an order ASAP for the chapter. That brought the meeting to its conclusion.

The Arizona Women's Active League would like to extend a hearty welcome to the new faces at our recent meeting-Angle Battoe, Maxine Bazan, and Besty Galloway. We were very glad you joined us and sincerely hope we will see you again. To some of the "old" faces that haven't been to our latest meetings-we've missed you and hope we will see you soon. Meetings are held the second Wednesday of the month with a rotating location each month. Just call 790-7602 which is the VVA chapter 106 answering machine. Leave your name and number and someone will be happy to call you back with the location of that month's meeting. Our thanks to Angel Battoe for offering her home for the meeting for April 10th. The following meeting will be May 8th. We would really appreciate information or input for our upcoming meetings.

The Women's Committee held two meetings in March. Both were kindly hosted at the Glessingers home. We thank them for their hospitality.

As the first meeting on March 13th the following occurred:

A proposal was brought to the Women's group to take over the selling of Chapter 106 VVA merchandise (i.e. bumper stickers, buttons, etc.). This includes the ordering of the merchandise to be sold. The group noted and agreed to take on the responsibility.

A suggestion was made that we have containers to collect food and donations at all Women's meetings. The food collected would be forwarded to the Chapter 106 Food Bank and the donations would help pay for some of the Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune operating expenditures, such as typing paper, postage, etc. All present were unanimously in favor. Methods of collection will be provided at all future meetings.

Further discussion was held on fund-raising ideas for the "Spirit of 106." One particular idea presented was found to be very plausible. All attending agreed that a proposal be brought before the Chapter 106 officers and board as soon as possible. Details will be explained once the committee has met with the board.

Suggestions for a new name for the Women's Committee were reviewed. A vote was taken and the committee's new name is VVA Arizona Women's Active League (AWAL).

All present were reminded of the POW/MIA Conference March 29th and 30th. Would-be volunteers were urged to contact Eleanor Reitz. In future meetings it will be established at the beginning of proceedings how much time will be allotted for committee business and how much for personal business.

Due to the lateness of the hour and the need to complete more of the month's business, a second meeting was scheduled for the following Wednesday and that concluded the meeting.

The second meeting held March 20th was short and went as follows:

First order of business was to hold elections for a chairperson since it was the end of the first quarter. Cindy Glessinger has been elected chairperson for the second quarter.

Historically in April

- 1949 Bao Dai returns to Vietnam after three years of self-imposed exile.
- 1955 Diem crushes the Binh Xuyen Sect.
- 1956 An American Military Assistance Advisory Group (MAAG) assumes training of the South Vietnamese Forces as the French High Command disbands and departs Vietnam-April 29.
- 1963 The Chieu Hoi (Open Arms) Amnesty Program is initiated to rally Viet Cong to support the government.
- 1965 LBJ offers Ho Chi Minh participation in a Southeast Asian development plan in exchange for peace-April 7.
North Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Van Dong rejects Johnson's proposal-April 8.
- 1966 B-52s bomb targets near Mu Gia Pass in North Vietnam for the first time-April 12.
- 1967 General Westmoreland confers with LBJ in Washington on April 27 and addresses Congress on April 28. The primary message-The light is seen at the end of the tunnel, the enemy is almost defeated and the war should be won in one-three years.
President Johnson replaces Westmoreland with General Creighton Abrams as Commander, Military Assistance Command (MACV).
- 1970 MACV announces American participation into Cambodia-April 29.
- 1972 Nixon authorizes the bombing of areas near Hanoi and Haiphong-April 15.
- 1973 Last American POWs under Paris Peace Accords released in Hanoi-April 1.
- 1975 Lon Nol, Cambodian Prime Minister, flees Phnom Penh-April 1. The US Ambassador and staff depart on April 12 and the city falls to the Khmer Rouge five days later, April 17.
Evacuation of the last Americans including US Ambassador Graham Martin from Saigon-April 29. The city falls to North Vietnamese Forces the next day, April 30.

DO YOU REMEMBER....

Bac Bac----GI warping of Vietnamese "Ban-Ban," to shoot, kill in battle
 Ap Doi Moi-New Life Hamlet
 Ap Tan Sin-A secure hamlet
 Dong-----Vietnamese monetary unit-1 piaster.
 Hoi Chanh--One who rallied under Chieu Hoi Program
 Luc Luong Dac Biet (LLDB)-SVN Special Forces.
 Numbah One-Best, Prime
 Numbah Ten-Worst; Numbah Ten-the pits.
 Nuoc-Man----Pungent concentrated fish sauce used to flavor rice.
 Greatttttttt Stufffffffr!

Ba Muoi Ba--Vietnamese "33" beer-unreal hangovers!
 Boom-Boom---Boom-Boom
 Dinky-Dau---Crazy
 Sat Cong----Kill Commies
 Ruby Queens-Vietnamese cigarette brand
 Dinky Dau Ruby Queens-Wacky "Tobacco" in Ruby Queen pack.
 Sin Loi-----"Sorry about that, tough shit!"

VVA SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING

VVA Legal Services will offer training for VVA accredited service representatives and those interested in becoming one at American University in Washington, D.C. tentatively between July 7-12. If you are interested, please contact the Chapter Officers to place your name in nomination. The VVA National Office covers training costs, room and lunches, but the attendees must pay for their own transportation, breakfasts and dinner. Generally, these are covered by the Chapter and the Chapter or State Council must offer a plan to National to financially support and utilize the trainee's services. Again, if you are interested, contact any Chapter Officer!

CANCER THREAT IN VIETNAM VETERANS

Vietnam Veterans may possess a higher risk that non-Veterans of contracting and succumbing to certain forms of cancer, suicides and auto accidents according to a recently completed Massachusetts study of deaths from 1972-83. The research began with state funding last August and was based on analysis of death certificates by the State Public Health and Veterans Service Departments.

Researchers found that 9 of 840 Vietnam Veterans' deaths were caused by soft-tissue sarcoma, a rare cancer linked to Agent Orange. Two to three cases would be expected based on its incidence in the general population. Kidney cancer and stroke deaths were significantly elevated among VietVets in a related finding. Authors of the study assert the higher rate of cancer found is highly significant and contradicts Veterans Administration findings to the opposite. The researchers caution, however, that additional research is needed to corroborate their conclusions due to the limited area studied.

It was also found that deaths from violent causes, noting suicide and auto accidents, are more common among Vietnam Veterans than expected based on general population studies. According to their findings, an estimated 94 VietVets committed suicide between 1978-83, 58% higher than the expected rate; 67 died in motor accidents, 31% higher than expected.

Researchers find it is certainly plausible the findings may be due, in part, to increased stress experienced by Vietnam Veterans and they support an effort to reduce early or untimely deaths due to suicide or vehicle accidents. For a free copy of this study, please write:

Agent Orange Program
 Saltonstall Buildings
 100 Cambridge Street
 Boston, MA 02202

AGENT ORANGE END NEAR

Federal regulators stated, on March 22, 1985, that 2-4-5-T, commonly known as Agent Orange, is moving closer to a total ban in this country. Registrations for the dangerous herbicide have been terminated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the final step, an end to sales and use, can be expected within a year or when time limits expire for using existing stocks in all areas.

Smaller firms have requested further hearings to challenge EPA's effort to cancel registration and thus keep the issue alive. Administrative law judges, however, have squelched many of these requests and thus far, the EPA order stands.

The Agriculture Department halted use of 2-4-5-T in 1970 around homes,

gardens, recreational areas, etc., citing studies alluding to birth defects and cancer. The EPA scheduled formal cancellation hearings and more use areas were added to the suspended list. During the cancellation hearings, 100 witnesses appeared, over 1500 exhibits were entered into the record and more than 23,000 pages of testimony were taken before Dow Chemical offered to cease production. All of this evidence contributed heavily to the eventual EPA decision to ban 2-4-5-T.

NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS POW-WOW

The Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux ceremonial grounds located south of Sisseton, South Dakota, will be the site for the 4th Annual National Vietnam Veterans POW-WOW this Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-27, 1985. The event will be sponsored by the Vietnam Era Inter-Tribal Association and hosted by the Sisseton-Wahpeton Sioux Veterans Association.

Activities will include the traditional POW-WOW, an all-Indian Rodeo sanctioned by the Great Plains Rodeo Association, an all-Indian fast-pitch softball tournament and the Vietnam Veterans Art Show. All Viet Vet artists are cordially invited to display and market their work at the Old Agency Tribal Complex, a short distance from the ceremonial grounds.

For more information, contact Les Barse, Commander, at Sisseton-Wahpeton Vietnam Veterans Association, Agency Villare, SD 57262. Those interested

VIETNAM FREES AMERICAN SAILOR

Eight months passed after William Mathers, 41, of Cove Neck, New York, and the crew of his yacht, SO FONG, were captured by Vietnamese authorities in that country's territorial waters on July 22, 1984. Mathers was released on April 5, 1985, after his parents paid a \$10,000 fine for their son's "intrusion and spying."

His five crewmembers were freed last year-four French citizens in September and an Australian in November. It took the efforts of several countries and governmental bodies to secure promises for Mathers' release-Australia, Indonesia, France, the Netherlands, two US Congressional delegations and United Nations Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

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-Frederic Miller, 1855



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Scuttlebutt

SCAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

QUOTE OF THE MONTH FROM VVA VETERAN

WISDOM FOR TODAY'S LIVING

1. Boran's First Law: When in doubt, mumble!
2. Schultz's Speculation: If you can't be right, be wrong at the top of your voice.
3. St. Benedict's Dictum: It is easier to beg forgiveness than to seek permission.
4. Sattinger's Law of Electronics: It works better if you plug it in.
5. Law of Probable Dispersal: Whatever hits the fan will not be evenly distributed.
6. First Rule of Motivation: To err is human, to forgive is not company policy.
7. The Peter Principle: In a hierarchy, every employee tends to rise to his/her level of incompetence.
8. Parkinson's Law: Work expands as to fill the time available for its completion.
9. Maier's Law: If the facts do not conform to the theory, they must be modified.
10. The Roth Theory: Slimes are all over, but you just can't see them for the squids.

EMERGENCY VETERANS JOB PROGRAM

By the end of February, 1985, nearly 25,000 Veterans had found employment through the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act (EVJTA). While this program aided many Veterans who otherwise would not have found employment, the number of Vets who could benefit from it far exceeds those who have actually found jobs. Since its start in December, 1983, a total of 292,005 Vets have qualified for program participation, but less than one in ten who have been accepted as potential participants have actually found jobs. In Arizona, the Department of Economic Security claims 795 vets were placed while the VA figure is 100 less. Nearly 4000 had been certified within this state so whether one accepts the DES or VA figure, the percentage is not that good. The major problem is that there just are not enough job slots developed primarily due to the program being improperly marketed. EVJTA deserves another chance, but the Reagan Administration has labeled it an extravagance.



ELP/Black

Scholarships for Children of American Military Personnel (SCAMP) is a non-profit organization founded in 1971. Its primary purpose is to provide scholarships for children of US Armed Forces Personnel who were killed in action, are still missing in action or prisoners of war in the Southeast Asian conflict.

Applicants are chosen on the basis of scholastic achievement and need. The awards, which are not to exceed \$3,000 per calendar year, are presented in November of each year and an applicant who has received a scholarship is thereafter eligible for a continuance as long as his/her activities in college continue to justify it. Applicants need not be just entering college to apply so a student presently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate studies is eligible to apply.

Scholarships application forms and information may be obtained from:
Mr. Edward A. Stearn
SCAMP
136 S. Fuller Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Applications are normally only accepted through September 15 for the current academic year.

Brigadier General George Bartlett, USMC (ret.), head of the Marine Corps Association, stated for the record to reporters of the Hartford (Connecticut) Courant that Vietnam Veterans "were a bunch of goddamn crumbs!" He further indicated that VietVets should not seek to join the MCA and vehemently criticized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Statue of three soldiers. The reason: No hats and their uniforms are askew! Write to this civilian c/o The Marine Corps Association, Box 1775, Quantico, VA 22134, and help him with an attitude adjustment.

VFW URGING TIES TO HANOI!

Billy Ray Cameron, National Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander, has called upon his organization to change their hard-line against Hanoi and work for the establishment of diplomatic ties. The VFW have been traditionally conservative and such a request has raised eyebrows across the nation.

Cameron foresees ties only after Vietnam provides the fullest possible accounting of missing servicemembers. If he can change the organization's antagonistic attitude towards this nation's former adversary, the VFW will become the first traditional Veterans group to extend normalization hopes towards Vietnam.

The Commander has also expressed a desire to reconcile with the Vietnam Veterans of America who, as many know, already has visited Hanoi several times since 1980. Cameron is apparently seeking to create a unified front not only to protect Veterans benefits, but also to attract more Vietnam Vets to his organization. This is badly needed to enhance the VFW's standing after the recent ousting of a predominantly Viet Vet Post in Santa Cruz, California. That action has resulted in ramifications across the nation and charges of stifling dissent against Cameron as well as VFW National.

COORS SCHOLARSHIPS

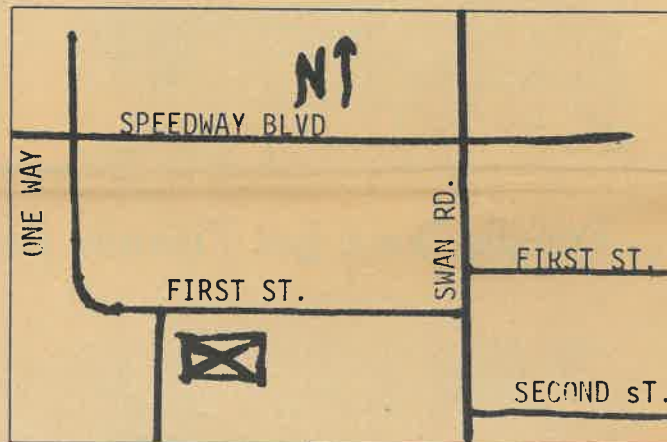
The Adolph Coors Company and affiliated distributors have announced a \$500,000 scholarship program for children and dependents of Americans Vets and Service Personnel killed in action, missing, prisoners of war, died in the line of duty and honorably discharged.

Peter Coors, president of company sales and marketing division, said "the Coors Memorial Scholarship Fund is our way of celebrating the true intent of Memorial Day-to honor the American Veterans who defended our country and those who gave their lives."

Coors has been active as a Veterans Benefactor both locally and nationally. The company has the highest rate of Vet employment, 32%, and recently sponsored a massive publicity campaign to acquire citizen donations for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Phoenix.

A MATTER OF EMPHASIS!

According to the National Forget-Me-Not Association for MIA/POWs, only \$175,000 of a \$350,000 appropriation was used by the House Select Committee on Missing persons in Southeast Asia to determine the fate of nearly 2,500 Americans. Ironically, the failed Iranian rescue attempt of 52 US citizens cost \$190,000,000! This breaks down to an expenditure per hostage of \$3,673,037. The 2,500 MIA/POWs in Southeast Asia were deemed a worth of only \$70 each!



Quick Reference

VVA (602) 790-7602 Chapter 106
(202) 332-2700 National
(202) 332-3305 Officers
1-800-424-7275 HOTLINE

VARO 622-6424 Tucson
263-5411 Phoenix
1-800-352-0451 Elsewhere

VA POW Hotline 1-800-821-8139
VA IG Hotline 1-800-368-5899
GAO Fraud Hotline 1-800-424-5454
Vets Outreach Center 323-3271

Federal Information Center
522 N. Central Ave., Rm. 120
Phoenix, AZ 85004
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