

# Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

VOLUME II ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 1985

## CALENDAR

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- FEBRUARY 28** General Meeting will be held at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter Hall, 4656 E. 1st St. (See map on back page). A raffle will be held and several important issues will be discussed. **YOUR PARTICIPATION IS VITAL.**
- MARCH 13** Women's Committee meeting will be held. See report inside for details.

### INDOCHINESE REFUGEES

April 30 marks the tenth anniversary of South Vietnam's demise, but the horrors of war continue in Southeast Asia. Over 1,000,000 Indochinese have been resettled in foreign lands and still more are fleeing the raging internecine conflicts. Between 1975-1983, 63% of those leaving came to the United States as the chart below indicates:

#### SOUTHEAST ASIAN REFUGEES

Locations 1975-83	Number
U.S.	654,167
France	93,218
Canada	89,777
Australia	84,079
Germany	22,387
England	16,388
Taiwan	13,353
Hong Kong	9,610
Others	50,248
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,033,407</b>

Source: UN High Commissioner For Refugees

April 30th marks the tenth anniversary of South Vietnam's demise, but the horrors of war continue unabated in Southeast Asia. Over 1,000,000 Indochinese have been resettled in foreign lands and still more are fleeing the raging internecine conflicts. Between 1975-83, 63% of those leaving came to the United States as the chart below indicates:

The United States figure rose to an estimated 710,000 by January, 1985, and according to the government, more will be allowed entry. Negotiations are continuing between Washington and Hanoi concerning approximately 50,000 Amerasians, their families and other Vietnamese who formerly worked for the U.S. Government. Problems of adjustment, program administration and financial responsibility are compounding almost as rapidly.

Incoming refugees are assigned to various states by the Federal Office of Refugee Resettlement. This agency contracts church and other private groups to assist the Indochinese in adjusting, finding work and homes.

Though this office is in charge of monitoring the entire resettlement process and federal funds expended, the number of refugees and bureaucratic problems have become mindboggling. In 1983 alone, USA Today reported 23,272 Indochinese entered the U.S. from Vietnam, 17,785 from Cambodia and 7,423 Laotians. The most difficult ob-

stacle confronting these men and women is not only the obvious differences in culture, administrative red tape and culture shock, but rather the psychological traumatization from their own war experiences. The term many professionals use is quite familiar to many of us - PTSD, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Many Southeast Asians suffer the same delayed stress problems as American Vietnam Veterans - depression, guilt, rage, alienation, alcohol/drug addiction and suicide, among others. The stymied reaction to death and violence is shared with American warriors, but is complicated by the difficulty in adjusting to an alien culture. A pilot study of 65,000 Indochinese refugees was accomplished in Santa Clara County, California, but officials there believe the findings equally apply elsewhere in this country. The overall conclusion was those who witnessed the greatest devastation in their respective homeland have the most difficulty adjusting and assimilating into American society. Other findings were:

- 95% of the Cambodians and 18% of the Vietnamese reported losing an immediate family member during the conflict.
- 96% of the Cambodians and 56% of the Vietnamese lost all of their personal property.

- 38% of the Cambodians and 12% of the Vietnamese stated they felt their lives were in danger for up to four years. A similar amount reported a shortage of food for the same period.

- One in five (13,000) were imprisoned for political reasons.

According to Soleng Tom, Santa Clara Mental Health Department, the refugees' psychological traumatization is compounded only by a myriad of health problems. He stated that 60% of the Cambodians were in very bad health and 50% were in immediate need of mental health treatment upon arrival in this country. Mr. Tom further emphasized that 99% of the Cambodians, 31% of the Chinese and 22% of the Vietnamese receive public health care that is paid for by the county taxpayer, not the federal government.

Adjustment is further complicated by the difficulty in finding employment in Santa Clara County. The current employment rate among the Cambodians is 85%, Vietnamese - 32%, and Chinese - 31%. 65% of the Cambodians, 39% of the Vietnamese and 49% of the Chinese earn less than \$8500 annually. This is far below the \$15,500 median income in the United States.

The outlook is not good in this country. Few, if any, Indochinese social workers and psychologists reside in the United States. The necessary feelings of love, camaraderie and family do not seem to be there. Many

of the refugees believe it's better to go back home to a ravaged land than to stay here.

The end result is an exodus of Indochinese across the United States seeking something that is perhaps beyond their reach. Tens of thousands are moving towards a warmer, more conducive climate - California. According to the Office of Refugee Resettlement, 200 Indochinese left Chicago and its harsh winter last year alone. The New TransCentury Foundation, a private consulting firm, reported their study of refugees indicate 33.6% of the 130,000 who arrived in 1975 moved within 31 months and project 45% will relocate within 5 years. Most leave the northern states with their adverse climates to one which is closest to their departed homeland - California. The federal government indicates the following states reflect the highest departure numbers: Texas - 4733; New York - 2073; Illinois - 1991; Oregon - 1939; and Washington - 1925.

California has repeatedly asked the federal government who must feed and house the new arrivals. The Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) pays only those agencies which are under contract to them and those other agencies which deal with the overflow are, at this point, not reimbursed. All of this has resulted in queries concerning the U.S. resettlement program. As the following 1983 chart indicates, 37% of the almost 700,000 refugees in that year lived in California. These figures do not reflect the increased growth in 1984 and early 1985.

California	248,000
Texas	54,900
Washington	31,000
Illinois	24,000
Pennsylvania	23,400
New York	23,300
Minnesota	21,500
Virginia	20,000
Other States	226,500

Los Angeles County, for example, pay \$3 million yearly to provide welfare to the refugees. 78% of Los Angeles' Indochinese receive some type of welfare and about 32% of the recipients moved from other states. The repetitious question is who repairs Los Angeles and California?

Federal and private officials are attempting to slow the westward refugee flow but only one project has shown measurable success - the Cambodian Cluster. About 10,000 Indochinese are clustered in twelve cities and necessary services for day-to-day living are readily available. Culture flow shows and first year progress showed 88% of the refugees were still living where they had been resettled, mostly in Ohio, Illinois and New York. There is a limit, however, to what can be done to keep these people from leaving for California since after all, it is a free country.

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

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# Fragments

By Chuck Hovey

A Vietnam War Collection is available to Veterans who need to document their activities in Vietnam. Official records of combat experiences can be critical in demonstrating to the VA that a Veteran experienced stressful events which may have resulted in PTSD or exposure to Agent Orange.

The Vietnam War Collection contains:

- operational reports - lessons learned
- combat after action reports
- casualty reports
- letters to next of kin
- daily journals of battalions
- morning reports
- Vietnam station lists
- command post listings
- situation reports
- strength reports

To permit as complete a search as possible, it is important that the following information be provided: the Veteran's full name, military service and Social Security numbers, units of assignment (company, battalion, regiment, division) and specific incident in question (type, place, date and where available, names of friends killed in the action). In addition to asking for information to document a particular stressful incident, be sure to ask for a report indicating the likelihood of exposure to herbicides in that area. Upon request, this group provides maps to concerned Veterans which indicate the area of operations in Vietnam and individual unit locations in relation to herbicide spray missions.

Write to:

Army Agent Orange Task Force  
Office of Deputy Adjutant General  
(DAAG-ESG)

Attn: Richard Christian  
1730 K St., NW, Rm. 120  
Washington, D.C. 20006

To obtain a corrected DD Form 214, Discharge Certification, without the Separation Program Number (SPN) or Separation Designation Number (SDN) in the Air Force, write to the following address for the branch you were assigned to:

ARMY: Commander, Reserve Components  
Personnel & Administration Center  
Box 12479, Olivette Branch  
St. Louis, MO 63132  
USAF: Air Force Military Personnel Center  
(DPMDR)  
Randolph AFB, TX 78148

NAVY: Chief, Bureau of Naval Personnel  
(pers38)

Department of the Navy  
Washington, D.C. 20570  
USMC: Commandant, USMC (MSRB010)  
HQ, USMC  
Washington, D.C. 20380

AGENT ORANGE MEDICAL RECORDS

If you file a claim through the class action settlement and/or the VA, you need all the records obtainable. Write to:  
Office of The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs)  
ATTN: Capt. Peter Flynn  
Department of Defense  
Washington, D.C. 20301

If you know any parents of Vietnam KIA's be sure to tell them about the American Gold Star Mothers. Their purpose is to work together for the betterment of our country in memory of their sons and daughters. They invite all Vietnam Gold Star Parents to join them. They can write:

American Gold Star Mothers  
National Headquarters  
2128 Leroy Place, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20008

Veterans can ask to receive the awards, ribbons, medals and citations, including unit citations they are eligible for by writing:

Marines: Commandant, USMC  
Code: DL  
Washington, D.C. 20380  
Navy: Chief of Naval Personnel  
Department of the Navy  
Washington, D.C.

Army: Commander, U.S. Army Reserve Components Personnel & Administration Center  
Attn: AGUZ-PSE-AW  
9700 Page Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63132

USAF: Commander, U.S. Air Force Military Personnel Center  
Attn: AFPM-PE  
Randolph AFB, TX 78148  
Coast Guard: Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard  
13th and E St.  
Washington, D.C. 20226

Veterans are being sought as agents by the Border Patrol of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS). Eight hundred positions are now open and expected legislation will add another 2,400 by early spring. Veterans who pass a written examination and have a speaking knowledge of

Spanish will be awarded points in addition to their Veteran's preference. Information on these opportunities may be obtained from your local Border Patrol or write to:  
Immigration and Naturalization Service  
Central Office  
425 I Street  
Washington, D.C. 20536

A complete listing of Air Force lithographs, ranging from fighters to satellites, is available from the Air Force or Government Printing Office. They're relatively inexpensive and make good conversation pieces. Write:

USAF Lithographs Listing  
DAVA-N-LGL  
Norton AFB, CA 92409  
or  
Government Printing Office  
Washington, D.C. 20402

The Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., seems to have established itself as the second most popular tourist attraction in the nation's capital. The National Park Service, which is in charge of such matters, says the Vietnam Memorial was visited by precisely 1,219,226 people from January 1, 1984 through July 31, 1984. Only the Lincoln Memorial drew more visitors in the same period - 2,099,443. Third in popularity was the Jefferson Memorial with 715,190 visitors and fourth was the White House with 627,618.

Redcatchers, Inc., is the association of the 199th Light Infantry Brigade in Vietnam (Combat Redcatchers). If you're a former trooper seeking camaraderie, please write to the group:  
Redcatchers, Inc.  
Box 122  
Chantilly, VA 22021

Gamewardens of Vietnam - This organization is composed of Veterans who perpetuate the name of Naval Task Force 116 in Vietnam, "Operation Gamewarden". For more information, contact the organization at Box 5523, Virginia Beach, VA 23455

Former 1st Cavalry members can become a life member of the 1st Cavalry Division Association for \$10 and receive full membership benefits and privileges. Write to the association, 302 North Main, Copperas Cove, TX 76522-1799.

The Adolph Coors Company has been recognized as the top hirer of Vets in the United States. 32% of their work force is comprised of former servicemembers. In addition, Coors donated \$50,000 to the Disabled American Veterans Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Eagle's Nest, New Mexico.

The California Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program has established a special telephone hotline for unemployed Vietnam Era Veterans, 1-800-JOB-VVLP. Employers are also encouraged to use this number.

According to a recently declassified 1966 CIA study, the total U.S. and South Vietnamese troops strengths outnumbered the VC/NVN/PLA 6 to 1, but the ratio of combat troops was about even! Of the 218,000 U.S. Army and Marine Corps ground forces in country, only 44,200 were actually fighting. Support troops comprised 15% of Communist forces and 80% of Allied troops.

ACCOUNTABILITY - When the USMC sent death certificates to families who had lost sons in the tragic Beirut bombing, a seemingly innocuous error was made. 50 of the 241 certificates state the Marines were victims of "death due to accidental injury", and the remainder were designated "non-battle deaths." A controversy arose as surviving family members complained of the error and Senator Charles Percy lodged official protests from the Marines to the Department of Defense. Finally, the Corps redesignated all the deaths as "battle casualties" at the behest of Casper Weinberger, Secretary of Defense.

The 82nd Airborne Division Association has been in existence for over 38 years and now has made plans to have an All Airborne Chapter in every state. Any Airborne trooper can join if he/she is a qualified paratrooper or gliderman. The only qualification is that you must be Airborne. If interested contact S.R. Gossett (85), 5459 Northcutt Pl, Dayton, OH 45414.

THE McNAMARA FENCE - Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara proposed constructing a 10-mile wide "buffer zone" across South Vietnam according to a declassified 1966 CIA top secret report. The plans included 11 million anti-personnel mines; 415,200 anti-tank mines; 843,720 fence posts with barbed wire; 72,000 floodlights, 1,800 12" rotating searchlights powered by a small ATOMIC REACTOR; a guard every 400 meters; and the use of ATOMIC DUST OR MUSTARD GAS in the soil. Detailed plans were ordered by the Secretary of Defense from the armed forces without regard to cost or political impact.

A provision of the Department of Defense Authorization Act, 1985, establishes a three year pilot peacetime GI Bill program effective July 1, 1985. To be eligible, an individual must enter the service between July 1, 1985 and June 30, 1988. Participants must be high school graduates or earn a GED during this period of service. Also included are those who, as of December 31, 1989, are eligible for educational assistance benefits under Chapter 34 of Title 38 and without a break in service on Active duty since the completion of the service establishing such eligibility.

Basic entitlements:

a. \$300/month for 36 months (3 years active duty or 2 years active and 4 years in Selected Reserve or National Guard).

b. \$250/month for 36 months (2 years of active duty.)

c. Unless the servicemember elects not to participate in the program, his/her basic pay will be reduced by \$100 a month for 12 months in order to be entitled to full educational benefits. A service member who, as of December 31, 1989, is eligible for educational assistance benefits under Chapter 34 is not subject to a reduction in basic pay.

d. Administered and paid by VA Kicker to basic entitlement: a. Up to \$400 additional; b. Discretionary, can be targeted; c. Paid by Department of Defense. Supplemental benefit: a. \$300 a month for 36 months (five years of service in addition to initial three years); b. Discretionary, can be targeted; c. Paid to DOD. Guard and Reserve Entitlement Program: a. \$140 a month for 36 months (enlistment, reenlistment or extension for 6 year period); b. Paid by DOD.

No new enrollments in post-Vietnam Era Educational Assistance Program (VEAP) July 1, 1985 through June 30, 1988.

Ollie Pickral is attempting to locate addresses of all VietVets who served with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment for a possible reunion. If you're one, send your name, address and phone number to him, 1602 Lorrie Drive, Richardson, TX 75080. Don't forget to include your year in country and unit assignment.

A VietVet Army dental hygienist, Sharon Rice, is researching health issues of women who served in Vietnam as part of her graduate work at the Division of Social Work, California State University. If you would be willing to answer a questionnaire, please contact her at the following:

Sharon Rice  
ATTN: Eugene O. Saha  
Division of Social Work  
CSU-Sacramento  
6000 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819-2694

HR 1961, the Veterans' Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards Act, has been assigned the following Public Law Number:

PL No. 98-98-542, 98 Stat. 2725 (Oct. 24, 1984)

Copies are available for \$1.00 from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.

A Massachusetts writer would like to interview anyone who was involved in Operation Phoenix. If you are interested, please contact:

Doug Valentine  
P.O. Box 1674  
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Jim Gutshall, a VietVet and VVA Member, would like to correspond with women Veterans who also served in Vietnam. Jim served in-country from 11/3/69 to 11/10/70 at Tai Khe, An Khe, and Pleiku, but would like to successfully contact women VietVets regardless of where they were in Nam. Contact him at 6307 Jackson St. Philadelphia, PA 19135

Michael Norman, a New York Times reporter, is writing a book about the men who served with him in Golf Company, 2nd Bn, 3rd Marine in 1968. Please contact him at 123 Wilwood Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043.

Doc Woody, Fox 2-9, 3rd Marine Division, 1967-68 wants to organize a reunion. Contact him at 25428 Mountain Drive, Arlington WA 98223.

Did you serve with Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 9th Marine, 3rd Marine Division, from April 1966 to July 1967? If you did, write to Dave Miller and receive a copy of the C1/9 roster and reunion information. Dave's address is 1528 Red Oak St., Charleston, WV 25312.

WITNESS TO WAR

By Edwina Vogan

How does a Vietnam Veteran, now a physician, explain why he spent a year doctoring civilians in a Salvadoran "free zone"? "I've been called a communist," Charlie Clements says. "I'm not. I'm a humanist and I'm involved in El Salvador because our government is responsible for much of the violence. The U.S. is sounding increasingly as it did in Vietnam 15 years ago, and I'm very aware of what that led to."

Less than twenty years ago Charlie Clements, a graduate of the Air Force Academy, was a C-130 pilot in the 50th Tactical Airlift Squadron which was primarily based in Taiwan, although they also served in Saigon during 1969-1970. He flew 50 combat missions out of Saigon and Cam Ranh Bay. Charlie never questioned his country's call to duty; in fact, he wanted and pursued a military career. He recounts some of his experience in Nam in his recently published book, *Witness to War*, 1984, and what brought anger and doubt in his mind about United States involvement in Vietnam. Of the many things that he saw and experienced in Vietnam, the loss of friends and the constant denials and lies the Nixon administration about the escalation into Cambodia disturbed him the most.

In 1970 he declared himself unfit for duty and returned to the States. He knew then that he could not go back should the Air Force try to send him there. After meeting with his squadron commander to explain his position he was recommended to see a psychiatrist. The talks with the psychiatrist lasted several months and he was given a desk job. In September, 1970, he was put into the psychiatric ward at Lackland Air Force Base. He spent six months there trying to get out and was finally given a psychiatric discharge in 1971. After taking a few years off to think, he entered medical school. He liked the idea of becoming a doctor because of the positive roles played by medics and doctors in Vietnam.

As a doctor in 1980, he joined a medical center in Salinas, California. Among his patients were Salvadoran refugees who were experiencing what he termed "physical and psychological torture". The first case he treated was that of a fifty-four year old Salvadoran school teacher who had had a breast macheted off by government interrogators.

Charlie became more and more disturbed by his Salvadoran patients and decided to do something. He tried to organize other doctors, but realize he had nothing for them to do. Groups like Catholics Relief Services and the Peace Corps could offer him no jobs because they said it was too dangerous. Through his own initiative and negotiations with the Salvadoran guerrillas he entered El Salvador, February, 1982. He entered under three conditions: 1) he would treat anyone without regard to political consideration, 2) he would not bear arms and 3) he wanted to work with civilians.

The year Charlie spent in Salvador was a tough and demanding one, personally and politically. He worked under severe medical restrictions - no hospitals, bad sanitation and little staff. Death was always close because of constant bombings by the Salvadoran Air Force and troop attacks of villages. He almost died from dengue fever, similar in symptoms to malaria.

Charlie left Salvador in the spring of 1983 to bring back medical supplies, but discovered he wanted to bring the story of the war in El Salvador to the American public. He has spoken to Congress, many citizens' groups and has established a medical support group called "Medical Aid to El Salvador". He spoke in Tucson recently and encourages all Americans to consider U.S. foreign involvement in Central America.

When he was asked what he will do if there is a U.S. troop invasion in El Salvador, he said, "I'll go back. I have to."

SENATE COMMITTEE BACK LOAN

The Arizona Senate Appropriations Committee has given their approval to a proposed \$250,000 state loan for construction of a Phoenix Vietnam Veterans Memorial honoring those killed or missing in action. If the legislation is passed by the legislature, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Board would utilize the funding to build a bronze and black granite memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix sometime this year.

According to Representative Jim Hartdegen Chairman of the Veterans Board, the loan will be repaid over a two year period, if necessary, through contributions and fundraising efforts organized by a local beer distributor. Committee members hope the pay-back requirement is eliminated before final passage of the bill which will reach the Senate floor shortly.

"My only sadness is that we are not just appropriating the \$250,000 today (January 27, 1985)," said Senator John Mawhinney, R-Tucson. "It comes to a miserable \$400 apiece to recognize that sacrifice." (Late note - A bill appropriating \$260,000 passed the House February 7. Ed.)

VA APPOINTS NEW MEDICAL CHIEF

Dr. John W. Ditzler, a VA physician, has been selected as the agency's next chief medical officer. VA Administrator Harry N. Walters announced the appointment of Dr. Ditzler to head the nation's largest health care system. The appointee was director of the San Diego Medical Center and will succeed Dr. Donald L. Custis who retired in May of 1984.

A World War II and Korean Conflict Veteran, Dr. Ditzler served with the US Army Medical Corps from 1946-53. He is a board-certified anesthesiologist and has both field and headquarters experience in the operation of VA's Department of Medicine and Surgery. Prior to becoming director of the San Diego facility, he managed the agency's medical budget which exceeds \$9 billion this year.

NOVEL LEGAL SUIT FILED OVER HERBICIDE

Lawyers for Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange have filed a second lawsuit against the federal government in an attempt to win \$1.82 billion. The lawyers, who successfully argued the class action suit, lost in an earlier attempt to sue the federal government and concede the latest strategy is a long shot.

Their argument is based on quality specifications of the herbicide. Federal law protects government contractors from litigation as long as what they supply meets government specifications. Agent Orange does meet requirements when supplied, but this constitutes the argument. Benton Musslewhite, key attorney, and his colleagues argue that the government had unconstitutionally deprived their clients of their "property" since it provided the chemical companies with an almost iron-clad defense against Veterans' charges. Therefore, the chemical companies were able to evade responsibility for health problems and force the Veterans to accept only a fraction of their \$2 billion claim. As a result, the lawyers argue, the government should pay the difference between the \$2 billion and settled \$180 million - \$1,820,000,000.

Other arguments advanced are that the government knew of Agent Orange exposure dangers, but failed to insure that adequate precautions in handling and application were taken. The suit also contends the government wronged the Veterans after they left the armed forces by failing to give them tests and medical treatment. Both of these arguments make an assumption that dioxin caused the disorders experienced by the Veterans; a fact the government, several federal surveys and the judge have never accepted.

The President signed into law October 30, 1984, legislation aimed at establishing cancer screening and research facilities to aid people who lived in the path of fallout from open-air atomic weapons tests during the 1950's and 1960's.

The new law calls for \$6 million to establish a screening and research clinic in St. George, Utah, in addition to another \$4 million in federal matching funds to pay for a research center at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

More than 1000 residents in southern Utah, northern Arizona and southern Nevada filed a massive lawsuit contending they or their relatives suffered from disease or died as a result of radioactive fallout.

In May, 1984, U.S. District Judge Bruce Jenkins ruled the government was responsible for cancer in 10 of 24 cases considered by the court. He ordered the government to pay \$2.6 million to plaintiff in the 10 cases, but denied the other 14.

RETIRED COLONEL RECEIVES NOTICE!

An 81-year-old retired Army colonel, Thomas A. Pitcher of Tombstone, received a letter from the Selective Service System which directed the combat Veteran of three wars to complete a registration form for the draft. Being a good citizen and former Mayor of Tombstone between 1960-66, he filled out the form and returned it on December 6, his 81st birthday.

On January 3, Col. Pitcher received a query letter from Selective Service requesting verification of his date of birth and an explanation that only men born after 1960 are required to register. He replied that he filled out the registration form because "I wanted to show that I am as stupid as your computer. Incidentally, I retired from the Regular Army with 30 years service on 1-29-59." The retired office ended his note: "I was in combat in three wars." He is still awaiting a reply.

REAGAN TO TAX DISABILITY BENEFITS

For months now, the MONSOON TRIBUNE has been warning its readers of various plans the Reagan Administration was contemplating to alleviate the federal deficit while penalizing the men and women who have served this country honorably. Reagan's tax simplification plan would require Veterans injured during their military service to being paying federal income tax in fiscal year 1987 on the disability benefits they received.

The impact of the tax would be offset somewhat by an income tax credit of up to 15 percent for disabled Veterans according to the Office of Management and Budget. Veterans groups, however, reiterate the overall effect would be a dramatic reduction in benefits for most of the country's 2.2 million disabled Vets.

R. Jack Powell, executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, simply stated: "This is ridiculous." Powell, who lost the use of his legs after being injured in Vietnam, further added: "To tax compensation that is being paid to remunerate a Veteran for a disability that (s/he) suffered fighting for his country is simply immoral." The Disabled American Veterans have already sent a letter to the President calling the proposed tax a "devastating attack" on the financial security of disabled Veterans. No response has been noted from the Veterans of Foreign Wars, who heartily endorsed Reagan during their 1984 convention.

TONKIN GULF NEVER HAPPENED?

Retired Admiral James B. Stockdale, former Vietnam War POW, broke a 20-year silence to say the August 4, 1964, Gulf of Tonkin incident was a phantom battle. The Gulf incidents resulted in a congressional resolution which gave President Lyndon B. Johnson a blank check to wage war in Vietnam.

According to Stockdale's book, *In Love And War*, the United States launched an air attack after a radar man on the USS Maddox reported enemy torpedo boats closing fast. Stockdale led the air strike and was the only pilot at water level. He writes there were "no boats, no boat wakes, no ricochets off boats, no boat gunfire, no torpedo wakes-nothing but black seas and American firepower." Hours later, LBJ ordered retaliatory strikes on military targets in North Vietnam. Stockdale's account of the incident supports reports in the 1971 Pentagon Papers.

ARTICLE

A federal judge in St. Paul, MN, recently awarded a former Army paratrooper more than \$2 million after finding Veterans Administration doctors had negligently administered a drug overdose.

The drug, Thorazine, caused Larry Hedin, 36, to develop a permanent crippling nerve disorder which resulted in loss of control over body movements. Hedin will receive \$2,162,542 and legal costs as a result of the decision.

He was administered the drug over a four year period, 1976-80, when it was discovered he had a movement disorder. Hedin cannot sit still more than 15-20 seconds and has no control of his arms, legs, neck, mouth and jaw.

A tentative settlement of \$19.7 million was reached between the U.S. Government, Lockheed Corporation and 78 Vietnamese orphans adopted by Canadian and European parents. The orphans survived a 1975 crash of a Lockheed-built C-5A military transport in Saigon during the last days prior to the North Vietnamese takeover of the South. 135 of 330 people aboard including 93 of the 247 orphans were killed.

In 1982, Lockheed and the U.S. Government reached a settlement of \$13.5 million with 45 orphans aboard the plane who were adopted in this country. Seven others were settled out of court.

Under the terms of the latest settlement, Lockheed and the government will pay 14.5 million in cash donations, \$2.9 million in a trust fund for the most ill of the "foreign" orphans and \$375,000 to complete diagnostic examinations of the children. The payment of \$17.8 million is in addition to \$450,000 already tendered by Lockheed for diagnostic examinations and additional \$375,000 paid by the aircraft manufacturer under an agreement made September 14, 1979.



# From the Top The Sister Column

The following is my proposed plan for regionalizing the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. If this plan is acceptable, further details will be worked out in the future.

The country could be broken down into six regions. Each regional director would be elected by the State Councils of that region, or at a regional convention. These six regional directors would all automatically be on the National Board of Directors of VVA. After adding the four National Officers, the remaining twelve directors would be elected at National Convention.

Thus, we would have both National and Regional interests represented on the National Board of Directors. I believe this plan would help the membership feel more closely connected with National VVA, and would greatly improve communications.

The primary target of this plan is membership growth, through a physical presence throughout the country. To achieve this end, each regional director should have a small office and operating budget for expenses.

To allow for this system to run smoothly, it would be necessary to appoint State Coordinators in each state not having an active State Council.

I would be interested in your response to this proposal.

Sincerely,  
Michael R. Flannery  
State Chairman

## FROM THE TOP

Ron Borque served with the 25th Infantry Division in 68-69-70 in Tay Ninh Province. Ron joined Chapter 106 in October and I'm sorry to say my new friend moved back to Boston this month. The night before he left, he told me that for the past 15 years he had been an insomniac, but after meeting other Vets from the Chapter and talking about Nam he can now sleep at night a lot better. Ron is now in the process of trying to form a VVA Chapter in his hometown outside of Boston. We wish you the very best. If you need us just call.

Jim Randall  
President, 106

## WELCOME HOME

By Ron Borque

I was returning the United States after nineteen months in Viet Nam. I knew the flight would take about fourteen hours and three stops before reaching the great U.S. of A., and, believe me, I couldn't wait. During the last stretch of the flight, about one hour before touchdown into Oakland Air Force Base, California, I suddenly found myself thinking back to three moments I had experienced, and hoped I would forget.

I remember when my plane had just landed in Viet Nam, and the stewardess was telling us to disembark across the air strip to a tin hut. There we would be greeted by someone.

The disembarkation from the plane took place in a military manner. The first crew got up and walked outside, and the second, then the third. I felt as if I were dreaming; as if this couldn't be real. Suddenly I found myself at the door. I didn't even remember getting up and walking to it. Walking down the ramp, I noticed the air was thick, so thick I was aware of the quantity I was inhaling, and humid, too. My heart was pounding faster and faster as I walked further down the ramp. I became aware of a musty incinerator smell. My heart pounded against my chest. I remember thinking that if death had an odor, I was smelling it now.

My memory quickly flashed to the issuing of the weapons. I was standing in line, moving ahead every ten seconds or so toward a big green figure passing out guns. Getting closer, I could see his big gut overlapping his belt by thirty pounds or so. The sergeant was saying something to each soldier as he handed him a rifle, but I couldn't make it out. I moved closer and closer. I noticed there wasn't a sound. Everyone looked petrified. I was wondering if they knew something I didn't. I was next. The sergeant's eyes met mine as he held out a dull, black rifle. The damned thing looked evil. I quickly scanned the rifle from muzzle to butt. For a moment I wondered what would happen if I didn't take it. A loud shout of "KILLER!" came from the sergeant's mouth. The sergeant threw the M-16 at me, and I caught it like a boy catching a ball for the first time, fumbling it in the air for a few seconds before gaining control. The ser-

## SISTER COLUMN

By Yolanda Hovey

In the last SISTER COLUMN I mentioned being glad to see more information written about women veterans and their concerns. This past month I have been pleased to see some of that attention extended to the visual media.

Throughout part of December I noticed a VA-sponsored public service announcement (PSA). It encouraged female veterans to use their military benefits earned while in service. Another PSA I have seen was directed at women who served overseas in the armed forces, Red Cross, etc. The Women's Overseas Service League is interested in hearing from these women.

I was especially pleased to see two television programs whose central characters were Vietnam Army nurses. In early January, CBS aired an episode of "Trapper John, M.D." about a nurse who was suffering from Post Traumatic Stress. The program depicted some experiences that are common to women who served in Vietnam. They showed the nurse having flashbacks and starting to have problems with her current job because of them. I say "current" because she had worked at several different hospitals, somehow not being able to stay in one place. The woman's problems were being compounded by the fact that she denied the source of her distress. Given the limitations of a one hour entertainment program I felt "Trapper John" did a commendable job with this episode.

The second program was on NBC's detective show "Rip Tide". This show was not as realistic as the "Trapper John" episode. For one thing, the actress playing the Army nurse suffering flashbacks of Vietnam did not look old enough for the part. Still, the makers of "Rip Tide" should be given credit for being among the first to incorporate a woman Vietnam Vet in their storyline.

For viewers who had little or no awareness of women VietVets, these TV programs provided some information and perhaps dispelled some misinformation. There is still a portion of the public who do not know that women served in Vietnam. Some people know women served, but do not realize many of them experienced flashbacks and Post Traumatic Stress upon their return stateside. Also that these women are still trying to deal with these and other problems. Vietnam aftereffects are some of the women vets themselves. Like the nurse in "Trapper John", some of these female Vets have bought into the myth that because they were not in combat they cannot be suffering post war afflictions, the major problem being Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, which manifests as depression, relationship instability, employment problems, etc.

Hopefully these television programs will not be the last of their kind. The visual medium has the capability to reach a large number of people. And it is going to take reaching more of the public to make women Vietnam Vets less forgotten people.

## PIMA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DRAMA DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

"Oh, What A Lovely War," the unlikely World War I musical entertainment that was the hit of London, Paris and New York City from 1963-1965, will be presented by the Pima Community College Drama Department beginning Thursday, March 7th.

The show, created by Joan Littlewood, an ingeniously innovating director of London's Theatre Workshop, sardonically presents its period songs and vignettes against a background of grim photos, recruiting posters and ominous headlines, giving a vaudeville look on the surface, while pursuing its real purpose of stabbing the hearts and minds of its audience with a sense of how much of a catastrophe the war was to a generation that came of age during those tragic years.

"Oh, What A Lovely War" will play Thursday through Saturday at 8 pm in the West Campus Little Theatre. Performance dates are March 7th, 8th and 9th, and March 14th, 15th and 16th. A special matinee is scheduled for Sunday, March 10th at 3 pm. General Admission is \$3.00; faculty, students and staff are \$2.00. For reservations, call 884-6973.

## WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

The VVA Women's Committee held a meeting Wednesday evening, January 23rd. The first topic of discussion was the need for a chairperson. For now, the group has decided a chairperson would be elected at the first meeting of every quarter of the year. For the first quarter of this year Yolanda Hovey has been elected chairperson.

Another subject discussed was set times to meet. All in attendance agreed to the second Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m., unless otherwise announced. The location will be determined on a basis of rotation of central locations. If another meeting is needed later in the month, time and place will be decided at the regular Wednesday meeting.

Also addressed was the subject of giving the committee a new title. Basically it was agreed that a name less generic and more distinguishing would help avoid confusion with any other groups and set us apart from other groups. The committee will be considering suggestions at the next meeting, which will be 7 P.M. February 13 at Barbara Porta's home. Call 745-0350 for directions. The following meeting will be 7 P.M., Wednesday, March 13th. The location is as yet undetermined, but you may call Cindy Glesinger at 747-7532 for further information.

Sincere appreciation goes to the Portas for extending the hospitality of their home for two meetings in a row.

## HISTORICALLY, IN FEBRUARY

- 1950 U.S. and Britain recognize Bao Dai's government. Chinese Communists begin to provide modern weapons to Viet minh - February 7.
- 1951 Ho Chi Minh creates the Lao Dong, Workers Party as a substitute for the Communist Party which was "dissolved" in 1945.
- 1959 A plot to overthrow Prince Sihanouk, Cambodia, was uncovered and the CIA was implicated.
- 1962 American Military Assistance Command was formed in South Vietnam on February 6. By mid-1962, American advisors increased from 700 to 12,000.
- 1965 McGeorge Bundy, LBJ's national security advisor, arrives in Hanoi as Soviet Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin disembarks in Hanoi - February 4. LBJ authorizes American air raids against North Vietnam, FLAMING DART and ROLLING THUNDER, in retaliation for VC attacks on American installations.
- 1966 LBJ and South Vietnamese leaders issue a joint communique in Honolulu stressing need for pacification in the South - February 8.
- 1968 American and ARVN recapture Hue after 26 days of fighting - February 26. Westmoreland requests 206,000 more American troops.
- 1970 Kissinger begins secret talks with Le Duc Tho in Paris - February 20.
- 1971 South Vietnamese forces begin operations in Laos against Ho Chi Minh Trail.
- 1975 North Vietnamese General Van Tien Dung goes south to take command of Communist forces - February 5.
- 1979 China invades Vietnam.

"I do believe under certain circumstances a greater job could be done, to use your words, 'in Vietnam', with the introduction of U.S. combat forces. I say that because this is a war against realists. It is a war which depends for success upon support from local people primarily." "So I personally believe the introduction of U.S. ground troops in South Vietnam today would hinder rather than help the campaign against the insurgency."

Robert S. McNamara  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, D.C.  
February 17, 1968

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# POW/MIA Update

The Arizona Families of POW/MIA's are sponsoring a state convention, Update '85, on March 29-30 (Friday and Saturday) at the Aztec Inn, 102 N. Alvernon in Tucson. MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. There is a \$10.00 registration fee for Saturday and a \$10.00 banquet.

Among the guest speakers will be Col. Laird Gutterson and Congressman John McCain, both ex-POW's. Chuck Hovey and Bess Jones, both of VVA 106, will also be guest speakers. Additional information will be forthcoming.

The Insider reports the following: In April 1980, a patrol in Laos operating under General Vang Pao, a former CIA contact during the war, came across Fort Apache, a detention center for 30 imprisoned pilots. After contacting the CIA, it took 8 months to reroute a satellite over the area. Satellite photos showed this POW camp with 30 men, measured by shadows, to be non-Asians. The Namarot photos revealed wood piles configured in the number 52. During the war, "52" was used to designate POW camps with Americans so it would not be bombed. In March/April 1981, two ground search teams went into the area. However, they came under fire and were not able to make contact. The target was compromised after the story was leaked to the American press.

It has been learned that the August 9, 1984 hearing of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, chaired by Stephen J. Solarz, was televised by C-Span. What is pertinent is the fact that when the testimony was printed, it had been edited. Parts of Mr. Solarz' and Congressman Applegate's questions were deleted. The deleted areas were relative to current photos taken of live POW's by the National Reconnaissance Organization in 1984. WHO AUTHORIZED THE ALTERATION OF CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS?

From the National League of Families, it is learned that Department of Defense Public Affairs has distributed to 300 stations across the U.S. and to the network stations a PSA by General Vessey. The PSA states the existence of "live POW's in Southeast Asia." Watch for this PSA.

As mentioned in the January issue of the Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune, following is the address for Sky Hook II. This rescue project is spearheaded by former Congressman John LeBoutillier. Make your check payable to ACCOUNT FOR POW/MIAs, Sky Hook II Project P.O. Box 226683, Dallas Tx 75222-6683.

Mr. LeBoutillier, while in Congress from 1981-1983, served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and Task Force on Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia.

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

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DEADLINE: General meeting before each issue.

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Eleanor Reitz  
Nick Russell  
Mark Toth  
Neil Gregerson  
Paul Middleton  
Chris Martin

## 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.

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# Darts \* And Laurels #

## \*\*\* DARTS AND LAURELS

- \*\*\* USMC for their "accidental or non-hostile" designations on death certificates issued as a result of 241 Marines losing their lives in the tragic Beirut bombing.
- \*\*\* John Macko, award winning KUAT Radio personality. His consistent support, both in word and deed, for Chapter 106 projects is exemplary. The VVA salutes you!
- \*\*\* The Buckleys on the birth of a son, Sean Michael, on 15 January 1985. May you all prosper and may we leave a better legacy to your son and others than we had.
- \*\*\* Tom Hebert and the staff of the Vietnam Newsletter for an outstanding publication; and the Vietnam Bookstore for the best selection of Southeast Asian books around.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Oh, those nicknames ....

- Redlegs - artillery personnel
- Blanket Division - 1st Cavalry Division; derived from largeness of shoulder patch.
- Bloody One - 1st Infantry Division, play on shoulder patch displaying red 1.
- Air Mattress - 3d Brigade of 82d Airborne; play on airborne, a title of distinction.
- Poison Ivy - 4th Infantry Division; from design of shoulder patch and official title, IVY DIVISION.
- Psychedelic Cookie - 9th Infantry Division; from octofoil design of its shoulder patch
- Scared Horse - 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment; derived from shoulder patch displaying rearing horse.
- Cu Chi National Guard - 25th Infantry Division; the division headquarters and majority of its elements were at Cu Chi, Vietnam throughout the war.
- Screaming Chickens - 101st Airborne Division; from eagle emblem of shoulder patch as well as disparagement of unit motto - SCREAMING EAGLES.
- The Herd - 173d Airborne Brigade; affectionate nickname for first major combat unit sent to Vietnam.
- Leg - shortened form of "straight-leg"; identifies someone not airborne qualified.



# Fragments (con't.)

## AIR DEATHS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (1Jan1961-31Dec1976)

Type Personnel	Army	Navy	USCG	USMC	USAF	Total
Fixed Wing Pilots	92	260	0	84	648	1084
Fixed Wing Aircrew	36	186	0	56	612	890
" " Passengers	249	46	0	85	105	485
Helicopter Pilots	926	17	1	104	21	1069
" Aircrew	2005	60	0	335	65	2465
" Passengers	1416	59	0	259	21	1755
TOTALS	4724	628	1	923	1472	7748

Source: Department of Defense

## U.S. MILITARY LOSSES BY YEAR (ALL SVCS)

Deaths	1966	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Combat	5008	9378	14592	9414	4221	1380	300
Nonhostile	1045	1680	1919	2113	1844	908	261
TOTALS	6053	11058	16511	11527	6065	2348	561

Source: Comptroller, Office of Secretary of Defense

## MAJOR MILITARY OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM

Various military operations will be listed in each issue in order to jog memories and perhaps assist you in locating buddies, locations, etc. If you have questions regarding a specific one, please contact the Tribune by mail.

- MASHER/WHITE WING/THANG PHONG; II 24Jan-6Mar66 Conducted by 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), ARVN and ROK forces in Binh Dinh province. First large unit operation across corps boundaries when Marines linked with soldiers of the 1st Cavalry. Corps/MRII
- CEDAR FALLS 8-26Jan67 1st and 25th Infantry Divisions, 173d Airborne Brigade, 11th Armored Cavalry and ARVN units undertook joint operation against Viet Cong Military Region 4 Headquarters in Iron Triangle. Corps/MR II.
- SCOTLAND 1Nov67-31Mar68 3rd Marine Division operation in westernmost part of Quang Tri Province. Action centered in Khe Sanh area. Terminated with commencement of PEGASUS. Corps/MRI
- OKLAHOMA HILLS 1Mar-29May69 Operations by U.S. 7th and 26th Marine Regiments southwest of DaNang in Quang Nam Province. Corps/MR I.

## VIETNAM WAR OVERPLAYED?

The Journal of Broadcasting and Electronic Media has published a study entitled "An Analysis of Television Coverage of the Vietnam War" in their fall issue which refutes the commonly held perception that news broadcasts overemphasized U.S. involvement in that country.

Oscar Patterson III, Associate Professor at Pembroke State University, researched nightly news programs from 1968-1975 to find if these programs were filled with "American troops dead and dying and killing." A random sample of 180 news programs from ABC, CBS and NBC were studied since all were regular news programs from August 5, 1968 to August 15, 1973. The programs provided 3,502 individual stories.

24.2% of the stories were related to Vietnam. At no point did a network air combat film or photographs above a level of 9.1%. Patterson suggested that a few key images from the war were remembered by the public giving the impression that Americans saw the killing in Vietnam each evening on their television sets.

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# Chuck's Realm

Dear Citizens of Arizona,

I have followed the issue of drunken drivers in Arizona and elsewhere with the same degree of concern that you have for a number of years. The combined efforts of concerned citizens and several responsible groups such as MADD, SADD, etc., resulted in the enactment of a law raising the legal drinking age to twenty-one. Midst arguments regarding which age group is more responsible for accidents to the ability or inability of those under this age to responsibly imbibe, some disturbing realizations arose. My concern is inherent to our political process-why does the rush to judgement seemingly treat the symptoms rather than the causes? Drunken drivers are a symptom of something awry in our society that is not being addressed by our basic institutions, i.e. the family, education systems, religion, etc. Specifically, in this latest cyclical band-aiding, thousands of young Arizonans 18-20 years of age are or will be suddenly caught in a basic contradiction regarding the legal rights of passage.

Times have changed since I was part of this age bracket. In 1965, one had to be twenty-one to possess or consume alcohol, apply for credit, engage in a legal contract and of course, vote. The only aspect of citizenship not requiring this statutory right of passage was military service whether by draft induction or enlistment. Though I was not legally old enough to manage my own affairs or partake completely in the political process, Selective Service required me to register at age eighteen and monitored my every activity. The military branches were eager to have me in 1966 and have me they did!

Thousands of young men and women under the age of twenty-one served their country then and currently throughout the world. The average age of an American combatant in Vietnam was 19.2 years compared to 26.4 in World War II. This meant that many of us returned from service or overseas duty before our twenty-first birthday and could not legally drink. In my case, the hallowed age was still thirty days away upon my return on leave from the war zone. I was not allowed to purchase nor consume alcoholic beverages; have a single glass of wine with my family in public nor argue about the fact. Legally, those barely out of their teens were deemed not responsible enough to imbibe regardless of the circumstances surrounding them.

It seemed rather ironic that those of us in the service had possessed the responsibility for literally millions of dollars worth of material, operated expensive weapons systems, insured the physical safety of those led and the protection of others, but still the state via-a-vis the citizenry would not grant us the benevolence of passage. Those of us who served in Vietnam and countless other combat areas exercised a power which haunts many today-the power of god; the ability to determine life and death. Yet, war service, the winning of our country's highest medals for valor, and returning alive did not suffice for one lousy glass of wine in public with our loved ones before the twenty-first birthday.

- By age 20, many of us had been in Vietnam, the Korean DMZ, etc.
- By age 20, many of us had killed a human being.
- By age 20, many of us had died in a foreign land.
- By age 20, many of us had watched friends die.
- By age 20, many of us had been wounded physically/psychologically.
- By age 20, many of us did not have the right to vote, but died protecting your right to do so.

You have a very delicate problem to contend with. On March 8, 1971, Congress proposed and the necessary states ratified an amendment to the Constitution, on July 1, 1971, giving eighteen-year-olds the right to vote. Subsequently, those between the ages of eighteen through twenty are not only enfranchised, but also possess credit, engage in legal contracts and serve their country. These men and women can fully participate in the political and economic processes, but cannot purchase or consume an alcoholic beverage in this state. You will find a difficult time explaining the logic of this to veterans who suffered the agony of Lebanon or the brief exhilaration of Grenada. "It's the law" will not be enough to those who have felt or, forbid, will feel the searing pain of a bullet as it enters, a grenade concussion, an artillery round exploding or the loss of a body member. How do you explain to these young people who are responsible, mature and committed enough to safeguard our nation with the possible sacrifice of their own lives, they are not deemed fully capable of handling the effects of alcoholic beverages in Arizona.

I do not envy your position at all. At least my generation had very few, if any, legal rights to dwell upon and rising expectations were a breath of fresh air. The

legal rites of passage are now conferred at age eighteen, and somehow, many of you will either have to copout or change the law to reflect veteran or servicemember status. It won't be easy since you have very powerful opposition against you, but then changing the right to vote from twenty-one to eighteen was once insurmountable.

In the rush to judgement amidst the advertising hyperbole, many of you failed to consider that a man or woman doing their duty in the service, making sacrifices and ensuring our tomorrows become today's were, perhaps, being deprived. S/he is old enough to serve and put it all on the line; old enough to vote, marry, possess credit, be a homeowner, etc., but not of age to drink.

I am disappointed someone did not propose a section of the new law giving servicemembers or veterans under the age of twenty-one the right to drink; or perhaps the right to have one drink; or at least one lousy glass of wine, on the house, in the company of their parents, or spouse, or "significant other" legal aged "responsible" adult.

I am fortunate in that at the age of thirty-eight, one has ample time to reflect and being a historian intensifies the intellectual fervor. I like to think my generation's efforts and sacrifices gained the current one's basic rites of legal passage. In the final analysis, I was only twenty-two upon my second return Nam and again, I was turned down on a drink since my driver's license had NO PHOTO! And, of course, "anyone could forge a DD Form 214," as the bartender more than forcefully informed me. By that time, however, I felt older than my twenty-two years, but, gratefully, the redeeming factor was, at least, I knew I had the right to purchase and consume a drink-the photo seemed secondary. Somehow, war service and this rationalization consoled me; but the thought of fighting, witnessing the death of friends and killing at age nineteen without the state sanctifying my adulthood still bothers me.

In the rush to judgement... .

## LOCATOR SERVICES AVAILABLE

Each military branch has a locator service available to assist you in contacting individuals on or off active duty. Here's how to use the service:

1. Write your letter and seal it in a stamped envelope.
2. Write your friend's full name and last know rank in the center of the envelope and your regular return address in the upper left hand corner.
3. Place this one inside a second stamped envelope and include a sheet of details you know of your friend's service record; i.e., SSN, service number, schools, station, MOS, AFSC, etc.
4. Seal and mail to the appropriate service:

- ARMY: HQDA (DAAG-DSR)  
Alexandria, VA 22331
- NAVY: USN (NMPC-641E)  
Washington, D.C. 20370
- USAF: AFMPC (D003)  
Randolph AFB, TX 78710
- USMC: HQ, USMC (MSRB-13)  
Washington, D.C. 20380
- CG: USCG (G-PS-1)  
Washington, D.C. 20593

# Welcome Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new members to the Chapter. We look forward to meeting you and hope you will participate in every way you can.

Michael Cusick      Michael Kuntzleman  
Gabriel Manasse

## JOB FAIR AT HOLIDOME

The semi-annual Job Fair for Veterans and non-veterans alike was held at the Holiday Inn-Holidome January 23rd, and the project was termed a success.

Gerald Rohde, chairman of the Spanish Trail Chapter of the Non-Commissioned Officers Association (NCOA), said this year's turnout was one of the largest in Tucson, with nearly 2,000 people attending.

Most of the companies were looking for people with a background in high-technology. Such companies as Contel, Hughes, Raytheon, Vinnell Corporation, Waddell & Reed, Codex, Motorola Inc., Rockwell International, Lockheed-Georgia, Allied Corporation, Mutual of Omaha and Computer Systems were just a few with booths set up in a conference room at the Holidome. The booths were open from 8 am to 4 pm, but Rohde said people were waiting in line at 7:30 am.

The companies were looking for people with electronics and engineering backgrounds as well as high-tech writers. If you happened to be one of those with a liberal arts background, there was a limited amount of opportunities for your skills.

There were also many companies on the job list that did not attend the fair.

According to Rohde, the job fair was organized in Tucson during the early 1970s by the NCOA. It is designed to help Vets obtain jobs after their enlistment is completed.

Companies wishing to participate in the fair usually pay a flat fee. Companies located in Tucson and Armed Forces are exempt. Rohde also said companies which support the NCOA also have their fees waived.

Rohde said the companies are usually very pleased with the people they recruit because "they (the companies) come back year after year."

He said the job fair is usually held towards Veterans, but if anyone is off the street came walking in they would not be discriminated against and would be allowed to submit resumes and interview with representatives from organizations and companies. They would just have to stand in line like everyone else.

By CHRIS MARTIN




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# Welcome Home

geant snapped, "That's your rifle, boy. Number 625831. You better learn to eat, sleep, and fuck with that rifle, because if you don't, your life ain't worth shit!"

"Next!"

The plane bounced along a few air pockets, and my drink spilled on my lap. As the stewardess came over and offered to help dry my pants, she noticed I was sweating, and looked at me with great pity in her eyes, as though she had peeked into my daydreams. She said, "It's okay, It's all over now. You and your friends will be home in about twenty minutes."

I looked out the window at the wing bouncing ever so slightly up and down. I humorously chuckled as I thought how ironic it would be if I died in a plane crash after all this.

The thought of death brought me back to a dirt road in a little village. There were seven or eight kids playing, of all things, soldiers and war. I was with my buddies Ski, Coop, Rick, and a couple of other guys outside of our tank, waiting to meet a convoy. I saw dust about a mile or so down the road, but it wasn't enough dust for a convoy. Within a few minutes, a military truck approached from the dust. As it passed us, a blast occurred and dust was everywhere, dust so thick I couldn't see anything. After a few seconds, the dust began to settle, and I realized I was on my back on the ground. My head was pounding and I wasn't sure whether I was hit or not. I slowly moved each part of my body, first my fingers, then my hands, my arms and finally legs. Everything moved. I decided that if I was hit, it couldn't be all that serious. I got up slowly. While looking around for my rifle, I saw Ski lying on the road covered with blood. Most of his left side was gone. I couldn't even see his arm; there was only a big hole. I ran to him. His eyes were open. As I held him in my arms, tears fell from my eyes and landed on his face, mixing with the dust from the blast. I looked over and saw Coop rolling around on the road near a big hole that had been caused by the blast. I heard Rick yell from the top of the tank, "Ron!"

When I looked at him, he was looking past me with a scared look on his face. Panic caught me. I reached under my left arm and pulled my .45, and as I turned around, my thumb found the hammer and cocked it. My arm was fully stretched, my eyes peering down the barrel, searching for a target. I could see the blurred image of a person holding something that looked like a rifle and running toward me. I pulled the trigger, and then it was as if the whole world just slowed down. I saw fire leave the barrel, and I swear I watched the slug exit from the gun, find its way through the air, and hit the target in the chest. As I watched the body fall slowly, I realized I had just killed a boy with a hoe in his hand.

As the wheels of the plane touched down, I returned to reality. I heard someone say,

"Wow. Look at all the people! And some of them are carrying signs."

I was getting anxious to see the people and hear the crowd cheer. I'd waited nineteen months. Leaving the plane, I immediately took a lungful of clean air, and told myself I needed to forget all that had happened, and look forward. At that moment I heard the crowd yelling, "Killers! Murderers! Warmongers!" and I felt every one of them knew I killed that boy, and they wouldn't let me forget.

It's been thirteen years since I returned home from Viet Nam, and I look and feel thirteen years older. But the boy with the hoe and the screaming crowd I see each night in my dreams haven't aged, or gone away.



## COURT ORDERS VA ON SCHOOL FUNDS

Ohio Vietnam Era Veterans were turned down one time too many by the Veterans Administration for educational benefits while pursuing a two-year Associate Degree. Reaching an impasse with the federal agency over adjudication, the Vets sought relief from a federal court and won their case.

The VA refused to approve requests between 1981-83 from Vets who wanted an extension of the 10 year deadline to use their education assistance benefits if they said they were going to pursue an Associates Degree. Congress passed legislation in 1983 which prompted the VA to approve such requests if the degree was a "vocational" type of degree, but the agency was adamant in their refusal to reimburse Vets who had been enrolled before the change.

One Veteran sought relief through the court and was successful in forcing the VA to pay him the assistance benefits he was originally entitled to. As a result, thousands of other Vets are eligible for reimbursement. PLEASE SEE THE DETAILED LEGAL NOTICE REPRINTED IN THIS ISSUE.

## DISABLED VET COMMITS SUICIDE

Ronald James Beck, Lost Angeles, a three-tour Vietnam Veteran, died by his own hand last June after being informed by the VA that his disability check was stopping and he owed the government \$1,798.

He had appealed a service-connected back injury to the VA after his military discharge and the federal agency rated his 10% disabled, then 40% and later 60%. Beck's private physician, an orthopedist, was convinced the former soldier could never return to work and sought a 100% disability. The VA, however, rejected the doctor's findings, denied the 100% disability request and curtailed disability payments.

An appeal was pending when the winner of three Bronze Stars and two Purple Hearts killed himself with a rifle shot to the head in a shack behind his home in Gardens. The VA later admitted Beck had not been overpaid and subsequently, he would not have had to repay any funds.

It was an administrative error.

## Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk!

"Quality...uncompromising  
and unchanging."

—Frederic Miller, 1855



1984 Beer Brewed by Miller Brewing Co., Milwaukee, WI

## Important Notice To All Vietnam Era Veterans

If you are a Vietnam era veteran and were denied educational benefits for an Associates Degree (2-year) course of study, please read this notice carefully. It may affect important rights of yours.

1. NATURE OF LAWSUIT—*Schunemann v. Veterans Administration*, No. C83-3098 (U.S.D.C., N.D. Ohio, E. Div.) is a lawsuit pending in federal court in Cleveland, Ohio. The lawsuit charges that it was illegal for the Veterans Administration to deny educational benefits for Associates Degree (2-year) courses to Vietnam era veterans who were past the normal 10-year delimiting period, if the content of the courses was predominantly vocational.

The individual veteran who filed the lawsuit had gone ahead and taken certificate and Associate's Degree courses after the VA denied him benefits. The lawsuit asked the VA to pay this individual veteran the amount of money that the suit claimed he should have received from the VA for attending these courses.

The individual veteran's claim has now been resolved and his suit will be dismissed on February 28, 1985.

2. CLAIMS ON BEHALF OF OTHER VETERANS. The lawsuit also asked the court to take action on behalf of any other Vietnam era veterans who had been denied benefits for Associates Degree courses after the delimiting period but had then gone ahead and taken the courses without VA benefits. The lawsuit asked the court to order the VA to pay these veterans' benefits also. This aspect of the lawsuit is called a "class action."

3. PROPOSED DISMISSAL OF THE LAWSUIT. Before an individual can make claims on behalf of other people in a class action, the federal court has to approve it. The federal court has not given its approval in this case. Therefore, when the individual veterans' claims are dismissed, the claims on behalf of other veterans will also be dismissed, unless some other veteran in the same situation intervenes in the lawsuit before then.

4. WHO IS ENTITLED TO ASK TO INTERVENE. You are entitled to ask the federal court to let you intervene in this case if:

- you are a Vietnam era veteran and have not yet exhausted your educational benefits;
- you are past the normal 10-year delimiting period for educational benefits;
- you applied for educational benefits on or after November 3, 1981, and before October 1, 1983, for courses leading to an Associate's (2-year) Degree;
- the VA turned down your application;
- you went ahead and took the courses without VA benefits for doing so.

5. WHAT TO DO IF YOU WANT TO INTERVENE. If you want to ask the federal court to let you intervene in this case, you must file a motion to intervene no later than February 28, 1985. The motion may be filed by mail with the Clerk, US District Court, US Courthouse, 201 Superior Ave., Cleveland OH 44114. Copies of your motion should also be mailed to:

1. Ralph Rudd, 8 North State St., Painesville OH 44077
2. Dennis P. Zapka, Assistant US Attorney, 1404 E. 9th St., Cleveland OH 44114
3. Gary E. Brown, Assistant Attorney General, 30 E. Broad St., Columbus OH 43215

6. QUESTIONS? If you have any questions or want more information, you may contact the attorney for the individual veteran who filed this lawsuit. That attorney is Ralph Rudd, 8 North State St., Painesville OH 44077; 216-352-6200.

# Scuttlebutt

FRONTAL LOBOTOMY CITATION FOR BRAVERY WITH TWIT DEVICE

In performing an act characterized by its daring, audacity, intrepidity, and utter folly, Acting Commandant Dane Roth, Mud Baby Detachment, is hereby awarded the Frontal Lobotomy Citation For Bravery With Twit Device. While detached on temporary classified duty with the Prussian Liaison Office, Sonofa, Commandant Von Roth was involved in the rehabilitation of captured used WWII German bicycles. Fully trained in psychological cyclical warfare, he was putting one of the plutocratic "Killer Bikes" through its paces when it suddenly and ferociously attacked him. Although in the vise-like grip of the bike's handlebars and with malfunctioning gears and brakes, the Commandant, with total disregard for his own personal safety, attempted to bring the wheeled projectile under manual control. While traveling in excess of 50 MPH and immorally heading for a known house of off-limits, Commandant Von Roth cleverly brought the vindictive cycle to a complete standstill in the following manner: he fearlessly dismounted the bike and reduced speed by flinging his immaculate Mud Baby body to the cruel hard ground. His initiative enabled him to proudly break his hand for the Motherland upon contact. Quickly realizing the futility of this gesture and that he had forgotten his Mud Baby Kermit the Frog Song Book, and utilizing the skill and judgment commensurate with his rank, Commandant Von Roth sacrificed his left arm and side to the cruel pavement again while singing songs of praise to Miss Piggy. It was still not enough! Calling upon all of his inner strength and thinking only of the welfare of his Mud Baby unit, Von Roth, in one final gallant attempt, used his head. Bringing the full weight of his forehead to bear on the rugged cement curb while still in the Killer Bike's grips, he was able to achieve his goal. Nearby onlookers cheered Von Roth's efforts and offered to finish what the bike had started on his body, but Von Roth politely refused their profusive yet generous offers. Disregarding his own personal injuries and pain, the Commandant's only thoughts were of the now converted-to-democracy Killer Bike's welfare. Once he was assured that the bike was in good hands, he coolly, calculatingly and competently passed out. Later he was transported to the University health clinic where he was treated and released on his own recognizance from the mental health unit. Commandant Von Roth's bravery, courage and savoir faire were in the highest traditions of the Mud Babies and reflect great credit upon himself, his unit, the American Cyclist Association and the Bronco Busters of America. In the future, whenever and wherever cyclists and bronco busters may gather, they give silent thanks and well wishes to the man they hold in reverential awe - A Man For All Seasons - "Half Speed Von Roth".

## VET ATTEMPTS SUICIDE

Randolph Taylor, 38-year-old Vietnam Veteran, was despondent over losing his job as a police officer and his negative experiences with the Veterans Administration. He left California in December seeking treatment at a VA hospital in Washington, D.C., and a new start in life.

In the early hours of January 15, 1985, Taylor aimed a .38 caliber pistol at his own chest and pulled the trigger. He is still listed in fair condition at George Washington University Hospital.

He was receiving disability from the VA until January 4, 1982, when he was hired by the San Francisco Police Department. Bill Wallace, a reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle wrote several stories on Taylor had said the VietVet had been hired as a policeman after he filed a lawsuit protesting a decision not to employ him due to emotional problems. The VA discontinued his disability payments on January 4, his first day on the job, but resumption of the pension after Taylor's dismissal from the police department on November 30 was snagged indefinitely in red tape.

Taylor, in a telephone interview from the hospital, said, "the San Francisco Police Department took away my job and the VA took my pension. What am I going to do? I have nobody, but somebody has to do something." A friend, Judy Forsberg, stated that Taylor is a Vietnam Veteran with a lot of medals, but "he has been ignored and treated as unimportant by the establishment." "What is a person supposed to do? I don't think anyone else would persevere as much as he has," she added.

Taylor is the second Vietnam Veteran to shoot himself near the memorial in the past four months. On September 18, 1984, Jeffrey Charles Davis, 36-year-old D.C. police officer and decorated Vietnam Vet, committed suicide while facing the granite structure.

## RAFFLE TO BE HELD

As noted in the January edition of the Trib, Chapter 106 will be holding a raffle to raise money for the Chapter and for the State Council's incorporation costs. The prize is a Polaroid-type camera with two rolls of film. Tickets will be available at the February meeting until the time of the drawing at the end of the meeting. This is a chance to help the Chapter, State, and your photo album, so don't miss it.



"Do not stand at my grave and weep,  
I am not there, I do not sleep.  
I am a thousand winds that blow,  
I am a diamond glint on snow,  
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,  
I am the autumn rain,  
When you awake in the morning hush,  
I am the swift uplifting rush  
Of birds circling in flight.  
I am the stars that shine at night,  
So do not stand at my grave and cry,  
I am not there  
I did not die."

.....Unknown Soldier,  
U.S. Army 4th Infantry Division  
Killed in Action, South Vietnam....



## 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  
261-4736 Jobs Tape

DES Vets Employment Hotline  
4525 E. Broadway 628-5722  
316 W. Ft. Lowell 628-5561  
195 W. Irvington 628-5749

AZ State Legislature  
1-800-352-8404

AZ Vets Svc. Commission 628-5388  
Pima Voter Registrar 792-VOTE  
Agent Orange Class Action  
1-800-645-1355

Sen. Barry Goldwater  
Federal Bldg., 301 W. Congress  
Tucson, AZ 85701 629-6334

Sen. Dennis DeConcini  
33 N. Stone  
Tucson, AZ 85701 629-6831

Rep. Jim Kolbe  
4444 E. Grant, #125  
AZ 85712 323-1467  
Tucson, AZ

Rep. Morris Udall  
300 N. Main  
Tucson, AZ 85701 629-7404

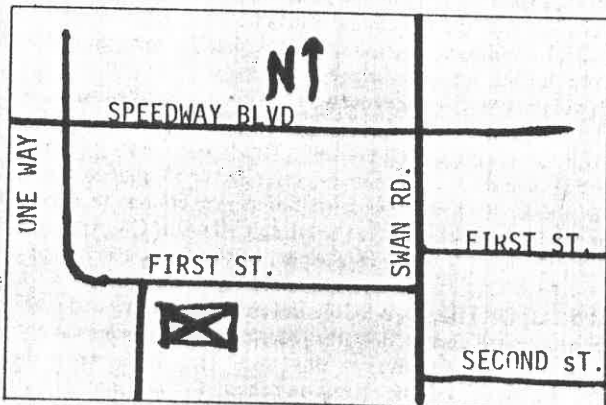
## Our losses to wars

Since the Civil War, the USA has lost more than one million men and women in military conflicts. Here is a breakdown of participants and casualties.

<b>CIVIL WAR (1861-1865)</b>	
Union participants	2,213,000
Deaths in service	364,000
Confederate participants	1,000,000
Deaths in service	133,821
<b>SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898-1902)</b>	
Participants	392,000
Deaths in service	11,000
<b>WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)</b>	
Participants	4,744,000
Deaths in service	116,000
<b>WORLD WAR II (1940-1947)</b>	
Participants	16,535,000
Deaths in service	406,000
<b>KOREAN WAR (1950-1955)</b>	
Participants	6,807,000
Deaths in service	55,000
<b>Vietnam War (1964-1975)</b>	
Participants	9,834,000
Deaths in service	109,000

Source: Veterans Administration

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## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is open to Vietnam Era Veterans  
Associate Membership to the Public at Large

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Present Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Annual National Dues \$10.00 Chapter Affiliation Fee \$10.00 Total \$20.00

Return this form to

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
P. O. Box 40903, Tucson, AZ 85717

I am a Vietnam era veteran and would like to be a Member.

I am not a Vietnam era veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member.

Your Local Chapter No. 106

I want to give more. Enclosed is my check for  \$20,  \$50,  \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(All contributions are tax deductible.)

New Member or  Renewal

Membership Card No. \_\_\_\_\_