

Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

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JANUARY 1985

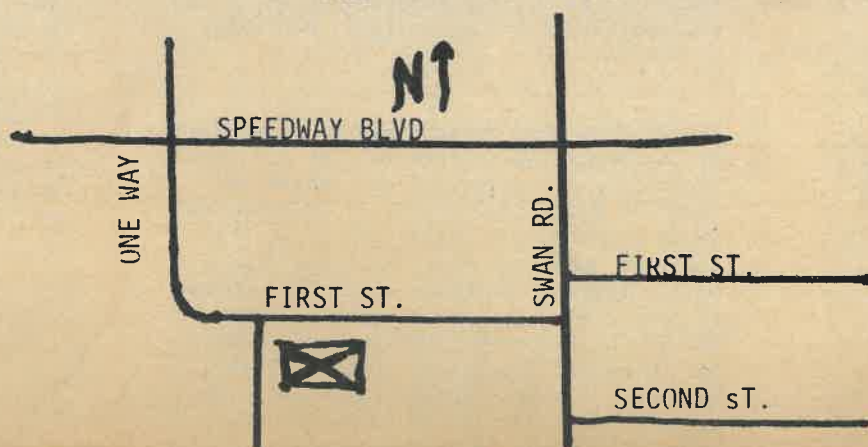
CALENDAR

HAPPY NEW YEAR

JANUARY 23 Women's Committee meeting will be held. Call 745-0350 for directions.

JANUARY 31 VVA General Meeting will be held at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter Hall, 4656 E. 1st St. (See map) at 7:30 p.m. Plans for the year will be announced, and your participation is vital. We need your input and commitment for the various projects in the works. Details of the raffle to be held in February will be covered.

FEBRUARY 28 LAST DAY TO SIGN UP FOR THE EMERGENCY VETERANS JOB TRAINING ACT.



VA TO LIMIT HEALTH CARE

Rules being drafted by the Reagan Administration would create a financial means test to determine eligibility for Veterans Administration health care. Aimed at those Vets under age 65, the criteria would deny care to those who could afford private treatment.

Under the current law, Vets who lack financial means or have insurance, even those in uniform for only a few weeks are eligible for treatment in a VA hospital regardless of the ailment being service-connected or not. Veterans under 65 are treated for non-service illness only if they sign a "pauper" statement attesting treatment is not affordable.

The proposed regulations will establish a financial test to measure the monetary resources of Veterans who seek admission to the agency's hospitals or nursing homes. Resources taken into account are ready cash, pensions, bank deposits, stocks, bonds, health insurance and Medicare coverage, among others. A draft document of the regulations revealed the following criteria: 1) A Veteran with spouse would be declared unable to pay for medical care if total resources were \$15,000 or less.

2) Families with \$15-20,000 are eligible only if the cost exceeds 6% of the resources. (\$900-1200)
3) \$20-25,000 7%
4) \$25-30,000 8%
5) \$30,000 and up 10%

Those under 65 able to afford care at a private facility would be denied treatment at a VA hospital for non-service-connected problem.

The test will not apply to service-connected disabilities or to Vets eligible for Medicare. A second important exclusion applies to emergency care. VA hospitals would not be prevented from providing emergency care, but if a determination finds the patient had the means to pay for the service, the VA would try to recoup the loss.

Controversy over the proposed change is emanating from Veterans organizations. The VA, in a written explanation, said it was "required" to establish a "means test" under a 1980 law. Veterans organizations, however, contend the law merely "allows" such a test which has been previously forbidden by law. John Scholzen, a VA spokesman, said this 1980 law "requires" the VA to establish a means test for vets under 65, but Mack Fleming, Chief Counsel

to the House Veterans Affairs Committee, stated the 1980 legislation "gave the authority to establish a means test if the VA wanted to, but it was never intended the regulations be rigid." To be determined yet is whether the VA will institute some flexibility so determinations can be made on a case by case basis. With 79,000 beds, the 172 VA Medical Centers treat about 1.3 million patients a year and received 1.4 million outpatients a month - about 50% of them for non-service connected ailments, according to government statistics. Additionally, 67,000 nursing home patients are treated annually. Obviously, one formula may not be sufficient for over a million patients even though a savings of over 109 million is predicted by the Office of Management and Budget for implementing the proposed change.

These changes can be made by regulation and do not require Congressional approval. Citizens do have a right to comment on the proposal for 30 days after the changes are published in the Federal Register. After consideration of the comments, the VA could issue final rules which do have the force of law.

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

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 643

Fragments

By Chuck Hovey

Thirty-one years have passed since the Korean Armistice and Veterans of that conflict STILL DO NOT HAVE A NATIONAL MEMORIAL! A National Committee For The Korean War Memorial has recently been formed and have not only raised \$40,000, but have heavily sponsored bills in Congress calling for the donation of federal land. 54,426 Americans lost their lives in Korea and 500 ARE STILL CLASSIFIED AS MISSING-IN-ACTION.

US District Judge Jack Weinstein has diverted \$74,000 from the "not yet finalized" Agent Orange settlement to the March of Dimes. Ironically, one of the major contributors to this worthy charity is none other than Dow Chemical.

Supreme Court Justice William Rehnquist reversed a district court order and reinstated the \$10 limitation that attorneys may charge claimants for representation in the VA claims processing system.

The Allied Airborne Association is open to all active duty airborne unit members or personnel who participated in airborne air assault combat operations. The association is planning a reunion at the Embers Inn, Carlisle, Penn., 31 July- 3 August, 1985. More info is available from:
Allied Airborne Assn
117 Milton Ave.
Staten Island, NY 10306
(212) 979-1950

The Webfoot Warriors Association is anxious to hear from those who served in Navy Combat Demolition Units, UDT, SEALs or Swimmer Delivery Vehicle Teams. If interested, write the following:
Webfoot Warriors Assn
8033 Sunset Blvd, Ste. #1016
Hollywood, CA 90046-2497

A recent study found that Arizona military Vets may not be getting all the government benefits they deserve. According to the New Jersey based Consumer Education Research Center, Arizona received \$119 in benefits per capita fiscal year 1983 compared with \$198 per capita in Arkansas.

These two states are comparable due to a similar number of Veterans and dependents. The group estimates Arizona should have received at least \$588 million in benefits instead of the \$325 million recorded.

The Postal Service has announced the issuance of a commemorative stamp recognizing the service of Korean War Veterans. The date of issue, July 26, 1985, marks the 30th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice. Recognition for these Veterans has been sadly neglected and we salute their service and patience.

The VA plans to expand Vietnam Era Outreach Centers by 52 new ones including satellites. Since the program's initiation in 1979, the Vet Center population has grown to 136. In the past five years, more than 250,000 Vets and 50,000 family members have received assistance. Vet Centers are averaging 6300 Vet clients each month and have received appropriations through September, 1988. Arizona will receive a new center in Prescott and recruiting for staff members has already begun.

Of all federal hires last year, 22% were Veterans according to the Office of Personnel Management. This percentage reflected 73,000 Vets hired and brought the total percentage of Vet employment in government to 38.6% in non-postal agencies and 41.8% in the Postal Service. 6,059 (8%) were women, 19,138 (26%) minorities, 4,204 (6%) were 30% or more disabled vets. Of those hired, 79% were Vietnam Era Veterans.

The US Postal Service has confirmed it will issue a 50-cent stamp on February 22, 1985 to honor the 100th birthday of Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander-in-Chief in the Pacific during WWII.

The names of 15 more Vietnam War dead have been etched into the black granite walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington bringing the total to 58,022. Two of the 15 are sailors who were lost overboard off the coast of Vietnam. The other 13 are servicemen who died of combat wounds. 68 names were added in 1983 and estimates are a dozen now ones will be added annually the next 10-12 years as additional deaths are authenticated.

The VA has established a special committee of business and labor leaders to help find jobs for unemployed Veterans. The 24-member committee, headed by Roy A. Anderson, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Lockheed Corporation in Burbank, has been charged with "producing a positive climate for the employment of Veterans by highlighting the many job skills and personal qualities developed during an individual's military career." The jobless rate among Vets aged 25-39 continues to be higher than for non-Vets in the same group. There are 28 million Veterans of which 22 million served during wartime, according to the VA.

The VA Home Loan Program may be eliminated if the Reagan Administration has its way. The Office of Management and Budget has proposed guidelines which, if implemented, would end the VA's ability to offer low interest, no-money down, mortgage guarantees. Instead, Veterans could be required to post down payments on homes as high as 20% of the property value just to qualify for VA-backed financing. Congressional approval is needed before these measures are adopted and it is up to you whether they are or not. Call your Senator or Representative.

Another popular Vietnam Era Veteran user program has been directed to the block - the Small Business Administration. \$641 million was allocated to Veterans' business loans in fiscal year 1983 which accounted for 24% of all loaned SBA dollars. \$292 million of the \$641 million went to Viet Era Vets and fiscal year 1984 indicated the \$641 million would be surpassed. By July, 1984, \$312 million had already gone to Viet Era Vets. Again, another viable program attracting Viet Era Vets is frowned upon by the President.

Did you know that the sentry who guards the Unknown Soldiers' crosses the 63 foot pathway in exactly 21 steps, faces the tomb for 21 seconds, turns, and then pauses another 21 seconds before retracing his/her steps. The 21 is symbolic of the 21 gun salute.

Charlton Heston has been heard in a recorded telephone message by over 12,000 people extolling the plight of US POWs still in Southeast Asia. The heartrending message urges Americans not to forget these individuals and dramatizes their situation by describing their conditions: "Some are used as slaves, forced to drag plows in rice paddies." The 60-second message is an attempt to raise funds for SKYHOOK II, an active campaign to rally support for rescuing servicemembers still held captive.

Judge Jack B. Weinstein approved an \$180 million settlement, Monday, January 7, in a suit brought by thousands of Vietnam Vets and their families over health problems attributed to Agent Orange. \$9.2 million will be deducted for lawyer's fees which is far below the \$40 million sought by 121 lawyers for pursuing litigation against the seven chemical manufacturers.

Judge Weinstein said the \$180 million was sufficient to settle the action and he has been persuaded a viable plan for distribution of the fund is possible. Undecided, however, is how Vets and their families will divide the money, but, according to Weinstein, the court will decide later on methods of allocation.

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP

A myriad of legislation affecting Vets has been enacted. Please take note of the following - information is our best ally.

THE VETERANS BENEFITS IMPROVEMENT ACT of 1984

1. Raised compensation disability, and disability and indemnity compensation (DIC) benefits 3.2% effective 1 Dec 1984.
2. Increased to \$349 the annual allowance made certain Vets whose artificial limbs cause wear on their clothing.
3. The Vietnam Era GI Bill survivors ed assistance and voc rehab benefits was raised 10%.
4. The Veterans Readjustment Appointment Authority was extended two more years until September 30, 1986 and the max grade level at which appointments may be made was raised from GS-7 to GS-9.
5. The EVJTA participation deadline and funding authority was extended. Veterans now have until February 28, 1985 to apply for eligibility and employers must begin a training program by Sept. 1, 1985.
6. The maximum specially adapted housing assistance grant was elevated from 32,500 to \$35,500.
7. Automobile assistance grants went from \$4,000 to \$5,000.
8. The Targeted Jobs Tax Credit was extended one more year.

SEATTLE VIETVET PHOTO MURAL DISPLAY

Tens of thousands of visitors wandered in and out of a photo mural display of the Wall over a five day period at the Flag Pavilion, Seattle Center (WA). Made possible through the joint cooperation of VVA Chapter 130 and the Washington VVLP, visitors left messages, treasures, and mementos at the base; a 20 year old high school football left by a buddy with a note that said only "I told you not to go"; a medic's note that shouts "I did all I could do"; poems, flowers, tears and a poignant bit of each person were left behind.

A Directory was readily available to search out a name, but, initially, most sought to go from block to block. Viet Vets stood outside for hours before finding the courage to go inside and once there would spend a while slowly gazing at the names. For many, those last fleeting moments of a buddy being medivaced away or not finding his or her name came to an end. There were tears of relief that had been buried for more than a decade; the gnawing uncertainty had finally come to an end. Many "civilians" came just to pay their respects, to seek understanding of the men and women shedding tears in front of the mural. In these times, it was truly a coming together time for the whole community.

If you would like to honor someone, send a picture and brief story about him/her in Southeast Asia to the DAV Vietnam Memorial in Angel Fire, New Mexico. They will put the picture on the wall and story in a file for reference. Pictures should be 8x10, black and white. Mail to the following-

Dr. Victor Westphall
DAV Vietnam Veterans National Memorial
PO Box 608
Angel Fire, NM 87710

Dear Chapter 106

This is to acknowledge and thank you for a copy of your newsletter.

Our chapter is vets incarcerated which started under the name of Prison Organization for Veterans' Affairs (POVA), in June 1974. At the present we are out of funds and are unable to print our monthly newsletter, but through VVA and a strong community support committee, we will start back printing our report the first of the year.

Until such time keep us abreast of your progress, and we wish you success in all of your endeavors.

Sincerely yours,
George L. Adams
Secretary, Chapter 163

Message

To our contributors:

In our past issues, we have printed the deadline for each upcoming issue. If you have kept tabs on the date, you will note that it has moved steadily further back in time. We started with a deadline of the 10th of the month of issue, which moved to the 5th, and then to the meeting of the month before the month of issue. Appearances to the contrary, we took these steps to facilitate getting the newsletter into the readership's eager (we hope) hands in time to make plans to attend the meetings and functions of each month. We have been understanding about late contributions, as you have been understanding about late issues. Well, NO MORE MR. NICE GUY! The absolute, carved in stone, IRS style deadline is the meeting before the issue. Late contributions will be held for the next issue, pending space considerations. (We will naturally expect you to continue indulging us as to the date of publication.) We are doing this to smooth out one of the forty miles of bad road we cover each month on the coast highway of journalism. If you are unable to hand-deliver your copy to the meeting, please mail it no later than the Monday before to:

C. Hilts
209 W. Simpson (Rear)
Tucson, AZ 85701

This is your paper. If you don't write anything, there won't be a paper. We appreciate your efforts and look forward to your timely contributions.

Non Sequitur

Emergency Veterans Job Training Act

The Veterans Benefit Improvement Act of 1984 made significant changes and granted extensions to the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act.

1. Veterans now have until Feb. 29, 1985 to apply for eligibility.
2. The certificate of eligibility has been extended to 90 days instead of 60.
3. The date by which an employer must begin a training program to qualify for reimbursement has been extended to Sept. 1, 1985.

As of October, 1984, 233,582 Veterans have been certified eligible for the program and the number of certified employers has risen to 30,000. So far 17,625 Vets have been placed in jobs and more than \$71 million has been earmarked for employer reimbursement according to the Department of Labor. The western states break down as follows:

ELIGIBLE CERTIFIED VETS	CAL	AZ	NEV	HAW
	26,547	3,222	1,746	717
EMPLOYERS APPROVED		3,607	1,520	43
VETS PLACED	2,256	402	378	55

The Spirit of 106 project is off and running in our usual fine style. The effort to raise the funds for the Bell 212 SAR Helicopters started on November 29 at the TCC. It was well attended by state and local officials including Senator Dennis DeConcini, who gave it his whole-hearted support and reminded the audience that, like the Wall in Washington, D.C., our living memorial to the 106 Pima County residents will be provided by private funds.

Pima County Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik also gave his vote of support and confidence to us, the members of VVA 106, to get the job done. Talk about a turnaround in public opinion. It has taken a long time, but we have finally come of age.

Chuck McHugh, the Pima County SAR manager presented a moving and informative presentation of the history and nature of search and rescue, and of the critical importance of helicopters in our county. Chuck should know. He is a nationally known SAR expert who has managed over 900 SAR missions in his career of 8 years and is responsible for countless successful missions. Chuck refers to SAR as a multi-agency team effort. By that he means successful missions are a result of well-trained civilian volunteers, DPS, PCSD and other agencies, all working together for a common goal, saving lives.

I am sure for most of us the biggest kick of all was turning the TCC parking lot into a heliport for the morning. We had 4 helicopters to show the public. Tucson Police Dept., Dept. of Public Safety and Southwest Helicopter brought Bell Jet Rangers for a static display, but the star of the show was the Bell 212 on loan to us from Bell Helicopter of Ft. Worth, Texas. The aircraft was piloted by 106 member John L. Himes and Donovan L. Harvey of Bell Helicopter.

All in attendance had the opportunity to inspect the helicopter and take a short ride out Speedway to Alvernon and back to TCC. I'm sure most of the Vets had a real experience reliving the sight, sounds, smells and feeling of flying in the Huey.

The media were at the presentation and did a very good job of covering the event and I have to thank the Arizona Daily Star for their outstanding editorial of Sunday, Dec. 2, 1984.

A slide presentation by Mark Hutt of August West Productions more than helped in making the kickoff a success. Mark is a genius with slides and I could not count the hours of hard work Mark put into this project. As a matter of fact, Mark and the rest of the crew was at the Sheriff's Dept. well past midnight on the 28th making sure all would go smoothly. Our friends Gary Ford and Ray McKee of August West were at TCC at 6 a.m. to set up the show and insure a success. Gary, by the way, is responsible for the slide show "Vietnam Revisited" which was presented at the recognition dinner in May and at the debate. Gary and Mark and the whole crew at August West deserve our heartfelt gratitude and anything else we can do for them. They are an outstanding organization.

Many members of the Pima Co. Sheriff's Department, including Larry Seligman, Bob Ramsden, Paul Freeman, John Himes, Mike Cusick and Chuck McHugh, put in many hours of work in planning and coordinating the many aspects of the project. We salute all of these people.

Special thanks to VVA members Naomi McHugh (my new wife), Jim Randall, Mike Buckley, Rex Beving, Dennis Thompson, Tony Sherrod, Bob King, Chuck Hovey, Dane Roth, Tony Garcia, Joe Taje, John Paulus, Randy Bennett, Yolanda Hovey, Yolanda Randall, Neil Gregerson, Ron Borque, and anyone else who helped.

I am very proud of our membership and the way we work so well together. I salute all of you.

However, our work has just started. Raising 3 million is no small chore, but we will be successful. I invite all of you to get involved. We have lots of engagements coming up that will require your support. Contact the VVA at 790-7602 for information.

MONEY FOR THE HELICOPTER BY CHRIS MARTIN

The American Society of Safety Engineers-Southern Arizona presented Tucson Chapter 106, Vietnam Veterans of America, \$106 in their on-going effort to raise money for a rescue helicopter. The check was presented to Peter M. McHugh, public affairs officer for the "Spirit of 106" project, during the Safety Engineers' monthly meeting in December.

McHugh said the local chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America is trying to acquire the money for a rescue helicopter after Detachment 1, 37th Aerial Rescue and Recovery Service from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base was transferred when the Titan missiles were decommissioned. The result is that Tucson and surrounding communities are now without the benefit of an air rescue helicopter.

According to Sgt. Chuck McHugh of the Pima County Sheriff's Department, there are about 110 missions a year for search and rescue both on the ground and air. Eight counties and Northern Mexico are included in the search and rescue area. Sgt. McHugh said that there is a lot of area in Pima County to cover let alone the other countries. The county is the eighth largest in the country with nearly 9,188 square miles and elevation spans from 1200 feet to 9185 feet.

Sgt. McHugh added that nearly 56 per cent of all rescues carried out have required the use of the helicopter. The Department of Public Safety and the United States Air Force were very active in air rescues until July of 1984 when the Titan helicopter force was decommissioned.

Since the DPS cannot staff their air rescue equipment 24 hours-seven days a week, Sheriff's Department and the Southern Arizona Rescue Association had the Air Force to fall back on, but not anymore.

Sgt. McHugh said that a helicopter can sometimes mean the difference between life and death. It is for this reason that local VVA Chapter 106 decided to raise money to purchase a helicopter for the use of rescue mission in Southern Arizona. Known as the "Spirit of 106," the helicopter will serve as a living memorial for the 106 people from Pima County who died in Southeast Asia. As of this writing, numerous donations have been received toward the helicopter purchase, but much more work is required to reach the \$3 million for preferably two helicopters.

DIFFERENT AGENT ORANGE STUDY

30 VietVets, chosen from 2000 volunteers, checked into Barnert Memorial Hospital in Paterson, New Jersey, on December 7, 1984, to begin a different type of Agent Orange study. Researchers say this will be the first American scientific study to determine if Agent Orange is responsible for the Veterans' medical problems.

Wayne Wilson, director of the New Jersey Agent Orange Commission, stated that "unlike the statistical studies done by the government, we're doing studies with real people, the kind of work that Vietnam Veterans want." The Commission is fully sponsoring the study with an \$125,000 grant from the State of New Jersey. The 30 volunteers will undergo physical and psychological tests for several days. Samples of fatty tissue and blood will be sent to dioxin experts at the University of Umea in Sweden for analysis. Scientists will then compile statistics on the relation between dioxin exposure and disorders caused by the chemical.

POW/MIA Update

1985--A new year. A new beginning. May it be a good year for each of you. For our men and women still being held prisoners in Southeast Asia, may they each have a today and a tomorrow in their future! I pray that 1985 is the year we bring them all home!

Information continues on live sightings. Former PFC Robert Garwood has publicly stated (Wall Street Journal 12/4/84 and Washington Times 12/5-7/84) he knows of four locations where he saw live American POWs as late as 1979. His facts were corroborated by General Eugene Tighe, past Director, and Admiral Jerry Tuttle, Deputy Director, of Defense Intelligence Agency. During the hearings on August 8, 1984, of the Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs, testimony was given of photos taken of live POWs by the National Reconnaissance Organization within the last year. Additional testimony was given by Vietnam Veterans, refugees, and family members of live sightings during 1983 and 1984. The question remains, WHY HASN'T THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT RESCUED THESE MEN AND WOMEN?

An organization called American Veterans for a Strong America is setting up headquarters in Thailand. They will receive information from anyone on the POW/MIA issue. Contact Michael Van Atta, The Insiders, P.O. Box 182, Vienna, VA 22180.

The Insiders have a new rescue mission underway entitled "The Patriots." This organization has been involved in five previous rescue missions in recent years. For further information or to make a direct donation, contact Mike Van Atta at the above address.

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

Eleanor D. Reita, Sister
Major Victor J. Apodaca, USAF
MIA, North Vietnam
June 8, 1967

DRUG TESTS DECLARED INVALID

Thousands of servicemembers may have been unjustly punished on the basis of faulty drug and urine tests according to recent government reports.

To curtail drug use, the services forced thousands of alleged users from the ranks and punished others with rank reductions/fines during the period April 27, 1982 through November 1, 1983. The majority of these cases featured urine tests as primary evidence, but now it appears that many of the tests were flawed either by faulty procedures or human error. The Army is looking for 60,000 to 70,000 current and former soldiers who might want to appeal their disposition. The Navy has already contacted 7,000 and the Air Force intends to find 500-1000 airmen. If you're a soldier who qualifies, call the Army at (703) 664-2850/2744 or (804) 861-1606/4231.

GERMAN DIOXIN LEVEL URGED

Eight years after the dioxin catastrophe in Seveso, Italy, the chemical industry in the Federal Republic of Germany is proposing that ceilings on dioxin levels be legislated to insure environmental safety. Currently, there is only one factory in Germany where dioxin is known to be an industrial by-product though this and other dangerous toxins could be produced wherever the manufacturing process involves the use of chlorine and organic solvents. There is, however, a major dioxin storage site at Hamburg pending safe disposal.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Darts * And Laurels

Tonie Stanton, KNST radio, for her outstanding support, professionalism and camaraderie.

*** Sen. Jeremiah Denton and Rep. John McCain for their abstention or opposition to crucial Vietnam Vet legislation. Both seem to forget there are Viet vets who still suffer the ravages of war. Please, gentlemen; compassion is a rare gift in public service; look beyond the prevalent ideology to see the anguish.

Alfredo and Linda Mendoza, Channel 9, for the kind invitation to appear on "Dos Mundas" for the "Spirit of 106". El VVA les saluda!

*** Tucson electronic media for waiting until after the January 2nd request date to air stories of the Agent Orange Class Action extension for filing. January 2nd was the last day to request forms from the N.Y. Court for return by the cutoff, January 15th. Since the extension was ordered on December 20th, one wonders. Secondly, not one station broadcasted a local or national phone number, organization or person to acquire these valuable forms.

The Pima County Sheriff's Department for their hard work, dedication and long hours on the "Spirit of 106" project.

August West Productions - not enough can be said for the time this fine group spent on the "Spirit of 106". Special thanks to Gary Ford and Marc Hutt.

Do You Remember

The days when you were told the service would make a "real" man out of you.

The hours in Basic training and AIT when warmaking was innocent, fun and sparked renditions of "The Green Berets," "I Wanna Be An Airborne Ranger," and vacillating hatred of JODY. The smell of mothballs, bored supply personnel, sweat and early morning barracks was part of the general consensus: "Keep your mouth shut and do what you're told - you're paid to work, not to think."

The overpowering stench of feces and disbelief you in Nam making war with real bullets. Days when your stomach was so tight, so filled with butterflies, that only a desire to "get it the hell over with" reigned as the song of survival echoed continuously in your mind.

The feeling when YOUR FREEDOM BIRD lifted off and you sat holding on so tight your knuckles turned white. Leaving Nam was still unreal; going home was still a DREAM.

Thoughts of buddies and friends left behind was almost overpowering.

The first bureaucrat who got you P.O.ed after returning homw.

Your reaction to Vietnam years after the fact - was it a dream or is it Memorex?

VA DIAGNOSTIC PROBLEMS

Many Southeast Asian veterans can recall the seemingly endless variety of diseases that cropped up. The general medical rule of thumb was if the person can walk, they can do their duty. Jim Christian was a healthy eighteen year old when he left the States for a combat tour. When he returned in 1971, that condition had degenerated to swollen joints, bloatedness, fever, lethargy and vomiting spells. His x-rays looked like those of a man 60-70 years of age, but Christian still cannot qualify for full disability benefits since the VA cannot find a name for his affliction.

10 years ago, he was diagnosed as having Lupus and awarded a full disability rating, but this was later cut to 10% with the diagnosis was discarded. 10 years of Lupus treatments with anti-inflammatory steroids had made his bones soft and the canal in his spine abnormally narrow. Consequently, the x-rays resemble those of a senior citizen in addition to incapacitating pain that baffle VA physicians. The VA, however, still insists that if a disease is not listed by name in the disability ratings manual, a pension will usually not be awarded. Jim Christian is still without a pension, a disease name and his disability.

DIOXIN/RADIATION COMPENSATION PASSED

H.R. 1961, The Veterans Dioxin and Radiation Exposure Compensation Standards act was signed into law after months of bitter debate between the House and Senate, Vets organizations and Vet against Vet.

The compromise attempts a quick fix while still maintaining a commitment to the VA's service-connected disability compensation system. The bill does the following:

A. Establishes a two-year program of temporary allowances for disability or death in cases involving chloracne and porphyria cutanea tarda (PCT) suffered by Vets from exposure to dioxin. The program runs from Oct. 1, 1984 to Sept. 30, 1986.

B. Directs the VA Administrator to develop regulations governing the adjudication of claims based on exposure to dioxin in Vietnam or radiation from nuclear detonations.

C. These regulations will be developed with the assistance of a newly designed Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards. The panel of medical, scientific and environmental specialists will be broken into two groups, one focusing on Agent Orange and the other on radiation exposure.

Contact your Vet Center or the VA Medical Center for more information.

LOVE

TO HAVE YOU COME

AND SEE OUR

VALENTINE

SELECTION

AT

GREETINGS
and THINGS
A CARD BOUTIQUE

5044 N. Oracle
N.E. Corner of
River & Oracle
293-1600

Chuck's Realm

One of the most prevalent questions asked whenever Vietnam Veterans appear in public or private functions is why so many young people are attracted by the military mystique again. Admittedly, I cannot speak for everyone who served, but here are some thoughts which may throw light upon this.

Unlike prior conflicts, the Vietnam War was not popular after its conclusion. In April, 1975 both President Gerald Ford and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger asked that any further recriminations of the war cease and this was generally adhered to. The usual glut of movies, books, comics, etc., so prevalent after other wars, were conspicuously absent and not sorely missed by the public. More importantly, however, the Vietnam War period was a traumatic one for all Americans. A president and vice president had resigned in disgrace, this nation's world standing had diminished, riots and revolutionary rhetoric abounded, and our basic institutions were too often in scandal. Consequently, many prefer not to think of the era still, since to do so brings back pain and anguish. Like individual trauma, time must pass before one can recall without feeling those difficult emotions again. The war was tragic enough and Hollywood, publishers, playwrights, etc., simply could not see the need to produce any works on this period. They gave little thought to a future generation of American youth.

The government lies to blame for security classification of Vietnam files and data. The conclusion of other wars found the government anxious to disseminate information and extoll their successful efforts to social scientists and other academics. College and high school curriculums were enriched by the addition of courses and an ample amount of textbooks from which to select the best. Vietnam, however, was closed to scrutiny by academics unless, of course, you were one of the very few who were willing to espouse the "official" view. Use of the Freedom of Information Act was beginning to reap information under Jimmy Carter, but Ronald Reagan quickly tightened the requirements to slow the flow to a mere trickle. Unfortunately, the Vietnam War is now generally explained in no more than one page in most high school textbooks and very few institutions of higher learning offer courses.

It is even sadder to note so many of our nation's leaders consistently revise Vietnam history to avoid dealing with an unpleasant national experience. In March, 1982, Ronald Reagan recited his version of Vietnam to a stunned group of reporters and officials who could scarcely believe the top official of the land could distort history to such an extent. These are not simple historical mistakes, but a need to believe something other than the truth. The attitude is widespread, emotional and in time could come to be accepted as a national myth, i.e. the Holocaust never occurred. Yet, many believe the President, among others, and few attempt to verify the facts. Sadly, many of our youth have already paid the price for this in Lebanon, Central America and Grenada.

Culturally, there have been a greater variety of Vietnam material in the 1980s; Novels, several major motion pictures, etc., and generally more public concern. The problem, however, is that a whole generation of young men and women have been deprived of a period in American history; an era as traumatic as the Civil War, which is widely studied, and no less bloody. Subsequently, many lack the knowledge and frames of reference to equate today's events in any other manner than adherence, apathy, and little, if any questioning.

Why young people are attracted by the military mystique again is proportional to what motivates Ronald Reagan, William Westmoreland, and others clinging to their revisions-it is easier to make the war the way you want it to be rather than face reality. Our own apathy and gullibility have contributed to this dilemma and it will take fortitude to face our collective national mistakes to curtail this deception. A warning must be given-the Vietnam myth is a potential danger. There lies an earnest desire to do the same thing again, but this time the errors are known and will be corrected.

Therefore, Americans, unaware of their recent past, will accept charisma and revision in lieu of the truth; and those young men and women will someday regret being deprived of one period in this nation's history.

HISTORICALLY, IN JANUARY

1950 Ho Chi Minh declares the Democratic Republic of Vietnam is the only legal government. It is immediately recognized by the Soviet Union and China and also establishes diplomatic relations with Yugoslavia, prompting US analysts to suggest Ho is not Soviet "puppet." January 14

1955 US begins to funnel aid directly to Saigon government and further agrees to train South Vietnamese Army.

1957 The USSR, favoring permanent division of Vietnam, proposes North and South Vietnam be admitted as separate states in the United Nations.

1963 The Viet Cong defeat South Vietnamese units in the Battle of Ap Bac - January 2.

1964 General Nguyen Khanh seizes power in Saigon, arrests four leading generals but allows Minh to be head of state - January 30.

1966 LBJ resumes bombing - January 31.

1967 North Vietnamese Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh declares the United States must stop bombing before talks can begin - January 28.

1968 Prince Sihanouk tells LBJ's emissary Chester Bowles, he will not impede American forces pursuing Viet Cong over the Cambodian border.
USS Pueblo is seized by North Korea - January 23.

The Tet Offensive begins as NVA/VC/PLA forces attack South Vietnamese cities and towns.

1969 Paris talks expand to include Saigon government and Viet Cong representatives.

1972 Nixon reveals that Kissinger has been negotiating secretly with North Vietnam - January 25

1973 Kissinger and Le Duc Tho, NVN, resume talks - January 8.
Paris Peace Accords are initialed by both men - January 23.

"Eleven and a half million people of South Vietnam's seventeen and a half million population now live in secure or reasonably secure areas."

Robert W. Komer
Civilian Administrator of American Pacification program
Saigon, South Vietnam
January 26, 1968
(Ed. Note: The TET Offensive began 5 days later resulting in massive loss of life, exodus of refugees and disruption of the "pacified" areas.)

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.

Margarito Rivera James L. Spangler
Paul B. Krise Fred Shipman

Levi McMillan Walter McConnell, Jr.
Frank Kemp Lee E. Luck
Joseph Flores Cindy Glesinger
Len Lantych Donald Sheppard
William Roberts

VVA CHARTER BLOCKED BY VIETVET

The VVA Charter Bill (S.2666), although co-sponsored and supported by a clear majority of US Senators, was blocked by a small group led by Sen. Jeremiah Denton, former POW and VietVet.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator Denton prevented the VVA from receiving an open public hearing to refute charges made primarily by the VFW. This in turn prompted the elimination of the charter bill from a floor roll-call vote.

It is vital the VVA receive an open hearing to refute baseless charges and be accorded a roll-call vote. Sen. Denton is known for his opposition to VietVet bills, but a charter will be won with your support. Contact your Senator or Representative now!

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DEADLINE: General Meeting before each issue.

Staff Members: Craig Hiltz
Chuck Hovey
Bess Jones
Chuck Knippenberg
Nick Russell
Eleanor Reitz
Mark Toth
Neil Gregerson
Paul Middleton

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The rhythmic motion of windshield wipers can have a hypnotic effect when you are driving late at night. Pete tapped me on the shoulder and asked if I wanted him to drive for a while. Only five hours out of Washington, C.C. and I was starting to get drowsy. I figured it would be a good time to jot down a few notes while he drove, so I accepted his offer.

We were on our way back to Tucson after spending the last four days in D.C. for the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Statue and all of us were in a reflective mood. Mike and Dan were in the back of the van sleeping while Pete and I shared the driving. Peter M. McHugh, the wild-eyed Irishman, climbed into the driver's seat and buckled up for safety, "an old habit I picked up in Vietnam," he said.

Pete grew up in New Jersey. One of six children, he enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1965 when he was only 17 years old. His fascination for aviation was fulfilled when he was assigned to train as a helicopter crew chief. As I looked at his reflection in the windshield, I could just imagine him strapping himself into his helicopter door gunner position, getting ready to lift off on another mission. Of course he wouldn't have had a beard then, and his hair would have been a lot shorter, but the eyes would still have been the same, dark and penetrating.

I also thought of another reflection, the one I had seen of myself at "The Wall". As if he were reading my mind Pete said, "Isn't it funny that everyone calls it 'The Wall' and not the Vietnam Veterans Memorial?"

I asked what he thought of the last four days. "I didn't know what to expect when we went down to the wall," he said, "but when we got there I felt peace; it was like I finally found my old friends."

"My best friend was killed one morning while I was back at our hooch. I was drinking coffee from a coffee pot we shared when this guy who didn't even know him came in and said, 'Did you hear what happened to Romero and Lehey? They got killed on Charlie Ridge this morning.' I never got to say goodbye but I did when I found his name on 'The Wall.'"

I poured us a cup of coffee from a thermos as Pete continued.

"I used to fly in and out of D.C. two or three times a week in my old job as a Culligan salesman but I really felt at home this time when I saw all those vets out on the street."

I asked him, how he got started in sales and he told me it was the only work he could find when he got out of the Marines. "I was responsible for a million dollar helicopter when I was 19 years old," he said, "but no one had any use for me after I got out of the service."

Pete's experiences after returning home from Vietnam were common among Vietnam Veterans. A failed marriage, unemployment, long periods of depression, drug and alcohol abuse; as we discussed these periods of Pete's life I realized that we could be talking about thousands of other Vietnam vets.

"The amazing thing," Pete said, "is the fact that I'm here alive and healthy, mentally and physically and so are thousands of others. We overcame all the bull---t and became productive citizens of a country that abandoned us."

There was rustling in the back of the van as a grizzled head appeared out of the darkness. "You guys ready for a break?" asked Mike as he searched for a cigarette. Pete was one step ahead of the question and was already pulling into a rest area.

We still had a lot of miles to cover before our little odyssey was over and I was convinced that traveling with companions like Pete McHugh, the rest of the trip would be far from boring.

Jim Randall
President, 106

Most of the time when we talk about Vietnam or Vietnam Syndrome, or Post-Traumatic Stress, we are talking about one person, the Vet. Very little is ever discussed about the family members of Vets and how the war affects them. We are all aware that Vietnam Vets often have problems with being survivors and dealing with society; that trust is a difficult thing, that intimacy, relationships and feelings are sometimes numb and confusing. These all carry over to the family and a pattern of relating and interacting is established.

Many times the most affected person is the spouse or significant other. Symptoms they experience may include low self-esteem, lack of confidence, blaming themselves for problems or disagreements, confusion of feelings and identity, anger, guilt, depression and isolation. They very often do not understand what is happening but they may feel they're walking on eggs and that no matter what they do, they're never right. Sometimes the more understanding they try to be, the more they patronize the Vet, resulting in anger and loss of respect. Many times there is a feeling of hopelessness. A support group, a better understanding of Vietnam and the Vet's experiences of the war, and learning to communicate more effectively can be helpful in overcoming these difficulties.

These symptoms can also manifest in children in other family members including parents and siblings. Sometimes alienation and acting out behavior result, especially in children. These are all situations that can be improved within the family structure if wanted.

Vietnam Vets are not always easy people to live with. They're a unique breed of cat, and they're some of the finest and most real people around.

Rachel Holland

On several occasions these past few months my heart has been gladdened to see well deserved recognition extended to women veterans. I would like to share some of these occasions with you.

Perhaps one of the most important events was the Congressional proclamation which made November 11th through 17th of 1984 "National Women Veterans Recognition Week." This week was geared to raising awareness of women veterans and their issues. Hopefully this week was a springboard for projects addressing women veterans' concerns.

Also, the VVA Veteran for December 1984 had several informative articles on women Vets. One article was on a study done by the Air Force Institute of Technology. It indicated knowledge on PTSD among Air Force nurses to be inadequate. There was no mention of what, if anything, was being done to remedy the situation.

Another article told of a memorial bell tower built in New Hampshire in 1963 dedicated to all American women war dead.

The VVA Veteran also included a report on the seminar held in November at Salute II

I had the opportunity to attend "National Salute III" in Washington, D.C. this past Veterans' Day. Between two and three hundred thousand Vietnam veterans were there to take part in the unveiling of the statue. Cast in bronze, the three life like figures gaze at the names of over 58,000 comrades etched on black granite panels known as "The Wall". Were they looking for friends who had perished in the Vietnam conflict? Perhaps they are paying tribute to the many thousands who gave their lives or are still missing in action. Then again, maybe they are questioning the morality of the war. If the blood, sweat, and tears were for a worthy cause or all in vain.

The statue is so realistic, it leaves an eerie feeling that chills the bone. The combination of The Wall and the statue is something that must be visited to feel the total impact it has on one's self. If you are planning a visit back east in the near future, take time out to visit Washington. It will be an experience you won't forget.

Mike Buckley
V. Pres. 106

in Washington, D.C. The speaker was Lenora Cole Alexander, Director of the Department of Labor Women's Bureau. She spoke of steps the Bureau was taking to provide employment assistance to Women Veterans, specifically, research and development of projects to help women apply their military skills profitably in the civilian job market. Also continuing efforts to inform all veterans of employment programs such as the EVJTA and the Job Training Partnership Act.

Another article was about women veterans' VA benefits, which the VFW also addressed in their November 1984 issue. Both articles were based on a VA study indicating that female Veterans have not been using their military benefits to the same extent as male Veterans. Therefore, VA Administrator said special efforts are needed by the VA to assure women Veterans of their medical and other VA benefits eligibility. If anyone in Tucson needs information on VA benefits, contact the VA Regional Office at 622-6424.

Yolanda Hovey

The Women's Committee will meet January 23 at 7:00 p.m. at Barbara Porta's. Call 745-0350 for directions.

A big thanks goes to all who participated in the Food Drive project. Through your donations and untiring efforts, 16 baskets were given out. Special thanks to Dan and Cindy Glesinger, Bess Jones, Rachel Holland, Barbara Porta, Neil Gregerson, Chris Watson, Yolanda Randall.

The Women's Committee

FEDERAL MALPRACTICE BILL INTRODUCED

On January 17, 1974, Jerry Meagher entered the Balboa Naval Hospital in San Diego to have a cyst removed from his arm. A local anesthetic was administered, but Jerry could still feel pain. The local was given two more times with still no results and finally, he was given barbiturates, tranquilizers and narcotics to stop the pain. Though the operation was a success, Jerry had a cardiac arrest. He was saved, but the doctors did not place him in an intensive care unit for monitoring. While in a regular room he suffered another heart attack and by the time he was discovered he had entered into a coma resulting in brain damage and paralysis.

Then Representative Jim McNulty believes that military personnel have the right to sue the federal government for medical malpractice committed during peacetime. He presented Jerry's history in testimony given before a House Judiciary subcommittee last April in support of a bill he introduced to amend a section of the US Code to allow members of the armed forces to sue the US for damages resulting from medical malpractice. In addition, he has introduced five private bills last August that would allow five servicemen or their families to sue the government on this basis.

The legislation is being strongly challenged by the Department of Defense which says it could set a precedent for suits against the military under unlimited circumstances including during times of war. The major point of contention is a 1950 US Supreme Court ruling called the Feres Doctrine which bars military people and families from suing the government. Mrs. Meagher, however, said the doctrine doesn't hold water. She says she would not have a problem understanding her son's situation if he had been wounded in battle, but it was peacetime and came through the incompetence of poor medical procedures.

Jerry does receive 100 percent disability and assistance from the Veterans Administration, but this does not nearly match the additional \$1,000-\$1,500 a month the Meaghers use of their own money to care for him. Mrs. Meagher is afraid there won't be sufficient funds to ensure the life Jerry has left will be the best possible with excellent care when and if his parents are no longer to do it themselves.

Letters Etc.

The opinions and viewpoints expressed here are those of individual members and do not represent the Vietnam Veterans of America nor is the VVA responsible for the contents of any letters, poems, cartoons or thoughts expressed here. We welcome any correspondence and will make this a forum for all members and readers.

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS AND LONELINESS

You feel out of place,
You feel like society thinks you
have a contagious disease.
Some people think you are an animal,
people won't get close, they might catch
your sickness.
You feel lost and forgotten,
you even forget simple little things.
You won't let people get close, they
might get the wrong idea.
You want to spill your guts,
but will people really understand?
You feel worthless, the world doesn't
need another bum.
You become depressed, you withdraw
your existence, you pull your head in,
like a turtle hiding in his shell.
Others call to you, but you won't come,
you stay in your shell,
protection from the steam roller of life.
A false protection, the end result,
just a strain, a smudge.
A life that once was, but is no more,
a soul lost and forgotten.
A man or woman that once longed for love and
understanding, a person that was frightened.
A lonely human that would not open
up and let others in.

Reprinted from THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER TO THE
FORGOTTEN SOLDIER
VVA Chapter 9, Detroit.

Dear Mr. Randall:

I feel very honored and privileged to have
been selected to receive the Spring, 1985
Vietnam Veterans of America Scholarship
Award.

You and the other members of Chapter 106
are among those most aware of the diffi-
culties we vets face in striving to dev-
elop skills so that we and our families
may live independent and rewarding lives.
We seek no handouts, but just a chance to
learn and work. It's a challenge carry-
ing a full time load as a working, mar-
ried student but, like other vets, I re-
cognize the value of higher education.
It's obvious that the members of Chapter
106 feel the same. To call your \$250.00
scholarship encouraging support would
understate just how much it will help my
wife and I out this Spring. I can't ex-
press in words how much we appreciate
such a substantial award.

Please pass our thanks on to the other
Chapter 106 members. Again, thank you
all very much.

Sincerely,

Lawrence J. Sylvain

IN MEMORIAM

DATE OF CASUALTY - SEPT 16, 1963

PUEBLO HIGH GRAD

Vietnam Wounds Fatal To Tucson Soldier

Army Pfc. Jose Manuel Ques-
ney, 21, of Tucson has died in
Vietnam of wounds suffered in
battle.

He was the son of Mr. and
Mrs. Jose B. Quesney, 737 E.
33rd St. He died Monday in a
Vietnam hospital.

Pfc. Quesney was attached to
B Company, 2nd Battalion, 506th
Infantry, 101st Airborne Divi-
sion.

He was a 1966 graduate of
Pueblo High School and at-
tended the University of Ari-
zona for one year, aiming to-
ward a degree in architecture,
before entering the Army last
year.

Besides his parents, he is sur-
vived by a sister, Mary Helen,
of Tucson.

The body will be returned to
Tucson for services and burial.



Jose M. Quesney

PRISONERS OF WAR



1st Lt. Ronald L. Babcock, Tucson,
Arizona and his observer, Fred
Mooney of Killeen, Texas were
reported missing in action on Feb. 27,
1971 in southwest Laos. Lt. Babcock
was flying an LOH chopper which had
been hit and lost the rotor power. Both
men were seen leaving the crash site
but apparently were hit by ground fire.
No word has been received about them
since. Status was changed in less than
a year from MIA to KIA with no
tangible evidence that the family will
buy.

Lt. Babcock had graduated from
college with a degree in Forestry and
was anxious to get home and get on
with his career. Fred Mooney's tour
was to be over in May and his plans
were to return to Killeen, Texas and
continue his life with his wife and four
children. Both families would like
these men returned alive and pronto.
If that can't be then please give us the
common courtesy of returning any
remains that may be held.

Mrs. Marie Babcock

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk!

"Quality...uncompromising
and unchanging."

-Frederic Miller, 1855



Scuttlebutt

The Monsoon Tribune is proud to announce the inauguration of a new concept television station, Channel 68-KTET TV. Owned and operated by Rock Ape Enterprises, a for profit VietVet organization, KTET will present the finest in elephant grass entertainment accentuated by nuoc-man flavor. He is the tentative fall line-up-

"SPOOKY"-Craig Hilts and Neil Gregerson team up as guitar strumming troubadours frequently aboard an AC-47 gunship in this musical action series. Whenever the going gets tough, the dynamic duo break out with their million seller and millionth rendition of the song, "SPOOKY", whether reggae, country, polka, rock, etc. Backed up by the Classics IV and the entire Seventh Air Force featuring Gen. William Momyer on drums. Filmed on location in Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Laguna Beach.

I WAS A TEENAGE ROCK AND ROLLER"- Predicted to be one of the most popular shows of the season. Dan Glessinger, formerly a Slim Whitman Imitators International Guild member, stars in this spinoff from the old series, "Dobie Gillis." He plays Zulu Equinox Krebs, Zek for short, the son of Maynard G. Krebs, good beatnik buddy of Dobie. Zek answers his country's call to serve in Nam, but continually attempts to convince the brass to pacify South Vietnam by using Tiny Tim, rock and roll and a continual dosing of beatnik philosophy. Featured are those heavy duty guitar burners Nguyen Cao Cy, Dean Rusk and Lawrence Welk who will astound you with his rendition of "Inna A Gadda Da Vida."

"CRAPPY DAYS"-Dick Koppe stars as Richie Bunningham, typical American teenager, attempting to survive the trails and tribulations of youth in South Vietnam, slightly west of Madison. Follow Richie growing up with Fonzie, Pottsy and Ralph (all in the 101st) and last, but not least, his family-Howard, a First Sergeant in charge of hardware supply; Marion; with the Vietnamese USO; and Joanie, trying to invent the hula hoop near An Khe. Its a slice of Americana as real as nuoc-man and sardines.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WALL

By John Rowan
Queens Chapter #32

In Washington, D.C.
on a low grassy hill
carved on a long sloping wall
made of shiny black granite
are the names of 59,000 odd men
and six women
this is the official list
of the dead from the Vietnam War

But there is another side of this wall
also containing a list
of an equal number of names
steadily growing
of those men and women
who are also victims of the Vietnam War

They died away from the field of battle
so they are not as noticeable
sometimes their deaths were self-inflicted
ending years of inner torment
sometimes they succumbed to various diseases
caused by origins known but not admitted
sometimes death was at the end of a needle
trying to ease the pain in their minds

But no matter how they died
they are also KIA's
victims of the war
fought on the battlefields
of the VA hospitals
and the halls of Congress
and the list will continue to grow
on the other side of the wall
until those of us still living
can win the war of the peace

On October 1, 1984, Jerry Serino, President of the Mid-Hudson Valley Chapter of VVA, committed suicide, prompting me to write this poem. It is dedicated to him and all the others, some close friends-others unknown, who were the more recent victims of the Vietnam War.

RAFFLE TO BE HELD

Chapter 106 will be holding a raffle for the mutual benefit of 106 and the State Council. VVA State is in the early stages of incorporation as a separate entity and is in need of funding to cover legal costs. This is part of a joint effort by 106, 95 of Prescott, and a newly formed chapter in Casa Grande. As soon as State is incorporated as a non-profit organization, it can conduct its own fund-raising projects.

Tickets for the raffle will be available at the January meeting, with the prize to be a camera. More details will be forthcoming at the meeting. The drawing will be held at the February meeting. Seeyou at the meeting ready to pick up your lucky ticket.

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
Tucson, AZ 85712 323-1467

Rep. Morris Udall
300 N. Main St.
Tucson, AZ 85701 629-6404



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