

INTRODUCING VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Vietnam Veterans of America was recently characterized by *The Washington Post* as a small but feisty group who aggressively looks after the interests of Vietnam Veterans. I kind of like that portrayal. We are still strong inside and don't take any flack from anybody. Though we have perhaps mellowed with age, we are still willing to fight for what we feel is right, even if this bucks the trend.

VVA 106 has led the way in the veterans community of Tucson on the homeless issue. We have stuck with bulldog tenacity to the dream of Esperanza en Escalante until it has become a concrete reality and has gained the respect and support of a wide base of veterans groups and local and state institutions. Perhaps during this time you have paid your \$20 every year and done little else, perhaps you wondered why you were even doing that, perhaps you're not a member. Well, we are here to tell you that VVA 106 has been part of something big and something you as a Vietnam Veteran can be very proud.

Become a member and take the next step! Stride out of the shadows and become an active participant in VVA 106! Assist us in the realization of a dream that can be shared by everyone. It is less painful and much more satisfying than a hangover, and at times even approaches being lots of fun. Attending NAM JAM is only half the trip. Regaining the brotherhood is the frosting on the cake. Using that power and spiritual energy in making truly important things happen is what we're all about. Call today and get involved. 323-6798

Vietnam Veterans of America, founded in 1979, is the nation's only congressionally chartered Vietnam Veterans organization dedicated to improving the condition of Vietnam veterans and their families.

We are a nationally respected not-for-profit membership association that enjoys a well-earned reputation for effectiveness, integrity and meaningful achievement. VVA is on the cutting edge of all federal and state legislative and health programs that impact Vietnam-Era veterans. VVA has walked point on Agent Orange, PTSD, and Judicial Review. In the past year the VA tried to open the VA hospitals to non-veterans and was trying to make changes in the Vet Center system that would have certainly led to their elimination. VVA national and its state and local chapters played a major role in ambushing both of these attempts to further reduce services to our nations veterans.

Currently VVA members are canvassing all incumbent and aspiring members of congress to change the way veterans bills are treated in congress. At this time these bills are decided on in committee and never are debated on in the house or the senate. This second class treatment of vets needs to change and VVA is once again leading the fight.

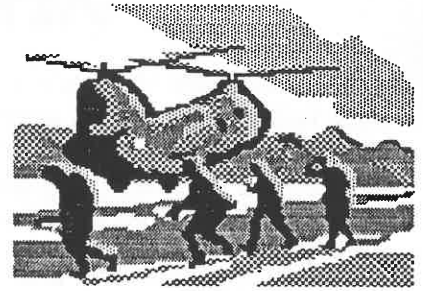
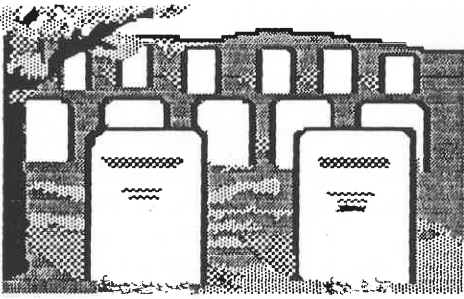
We are proud of our 44,000 plus members located throughout the nation. We come from all walks of life. We, as an organization, have members who are in need of assistance, and we also represent those who are able and willing to give of themselves. We have members who are former prisoners of war, US senators, former nurses, and children of Vietnam veterans.

VVA NATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. VVA Service Representatives provide advocacy for veterans in 35 states.
2. Assist in the maintenance of the Veterans Outreach Center program.
3. The only veterans organization with regular contact with the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) to discuss policies affecting veterans medical care.
4. The only chartered veterans group significantly addressing the problems of homeless vets.
5. With 35+ incarcerated Chapters, VVA has taken the lead in addressing issues impacting on incarcerated vets.
6. The only vets group actively recruiting multicultural and women members.
7. VVA National Committee on PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder) and Substance Abuse is working with state agencies and the DVA to develop innovative treatment approaches for Vietnam vets.
8. VVA Legal Services Program together with the National Veterans Legal Services Project are working to develop procedures that will make judicial review work to the benefit of the greatest number of veterans.

VVA 106 LOCAL ACTIVITIES

1. Actively assist and contribute to local organizations working with the homeless.
2. Maintain a contingency fund administered by the local VA Medical Center to meet veterans needs not addressed by governmental services.
3. Volunteer time at the local VA hospital and provide magazines and books for patients there.
4. Provide a contact and referral service to appropriate assistance agencies for Vietnam Era vets.
5. Family support and crisis assistance for Vietnam Era vets.
6. Produce NAM JAM, an annual get-together for Tucson veterans to renew old ties, provide a day of family fun, provide access to veteran service groups, and to maintain public awareness of the Vietnam veterans sacrifices for, and contributions to, the community.
7. Maintain a color guard which performs in various parades and ceremonies.
8. Offer educational programs on the Vietnam War and the Vietnam era to schools and other organizations.
9. Present the VVA Annual St. Patrick's Day Bike Ride.
10. We have spearheaded an effort to construct "Esperanza En Escalante", a 50 duplex housing complex that presents an innovative approach to alleviating the homeless problem in Tucson. It is estimated that one-third of all homeless persons are veterans. It is this population we have targeted for our housing project. In addition to having secured the physical site and created architectural plans for the complex and grounds, we have been awarded CDBG grants through the City of Tucson as well as Pima County and State of Arizona trust fund monies. We are actively seeking federal and private funding also. Construction is currently underway on this project.



(602) 323 - 6798

Vietnam Veterans of America

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America is open to Vietnam-era Veterans, Associate Membership to the public at large

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

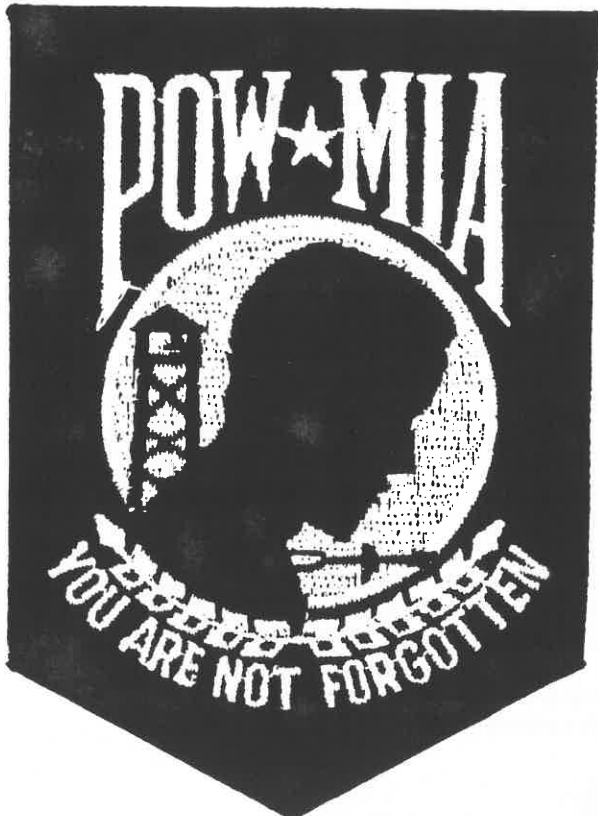
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

\$20 Annual Dues enclosed _____ Vietnam era Veteran _____ Copy of DD214 enclosed _____ Associate Member _____

Return to **Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.**
Chapter 106
P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, AZ 85717

Recruited by _____ Membership Number _____ Chapter No. _____

A CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED VETERAN'S SERVICE ORGANIZATION



When one American is not worth the effort to be found, we as Americans have lost.

POW/MIA'S 
IN SOUTHEAST ASIA STILL WAIT!

In addition to the opportunity to socialize with some fellow Arizona vets there will be some important issues discussed at the meeting. Among these will be the distribution of funds from the Speedway Outlet thrift store which solicits under the name of Vietnam Veterans of America. Right now this is the major source of funding for us and there is some uncertainty about its future.

VVA IO6 members John Shirley and Betty Slaybaugh will be formally recognized for their efforts with the transitional housing project in a ceremony after lunch. Both of these folks have given generously of their lives to keep this project going and deserve our support at this presentation.

Speaking of lunch, our representative at State Council, Vice President Mike Brasher, would like to show a little hospitality to our visitors by providing a pot luck lunch for them. This will be at the meeting site or on location at Esperanza en Escalante if weather permits.

To find out how you can help out with the POT LUCK LUNCH, Saturday, January 23, call Mike Brasher at 298-6426.

HOUSING PROJECT IN DIRE NEED OF VOLUNTEERS

Construction team leader Max Clark and architect/planner Frank Thompson have issued a desperate call for volunteers to help finish up the first duplex at Esperanza en Escalante before the end of the month.

The project is hard up against a deadline. The original long-term lease on the property from the federal government stipulates that we will have one completed unit on site by the end of January 1993. This unit, which has been built entirely with volunteer labor, is ALMOST complete but with recent rains the schedule has been set back considerably. Max feels we can beat this deadline if he can just get some of the

membership out on the location in the next few weeks to lend a hand.

Work is going on Tuesday through Saturday from very early to much too late. If you have any questions call the E&E on site number 571-8194.

According to Max there is all different kinds of work that needs doing so you don't have to be a skilled tradesman to be of help.

annual bike ride to benefit Esperanza En Escalante MARCH 20th

The bike ride is on the road again! As in past years there will be something for everyone with lengthy endurance tests for the true aficionados and fun rides and other family oriented activities for the rest of us. It is a great day so mark your calendars right now and plan to attend.

If you would like to participate in the planning of the event or volunteer to help on the day of the action just give Mike Brasher (298-6426) or Betty Slaybaugh (296-7040) a call. They would love to hear from you.

1993 memberships due

1993 dues are, as they say, "DUE." VVA IO6 treasurer, Pete Duerr, encourages those of you who haven't already sent in your dues to send them directly to the chapter PO box to make these funds immediately available for our use. It seems the normal confusion and long term turn around on monies sent to national or state still exists. Our address:

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