

NAME ME

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I'm going to be coming to you in the mail once a month as your newsletter. I hope I can keep you informed about Chapter 106, the Vietnam Veterans of America and other issues that concern us all. First though, I need a name.

So I'm asking you, the members of Chapter 106, to name me. Send me your suggested name for me on a piece of paper along with your name, too. This is a contest with a prize for the winning entry, so be sure to put your name on the entry. In my next issue I'll print all the suggested names, and we'll vote on them. You can bring your suggested names for me to the next meeting, or mail them to me at: NEWSLETTER, Chapter 106, VVA, P. O. Box 40903, Tucson, AZ 85717. In the event of a tie, we'll have a drawing to determine the winner.

Some of my sibling newsletters from other VVA chapters are: The Listening Post Profile 47, The Starlight, Free Fire Zone and The Drop Zone. Some newsletters simply state the Chapter number and Vietnam Veterans of America.

NEWSLETTER, CHAPTER 106, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85717
VOLUME I, ISSUE 1 March 15, 1984

GENERAL WESTMORELAND CAPTURES THE
HEARTS AND MEMORIES OF ARIZ. VETERANS
by Richard Koppe, Jr.

FRAGMENTS

by Chuck Hovey

The Phoenix Hilton main ballroom was the scene for a glittering dinner gala held in honor of Viet Nam veterans and especially the veterans residing in Arizona. The dinner was originally planned for 400 veterans. When the tally was counted, over 800 Viet Nam veterans turned out to hear General Westmoreland on Tuesday, December 8th.

State Legislator, Jim Hartdegen, a Casa Grande resident, and a former in-country field medic during the Tet Offensive, heads up the VVLP in
(Cont. on page 5)

AGENT ORANGE UPDATE--The Supreme Court ruled in favor of Vietnam veterans pursuing a class action lawsuit against AGENT ORANGE manufactures and ordered the trial to begin May 7, 1984. Automatically included in this lawsuit are all persons who were in the Armed Forces of the U. S., Australia or New Zealand Armed Forces injured while in or near Vietnam by exposure; spouses, parents, and children of the veterans born before January 1, 1984, directly or derivatively injured as a result of exposure. Besides naming the five major
(cont'd on pg 3)

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DEADLINE: 10th of each month.

Mark TOTH
Craig Hilts
Chuck Hovey
Chuck Knippenberg

WHO, WHEN, WHERE, WHAT, HOW & WHY?

The essence of all communication boils down to answering these six questions. THAT is what we hope to do with this newsletter: communicate. We need to communicate with each other, with other chapters, with the local community and with other political leaders at the local, state and national levels. But mostly, we need to communicate with each other. Hopefully, this newsletter will partly serve that purpose by stimulating the members of Chapter 106 to meet together in common purpose, to overcome some of the problems we have as Vietnam Veterans, to set and accomplish goals as a community, and probably most importantly to help each other whenever and whatever the need. BUT, first we need to communicate with each other.

It's your newsletter just as Chapter 106 is your chapter. Is there something you wanted to bring up at meeting and didn't for whatever reason; or is there something on your mind that you would like to have discussed? Send it to the Newsletter, Chapter 106, VVA, PO Box 40903, Tucson, AZ 85717. As we expand the format of this yet to be named newsletter, we'll be able to include more material including poems, essays, photographs and cartoons. Are there any cartoonist reading this? I hope so. Photographers? Art?

BUSINESS & REPORTS

We have several committees in Chapter 106 at present; Public Affairs, Legislative, Fund Raising, Membership and Newsletter. Next month we're looking forward to publishing reports from these committees and having the President's, Vice-President's and Secretary's reports on a monthly basis. Hopefully, this will save considerable time at our monthly membership meetings and allow fuller participation of all members.

Remember April 26: Vietnam Era Vets Remembrance Day.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: First off, I would like to thank all who attended last month's meeting. I was pleased to see some new faces and some new "old faces

Ideas, questions, suggestions, etc., should be directed to the UAVA, 621-5971. *****Veterans who have been denied replacement of teeth may now be eligible for retroactive dental care. If you served for more than one enlistment and were denied replacement of teeth extracted during a prior period, you can apply for benefits at any VA health-care facility. Check with the VA to determine your eligibility.*****ARMY VIETVETS: Vietnam campaign stars are available now for many time periods of service in-country. Check page 6, of the VVA VETERAN, January, 1984, to determine which you are qualified for and then contact your respective records custodian in St. Louis-Commander, Reserve Components, Personnel and Administration Center, Box 12479, Olivette Branch, St. Louis, MO 63132. This address can also be used to correct SPN codes, etc. *****SPEAKING OF MEDALS, Congress has decided that VietVets should be awarded a Vietnam Medal, but are bogged down on the design, size, etc. More on this when information is available.*****Controversy is brewing over the VA allegedly diverting 40% of the Vet Center funds or \$40.3 million to nursing scholarships, hospital expenses or possibly returned to the Treasury. Congressional hearings are currently being held to determine the facts, but for some reason, the House Veterans Affairs Committee has left many wondering why they have not yet intervened.*****Congratulations to VFW Post 10188, Casas Adobes, on receiving their colors last November. The Post spent two nights showing a emotional film about one of seven VA hospitals which deal only with advance stress cases. The Post Commander's son recently completed this program and was on hand to answer pertinent questions. The sensitivity towards VietVets was evident and the Service Officer, Don Sommerfield, is a VietVet and anxious to help with any inquiries. If you're in the area of 1st Avenue near River Road, stop by and give your regards to another group who cares.*****April 26 is Vietnam Era Vets Remembrance Day-don't hesitate to contact your local, state and federal elected officials to inquire of their activities that day. Point is, if we let people forget, then we'll soon become the same. The idea of extravaganza sales by many merchants on Veterans' Day should be a major concern to all who served.*****Officially, the Vietnam War ended 11 years ago for the US, but there are 2,500 Americans unaccounted for in Southeast Asia. Of these, the DOD cites 1,900 missing in Vietnam and the remainder in Laos and Cambodia. The unaccounted for include Navy, 506; Marines, 294; Air Forces, 948; Army, 765; Coast Guard, 1; and civilians, 46.*****If you possess Fragments, please send to the newsletter care of the VVA PO Box or bring the info to our next meeting. Information is vital to help us help each other.*****

DINNER FOR 400? ***** Or three hundred. We don't know for sure yet, but the plans are for a dinner in Tucson at the Holiday Inn Holidome on May 29, 1984, to honor Vietnam Veterans. Chapter 106 is sponsoring the dinner in conjunction with VFW Post 8323, who are sponsoring a Vietnam veterans memorial to be placed in Presidio Park. Present plans are for the memorial to be dedicate on the same day as the Chapter 106 dinner. We are inviting several local state and federal official, and this would be an excellent opportunity

for all of us to meet them and make our viewpoints known. Tickets are \$20.00 each and tickets and reservations will be available the second week in April at VFW Posts or by calling 745-6403 or 792-0046.

(WESTMORELAND cont.) Arizona and put the dinner together. The plan was simple and worked better than anyone expected. A massive mailing to private business firms throughout the Phoenix and Tucson areas was made to invite these businesses to buy entire tables and give the tickets to their Vietnam veteran employees and to donate the tickets through the Vet Centers for those who could not afford the price of the dinner. One large firm in the Phoenix area donated ten tables - 100 tickets at \$20.00 each - now that's commitment by private industry to vets.

Jim Hartdegen was the Master of Ceremonies and his theme was that "This dinner is important because everyone needs to know and remember the Viet Nam veteran for what he or she is, a good citizen." Congressman John McCain (R) Arizona, conducted the opening remarks and thanked the Vet Centers in Tucson and Phoenix and the industries who helped sponsor the event. Congressman McCain, a Lt. Cmdr. in the Navy during the War, was shot down in 1967 over North Vietnam and was held as a POW until 1973.

General Westmoreland's (Now living in Spartanburg, SC.) opening shot was "The men and women who served in Vietnam did a heck of a job against the enemy despite a lack of political support at home. What I'm really saying is that you fellows who fought in Viet Nam didn't lose the war. I don't think that any troops could have done better than you did." He also said, "The US Forces had the North Vietnamese on the ropes following the Tet Offensive in 1968, but let them off. I don't have to remind you, because many of you were there, we licked the living hell out of the enemy at Tet. Our political leadership did not feel they had the political support to continue the war and pay the costs that would have accrued by taking the fight to the enemy when he was weak." Although South Vietnam was lost, Westmoreland said U. S. involvement allowed other countries in Southeastern Asia significant time to improve their political, military and economic stability so as to prevent the spread of Russian and Chinese communism to these strategic countries, and that that alone was worth the cause.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

Our next meeting is Thursday, March 29, 1984, at 7:30 PM at the Broadway Christian Church, 4741 E. Broadway. That's just east of Swan. There's ample parking and the meeting is handicap accessible. Restrooms, coffee and doughnuts will be available.

At the meeting, we're scheduled to have a guest speaker, Donna Lominac, from the University of Phoenix in Tucson, which is an accredited university that offers degree completion programs for the Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Business and Management. At our December 1, 1983 meeting we had two guest speakers who were both informed and informative about veterans. So bring yourself, your spouse, a friend, and by all means, prospective members.

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Chapter 106 has several ambitious projects in the works to raise funds for the chapter and its activities. Two of the projects in the works are the dinner scheduled for May 29, 1984 (See Dinner for 400 article.) and a raffle. The prizes and schedule for the raffle have not been set as of yet. As things become more definite, we'll print it in the newsletter. Another project in the works is the 4th Avenue Street Fair. (See the next item.)

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FREE - MARCH 30, 31 and APRIL 1 - FREE: Those are the dates of the 4th Avenue Street Fair. We will have a booth for recruiting new members and informing the public about ourselves. We have free sunshine. You have free time (Oh, yes you do.). Let's put them together and expand our horizons and membership. So sign up at the next meeting or call Craig Hilts in the evenings at 882-3010. If you're not sure what your schedule will be, just drop on by the booth and help out. Even if it's only for a few hours.

BULLETIN BOARD

- NEEDED:** And wanted. One or more of our sisters to get involved with and write for our newsletter about issues that concern our sisters. More, too, if you want. There are some issues that concern our sisters that really concern us all, and that need to be addressed. Awareness is the first step. Contact Chuck Knippenberg through the newsletter or see him at the next meeting.
- NEEDED:** An advertising person to help with the advertising for our newsletter. Or persons. We hope to have our newsletter self-supporting within three or four months, and we need someone to help sell advertising for the newsletter. Contact Chuck Knippenberg at the next meeting or through the newsletter.
- NEEDED:** One IBM Selectric typewriter or similar typewriter in good working condition for use by the newsletter staff. We'll be happy for the

use of one for one week a month at this point. If you have or have knowledge of where we could get such a typewriter, contact Chuck Knippenberg at the next meeting.

UNTITLED POEM
by Jim Randall

I pledged allegiance to the flag,
And all I got was sorrow.
My yesterdays consume my thoughts,
And rob me of tomorrow.

I played the game, obeyed their rules,
And still they wanted more.
But when I dared to question them,
They shut the door.

Now here I stand a lonely man,
Confused at self worth.
I pledged allegiance to the flag,
And they covered me with earth.

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GOT THE MEETING TIME BLUES?

"Hill Street Blues" fans! We know why you've missed a few meetings. Nobody will keep you up to date on Mick "Dog Breath" Belker. Here' your chance to do something about it. Fill this in and bring it to the next meeting. Or mail it to Chapter 106, ATTN: Meeting.

Best day for Meeting _____
Pick Monday through Sunday evening or Saturday day or Sunday day.

Second best day and time _____

We'll assess two points for your first choice and one point for your second choice. If you don't vote, don't gripe.



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 _____

\$9.00 Annual National Dues _____ Chapter Affiliation Fee _____ Total _____

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.

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

Your Local Chapter No. _____

New Member or Renewal
Membership Card No. _____