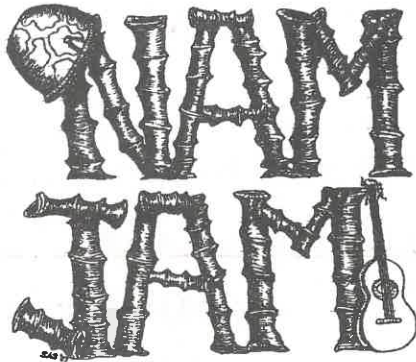


## More from the WALL ...

If you get back to D.C., be sure to take the time to see the Display of treasures from the Wall, located in the Smithsonian. We spent a full hour browsing through the display of gifts; teddy bears, wedding rings, prom corsages, letters from children, parents, lots of trophies; all left to pay homage to loved ones. My particular favorite was a Silver Star received during Desert Storm left by a son to his dad whose name is on the wall.

## Highlights of the June meeting

Again Bingo was a rousing success in June. If you're looking for a fun way to spend a few hours, this is it! All you need to do is show up at the auditorium on the VA Hospital grounds at 6:30 on "our" Wednesday evening out of the month. You'll always find it listed in the newsletter calendar.



Walt Maxam reported that our membership is down to 193 because of paring of the non-pays. We had discussion on improving our membership. It was noted that we need interesting issues to get people to join and attend our meetings.

It was motioned on and approved to purchase a \$150 Lifetime membership in the southwestern Military Historical Society. Ray Blanton, Jr. Director. We will need someone to volunteer to man the desk three hours a month. The Museum is at the Indoor Swap Meet. Ray will be happy to take any Viet Nam Era Memorabilia off your hands to display. It will be considered on loan and every precaution will be taken to ensure the safety of your memorabilia.

Deborah Fahnstock asked to say "thank you" for your thoughts and prayers during her illness. She is tolerating the medication well and believes it is all due to the outpouring of affection and positive thoughts from her friends.

It was motioned and seconded to present to Patty and Chuck Bald-Coulter a check for \$150 which will help defray expenses while they're in San Diego for the 17th Annual Veteran's Wheelchair Games. (See Story).

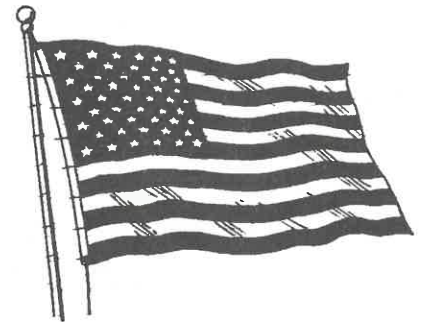
Our 50/50 winner was Walt Maxam...\$11.50. The drawing was held and the names of Thomas Woolsey, Howarda Kozda and Tom Sinclair were all called. They were not present so next month the drawing will be for \$ 70.

**HIGHLIGHTS OF JULY MEETING** Chester reminded us all of the Veterans Day 13th Annual OK Mile Fun run/walk. The event will be held at Reid Park with all funds generated going to SunSounds, a local organization that provides radio and other services for the visually impaired. Once again this year the honorary race director will be Alan Kath of Skyview Traffic. It was moved and seconded that we provide a sponsorship of \$ 100.

If you weren't there you missed another successful Bingo. Our next one will be held on August 20.

It was resolved to send \$200 to help defray expenses of the dedication of the Woman's Viet Nam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. The motion was made by Deane Cooper and fittingly seconded by Rita Ramey.

Walt Maxam reported on Product sales. In Benson during the Fourth of July he had product sales in excess of \$100. We are selling more than we are taking in! Walt has custom ordered a "NAM JAM" Hat pin, look for it soon and buy one fast, it'll be a Limited Edition.



Bob Taylor mentioned that we still need a Service Officer to represent VVA at the VA. This is a volunteer position with specific criteria so give him a call at the VA to find out the requirements.

Chuck Bald-Coulter gave a report on the 17th Annual Veteran's Wheelchair Games....See the story below to find out what happened.

Gail Skinner reported on bids he received for a Uniform Shirt (embroidered) for Nam Jam Workers. It's a possibility we'll have a great looking Polo Shirt to wear as a uniform at Nam Jam...keep you posted.

Gerard Berume gave us each a hand out consisting of the material he's presented to school officials. He's pleased with the response he's getting back from school officials. Although he reports he doesn't think the curriculum will be active this year, he feels the committee has several different avenues to pursue.

Before the NAM JAM meeting, the monthly drawing was held. The first two names, Tom Palous and Robert Pourscript were not in attendance, but the third name drawn was present. Congratulations! Joe Luke, you won \$ 70.

**Atta Boy! Chuck Bald-Coulter**

Welcome Home to Chuck and Patty Bald-Coulter back from San Diego where Chuck participated in the aforementioned 17th National Veteran Wheelchair Games.

Chuck,(who's game for anything,)participated in the Air Guns, Slalom, Javelin, and Discus events. He tells us that although the games were limited to 550 athletes, they ended up with 795 competitors.

How did he do? Well, howabout a Bronze in Discus, Fourth Place in Air Guns, he showed up in Slalom.....**AND THE GOLD IN HIS CLASS IN FIELD JAVELIN!!!!!!**  
You Go Guy!!

**Welcome to the annual Nam Jam Warmup Party**

**A Potluck/Storytelling/Poetry Reading Evening--Saturday, September 13, 6:00-**Our theme this year is **FRIENDSHIP**. The party will be held at Karen Sertich's Garden, 4118 N. Nidito Place (See Map)Bring---\*\* A Delicious Dish (enough to share)\*\***BYOB\*\***A personal

anecdote from Viet Nam\*\*A Poem, A Song or Show and tell a creative 'Nam related Arts & Crafts Project, or/and a story about a special friend. Questions? Call Deane Cooper @ 790-2612 or Karen Sertich @ 888-3136.

**VVA NATIONAL ELECTION RESULTS**  
Total Votes cast - 664.

**PRESIDENT:**

**GEORGE DUGGINS** 626

**VICE PRESIDENT:**

**THOMAS COREY** 498

**SECRETARY:**

**LUPE ALVIAR** 374

**TREASURER:**

**JOHN MCMANUS** 618

**DELEGATES AT LARGE:**

<b>MARY ELLEN WHITE</b>	476
<b>VERNON VALENZUELA</b>	459
<b>BILL DUKER</b>	443
<b>JOSEPH BARNES</b>	426
<b>JIM BOULEY</b>	410
<b>ROBERT MARAS</b>	377
<b>CHARLES MONTGOMERY, JR.</b>	351
<b>JEROLD KLEIN</b>	349
<b>ROBERT NECCI</b>	346
<b>JAQUELINE RECTOR</b>	316
David Mann	271
Alan Gibson	266
Wes Guidry	261
Larry Barnett	222
Alan Cook	220
Oscar Flores	216
John Davis	210
Francisco Muniz	178
Thomas Rainsberry	174
Will Schwartz	101
Griffin Perry	65
Richard Abrams	33

# Monsoon Tribune

## Submitting a VA claim

It's possible you're hurting your fellow Veterans by not submitting a claim for your service connected ailment. If the "Powers that Be" in D.C. determine the funding budget according to claims and you're sitting on one, you're not doing your buddies any good.

Perhaps you're holding off on a claim because of a "fear of the unknown". In the next few issues we'll be following a Veteran through the process of submitting his claim step by step. Hopefully, this familiarization process will spur those of you who tend to put things off.....our guy has been putting his off for years. A bad experience with a rude bureaucrat 28 years ago served as a trigger/excuse for even more procrastination.

The first step is to find a Service Officer (SO). Their offices are at the VA Hospital (Building 58). Sign in on one of their sheets. You don't have to be a member of the organization you choose. ~~Appointments are taken on a first come, first served basis, so try to get there early.~~ Your Service Officer will be your guide on this journey, don't be afraid to ask questions. Bring your DD-214 with you. Our guy is told to be patient. It can take anywhere from ~~nine months to a year to get rated.~~ He will be submitting his first claim, but will ask to be "rated" for several things: His knees are bad as a result of wounds. He has already been diagnosed with PTSD through his private doctor, he has ~~combat related siezures and back pain.~~

His SO invites him into her office and asks him to relate his story. It's an emotional one, but the SO gently tells him she needs to hear it. He gives a short description; This done, the Service Officer fills out a formal request for a rating. She has started the process rolling and urges our guy not to give up (typical of PTSD sufferers), He needs to do as she says. We're sent home with several things to

think about and several things to do. First, stop by eligibility and make an appointment for a check-up. Second, write a detailed account of his time in the service, focusing on any events concerning his complaints. This will serve as his "Stressor Letter." He has three forms to

fill out and return, don't be put off by these forms, your

service officer will tell you exactly which lines to fill in. His job for the next week or so is outlined, we'll let you know how it goes in the weeks that follow.

## HELP-HELP -HELP

We need your help in making this newsletter more interesting. Do you have any questions relating to Veterans Affairs you'd like answered? Ask us. How about a comment, maybe a story you'd like to share, a get together you'd like to organize pertinent to Chapter 106. Tell us. We want your input. We'll submit anything you give us (within reason). You don't have to worry about punctuation, spelling, etc. that's what Dennis our Editor is for! Email me at [valeryanne@worldnet.att.net](mailto:valeryanne@worldnet.att.net), or call 578-0109 and leave a message. Letters are always welcome.

## Stories from the WALL

Pete Duerr tells about the time he was sitting on the lawn overlooking the Wall when a Park Ranger appeared. He walked past Pete directly over to the only other man there. "I'm sorry, the park isn't opened to the public yet" the Ranger told the man. Pete stood up and said "Sorry, I didn't know it was closed" and the Ranger said; "it's not closed to you, you're a Vet." Pete couldn't get over that this young man could discern the Veteran from the public, but it's true. My husband was visiting the Wall recently and although surrounded by people the Park Ranger walked up to him and handed him the special piece of paper required to do an etching. This young man seemed kind so Robert told him about his friend whose name was on the wall, however, he couldn't remember his name to look it up. Talk about service! The Ranger led us back to his computer and spent 20 minutes probing Robert's memory. With just the branch of service, rank, state he lived in and knowing he was killed in December of 67 or January of 68, plus, knowing his friend was a Native American, the ranger came up with two names. Now the possibility of Robert meeting his buddy's family is a reality that he never thought possible. Thanks to this young man for taking the time to help us. We were so excited we didn't get his name, but I'm hoping he'll recognize himself in this story (I'm sending a copy) and know the appreciation we have for him.



Vietnam Veterans of America  
Tucson Chapter 106  
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Tucson AZ 85717-0903

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**ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED**

PETE DUERR  
1930 W ORACLE JAYNES STATION RD  
TUCSON, AZ 85704-1742

**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**August**

20 Wed 6:45 pm	VVA Bingo	VA Medical Center	Building 4 Conference Center
25 Mon 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Tucson Chapter 106	VFW 345 E. Roger Road
25 Mon 7:30 pm	<b>General Meeting - Tucson Chapter 106</b>		VFW 345 E. Roger Road

**September**

17 Wed 6:45 pm	VVA Bingo	VA Medical Center	Building 4 Conference Center
22 Mon 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Tucson Chapter 106	VFW 345 E. Roger Road
22 Mon 7:30 pm	<b>General Meeting - Tucson Chapter 106</b>		VFW 345 E. Roger Road

**October**

4 Sat 8:00 am	Region IX Conference		Tucson, Arizona
5 Sun	<b>Nam Jam '97</b>	Tucson - Reid Park	22nd St. & Country Club
15 Wed 6:45 pm	VVA Bingo	VA Medical Center	Building 4 Conference Center
27 Mon 6:30 pm	Board Meeting	Tucson Chapter 106	VFW 345 E. Roger Road
27 Mon 7:30 pm	<b>General Meeting - Tucson Chapter 106</b>		VFW 345 E. Roger Road





*Party...Party...Party...Party...Party...*

It's a  
Potluck/Storytelling/Poetry Reading  
Kind of Evening!

The Theme This Year is  
**FRIENDSHIP**

**WHERE:** Karen Sertich's Garden  
4118 N. Nidito Place

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 13, 1997  
6:00 P.M.

**BRING:**

*a Main Dish to Share*

*BYOB*

*a Personal Anecdote from Vietnam*

*a Poem*

*a Song or Show-and-Tell*

*a Creative Nam Related Arts & Craft Project*

*and/or*

*a Story about a Special Friend*

**QUESTIONS?**

*Call Karen @ 888-3136 or Deanne @ 790-2612*

