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## Lee Loved Airplanes

August 5, 1944 a baby boy was born: Leroy "Lee" Jason Cornwell III, in Richmond Virginia. As a teenager Lee dreamed of flying an airplane. He worked hard to achieve his dream. He studied Aerospace Engineering at the University of Arizona. Through the ROTC program he was commissioned Officer in the United States Air Force. His dream came true when in the Class of 1968 at Wright Air Force Base, he pinned on his wings. His mother Olivia, said she knew he loved to fly and asked me to read the poem "High Flight", by John Gillespie Magee, Jr.

Mrs. Cornwell told me, that is just how Lee felt about flying. His Dad has been very quite over this past month, but I could tell he loved his son very much and is proud of Lee and his achievements. Lee's niece Jennetta was only about ten years old when her uncle left for South East Asia. Yet she remembers him as happy and some times a practical joker. But also remembers how he could turn the right around and be a very serious, responsible, Officer. These are some of the memories Lee left behind.

Captain Leroy Cornwell was killed in the line of duty serving his country and flying as he dreamed. The weather recon flight came to a tragic end on September 10, 1971. His fate and the fate of many who were listed as Missing in Action, Prisoner of War and Killed in Action. We come today to remember in this final homecoming. From Genesis the 50th Chapter there is a story of Jacob being returned to his home land as his sons had promised the time we take today is a time for Lee's family, for his friends, for the men and women of the armed forces to lay to rest one of their own.

Chaplain Captain Thom Porter  
United States Air Force

Captain Leroy "Lee" Jason Cornell III with Major Andrew Ivan were flying a F-4 on a mission over Laos on September 10, 1971 when their plane was shot down. The rescue crews spotted the crash site from the air, but were unable to make any rescue. The plane "sheared off trees" in a Laotian jungle before it impacted with the ground. The joint U.S.-Laos Recovery Team recovered and sent the remains of both men to Travis Air Force Base last Wednesday, then LeRoy was sent home. Lee was buried during a military grave side service April 1, 1996 at South Lawn Cemetery. Four A-10 fighters fly over in a missing-man formation.

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## Schedule of Events

Sat	April 13		VAVS Carnival	VA Medical Center
Wed	April 17	6:46 p.m.	Bingo	VA Medical Center Building 4 Conference Center
Sat	April 20	10:00 a.m.	Arizona State Council Meeting	Phoenix, Arizona
Mon	April 22	7:30 p.m.	<u>Annual Meeting &amp; Election</u>	VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.
Tue	April 30		Fall of Saigon	
	May 3 - 5		Region 9 Meeting	Carson City, Nevada
	May 10 - 12		Stand Down '96	Kennedy Park
Wed	May 15	6:46 p.m.	Bingo	VA Medical Center Building 4 Conference Center
Wed	May 15		Run for the Wall	Ash Fork, Arizona
Sun	May 19	4:00 p.m.	Nan Jam '96 Committee Meeting	740 E. Speedway
Mon	May 27		Meeting Tucson Chapter 106	VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.
Wed	June 19	6:46 p.m.	Bingo	VA Medical Center Building 4 Conference Center

## We Need Your Help!

It takes 5 minutes, 1 envelope, and a 32 cent stamp. Please help us, we need to know what you want. Look at the mailing label, is it correct? Above your name are three items that describe your membership. Like: **IND 97 Yes** or **ASC 97 No**

1) The type of membership, the letters refer to the following:

**IND** Individual Vietnam Era Veteran

**ASC** Associate Non Vietnam Era Veteran, Family, Friends and the general public

**IVI** Incarcerated Vietnam Era Veteran

**IVA** Incarcerated Non Vietnam Era Veteran

**LMP** Life Member Individual Vietnam Era Veteran

**ALP** Life Members Associate Non Vietnam Era Veteran, Family, Friend, and general public

After the type of member it shows the year your membership expires or expired. If it shows **97** that means your membership expires February 28, 1997. If it shows **L** that means you are a life time member.

2) Is your membership expired? Please bring it up to date.

<input type="checkbox"/> 1-Year \$20.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year \$50.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership	Age	49 and under	\$250
				50 to 55	\$225
<input type="checkbox"/> Incarcerated Vietnam Era Veteran				56 to 60	\$200
				61 to 65	\$175
<input type="checkbox"/> Incarcerated Non Vietnam Era Veteran \$7.00				66 and over	\$175

3) The third note shows **Yes** or **No**. This refers to your DD214. Do we have a copy of your DD214 in our file? If you are an Associate member (**ASC** or **ALP**) we do not need this copy. If your membership is another type we are required to have a copy of your DD214.

If the mailing label is not correct, please make the corrections.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_



What is needed? What can be changed? What do you want to see?

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Cut this page off and bring it to the next meeting or mail it to: **Vietnam Veterans of America**  
**PO Box 40903**  
**Tucson, Arizona 85717**