

Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

VOLUME II ISSUE 3

VVA Chapter 106

MARCH 1985

CALENDAR

- MARCH 28 VVA General Meeting will be held at the Disabled American Veterans Hall, Chapter 18, 4656 E. 1st St., at 7:30 p.m. See map on back page.
- MARCH 29-30 POW/MIA conference to be held at the Doubletree Inn.
- APRIL 10 Women's Committee Meeting. Call 790-7602 for details and location.
- APRIL 11 VVA Board Meeting. Location to be announced.
- APRIL 12-14 Street Fair on 4th Avenue. See article inside.
- APRIL 25 VVA General Meeting, same time, same place.

BRING YOUR CANS TO THE MEETINGS, or any other non-perishable food items. If you are unable to attend, call the VVA 106 number (790-7602) for a pickup. These items will be used to help our brothers and sisters in need.

An Interview with Bart Graves

By Chris R. Martin

February is a ratings sweep month for television networks and according to Bart Graves, KOLD News Reporter, this was one of the reasons for a Vietnam Veterans story.

The main motivation behind the interview, however, is that the Vietnam Veteran has a story to tell and it's time someone told it, Graves said.

The story idea to highlight the VietVet for the past decade since the fall of Saigon was kicked around the KOLD News Department (a CBS affiliate) for sometime.

Bart graduated from high school in 1973 and feels he was too young to have been affected by the war. That is not to say he was not interested in the Vietnam Period subject matter.

Graves, who has a telecommunications degree from Northern Arizona University said he has read Everything We Had by Al Santoli; Charlie Company, Peter Goldman and Tony Fuller's lauded work, and Vietnam: A History by Stanley Karnow. In addition he has talked with many VietVets. This particular interview with Dane Roth, Chuck Hovey and Cliff Tracy shed some new light on a very difficult and continuing story.

Graves noted the interview was done in three 16 minute tape segments. The first taping dealt with what the three Vets had done since returning from Vietnam.

He wanted to ease into difficult subject matter and so made the vets comfortable by dividing the taping into three sections and taking

appropriate breaks. Bart said he felt he was able to get the trio to reveal things they had not been willing to discuss earlier.

A specific question Graves asked was whether Tracy, Roth and Hovey considered themselves successful. One reason he broached the topic was many Vets had returned home to make a new beginning, but ended up killing themselves. Graves wanted to know more about those who continued to struggle with life after the reality of the war.

According to the three vets, "not everyone is out of the woods." The three indicated that many vets can't understand why they're still around and some finally succumb to that feeling.

Bart has friends who are Vietnam Veterans and he has an idea of what is happening to them.

"People who saw action didn't talk about the war when they returned home," Graves said. "Many (at home) didn't want to hear about it and so ignored the plight of the vets."

People are now beginning to listen and Graves would like to help them understand the hell many of the vets went through.

"I wanted to show the viewers the anguish the men had experienced by using background (war) footage," Graves stated. Thus he intertwined the interview with war footage taken during the Tet Offensive of 1968.

Graves told Chuck Hovey the reason he did the story this way was to get people to "put down their beers and pay attention."

What he didn't want to do is give a public service announcement saying

"support your local VietVet." The story was done in such a way as not to be construed as a service announcement, but rather just plain talk on life after death for the Vietnam Veteran.

Graves had complete authority over writing the script, but the News Producer had final say on the finished product. One of the problems the producer had was a statement Graves made saying it was an "unpopular war that we lost." The line was changed to "It was a war we fought and many felt we lost."

One of the most fascinating parts of the interview, according to Bart, was discovering that Cliff had been out of Vietnam at least a decade and had not talked with anyone about the war until he went to the Vet Center last summer.

"I was sitting there in awe as he was talking," Graves said. "Here was a guy who kept it inside all these years and he never exploded."

Graves went on to say that he respected Dane for having a good outlook on life even after what he went through.

"Dane lives in constant pain, but still has a good attitude about life. He appears to be someone who has his life together and I respect him for that," Graves said.

Graves said he set the story up with Chuck Hovey because he didn't want to do a public relations rap for the Veterans Administration and wanted to talk with people who had seen action.

Continued on page 5

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

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Fragments

By Chuck Hovey

The "Agent Orange Review" is published by the VA to provide information on this topic. If you would like your name added to the "Review" mailing list, please send your name, complete address and SSN to the VA Data Processing Center (200/392), 1615 E. Woodward St., Austin, TX 78772, ATTN: Agent Orange Clerk.

The Third Marine Division Association Family Reunion is scheduled for July 17-21, 1985, at the renown Marriot Hotel, San Antonio, Texas. Contact Secretary Donald DeCamara, 36 Oak In The Wood, Daytona Beach, FL 32019 or call (904) 788-7380.

TAX DEDUCTIONS FOR VOLUNTEER WORK! One of the provisions of the Deficit Reduction Act of 1984, Public Law 98-368, increases from nine cents a mile to 12 cents a mile the tax deduction for use of a passenger automobile for charitable volunteer work for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1984. For computing deductions for 1984, the nine cents a mile rate will apply as in 1983. Additionally, Gas and oil can be included in this as well as any "overnight" expenses or convention costs.

F.A.W.N.-Families and Womens Network-is an organization for Veterans, families, spouses and/or "significant others." If you are interested in learning more, contact:
Joan Maiman
300 North State St. Ste#3409
Chicago, IL 60610

A Judicial Review, H.R. 585, has been introduced by Rep. Don Edwards (D-CA) to allow Veterans to pursue compensation/disability rulings through the court system. As many of you are aware, the VA possesses the final word currently. The proposed legislation has 80 co-sponsors and nine of the 34 House Veterans Affairs Committee Members has signed on as of February, 1985.

The application closing date for the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act has passed, but the VVA is working feverishly to have the program continued. VVA would like to see a four-year reauthorization at a funding level of \$100 million per year. The unemployment rate among VietVets continues to be extraordinarily high particularly among age group 25-39. Department of Labor statistics show this rate to be 12.3% which adds even greater emphasis towards extending the EVJTA. President Reagan, however, has already expressed his opposition to any further funding of the Veterans' program.

Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA) introduced S. 8 and Chairman G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery introduced H.R. 512 in another effort to grant the VVA a federal charter. Initial efforts will be placed on the Senate where opposition from Senator Jeremiah Denton (R-AL), former Vietnam War POW, and the VFW National proved to be effective. The Senate bill has 28 co-sponsors and clearly needs more.

Historically speaking, the following are available for any inquiries you may have:

Office of Air Force History
Bolling AFB Bldg 5681
Washington, DC 20332

Albert F. Simpson Historical
Research Center (USAF)
(AFSHRC/HD)
Maxwell AFB, AL 36112

Army Military History Institute
Department of Defense
Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013

Navy Historical Center
Department of the NAVY
Washington Navy Yard, 9th&M Sts, SE
Washington, DC 20374

Marine Corps Historical Center
Washington Navy Yard, 9th&M Sts, SE
Washington, DC 20374

Joint Chiefs of Staff Historical Div.
JCS Dept of Defense, The Pentagon
Room 1A714
Washington, DC 20301

Eligible Widow/ers of Veterans may be forfeiting their right to monthly pension checks if they fail to apply. This is not an automatic grant and guidelines do apply: you must have been the spouse of an honorably discharged Vet at the time of death; the spouse must have served in war-time for at least 90 days; and income limitations established by law must be met as a basis for entitlement to pension. If you have questions, contact the VA or Arizona Vets Service Commission.

Veterans of the Chosin Reservoir Campaign in the Korean War are now organizing their own fraternity and a major reunion is being planned for this year. Membership is open to all survivors of the campaign regardless of branch or allied service who served in, around or above the Reservoir. The 1985 National Reunion is scheduled for the Chosin anniversary dates in San Diego, California. For more information, contact Tom Gregory, (803) 525-6382 or Frank Kerr (617) 925-1529.

Edward Sewell, VietVet 1967-73, would like to hear from ZYR/ZYS Troops and anyone knowing the whereabouts of Sam Flanders and Shep. Contact him at 5531 W. Whitton, Phoenix, AZ 85031.

Cecil T. Whitson, VietVet 1969-70, needs to hear from men he served with in Fox Company, 2nd Bn, 5th MarDiv in the An Hui Area; especially from 3d Squad, 1st Platoon. Write him at 3540 Park Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55407.

Opposition is growing to another agency scheduled to be hatched by the Reagan Administration-The Small Business Administration-and voices of SBA support are beginning to be heard. Supporters are challenging White House insensitivity to an agency that has already lent \$312 million to Vietnam Era Veterans by July of last year and targeted this group for intensive support. 10,000 Vets attended SBA business conferences and over 80,000 received special business counseling last year. An additional 80,000 are projected for the counseling service this year alone.

SKY PILOTS: The Army is conducting a history of chaplains during the Vietnam War. For further information, contact:

Chaplain (COL) Henry F. Ackermann
Office of the Chief of Chaplains
Dept of the Army Rm 1E416 Pentagon
Washington, DC 20310-2700
(202) 695-1007/1107

The California Employment Development Department recently completed a study of unemployed Veterans and the results are not encouraging. The research, funded by the Department of Labor, indicated the following:

*Surveyed VietVets were unemployed for an average of 50 weeks longer than those Veterans with no service in Vietnam and 31 weeks longer than the average for all unemployed Vets.

*Vietnam theatre Vets had a median income of 37% lower than Vietnam-Era Veterans with no service in Vietnam.

Benton Musselwhite, an attorney prominent in the Agent Orange Class Action suit, and Citizen Soldier, a New York based Vets organization, have filed a motion with Judge Weinstein requesting him to:

*rescind his January 7, 1985, order approving the settlement so time for further appeals stops running.
*extend the deadline for filing claims until March 15, 1985;
*conduct public hearings on the proposed distribution plan;
*reopen the opt-out procedure for 60 days once the distribution plan is announced;

*convene a jury trial to decide the issue of generic causation and to determine which health effects were caused by Agent Orange exposure. It is expected that the motion will be denied by the judge, but distribution of the settlement fund will be delayed.

The Army is considering returning mules to active duty. A small group of Army staff officers met recently at the behest of the Army Chief of Staff and resolved to study the possibility of reenlisting mules. Gen. John A. Wickham Jr., the Army Chief of Staff, directed the 10th Mountain Light Infantry Division to have training in mule handling and in turn asked his staff to place a small group of mules with that division for testing purposes. The 10th Division was activated last month and is being formed at Fort Drum, New York.

A Maricopa County Superior Court Jury rejected the contention of Shawn Jensen that he was suffering a flashback to his days in Vietnam when he slayed two teenagers. Jensen, 35, did not deny the two murders, in March, 1973, and was convicted later that year. After being sentenced to life in prison, a Superior Court Judge granted him a new trial on the grounds that new medical evidence about post-Vietnam stress had been discovered. The new jury, however, refused to accept the evidence and a guilty verdict was rendered. Oddly enough, the prosecuting attorney, Michael Ryan, is a wheelchair bound VietVet as a result of injuries suffered there.

Don't forget to attend the UPDATE 85 meeting for all Arizona POW/MIA Families on March 29-30. All concerned citizens, organizations and others are cordially invited to the Aztec Inn, 102 N. Alvernon, Tucson. Friday evening offers Vietnam History from Chapter #106's Chuck Hovey, Intelligence Background, and a general meeting of old and new friends. Saturday features a POW update, the appearance of Laird Guttererson (returned POW), various POW organizations and a banquet beginning at 7:00 featuring COL Earl Hopper (ret.), an MIA father. If you want to go to the banquet, please send \$10 per person to Marie Babcock, 6642 E. Broadway, Tucson 85710. It will be an informative, educational and somber affair, but one well worth it.

Did you know the Olympia National Forest in Washington State is the home of more than 1000 Vietnam Veterans who cannot adjust to society. These men and women, some of whom have been there for years, now have satellite outreach centers available due to the efforts of VVA Member Mike McWatters and the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs. There are thousands of these "trip-wire" Vets across the country shunning populated areas to live in rural environments. They need our support and perhaps an outreach center south of Tucson.

The vigil for recognition of our unaccounted for missing brothers and sisters continues at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. Many have stood vigil at the "wall" to bring about awareness for the MIA/POWs. To find out how you can take part in this valiant effort, write to American Foundation For Accountability PO Box 6278 Alexandria, VA 22306
AFFA is a non-profit organization dedicated to informing the American public of the fact that American Servicemen, civilians and others are still being held as Prisoners of War in Southeast Asia.

****Korean War Statistics****
June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953
Number Serving In Korea 5,764,143
Battle Deaths 33,629
Other Deaths 20,617
Wounds Not Mortal 103,284
Total.....157,530

Current Korean Vet Population 5,266,000
Service In WWII 1,033,000
No Service In WWII 4,233,000
Congressional Medals of Honor 131
SOURCE: VA

Fragments (con't.)

Bill Temple, a disabled Korean War Vet from Pennsylvania, and a growing number of other Korean War Vets are convinced that the government has a moral obligation to build a Korean War Memorial. To them, this would avoid exorbitant fees to fund-raisers and avoid conflict about where the money goes. Righting the wrong of being the only American war not commemorated by some kind of memorial in Washington has become somewhat disillusioning. A fund-raising committee for the monument became ensnarled with the government over whose responsibility the memorial was disappointing Temple and many other vets who hoped the committee would right the 31-year old wrong. Let's help our brothers and sisters achieve their goal. Send a message to your elected representative now supporting a memorial. And above all, if someone identifies him/herself as a Korean Vet, welcome them home. We know how it feels and they deserve the same warmth.

A November 1, 1984 Report by the House Committee on Government Operations found that many private mental health therapists and VA mental health professions, due to lack of experience and training, are skeptical that PTSD is a legitimate disorder and do not provide adequate treatment for PTSD. This reluctance of the VA staff to accept PTSD as a mental disorder often results in misdiagnosis—primarily depression, anti-social personality disorder and paranoid schizophrenia. Therefore, this results in a lack of proper treatment and aggravation of the veteran's basic mental disorder. Many of us have known this for years.

According to a VA Report, COIN CP-130, as of October 6, 1984, a total of 9,197 Veterans from all eras were considered service connected disabled with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. A list of the number of Vets from all eras and their particular percent of disability ratings follows:

0%.....226
10%.....3,295
30%.....3,095
50%.....1,408
70%.....330
100%.....843

Here is the breakdown for particular eras of service:

WWII.....1,567
Korea.....239
Peace Time...112
Vietnam Era...7,273
Other.....6

The Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402, offers the following which may be of interest to you:

Armed Forces Decorations and Awards Poster, 008-001-00140-1, \$1.25 ea

Operation RANCH HAND: The Air Force and Herbicides In Southeast Asia, 1961-71, 008-070-00466-6, \$8.50

US Army Special Forces, 1961-71, 008-020-00448-1, \$6.50

The Manual For Courts-Martial, United States, 1984, 008-000-00403-0, \$13.00, (an everpopular selection; endeared to our hearts and wallets)

USMC, An Expanding War, 1966, 008-055-00160-9, \$9.00

Approximately 3000 Women Veterans nationwide will be polled by Louis Harris and Associates under a contract from the VA. The data will be used to plan for the future care of Women Veterans. Specifically, the survey will provide needs and demographics for Women Vets and information the VA can use to establish baseline data for the current population; their knowledge of and attitudes towards the usage of VA programs; and to estimate the future support needed for this expanding group of Veterans. Additionally, the survey will attempt to provide answers concerning the impact of increased demands on VA programs and benefits for all Women Veterans.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH FROM VVA VETERAN:

"We tried to fool the American public. We ended up fooling ourselves. It came to explain, at least in part, how we came to lose the war."--former CIA analyst Sam Adams, testifying in the CBS/Westmoreland trial. Adams added that "perhaps as much as a third, perhaps half" of US deaths in Vietnam were men killed by enemy troops "who weren't on the formal Order of Battle."

National Headlines

VETERANS COMMITTEE REORGANIZED

The House Veterans Affairs Committee has been reconstituted and the following is a list of members as of January 30, 1985:

Democrats

G.V. (Sonny) Montgomery, Chmn
Don Edwards-CA
Bob Edgar-PA
Sam B. Hall, Jr.-TX
Douglas Applegate-OH
Richard C. Shelby-AL
Dan Mica-FL
Thomas A. Daschle-SD
Wayne Dowdy-MS
Lane Evans-IL
Marcy Kaptur-OH
Alan B. Mollohan-WVA
Timothy J. Penny-MN
Harley O. Staggers-WVA
J. Roy Rowland-GA
John Bryant-TX
James J. Florio-NJ
Kenneth J. Gray-IL
Paul E. Kanjorski-PA
Tommy F. Robinson-AR

Republicans

John Paul Hammerschmidt-AR
Chalmers P. Wylie-OH
Elwood Hillis-IN
Gerald B.H. Solomon-NY
Bob McEwen-OH
Christopher H. Smith-NJ
Dan Burton-IN
Don Sundquist-TN
Michael Bilirakis-FL
Nancy Lee Johnson-CT
Guy V. Molinari-NY
Thomas J. Ridge-PA
William M. Hendon-NC
John G. Rowland-CT

VA MORTGAGE DEFAULTS

The recent upturn in the economy should help some Veteran homeowners who have had difficulty meeting their mortgage obligations due to layoffs or reduced employment. In March, 1983, according to the VA, 104,000 loans were in default meaning loans were delinquent three months or more. In 1983 alone, the VA acquired 21,411 defaulted properties valued at \$722 million compared with 16,656 homes valued at \$587 million in 1982; 13,326 parcels at \$352 million in 1981; and 11,549 homes valued at \$234 million in 1980. If you are having problems, the VA urges you to contact them now.

HOMELESS VETS

As has been largely publicized as of late, the rate of "chronic homeless" in the USA is growing steadily to a present estimated figure of 2.5 million. Many of these people are new to the streets, victims of the country's recent recession.

Most startling, according to USA Today's Dec 21st issue, a study in Los Angeles which purportedly has the largest homeless population in the USA, revealed that "nearly half of the men interviewed at soup kitchens and shelters were military veterans." Another statistic revealed "a high percentage of all indigents were under 40, high school educated, and new to the streets. It becomes obvious, given this data, that many of these new homeless are Vietnam Vets and their families... victims of unemployment, stress problems, and physical disabilities (A0?) directly related to their war experience.

It does make one wonder at the justice...these high proportions of men and women from all wars who have given so much to their country...How must they feel, finding themselves lost and ignored after such a sacrifice?

Consider the true horror of the homeless Vet. It is reflected in the burial, on December 27th, of one World War II Vet in Arlington Cemetery...this homeless Vet froze to death just across the street from the White House...

"Coming Home"
Chapter #95
Prescott

DON'T FORGET
HIRE A VET

PTSD AWARD GIVEN VIETVET

Johnnie Wilson only spent three months in Vietnam, but the life of a medic was difficult to say the least. His difficulties mounted after returning and finally, he sought disability from the VA to no avail. He contacted the VVA Legal Services after being denied any disability pension and through their efforts, the case was remanded to the Board of Veteran Appeals who ruled it had to be reconsidered the VA Regional. The Vet was reexamined, the negative finding reversed and a retroactive award granted. Wilson, who had filed in December, 1981, will receive \$90,000 in retroactive compensation from the VA and \$1,700 per month as a 100 per cent disabled Vet suffering from PTSD.

MORE AMERICAN POW REPORTS

The Vietnamese Information Bureau, a private educational organization, hosted a conference recently and brought more credence to bear on a sensitive topic, American POWs in Southeast Asia.

According to two eyewitness speakers, there have been numerous sightings of live Americans inside Vietnam. On two occasions, General Nam Nau spotted US citizens held against their will by the government of North Vietnam. At a press conference on Thursday, January 17, 1985, the general provided the details of the sightings and disclosed the locations.

One other participant, Nguyen Huudin, has also seen American POWs being held captive. Huudin volunteered the information to the US Defense Intelligence Agency, but was told not to make the information public under threat of losing his immigration status. He chose to reveal the information due to the US Government's failure to act on behalf of the POWs.

MILITARY RECRUITING IMPROVES

The quality of military recruits continued to rise in 1984 according to defense officials. 93% of the 291,000 men and 37,000 women who entered last year were high school graduates in comparison to 91% in 1983. Surprisingly enough, these same officials lauded the high percentage in contrast to national figures which show approximately 75% of this nation's youth have high school diplomas. A 25% attrition rate does not seem to be proper advertising hype even for the military. Here are the services' breakdown for high school graduates entering:

USAF--99%
USMC--95%
USN---93%
USAR--91%

AGENT ORANGE DISTRIBUTION PLAN

According to a proposed blueprint, the Agent Orange Class Action distribution would pay only those who were most heavily exposed to the herbicide and exhibit the most severe medical problems. This would mean only an estimated 5% of the 200,000 who filed claims would receive cash settlements. The largest cash settlement would be around \$25,000 according to a report submitted February 27, 1985, to a US District Court in Brooklyn by a court appointed "special master."

Families of about 5,000 Vets who have died since the war and about 7,000 with long term total disabilities would be eligible immediately for a share of a \$130 million cash payment fund.



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POW/MIA Update

Poor is the nation that has no heroes; shameful is the one having them that FORGETS!

In reviewing the articles on former Marine PFC Robert Garwood, he indicates in the late 1970s Americans were held in prison camps at Bat Bat and Yen Bay (35 miles and 80 miles northwest of Hanoi), at a military complex on Ly Nam De Street in Hanoi, and at a warehouse in Gia Lam, a suburb east of Hanoi. Americans at Bat Bat were used as guinea pigs in a course on psychological warfare given by the Vietnamese to visiting Cuban and Palestinian groups, among others.

Mr. Garwood states he knew of 40-60 prisoners at Yen Bay, more than 20 in the Bat Bat District of Son Tay Province, 6 at Gia Lam and more than 6 at Ly Nam De. He says there were never more than 6 Americans at Gia Lam at one time; they were rotated in from other prison camps and could include US prisoners from camps Mr. Garwood never visited. Vietnamese guards discussed captive Americans in his presence and in late 1978, he learned of prisoners brought in from Cao Bang, near the China-Vietnam border. Mr. Garwood had a standing order not to talk with other Americans. He was able to observe American prisoners at close range-one group of 40 being transported by train were dressed in khaki work clothes and were clean shaven. One man had just one leg, was on crutches and was helped off the train by his fellow POWs. He says the prisoners were all speaking English and were cursing how hot it was in the boxcar. Mr. Garwood states the prisoners at Gia Lam were handpicked-what the Communists call model prisoner, less likely to get into trouble. They were rotated in and out of Gia Lam every week or two. This procedure continued from 1973 until the day Mr. Garwood left Vietnam in 1979.

Asked whether it were possible that the returned Americans from Bat Bat prison or other such installations in Vietnam might be unaware that other US prisoners had been left behind, Mr. Garwood says he thinks it is very possible. The POWs were physically separated into categories (can work, can't work, obstinates, etc.). One group might not see another for long periods. He says the guards planted stories that certain prisoners had died. At his guards' insistence, he too had spread such misinformation while a POW in South Vietnam before 1970.

After he left Bat Bat Mr. Garwood heard the prison population had grown due to the addition of American deserters and others who had been picked up in Saigon at the end of the war in April, 1975. This information is confirmed by refugee reports as well as the CIA in 1976, unidentified sources reported 230 American prisoners at Bat Bat.

There are various theories as to why the Vietnamese continue to hold US prisoners. Mr. Garwood asked Lt. Khoet, a propaganda officer whose tasks included showing films glorifying Russia, Bulgaria and other Communist countries at Vietnam's prison camps, why Vietnam was doing this with the Americans. "The way Lt. Khoet put it to me is that the United States tries to build the image the Americans are indestructible. The (the Vietnamese) are using the American POWs as guinea pigs for terrorist groups, ... to show that Americans are only human, that we do suffer duress and stress." Mr. Garwood adds that the message the Vietnamese were trying to make to their visitors was: "We did it-so can you."

In regard to defectors, Mr. Garwood stated that a Marine defector had been part of a Vietnamese delegation that visited Moscow, Warsaw and Havana in 1978. The Marine was captured in 1968, but was segregated from other POWs when guards learned he was married to a Viet Cong supporter. Today, the defector lives on the outskirts of Hanoi with his Vietnamese family.

Mr. Garwood turned over to the National League of Families a list containing 10 partial names including 4 that appear to be last names. The rest could either be first or last names. He also specified where the named individuals were held, but cautioned since he picked up the names by listening to guards' conversations, he was not sure every name is correct.

On November 19, 1984, retired Air Force Colonel Jack Bailey, president of Operation Rescue, turned over to US officials in Bangkok the remains of three missing Americans. Along with the remains was one set of dog tags and some parts of a plane as well as other identification that was found at a crash site in Laos. Analysis by the Central Identification Laboratory indicates "some of the remains are dissimilar to those of Southeast Asian origin and "race cannot be determined on any of them." No information has been released regarding the dog tags or other identification found with the remains. What is the reason for withholding information from the families and the public?

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

Eleanor D. Reitz, sister
Major Victor J. Apodaca, USAF
MIA North Vietnam June 8, 1967



MARINE CORPS OPERATIONS IN VIETNAM

By Mike Buckley

Starting with this issue, I am going to attempt to bring a little nostalgia to those who served with the US Marine Corps in Vietnam. The information was collected from the History and Museums Division, USMC, Washington, D.C.

In the Spring of 1965, the war in Vietnam was not going well. It was hoped that with the Americans securing the major bases, the ARVNs would have the manpower and ability to seek out the Viet Cong and eliminate them. The realization that this was not to be prompted the Pentagon to send two Marine Battalions at the request of the South Vietnamese Government. At approximately 9 o'clock on the morning of March 8, BLT 3d Bn, 9th Marines, landed on Red Beach just north of Da Nang. These Marines were the first "official" US ground combat troops to be committed to the war. Later that same morning, BLT 1st Bn, 3d Marines, arrived at Da Nang on C-130 aircraft. On April 14, BLT 3/4 arrived and moved north into the Hue/Phu Bai area.

On May 7, BLT 1/4 and 2/4 along with Helo Squadron HMM-161 landed 55 miles south of Da Nang at a barren stretch of land called Chu Lai. Five days later BLT 3/3 came ashore at Chu Lai. Seabees of NMCB-10 and Marine Engineers began construction on the airstrip May 9th and it was completed by June 1. Two attack squadrons, VMA-223 and VMA 311 consisting of A-4 Skyhawks arrived the day of completion and were making support runs for ARVN units later the same day. Since the beach landing at Da Nang in March, there were over 200 Marines casualties. With over 16,500 combat Marines in Vietnam, US participation in I Corps was well underway.



NEED LEGAL HELP?

If you need help for problems with the VA or other veterans-related legal problems such as a bad discharge, the legal department of the Vietnam Veterans of America may be able to help. The VVA Legal Services represents Vietnam-era veterans and their families at hearings before the VA's Board of Veterans Appeals. VVA Legal Services also represents Vietnam veterans with bad discharges at hearings before the Discharge Review Boards. Help with changing mistakes in service records at the Boards for Correction of Military Records is offered, too.

VVA also provides literature to help you present your own case. VVA sometimes uses volunteer attorneys and attorney-supervised law students to work for you for free if our staff is not available. We have recently certified several Vietnam veterans to work as VVA Service Representatives around the country, not just in Washington. All VVA chapters have our 640-page Service Representatives Manual.

VVA is the only veterans organization that has a legal department that regularly goes to court to protect your interests. VVA is involved in several lawsuits protecting the rights of veterans and has participated in the Agent Orange settlement process.

We cannot do everything. We are interested in problems you have that are due to your service in the military. We cannot defend you in a criminal action or routine legal problems. We can, however, often refer you to people who can help with these problems.

For more information or to arrange to have us look at your case or give you a referral, write:

VVA Legal Services
ATTN: Intake
2001 S Street, NW, # 710
Washington DC 20009

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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Veteran application for participation in the Emergency Veterans Job Training Act ended unceremoniously on February 28, 1975. The first stage came to an end with silent detachment in comparison to the program's controversial initiation. The second stage ended September 1 when employers must set all training programs into motion.

The EVJTA administration can only be rated as FAIR. As of October, 1984, 233,582 Veterans had been certified eligible for the program, but only 17,625 former servicemembers had found jobs from 30,000 eligible employers. In Arizona, only 125 (402) of the Vets certified (3222) had found positions with 1,520 approved employers. The statistics with other states are just as discouraging. Yet, DES officials talk of the program's success and awards being received from the federal government. The statistics, however, prove the program was far from successful based on realistic standards.

The primary reason the EVJTA was formulated and approved was to counterbalance a disproportionate unemployment rate among Vietnam Era Veterans. A House study showed that almost 1,000,000 of this era's Vets were unemployed and the majority of these, almost 700,000, were Vietnam Vets. Though opposed to the legislation, President Reagan acquiesced to Congressional pressure and signed the measure into law in October, 1983. The bureaucratic bickering began almost immediately and finally the implementation was given primarily to the Veterans Administration with the Department of Labor still having a foot in the door. The VA, characteristically, took its time developing procedures and regulations for the program and the program did not take root here until the summer of 1984; months after its inception.

In May, 1984, Chapter #106 sponsored an EVJTA Breakfast for community leaders, industrialists and DES officials to explain and laud the program. This added momentum to the program, but only four months were left until the expiration date, September. That date was extended, but the tone of lethargy was evident to Veterans and observers alike. Problems were noted, but the official attitude seemed to be why change when the whole thing will be completed in a few weeks. Perhaps for one reason, it involves a

human life, a family and a future. It's a rhetorical question, but a common sense answer.

There are many reasons for the program's poor showing and here are a few major ones:

*The President reluctantly signed the bill and this typified the entire implementation.

*The VA, already smarting from Congressional criticism regarding VietVet issues, grudgingly accepted administration of the program and took a less than expeditious approach to the development of regulations, procedures and guidelines.

*DES did not begin the program in earnest until the summer of 1984, a few scant weeks from the initial expiration date.

*Federal/State publicity concerning EVJTA was infrequent and far from successful. The burden was placed upon the Veteran to "sell" the program, but it should have been a joint responsibility.

*Many DES Counselors, DVOPS, LVOPS, etc., on the local level did not seem to understand the type of Veteran they were dealing with, nor was there in-house training held to raise their consciousness. This lack of understanding reflected in the type of service that was given.

*Veterans' Counselors, those who teach job development skills, were not Vets. They should be Vietnam Vets preferably or at least Vietnam Era Vets. Due to their lack of a proper frame of reference, many obstacles and barriers were erected.

*Adequate information on other programs, i.e. VRA, 30% Federal Hiring, etc., was not consistently dispensed particularly when either a referral to the proper agency or to an in-house specialist could have been accomplished. Many Vets were simply not told of the existence of a variety of programs.

*On many occasions, Veterans were inadequately screened by DES counselors prior to employer contact. This resulted in employer disenchantment with the EVJTA and further Vet frustration.

*The Hotline should not be used for EVJTA job referrals. It is impersonal and more prone to improper screening.

*Traditional veterans groups, so eager to gain Vietnam Vets, did not give their wholehearted endorsement and support to the program. Efforts should have been taken to inform and educate these organizations of the EVJTA and its reason for existence.

*Interagency conflicts between the DES and VA should have been minimized in lieu of the overall objective—the hiring of Veterans. It was disillusioning to read of it in the papers.

*Finally, there was a lack of commitment from the highest federal echelon to the lowest local office; from the private sector to most traditional veterans groups. The disinterest was a sign of the times towards us while we served, when our tours were over, and has only recently been addressed.

*This critique has been in the tone of constructive criticism and is not meant to imply a tone of singularity. There are many hard-working and dedicated individuals in the various agencies whether local, state or federal. As any employee within this framework will tell you, the largest problems are those of communications, apathy and resisting a tendency towards hardness against those who you serve—its human nature and all of us are guilty. In public service, however, the overriding concern, whether personal or professional, should be maintaining perspective—a factor we cannot control—nor can we force you to feel empathy. We can only keep the channels of communication open and hope all echelons will do the same; and resist the tendency to succumb to cynicism.

LOCATOR SERVICES AVAILABLE

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

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

ARMY: HQDA (DAAG-DSR)
Alexandria, VA 22331

NAVY: USN (NMPC-641E)
Washington, D.C. 20370

USAF: AFMPC (D003)
Randolph AFB, TX 78150

USMC: HQ, USMC (MSRB-13)
Washington, D.C. 20380

CG: USCG (G-PS-1)
Washington, D.C. 20593

The main point of the interview was to present a look at this country and our attitude about the war "ten years later," and some of the problems that are still a reality for many Vets. Some of the main areas of concern in the interview were nightmares and stress syndrome problems. He added the subject of stress syndrome had to be included when talking about the Nam Vet.

"I think people should understand that and I don't think they do," Graves said. "There are so many side stories to this one," he added.

There were many other stories he wanted to get into, such as the feelings the Vets have towards those who fled to Canada, but there simply wasn't enough time.

Bart and the Vets did touch on the subject of the hostages' release from Iran and how their enthusiastic returns were a striking contrast to the silent and sometimes hostile welcome the Vietnam Veterans received on their return.

Graves mentioned that Chuck Hovey had stated it was the Vietnam Vets who had organized the Memorial in Washington D.C. and the Agent Orange lawsuit. "No one else seemed interested," Hovey had said.

Graves said he feels America's new awareness of Vietnam began in the late 1970s when such movies as "Apocalypse Now" and "Coming Home" were released.

With the advent of books and documentaries on the subject and the continued coverage of the Veterans in the news, people are more aware today of the Vietnam Veteran's problems than just five years ago, Graves said.

Graves added that he feels this new awareness culminated on Memorial Day weekend last year.

In Bart's opinion, the Vietnam Vet is no longer considered a second class citizen in this country.


"The Vietnam Vet is simply asking that you understand," Graves said. "They (the Vietnam Veterans) were robbed of their prime when only 19-years-old. They served their country and fought in an unpopular war. All they are asking for is a chance, so give it to them."

Graves has felt for a long time that the Vietnam Veteran had been dealt a raw deal. He said that most of them had gone through horrible experiences and lived to tell about them.

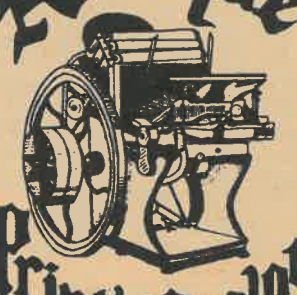
"I couldn't understand why people wouldn't give them jobs or talk with them, or feel for them," Graves said. "I just wanted to remind the viewers of what the Vets went through."

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STATE & LOCAL NEWS

The Sister Column

STATE COUNCIL REPORT

By Cliff Tracy

On February 23 and 24 I met with ten other delegates from Chapters 95, 106 and 183. The State Council meeting was a new experience for the #183 delegates and myself. Thanks to the help and patience of old hands, it was a good meeting. We approved the following motions:

*Funds will be raised for the state council chairperson's travel expenses.

*We will be joining Unified Arizona Veterans, a lobbying group.

*The Arizona VVA will try to persuade the National Convention to divide the country into VVA regions at the meeting in Detroit on November 20-24, 1985.

*Michael Flannery, the state chairperson, will write a positive resolution, subject to state council review, to be sent to VVA National. The resolution will discourage further Vietnam trips, encourage talks between the US and Vietnamese Governments and request more information about the Vietnam trips that have already been made.

*Once again, we will apply for a state charter.
Other topics discussed included:

*Delegates to the national convention. By July 31, each chapter needs to tell VVA National how many members it has. VVA National will inform each chapter of the number of delegates it is allotted by August 15. All eligible delegates must be registered by October 1. Michael Flannery stressed the need for each chapter to send its full allotment of delegates to make the Arizona vote as strong as possible.

*Rep. Jim Hartdegen, Chairperson of the Phoenix Vietnam Veterans Memorial Board, asked that as many people as possible go to the state capital for the dedication ceremony tentatively scheduled close to Veterans' Day; most likely the weekend before the holiday.

*The Department of Defense plans to send a representative to Phoenix for a question-and-answer session on April 27. The state council has to confirm at least 200 people will attend before DoD will make a commitment. Each chapter needs to publicize this event and generate as much interest and attendance as possible.

*The state council will incorporate as a non-profit organization.

As we all know, the VVA is gaining more strength and support every day. In order for us to become as strong as we can be, we need to work together on common goals.

At the state council we discussed getting the chapters involved in a specific direction and into the future of the VVA.

What we do and where we go as an organization is up to us!

Every one of us is proud to be a member of the VVA, but being a member is not enough—we need to be informed and involved. The pride we have in being members can be multiplied tenfold by accomplishment and productivity. There are a lot of people out there who need to be educated and informed. It's in our hands.

We, as a group, need to absorb all the information we can and get it out to the public.

The Spirit of 106 is going to put us on the map. This will be the first of many such projects. Pulling together, we can do it!

ASSOCIATE MEMBER REP ELECTION

The election for Associate Member Representative to the State Council will be held during the March meeting. Those who will be running are Naomi Taylor-McHugh, Cindy Glessinger and Eleanor Reitz. This is an important position and needs your attention.

By Yolanda Hovey

For those wondering what the results of Women Veterans Recognition Week were, let me say there is some good news. Locally, the effort brought about a public service announcement sponsored by the VA stressing to Women Veterans that their service was valuable to this country and they should take advantage of their military benefits. I agree wholeheartedly! You earned your benefits, ladies (and men), use them! If you are not aware of what your benefits are, contact your VA Regional Office. (Phone numbers are listed under Quick Reference on the back page.)

On a broader level, the week of recognition resulted in many Women Veterans becoming more aware of themselves as a group. They discovered there are Women Veterans in many facets of their own communities. Finding each other increases the possibilities of reaching out, networking and building a vocal sector to strive towards their common concerns.

The proof of these possibilities already lies in the existence of the Alliance of Women Veterans. The AWW is a result of recognition effort that occurred on the state level in California during 1983. According to a recent article in the Veterans Observer, the AWW, in a year's time, has organized, completed its bylaws and established its objectives—"communication/accessibility/unity/guidance." Though the group is voluntarily funded and has had minimal publicity, the calls for help have been plentiful. The need is so great. If this reaction can occur on a state level, the potential on a national level is even greater. Perhaps if national commemoration for women became an annual event, more Women Veterans in need of connecting with their peers could be reached.

VIETNAM NURSES IGNORED

In the February VVA Veteran, a letter was addressed to Vietnam Nurses. It was requesting feedback on attempts to gain assistance from government agencies mandated to help Veterans. According to the article, "it has become very clear that certain veterans organizations and some branches of service... have underwritten policy which serves to deny compensation and assistance" especially to nurses and other members of the medical field who served their country. The letter warned specifically of "being assigned character or personality disorders when they seek help from many federal agencies." These classifications do not provide any military compensation. The people at the Post Trauma Treatment Center are attempting to build an information base centering on the problems nurses have found in dealing with a system which was supposed to serve them. If you have any information, please contact:

G.P. Shovar, RN, BA
Post Traumatic Treatment Ctr
12362 E. Cornell Avenue
Aurora, CO 80014
(303) 368-7808

WOMEN VETERANS BENEFITS

Women Veterans have not been using their benefits to the same extent as men, according to the Veterans Administration. Since 1966 174,057 women, about 2.4 percent of the total, were among the more than 7,000,000 Veterans who received VA assisted training. The ratio has nearly tripled based on recent data where women accounted for nearly 6.8 percent of the Vets actually in training as of April, 1983. This trend reflects the greater number of women serving in the armed forces in recent years.

Additionally, VA Medical Centers have been directed to develop a form plan for the care of Women Veterans and to identify any barriers to their care. Though the majority of health

is identical, gynecological care to both in and outpatients have been upgraded. Privacy limitations are being corrected in line with the VA policy of providing equitable care to all Veterans.

NURSES' STUDY COMPLETED

Nurses, like combat Veterans, have suffered serious aftereffects from the Vietnam War according to two Northwestern State University College of Nursing Professors, Jackie O'Neill and Betty Paul. Their investigation is entitled "The Psychosocial Milieu of Nursing in Vietnam And Its Effects On Vietnam Nurse Veterans."

Questionnaires were mailed nationwide in January, 1982, to 155 nurses with a response rate of 88.4 percent by September, 1982. The majority of respondents were ages 20-24 at their time of service and about 80 percent served in the Army. Of those who responded, ten percent were men.

According to the study, one-third of the nurses sampled reported having adverse aftereffects which both O'Neill and Paul believe need attention. More than one-half of the 137 respondents reported sexual harassment ranging from rape and assault to insults and unwanted attention from either physicians or other military officers. Other stressors were the severity and number of casualties, lack of personal supplies and having to depend upon packages from home and problems with professional relationships. Two stressors women shared with men are survivor guilt and the war being a threat to their lives.

Aftereffects were identified as similar to PTSD and include negative self-image, depression, anxiety, rage, anger, memory impairment, relationship problems, substance abuse, flashbacks, and nightmares.

Spring FEVER AGAIN

Once again the warming breezes of spring are enroute to our many valleys, and with them comes that biannual event we know and love, The 4th Avenue Street Fair!

The good people of the 4th Avenue Merchants association have once again extended a gracious invitation to come and enjoy the rites of spring in a Renaissance-like atmosphere of hand-crafted wares, dancing in the streets, international cuisine, and a Southwestern potpourri of objets d'art.

The joyous celebration of free enterprise and artistic endeavor will span the three-day period of Friday, April 12 through Sunday, April 14. As usual, (and why not) Chapter 106 needs your participation and support in manning the VVA booth at the fair. Don't sit at home and grumble! Get out in the sun and come join us. We can make this street fair the best ever so at the March meeting, look for the sign-up sheet, seize it, and affix your Fred Mertz.

At the Chapter 106 booth, we will be selling VVA pins, patches, bumper stickers and handing out various publications. Donations for the chapter and for The Spirit of 106 will once again be sought and very greatly appreciated.

Each street fair seems to be bigger and better than the last, and there is no reason to break with that tradition, so come out this spring, mix and mingle with the darkly tanned bodies, and rub shoulders with the finest people in the southwest. Come celebrate Spring. We will be seeing you at the fair!!!

Neil Gregerson
Membership Chairman

WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

On February 13th, the Women's Committee met at the home of the Hoveys. This was a change from a previously scheduled location due to an emergency. Our apologies to those not made aware of the change.

At this meeting, the group received more suggestions for a new title for the committee. It will accept further suggestions at the next meeting.

Our thanks to the Glessingers for allowing us to hold our meeting of March 13th at their home. The following meeting will be April 10th and the location as yet is undetermined. For further information call the VVA Chapter #106 phone number, 790-7602. This is an answering machine, but leave your name and number and we will be glad to return your call.

MARK'S MORSELS

RANK AND PRIVILEGE

By Mark Toth

Remember back to those cramped quarters and many nights of liberty while you looked over at the free style spirit in officer country! Well, rest assured that in the NEW Navy tradition means everything. For example, several enlisted and lower ranking officers were busted for illegally trying to bring in captured AK-47s from Grenada to their home bases. They were prosecuted under the UCMJ. Not so our Grenada Commander, Admiral Metcalf; with a "I didn't know," the matter was dropped. After this story broke, the services' reviewed some of the previous cases and have supposedly reduced sentences. No legal proceedings are scheduled as of yet for the Admiral.

(Ed. Note-Both the Senate Armed Forces Committee and the Department of Defense have delved into this matter; a full scale investigation has been order concerning the differences in punishment.)

NEW POSTER HEROES

By Mark Toth

Recently, I received in my junk mail a poster along with the usual pitch to help stamp out liberals. The top half contained a patriotic paragraph and underneath was pictured a group of soldiers on a captured hill with their new-style Kevlar helmets on the Island of Grenada. If that is their symbol to take prid in, is ours to be the picture of the unemployment line? Bath in whatever light you get, young Vets, 'cause they soon forget!

WHAT MONEY?

By Mark Toth

Yep, he didn't want the money; a piece of paper saying he is loyal is good enough. Well, maybe for retired General Westmoreland it is, however, I am not settled on the matter. Was CBS correct and the General guilty of misrepresenting enemy troop strength?

Several witnesses seemed to think that he had placed a "ceiling" on enemy strength at 300,000. One MACV staff officer admitted to ordering his personnel to change the figures. Another indicated that the CIA's figures were reduced to reflect MACV's estimate. Still, the agreement signed did not say that CBS was correct or not.

Then there is the aspect of the text connoting that CBS does not or did not question the patriotism or loyalty of Westmoreland to have done his duty as he saw fit. Excuse me, but I do not see the connection; integrity equals patriotism! Rather, I can see how under the banner of patriotism an individual may excuse a lapse of behavior with the motto: "For God and Country." So once again, what did it prove?

I think that in the end, the suit was settled due to a lack of financial backing and a desire to trim losses in the legal "war of attrition" being waged on the witness stand. Those who may have wished to see the General hung high as a demon are unsatisfied. So too are those who wanted him to rise up as a white knight to slay the CBS dragon. Indeed, both poles remain in gray light of half truths as this matter is left unresolved. No doubt soon, another case will unfold pitting the two sides together again until the nation can stand up and face the music.

If you have a comment/view to make on a recent or topically relevant matter send it in to share.

Scuttlebutt

Once again, Tucson Chapter #106 has scored impressive nominations in the upcoming Academy Awards. Here are the VVA members and their respective works in the various categories:

Best Actor:
Jim Randall, "Edit My Tape, Baby"
Dane Roth, "The Fighting Barnacle Chipper"
Cliff Tracy, "Am I Too Bold?"
Mark Toth, "Rig For Dive, Little Ducky!"

Best Actress:
Naomi Taylor-McHugh, "Do You Know My Name?"
Yolanda Hovey, "I Know Her Name"
Cindy Glessinger, "The Great Dantini"
Pete McHugh, "I Was A Male War Bride"

Documentary:
Chris Martin, "What, Me Happy?"
Craig Hilts, "Bonsai Your Pet"
Mike Buckley, "Underachievers Guide To Very Small Opportunities"
Eleanor Reitz, "Official Government Official Appreciation"

Best Comedy:
Dan Glessinger, "Mail Is Important, But Can We Talk?"
Rachel Holland, "The President Has Stress"
Neil Gregorson, "The Guitar Exorcist"
John Paulus, "My Little Deuce Coupe"

Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune is a monthly publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106, P.O. Box 40903, Tucson, AZ 85717. ALL RIGHTS ARE RESERVED, but reprints are permissible with full credit given to author, if listed, this Chapter and publication.

DEADLINE: General Meeting before each issue.

Staff: Chuck Hovey
Mark Toth
Craig Hilts

Contributors: Chris Martin
Eleanor Reitz
Yolanda Hovey



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1985

A Proud Beginning

February 5, 1985

Mr. Charles Hovey
Chapter 106
Vietnam Veterans of America
P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, Az. 85717

Dear Mr. Hovey:

Pursuant to our phone conversation last week, I am writing this letter to officially inform you of the new recipient of the newly formed Vietnam Veterans of America Scholarship.

To reiterate---Mr. Lawrence Sylvain has accepted a coop job with a California corporation and will not be attending this Spring, 1985 term. It was a very good opportunity, and we certainly don't blame him for his choice. The \$250.00 has been returned to the University, and the scholarship has been re-awarded to:

Mr. Jeffrey D. Barr
1155 N. Winstel
Tucson, Az. 85716

Mr. Barr is a Senior here at the University in Architecture. He has a 3.9 GPA and will graduate in May, 1987 (Architecture is a 5-year degree). As with Mr. Sylvain, Mr. Barr very much impressed us during our interview with him both with his concern for the Vietnam Veterans and with his personality and appearance. We feel you will again be pleased with our choice.

Again, thank you on behalf of the University of Arizona, the Veterans Services Office, and the Veterans on campus.

Sincerely,

Warren A. Newton

Warren A. Newton
Veterans Coordinator

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and unchanging."

-Frederic Miller, 1855



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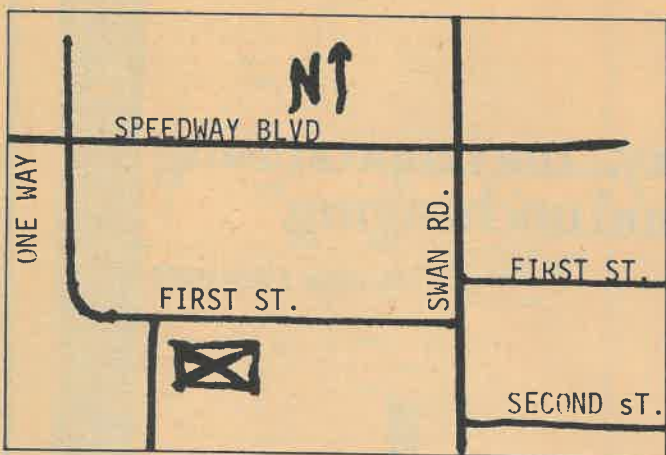
Historically in March

- 1945 Japanese take over French administration throughout Indochina-March 9. Bao Dai proclaims the independence of Vietnam under Japanese auspices-March 11.
- 1946 French and Vietminh reach accord; France recognizes Vietnam as a "free state" within French Union; French troops replace China's forces in the North; and a referendum would be held to determine whether Tonkin, Annam, and Cochin China should be reunited.
- 1949 Bao and French President Vincent Auriol sign Elysee' Agreement on March 8 making Vietnam an "associated state" within the French Union. France retains control of Vietnam's defenses and finances.
- 1961 President Kennedy asserts American support for Laotian sovereignty as Britain and USSR propose international conference to resolve the crisis.
- 1964 Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara visits Vietnam and vows support for the new leader, Khanh.
- 1965 Two Marine battalions land to defend Danang airfield on March 8-the first American combat troops in Vietnam.
- 1968 Gen. William Westmoreland replaced by Gen. Creighton Abrams as top Vietnam Commanding Officer. LBJ announces partial bombing halt, offers talks and says he will not run for reelection-March 31.
- 1969 Nixon begins secret bombing of Cambodia-March 18.
- 1971 Lt. William Calley convicted on March 29 of premeditated murder of South Vietnamese civilians at My Lai.
- 1973 Last American troops leave South Vietnam-March 29.



"The Americans are here to protect their interests, which do not always correspond with those of Vietnam. They are here because they want to remain in Asia to stop communism in Asia-and not because they have any particular concern about us."

Nguyen Cao Ky
Vice-President, South Vietnam
Quoted in Stern Magazine
March 31, 1968



Darts * And Laurels

Dan Glessinger and John Paulus for their kindness and sharing with the Tribune staff. THANK YOU!

** Proposed Agent Orange Class Action settlement plan. There has to be a better way to relieve the burden and suffering many VietVets and their families experience without relief. This plan offers very little.

** Department of Economic Security. February 28 was the last day for Vets to apply for the EVJTA. It was also the last day the EVJTA Employer Job List was seen on this planet. Application is over, not the program. Employers have until September 1 to initiate training.

Coors and their continuing support for Veterans' issues. Besides this, 32% of Coors' workforce is Veteran and a \$50,000 donation was recently given to the DAV Vietnam Veterans Memorial in New Mexico.

** General Westmoreland for stating irregular, i.e. villagers, etc., in Nam posed no threat to US Forces. Three combat Vets enlightened him as to the amount of casualties they took from "villagers." May he understand someday the difference between being in a war and managing a war with computers and statistics.



Our losses to wars

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

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

Source: Veterans Administration



VVA OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President	Jim Randall
1st Vice-Pres.	Mike Buckley
2nd Vice-Pres.	Bob King
Treasurer	John Paulus
Recording Sec'y	Rex Beving
Correspond Sec'y	Chuck Hovey
Board Members	Rachel Holland
	Clifford Tracy
	Dennis
	Tony Garcia
	Pete McHugh

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Membership	Neil Gregerson
Women's	Yolanda Hovey
Public Affairs	Pete McHugh
Fund-Raising	John Paulus
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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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- I am not a Vietnam era veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member.

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