

Monsoon Tribune

Newsletter for Vietnam Veterans of America

March / April 1998
Volume XV Issue No. 2

Teaching about Vietnam difficult for educators

INSIDE

Home Sweet VA Home



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Can you stop a moment? See mailing survey - **Back Page**

Vietnam Veterans
of America (VVA)
Chapter 106
Tucson, Arizona



By Julia Brunts
The Journal Gazette
Special to The Monsoon Tribune

FT. WAYNE, IN —Twenty-five years after the end of the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War, some students have made it through Fort Wayne high schools with little, if any, discussion about the conflict. Interviews with nine history teachers across the city revealed Vietnam is a topic that - either because of a lack of time or for other reasons - sometimes falls by the wayside. One teacher taught the war this year for the first time in about a decade. Several others sometimes get to it. Others find it difficult to address because of the controversy surrounding the war, arguably the biggest military embarrassment in U.S. history.

Nationally, the situation is similar, said Zack Earp, chairman of the education subcommittee of the Vietnam Veterans of America. "It's a real injustice to our students and our future leaders," he said. "They need to have a complete picture of what the Vietnam War was, what happened. Fort Wayne school officials say they have institut-

ed a new curriculum this year to address some of the problems with teaching modern history. The United States became politically involved in Vietnam shortly after World War II in an effort to contain Communism. It wasn't until late 1964 that combat troops were sent to southeast Asia. On Jan. 27, 1973, Secretary of State William Rogers signed a peace pact in Paris calling for a cease-fire. All active U.S. combat troops were pulled from the country by March. More than 58,000 U.S. troops were killed; more than 150,000 were wounded during the conflict.

Vietnam is important, one historian said, because students should learn about our failures as much as our successes. Not teaching it, she said, does students no favors. "I

do see it as a problem," said Nancy MacLean, a historian at Northwest-ern University. "It's one of the most important events in modern American history. It also was a critical moment globally, and it's not getting the coverage it should." "I can understand how it can fall through the cracks," MacLean said, acknowledging that teachers have limited time and resources. "But I think it's a problem just the same."

"It's one of the most important events in modern American history...and it's not getting the coverage it should."

Historian Nancy MacLean

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Editor Notes

Hey Buddy, can you spare some time? All we are asking is for you to spend a few quick moments and let us know where you stand. Would you like to continue receiving our newsletter and the VVA national publication, The Veteran? Is your membership current? Would you like information on how to join? We are trying to do some Spring Cleaning on our membership rolls and only you can help. Thanks, in advance.

We have included some last minute inserts in this issue. They deal with some important issues and events. One is that Chapter 106 is proud to offer scholarships towards higher education. Complete details and application form are included. If you need more, just get a hold of any of our chapter officers or at the address / email address listed below.

Speaking of chapter officers, one of our inserts is from the nominating committee seeking your input on selection of chapter officers. Now you have an opportunity to determine the direction of your chapter, but it takes an effort on your part. Come on, you can do it.

Feel like riding for a good cause? The annual Run For The Wall is coming up in May. Complete details are also included on our last insert. Contact Terry Rolinger at (520) 287-7920 for details on their arrival and departure in Tucson for the rendezvous in Kingman with the national group.

Take care

Joe

NEWS BITS

New Vietnam Museum Opens in Midwest

The National Vietnam Art Museum opened in Chicago on August 25, 1997. The museum houses a fine art collection of over 500 paintings, sculpture, and photography from 103 artists, all of whom served at least one tour of duty in Vietnam. The artwork depicts their experiences in the war. This collection of artwork began in 1979 as the Vietnam Veterans Arts Group with 11 artists. The National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum continues to accept more Vietnam veteran artists if their artwork is on the subject of the war. Also, the Museum is looking for photos, slides, journals etc., and historic memorabilia from the Vietnam war, especially field equipment, both US and enemy. The museum is located at 1801 S. Indiana Ave., Chicago, IL 60616, (312) 326-0270.

Williams Splits From Veterans Group

Alexandria, Virginia -- Nobel Peace Prize winner Jody Williams has split from the group with whom she shares the one-Million-dollar prize. Williams says she'll use her money to pay her own salary now that she is no longer with Vietnam Veterans of America, the group that was paying her 60- thousand dollars a year to coordinate the International Campaign to Ban Landmines. The split comes after disagreement between Williams and some members of the organization over the direction of the campaign. Williams says she's still committed to seeing a landmine treaty ratified.



Let us not forget . . .

The following are Tucson area veterans who gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

NAME:	Robert Earnest Young	Richard Torres Calderon
SERVICE:	Army	Army
CASUALTY DATE:	1968-01-08	1970-04-08
AGE:	19	20
WALL LOCATION:	34E -Line 004	12W - Line 106

The Monsoon Tribune is a publication of Chapter 106, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). Please direct all article submissions, chapter correspondence or inquiries to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Tucson Chapter 106, P.O. Box 40903, Tucson, AZ 85717-0903. Telephone 520-571-5766, Fax 520-887-0128. This publication is edited by Valery Maldonado and Joe Kelley. Please direct e-mail submissions or inquiries to inside@azstarnet.com

Veteran Benefit News

VA Home Loan Program Under Review

WASHINGTON, IPRNewswire/ — Merging the Veterans Administration (VA) home loan guaranty program with other federal housing programs could severely curtail its benefits, shortchanging veterans of the ability to use an important home financing tool and a key entitlement, according to a representative of the National Association of Realtors.

Curry Jameson, a Realtor from Reno, Nev., and chair of the association's federal housing policy committee, discussed the need to leave the VA mortgage program intact during testimony before the congressionally chartered Commission on Service Members and Veterans Transition Assistance. The hearing was part of a periodic evaluation by Congress of various federal programs — including veterans' entitlements — to determine the existence of any excessive costs, duplication and overlap.

The VA home loan guaranty program is offering veterans a centralized, affordable, accessible method of purchasing homes in return for their service to our nation. The home financing component is one of several entitlement benefits, along with educational, medical and unemployment assistance, that must come from a single source to minimize inconvenience for the people who need the services," Jameson said. The administration of VA home loans should remain under the auspices of the Department of Veterans Affairs."

NAR is concerned that consolidating administration of the VA loan guaranty program with other federal programs — such as those administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) —

would diminish its unique benefits and subject the program to competition for federal assistance. Our veterans do not deserve to have their benefits compromised," he said.

Since its establishment as a veteran's entitlement in 1944, the VA home guaranty program has enabled more



than 15 million veterans to purchase and maintain homes. One of the main factors behind the success of the VA program is its no-down payment feature, which allows users to obtain mortgages up to \$203,000 without making a down payment. DVA research shows that in fiscal year 1996, 90 percent of all homes financed through the loan guaranty program were purchased with no down payment.

This benefit — not offered through other types of home financing — permits prospective users to overcome the single greatest obstacle to home ownership, which is the inability to save for a down payment, Jameson explained. "The VA program offers the only nationally available no-money-down plan. There is a clear

need to keep this special home buying advantage intact," he said.

Over the years, significant progress has been made by the VA program to reflect changes in the marketplace and meet the needs of its users, he noted. One example is the deregulation of the interest rate charged for mortgages guaranteed by VA. Prior to deregulation, the rate was controlled by the VA. When it lapsed below the market rate charged for other types of mortgages, lenders often would charge a high number of loan discount points to make the VA loans attractive to investors. Because veterans were prohibited from paying points, sellers were either forced to pay the extra costs or disregard offers involving VA financing. "Clearly, the change to a negotiated rate has made the program more attractive," Jameson said.

He offered other recommendations to further enhance the program's effectiveness and efficiency. They include:

- Keeping the program open to reservists. In years past, VA loans were limited to active-duty military personnel and veterans who met the requirements for program eligibility. Now, the home loan program is open to people who have served in the nation's reserve forces or the National Guard, and who have been honorably discharged. However, the program is only open to reservists through October 1999. NAR believes this feature should be made permanent.

- Reinstating the VA adjustable-rate mortgage program. After a three-year demonstration period, the ARM program ended at the end of September 1995. NAR supports

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Chapter News

MEETING NOTES SHOW ACTIVE CLUB

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 24, 1997

RECORDED BY WALT MAXAM

Meeting called to order at 18:50 by Treasurer Pete Duerr. Moment of Silence followed by Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Gerard Berume, Second by Brasher, to accept previous minutes as read. **Carried.**

Mention of Christmas Party at Karen's house. Pete Duerr presented comparison of NAM JAM 96 to NAM JAM 97 and Financial Report. Motion by Skinner, Second by Brasher, to accept Treasurer's report as presented, subject to audit. **Carried.** Membership report by Walt Maxam. As of 11-24-97, we have 256 members.

Pete Duerr presented the 1998 Budget. Discussion followed. Motion by Skinner, Second by Berume, to accept budget as proposed with proviso to adjust budget as deemed necessary. **Carried.**

Scholarship committee will bring presentation to January meeting to be voted on by chapter so that we may move forward in awarding some scholarships.

Gerard Berume request members to attend TUSD board meetings to entice board to present more detailed curriculum on Vietnam. Discussions on the Festival of Hope and a report on Veterans Day activity in Casa Grande presented by Gerard Berume.

New Business: Motion by Anne Snyder, Second by Gale Skinner, to adopt a specified family from E&E as our Christmas family. **Carried.** Anne and

Deanne will act as the committee on this project.

50/50 Drawing— \$18.00 in pot: \$9.00 to Gerard Berume, \$9.00 to Scholarship fund. Membership Drawing—Harold Leigh, Louie Leos, and Bruce MacBride were drawn. None were present. Next drawing will be for \$80.00. Meeting adjourned at 2030 hours.

No General Meeting held in December, 1997

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 26, 1998

RECORDED BY WALT MAXAM

Call to order at 18:35 by President Rick, followed by a moment of silence and the pledge of allegiance.

Chester Rick reported on last two Bingo sessions at the VA hospital with a special note on how well the attendance of the Girl Scout troop was received by the veterans. He also requested help with the food preparation for Bingo as the same people are doing it all the time and they could use a break.

Discussions on upcoming events included the Four Chaplains Ceremony to be held at Kino Veterans Memorial Park. Gail Skinner will represent Chapter 106 and Veterans Affairs Committee at this function. The Homeless Symposium in Las Vegas, National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans (Feb. 11 & 12) and Region 9 meeting (Feb. 28th) in Albuquerque were also discussed.

Presentation by representative of

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Tucson veterans hold Four Chaplains service

Members of Chapter 106 recently attended a memorial service in Tucson to commemorate the valiant sacrifice of four WWII Chaplains.

As the story is told on February 3, 1943 in the North Atlantic, the U.S.S. Dorchester, with over 1,000 American servicemen aboard, was torpedoed by a German U boat. As the ship began to slip beneath the icy waters, Army Chaplains George L. Fox, Clark V. Poling, John P. Washington and Alexander Goode went to their life boat stations on the sinking ship and began issuing life jackets to the servicemen.

Upon finding the life jacket locker empty, the four chaplains, one Catholic, one Jewish and two Protestants, slipped off their life jackets and gave them to soldiers. Survivors recalled seeing the chaplains standing at the railing, their heads bowed in prayer, as the Dorchester plunged beneath the waves. Their actions enabled 200 soldiers to survive while another 600 servicemen perished that night.

The service here in Tucson was presided over by Master of Ceremonies Louis Segaloff, Chairman, Veterans' Affairs Committee of the City of Tucson. The guest speaker was Chaplain (Col) Douglas J. Bol, US Army, Ret. He was followed by the Navy's "Two Bells" Ceremony and the Placing of Wreaths. A moment of Silent Prayer for POW's and MIA's also was included. An Air Force Honor Guard with a 21 gun Salute rounded out the ceremony.

Annual Elections 1998
Nominating Committee

Robert Taylor
Louie Leos
Gail H. Skinner

President:

Chester Rick II

Secretary:

Joe Kelley

BOARD of DIRECTORS:

Rita Ramey
Robert Taylor
Gail Skinner
Joe Luke
Frank Martinez

Vice-President:

Walt Maxam

Treasurer:

Pete Duerr

Chuck Bald-Coulter
Robert Maldonado
Gerard Berumi
William Fort
Dennis Robinson

As you can tell from the list of names posted above, the general election of officers and board members of Chapter 106 is again approaching. The people listed above running for offices, plus another half dozen or so, have been the day to day working core for the past year. This makes for a heavy burden of responsibility upon everyone's shoulders. The majority of you send us your dues and your DD-214s and we know that you are out there somewhere. In addition to your dues and your paperwork, we need your presence, your ideas, your criticism and your bodies to help with projects, fund raising and just your general support.

During the time that we served, we worked together and survived together and then we came home. THAT TIME is behind us. There are so many problems that need to be solved. Our society, our city, our neighborhoods all have their share of problems; gangs and homeless veterans just to name two. Somewhere amongst those of you out there are the great ideas this chapter needs in order to reach out and make a positive improvement in our community.

Our children have a far tougher world to grow up in than we did. By joining together once again, we can make a difference. We can become a dynamic force to help make Tucson a better place to live and raise our families. It can only happen though if we are willing to get involved and participate.

The Annual Meeting and General Election of officers will be held on 27 April, 1998. The location is at VFW 10188, 345 E. Roger Rd. Nominations are still open and will be called again at the meeting before the election takes place. This is the time for you to come and meet the people who are running for office. I hope to see you there. Members need to have a DD-214 on file and current year dues paid to vote.

Gail H. Skinner,
Nominating Committee Chairman



RUN FOR THE WALL X
CALIFORNIA TO WASH. DC
1998
10 YEARS OF HONOR
RIDING IN FREEDOM FOR THOSE WHO CAN'T



At 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 13, 1998 veterans from all wars and supporters will leave from the Queen Mary (south end of I-710) in Long Beach, CA on an annual pilgrimage across the heartland of America. Most will be riding motorcycles to create a groundswell of support for ALL American Prisoners of War and Missing in Action from all wars and help those who need healing.

This 10 day cross-country journey will include ceremonies from veteran and civic organizations, visits to memorials, VA hospitals and appropriate stops to make sure our POW-MIA's are remembered.

Anyone can join the group anywhere along the route. Everyone and all brands of motorcycles are welcome.

In Wash. DC on Memorial Day Sunday the group will unite with other riders to form Rolling Thunder XI, a "Welcome Home and We Have Not Forgotten" Parade from the Pentagon to the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial - THE WALL. Last year over 175,000 bikes participated. Now that Rolling Thunder 10 is past, people expect us to go away.

We will not go away until everyone is HOME! COME AND SHOW YOUR SUPPORT.

NO ATTITUDES : CONFIRMED

WEDNESDAY 13th	THURSDAY 14th	FRIDAY 15th	SATURDAY 16th	SUNDAY 17th	MONDAY 18th
Kingman, AZ Camp KOA Motel 6-1366 520-757-7151	Gallup, NM Camp FREE KOA Comfort Inn 888-722-0982	Cimarron, NM Cimarron Camp FREE Cimarron Inn 800-546-2244 or 800-293-7961	Limon, CO Camp FREE KOA Preferred Motor Inn 719-775-2385	Salina, KS Camp FREE Budget Host 913-825-7265	Wentzville, MO Camp FREE Days Inn 314-625-1711
TUESDAY 19th	WEDNESDAY 20th	THURSDAY 21th	FRIDAY 22nd	SATURDAY 23rd	SUNDAY 24th
Corydon, IN Camp FREE Budgetel Motel 812-738-1500	Huntington, WV Camp FREE C/O Benjy's HD University Inn 304-523-1340	Rainelle, WV Camp FREE Rainelle Lodge 304-438-8571	Fairfax, VA Camp Burke Lake Comfort Inn Code RWO522 800-223-1223	Fairfax, VA Camp Burke Lake Comfort Inn Stay 2 or 3 Nights	Washington, DC ROLLING THUNDER XI PARADE

NOTES: Reserve rooms at RFTW rate at Hotel Queen Mary 562-435-3511 for May 12th, or choose any motel in Long Beach. YOU MUST MAKE ALL RESERVATIONS BY APRIL 1ST TO ENSURE THE SPECIAL RATES. MENTION "RFTW GROUP"

Sign in for RFTW X at 6:30 am, May 13th, in the Hotel Queen Mary parking lot.

THERE IS NO CHARGE TO GO ON RFTW.

Through the generosity of many people we may receive meals, gas, camping, etc. at some stops, however, each participant is responsible for all personal expenses.

Support and chase vehicles are available for break downs at no cost. Your support of merchandise, 50-50 drawing and donations provide the funds for chase trucks. Donations maybe sent to: RFTW 7430 Liberty Ave., Corona, CA 91719

RFTW X is dedicated to the memory of RFTW Family Members who died this year. "Popcycle" Hosea Vails 8-27-97
 "Uncle Dick" Lanter 9-13-97

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: www.rftw.org or

RFTW NEWSLETTER EDITORS: TERRY & JUDI GANZ @ 520-586-7677 - E-MAIL mountainman@theriver.com

NATIONAL COORDINATORS: TERRY (SKIPPER) & LAURIE (REDLITE) PORTER @ 562-495-3653 or E-Mail: rftwskipper@hotmail.com

5th Annual Sturgis Reunion
 August 5, 1998
 Call Squirrel for details:
 605-393-0152

State/Regional
 Coordinator:

Terry Rolinger
(520) 287 - 7920

RFTW Local
 Contact:

6th Annual Reunion
 Held Columbus Day
 Weekend - TBA
 Call MT. Man
 520-586-7677



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Vietnam Veterans of America Tucson Chapter 106

will award scholarship(s) for either full or part time students, which may be used for Technical or Trade schools as well as college education. The scholarship(s) will be awarded by year. Recipient(s) must send a transcript letter to VVA Tucson Chapter #106 by April 30th to be considered for renewal of award.

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants must:

- 1) Have graduated from high school or passed a GED.
- 2) Be an Arizona resident.
- 3) Be one of the following:
 - a) Member of VVA Tucson Chapter #106
 - b) Vietnam Era Veteran (non-member)
 - c) Spouse or child of a member of VVA Tucson Chapter #106
 - d) Spouse or child of a Vietnam Era Veteran (non-member)
 - e) Student / Other
- 4) Financial need will be a variable but not a limiting factor.

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

- Neatness of the application. (Use ball point pen or typewriter/computer)
- Completeness of the application. If information requested does not apply to your situation, then answer "not applicable" (N/A).
- Applications must be accompanied by two (2) letters of recommendation from sources other than family or friends. (One should be from an academic source).
- Prepare a typewritten essay of two (2) pages or less discussing the course of study in which you will be enrolled and the occupation in which you plan to use your education.
- Application for award must be received by April 30, 1998 (postmarked no later than April 29, 1998).

Mail completed application to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
Tucson Chapter 106
P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, Arizona 85717-0903
Attention: Scholarship Committee



SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS
Vietnam Veterans of America
Tucson Chapter 106

Application Form

PERSONAL INFORMATION

(If more space is needed please attach a separate sheets)

Name: _____ Birth Date: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____ Social Security #: _____

Check item that applies to you: Member VVA #106 Spouse or child of Member VVA #106

___ Vietnam Era Vet (non-member) ___ Spouse or child of Vietnam Era Vet (nonmember)

___ Student ___ Other (explain) _____

Name of VVA Tucson Chapter #106 Member related to: _____

Name of Veteran (nonmember) related to: _____

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

High School Attended _____ Registration # _____

Date of H.S. Graduation _____ Date of GED Completion _____

Previous College Attended _____ Date(s) _____

City/State _____ Total Credit Hours _____ GPA: _____

Name of School Planning to Attend (or currently attending) _____

Major (or course of study) _____

ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS

Please indicate any awards, honors or recognitions received: _____

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Please indicate any extra-curricular activities or community organizations in which you participate:

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Have you applied and/or been accepted for any other type of financial aid? Yes No If yes please explain:

Although this scholarship is not dependent on financial need, list any unusual circumstances that may prevent you from completing your education:

I authorize the use of my scholarship application in the evaluation process of the VVA Tucson Chapter #106 scholarship program. I declare that, to the best of my knowledge, the information provided on this form is correct and complete.

Signature _____ Date _____

I also authorize the release of my name for publicity if am the recipient of this award.

Signature _____ Date _____

Chapter News - Cont.

January meeting notes shows active membership

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Mansfield Middle School on their upcoming trip to Washington D.C. on May 4th. Motion by Mike Brasher, Second by Chuck Bald-Coulter, to donate \$1000.00 to the students for their trip with the Close-up Foundation. **Carried.** Additional events that were brought up included VA patient carnival (March 29th), Annual Massing Of Colors in Sun City (April 5th), and Firebase (April 4th & 5th) Treasurer report by Pete Duerr. Motion by Gail Skinner, Second by Joe Luke, to approve report, subject to audit. **Carried.** Membership Report by Walt Maxam shows 263 members as of this date. Report on Christmas activities at E & E indicated that it was the best ever Christmas that they have ever had. Special thanks to Artisoft and the members of Chapter 106 that contributed to this success. Motion by Deanne Cooper, Second by Gerard Berume, to pay for a stove for a veteran and his family who were in dire straits. **Carried.**

Pete Duerr gave a report on the National Board meeting in Washington, which included a "Evening Song" ceremony and a wreath laying ceremony at the "Wall." Motion by Deanne Cooper, Seconded by Chuck Bald-Coulter, to donate \$500.00 to a representative from E & E to attend the homeless Symposium in Las Vegas. **Carried.** The result of E & E's attendance at the last symposium was a \$300,000.00 grant from the VA. Other discussions were held on the upcoming elections, the newsletter, advertising product sales in the *Monsoon Tribune* and the Scholarship Fund. Motion by Pete Duerr, Seconded by

Joe Kelley, for VVA Tucson Chapter 106 to continue in the Chaplaincy Program. **Carried.**

50/50 Drawing: \$11.00 goes to Ann Snyder, \$11.00 to the Scholarship Fund. Alfred Sibey, Ted Wolner and Dave Deminsky were the names drawn for the revolving cash prize. None were present. Meeting adjourned at 2140 hours.

Arizona State Council announces banquet

Larry Brown, Director, Arizona State Council recently announced the First Annual Installation of Officers Banquet to be held Saturday, June 6, 1998, 7 p.m.

Larry says "We cordially invite you and your guest to participate in the first annual Installation of Officers. Here is a new idea being presented to you so that you may witness the installations of your officers for State Council and the introduction of your new Officers in your Chapter. Also, a remarkable way we as Brother and Sisters can come to know one another throughout the state of Arizona, and a opportunity to meet and chat with your District Representatives. This should be a fun way for all to share and care about the VVA.

"In order to put on a first class dinner and dance banquet, we are going to charge on a prepay only ticket, in order to lock in a hotel and banquet room with not having a years notice. The total concept is to have it in the central part of the State for easy transportation and access."

For more information, please contact your local chapter or Larry Brown at (602) 996-7202

Chapter members attend VVA meeting in New Mexico

The success of a Vietnam Veterans of America chapter in helping unite a California community highlighted the VVA Region 9 meeting in Albuquerque.

Peter Duerr, along with seven other members of Chapter 106, recently traveled to New Mexico to attend the meetings. The traveling party also included Gerard Berume, Billy Fort, Joe Kelley, Walt Maxam, Joe and Ruth Luke, and Gail Skinner.

The highlight of the meeting was Ponce Gonzales of Chapter 464, San Mateo, CA, and Vernon Valenzuela describing how the chapter was successful in uniting a California community against violence and drugs.

The evening was filled by the Fifteenth Anniversary of Profile of Courage Awards Banquet, hosted and presented by the VVA New Mexico State Council.

Esperanza Update

Most needed at EEE is a backhoe or the use of a backhoe. Sewer issues continue to hold up other construction projects on site. Please let EEE know of any leads to the use of a backhoe.

Also needed is a donated carpet and carpet layers. Two new buildings will be coming on line soon. Each building is a duplex which will house two homeless families. Carpeting is needed for both buildings.

Other needs include dressers, working refrigerators and gas kitchen stoves. EEE can pick up any donated items. Call 571-8294.

Veteran Data Bank

Trends of American Veteran Population

Aging Veteran Population

Between 1995 and 2010 the veteran population will **decrease** 23 percent from 26.1 million to 20.0 million.

Veteran population age 65 and older will **peak** at 9.3 million in 2000 and will decrease to 8.5 million by 2010.

Median veterans age will **increase** from 57.1 years in 1995 to 62.6 years in 2010.



Health Care

59.3 percent of Veterans using the VA system have **no** private or Medigap insurance and 21 percent have **no** health care coverage.

During the period 1995 to 2010 it is projected that the number of users of VA health care services will **increase** by 17 percent.

Source: Veterans Administration (www.va.gov/data.htm)

Teaching about Vietnam proving to be difficult for some

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Clayton Owen, head of the social studies department at Elmhurst High School, said he is among those who sometimes run out of time before getting to the Vietnam era. "We may or may not get as far as we'd like. We don't always promise to get everything in." Owen said the minimum he would expect of his classes and those taught by others in his department is that they get as far as the Cold War of the 1950s - before Vietnam. "If we get to (Vietnam), we get to it, but we don't want to make everything else a survey," he said.

Bob Walleen, social studies department head at Northrop High School, said he has reached the Vietnam unit in two of the last four school years. He said he always addresses the topic in

some way. For example, the class was running behind last year, but he covered poetry from the time period. "I always teach it as a matter of comparing wars or maybe as a research topic," he said. "My philosophy is that the kids learn the details and we cover in class the generalities." Blane Ryan, who teaches at South Side High School, said that because he's covering the subject in reverse chronology this year - beginning in the 1990s and working back - he taught Vietnam for the first time in roughly a decade. "For me personally, it was kind of an uncomfortable thing to cover," Ryan said. "It started to bring back a bunch of unpleasant memories for me of the late '60s and early '70s."

VA Home Loan under review

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reviving the ARM option to meet the borrowing needs of veterans.

Modifying VA's fee panel appraisal system to improve the delivery of home ownership to the veteran home buyer. Current law requires that appraisers be assigned from DVA's list of appraisers on a rotational basis. But, imbalances in the number of appraisers in differing regions of the country have contributed delays in completing VA-approved appraisals. NAR believes an appropriate remedy would involve expanding the VA fee panel to include more appraisers, or implementing an appraiser roster and permitting lenders to select appraisers from the roster list.

- Making the existing fee structure permanent to protect the veteran home buyer from increases as a response to fiscal and budgetary objectives. Fee increases designed to meet economic purposes should not be made at the expense of the veteran home buyer.

- Aggressive marketing of the program by DVA.

The National Association of Realtors, the "Voice for Real Estate," is the nation's largest professional association, representing nearly 700,000 members involved in all aspects of the real estate industry. News releases issued from the National Association of Realtors are posted on the Internet at <http://nar.realtor.com>.

SOURCE: National Association of Realtors



In Service to America

Chapter 106 Calendar

April

- 5 34th Annual Massing of Colors and Service Remembrance Sun City, AZ
- 12 Easter
- 15 6:45 pm We host Bingo at VA Medical Center
- 18 10:00 am Arizona State Council Meeting & Nomination of Officers - Show Low
- 27 6:30 pm Chapter 106 Meeting & Election of Officers - VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.

May

- 13 Arizona Run for the Wall
- 13 6:45 pm We host Bingo at VA Medical Center
- 25 6:30 pm Chapter 106 Board Meeting & General Meeting - VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.

June 6 Arizona State Council Special Meeting for Election of Officers - Phoenix

July 31 - Aug 4 National Leadership Conference - Savanna, GA

Oct 4 Nam Jam



Vietnam Veterans of America

A Congressional Chartered Veteran's Service Organization

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Social Security # _____

Date of Birth _____ Gender _____

- Renewal of Membership** Membership Number _____
- Vietnam-Era Veteran** (Jan. 1, 1959 - May 7, 1975) Copy of your DD-214 or Signed Form 180
- Associate Member** is open to the General Public

Mark one of the following types of Membership

Annual

- \$20 for 1 Year
- \$50 for 3 Years

Life

- age 49 and under \$250 age 50-55 \$225 age 61-65 \$175
- age 56-60 \$200 age 66 over \$150

Incarcerated

- Department of Corrections Number _____

Vietnam Veterans of America
Tucson Chapter 106
P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, AZ 85717-0903

Return Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
TUCSON AZ
PERMIT NO. 2458

Clip & Send



Our membership for **Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106**, Tucson has grown to more than 250 people. Yet our mailing list for the *Monsoon Tribune* is over 700 people. We honestly don't know who wants our newsletter. With your help we can find out, and also save our membership some money in reduced mailing costs. Can you take a moment to fill out this form and send it back to us?

Is the above mailing label information correct?
First line on mailing label indicates current membership (Yes or No) and year it expires.
If not, please correct.

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