

VIET VET MONSOON TRIBUNE

Issue 4

June 1993

Volume 7

DAY AND LOCATION CHANGE OF NEXT GENERAL MEETING, WEDNESDAY JUNE 23, VFW 10188, 345 E ROGER RD. IN THE ANNEX (little house) 7:30 p.m. THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING WILL NOT BE HELD AT VFW 549.

Members and officers have expressed an interest in changing the location of the general meetings. The meeting room at VFW 549 has been pre-empted by VFW state business. We will be holding the next general meeting on Wednesday June 23, at VFW 10188, 345 E. Roger Road as an interim measure before moving on to DAV 4 at 1245 N. 1st Ave...All future meetings beginning with the July 22nd General meeting will be at this location. Please come out and check out the facilities at 10188...you'll find these folks to be a warm group of vets to be with.

Last General Meeting

Officer Scott Campbell of the Tucson Police Department Gang Unit gave one of the best presentations I've seen in quite awhile. Scott brought along two former gang members to help present the realistic side of what's happening. Many questions were asked of the panel. Bottom line...pay more attention to what your children are doing and if you get the chance for a family outing, take another child along to instill the caring and concern as with your own. Please don't try to handle a situation by yourself unless you're absolutely sure of all the factors involved, and darn sure! Call the police, period. Just a tip...paint over the graffiti as soon as possible and change the color to a darker one, it doesn't look good on brown. Gangs are well rooted in Tucson history and it isn't going to go away tomorrow. But we can do some things to slow it down.

JUNE GUEST SPEAKER

Hard to beat the last act, but our next guest speaker is Doug Kreutz, Vietnam era veteran and feature writer for the Arizona Daily Star. Doug said, "I got my start with journalism during my military career." I asked Doug to give us some background and share some of the journalistic experiences that he found interesting during his years as a writer. I am sure you will enjoy this presentation as well as those to follow. If you don't show up don't gripe...You just missed it.

Memorial Day Weekend Recap

On Sunday May 30th, the traditional Memorial Day, VVA members Louie Leos and Gail Skinner posted colors at a V A Memorial Ceremony honoring World War II veterans at the hospital. Also in attendance were Chris Flandera and me, your prex. The guest speaker was Sam H. Sharp, Col US Army, Ret. who served in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. We thank Bob Taylor, chapter member and Volunteer Co-ordinator at the hospital for the invitation.

Later in the day Rich Defaco, Joe Schlacks, Dave Croteau, Chris Flandera and myself went on a hospital visit. Unattended we tackled the task of visiting every available veteran in the hospital and giving them cards made by Terry Rolingers' fifth and sixth grade classes at Lincoln Elementary School in Nogales. As Rich said to me, "Even though I've done this before, it psyches me up for three days before. The first time I see a smile on a veterans face I know it was worthwhile."

We visited with about 150 patients. Many of the nearly 600 were out on leave with relatives or other groups. Those folks that were left behind certainly deserved our attention. I want to tell you we literally walked through locked doors with the assistance of some of the staff. We even met a 101 year old female veteran. We all shared a sense of pride and fulfillment with this small gesture, and yes, it was hard to hold back a tear or two. I hope more folks can share this experience the next time we go out on Veterans Day.

Chapter 106 was also asked to participate in a Memorial Day ceremony at Southlawn Cemetery. Pete Duerr and I originally planned to only present a wreath at the ceremony but, as it turned out we were the VVA color guard, and Ann (of Petes' clan) and John Higgins presented the wreath. Also in attendance were Nancy Burkardt and sons, Esperanza en Escalante residents Willie and Gary plus several other new chapter participants. Thanks for coming!

I'm sorry I wasn't able to get some of this info into the last newsletter but the invites came a little late. That's why you've got to come to the general meetings!

Veterans Working with Veterans

This is a personal view and not necessarily that of the Chapter. Let me give you just a few reasons and a couple of examples of what happens when veterans work together.

1. On the local level two years ago VVAs' Transitional Housing Project came before the Tucson City Council for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) vote. The tally was a 3 to 4 vote against us. Steve Burkhardt, then president, called and sent letters to all veterans organizations asking for support. A special council meeting was called and Councilman Hagerty shifted his vote and Esperanza en Escalante got off to a start. We now have the privilege of saying, we started a project which is operating and has an assessed value of over 1/4 million dollars.

2. Working with other organizations allows us to offer more services to the veterans we serve. We as a Chapter are very limited in the services we can provide, we don't have a service officer or regular VA Rep outside of our volunteers. Where do the folks that call us go? Yes, we have been known to be vocal but that alone doesn't solve the problems, we rely on the other organizations to help provide the necessary service. Let us repay that commitment with our best participation as well.

3. On the National Level, VVA spearheaded many successful bills that have resulted in improved service and benefits to veterans, Agent Orange, POW/MIA, The VA Med system is greatly improved. Did we do this alone, NOT!

Who are we? Veterans. We all served proudly for our country at a time of need. It is not for me to judge the need, but my respect goes to the veteran who served in and during the time of the conflicts. Welcome Home to All My Brothers!

NAM JAM

How do I get one of those yellow or raspberry tee shirts? This is the most frequently asked questions of fellow vets! All you have to do is make a commitment to do NAM JAM from today when you show up, until the finish on October 10th. These colors are not given away and there is a price to pay. The price is your dedication to our veterans and the ability to complete the task you have chosen, nothing more or less. Be what YOU want to be and do what you can do right!

The next and following Nam Jam meetings are scheduled 1 hour before the general meetings at the prescribed locations, VFW 10188 in June and DAV 4 in July.

Chapter Outing: *FISH HOOK*

Fish Hook is located just outside of Benson and St David AZ, about 20 miles southeast of Tucson. Dave & Bernie Croteau checked on the availability of the property for the VVA Chapter overnight outing at Fish Hook. Yes! Scheduled for August 6th and 7th we will sponsor and pay for the event. In the heat of the summer this is a welcome relief. Nestled among the cottonwoods, this desert oasis has two ponds, one for fishing and one for swimming, plenty of space to be semi-private as well as RV hook-ups, shower and full facilities...a place the whole family can enjoy. The itinerary will include coming down the evening prior and preparing a pit and pig for overnight roasting, a little bit of BS and then a fine day of fishing, swimming and relaxation among friends. Bring a dish to share otherwise we'll only have pork, (a politician's dream!). Pay attention here, anyone reading this newsletter addressed to you is instructed to bring yourself, a friend or your family and share in the camaraderie. A detailed map will be in the next newsletter. Plan ahead for **August the 6th and 7th**. If you want to stay another day it is only \$5.00 per head.

In Memorial

On June 6th Nancy Burkhardt held a memorial get-together at her home, commemorating the death of her late husband and Chapter President, Steve Burkhardt. Nancy wishes to thank all who showed up and for the continued support shown to her and the children. "Thank you for your contributions at a time of need."

Summer is the time for flakes and fakes

Just yesterday I got a call from a citizen who received a solicitation from the Vietnam Veterans Association for a charitable contribution to a magic show for children. Folks, they're baaaaack! Individuals are out there again bilking honest people in our name. We have had at least two other encounters with these crooks in the past year and a half and have been able to chase them out of town and now they're back again. This individual that the lady talked to was more than willing to come right over and pick up her donation, **grab the cash and run!** Action is being taken now, you can help us by reporting any such activity to the chapter office and the Tucson Police Department as soon as possible. The quicker we can respond the better the odds are for prosecution. Let's catch these dirtbags and put them were they belong. **In JAIL!**

Calendar of Events

June 23, 1993 - Nam Jam Meeting at 6:00 p.m. General Meeting 7:30 p.m. Guest Speaker: Doug Kreutz, AZ Daily Star feature writer. Location: VFW 10,188, 345 E. Roger Road.

July 4, 1993 - Happy Birthday America! Have a safe holiday.

July 8, 1993 - VVA Board Meeting, 2914 E. 22nd St, 7:30 p.m., *I hope to see all the board members this time.* The meetings are open to all interested parties and anyone is welcome to attend.

July 22, 1993 - Nam Jam and General Meetings, with guest speaker (to be announced). Everybody is welcome at the new location.

August 6th and 7th, 1993 - VVA 106 Outing at Fish Hook, overnights, camaraderie, pig roast, family fun and relaxation. A map and details will be in the next newsletter.

FYI

A Combat Infantryman's Association is starting up. If you have a CIB and want more info contact:

Leo K. Kibble
Rural RT 2
Smethport, PA 16749

There is also a reunion planned for the 1st/50th Mechanized Battalion, contact:

Jack Knoble
3103 Clinton Ave
Richmond, CA 94804
(501) 234-0800

CAUTION

Carrying a Beeper may be hazardous to your health and may even be embarrassing. I, John Shirley, the current chapter president, now carry a digital beeper for quick response to incoming calls on the chapter phone. You may page me any time between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., Monday through Saturday by dialing 410-2755, punch in your phone number and end with the # sign, (beep any other time and I'll punch YOUR number! [Hilary]) I'll get back to you ASAP.

THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER IS THE 2ND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH

If you want to announce or contribute to the newsletter, PLEASE submit written copy for publication, only one person did this last time!

Late but not forgotten

Gail Skinner, an employee of C.D.O. High School has asked for assistance in giving presentations to 2 summer history classes at the school. Time is from 10:30 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. on Monday June 21st. Contact Gail at C.D.O. H.S. or at home 887-4030 for more details. This is one good way to share your experiences and possibly change the future.

Anything in the newsletter spin your prop?

Give us a call at 410-2755

Better yet come to any meeting and find a reward by getting involved!

Vietnam Veterans of America

A Congressionally Chartered Veteran's Organization

Membership is open to Vietnam-Era Veterans and Associate Membership is open to the Public at large



[] New Member

[] I am a Vietnam-Era Veteran (Jan. 1, 1959 - May 7, 1975)

Enclosed \$20.00 Annual Dues and copy of my DD Form 214.

[] I am NOT a Vietnam-Era Veteran and would like to be an Associate Member. Enclosed \$20.00 for Annual Dues.

[] Renewal of Membership # _____ Chapter # _____

Name _____ Gender _____ Phone # _____

Address _____ Social Security # _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Date of Birth _____

[] I want to donate more! Enclosed \$ _____ All Contributions are tax deductible

Recruited by _____ Membership # _____ Chapter No. _____

Return this form to:

Vietnam Veterans of America
Tucson Chapter 106
P. O. Box 40903
Tucson, Arizona 85717



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



Handwritten mark resembling a stylized 'D' or 'Q' in the bottom right corner.

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