

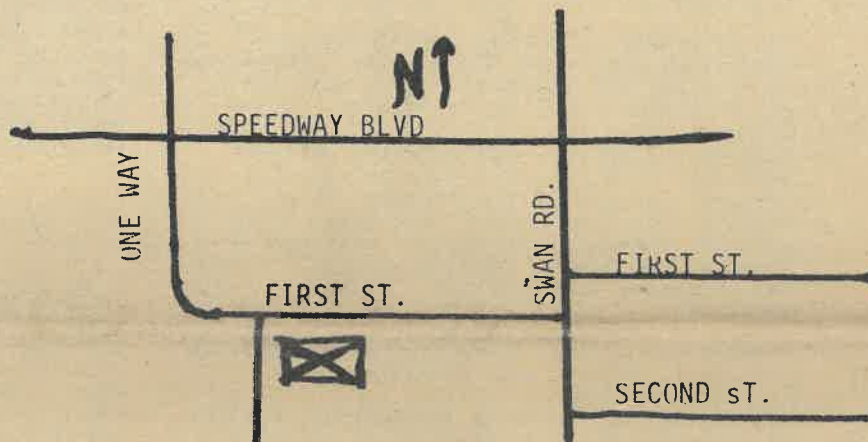
Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

VOLUME I ISSUE 9

NOVEMBER 1984

CALENDAR

- NOVEMBER 29 VVA GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18 Hall, 4656 E. 1st St. (see map) at 7:30 p.m. This will be the last regular meeting of the year, due to the holiday season. BRING A CAN OF FOOD AND A TOY TO HELP ONE OF OUR BROTHERS OR SISTERS IN NEED.
- DECEMBER 9 POTLUCK SUPPER will be held at the Dos Caminos Apartments Recreation Center at 1210 S. Turquoise Vista from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. All VVA members, families and friends are welcome. This will serve as the December meeting, and will be a chance to get together on a less formal basis. Bring a dish, your own utensils, good humor and a bad joke. Don't forget to bring a donation to the food drive and the toy drive for the Santa Rita Vets Association.
- DECEMBER 7,8,9 FOURTH AVENUE STREET FAIR. VVA Chapter 106 will once again have a booth. We need volunteers to man it for the three days. Be sure to make it down there. It's great fun, and a chance to meet and gain new members. While you're there, take in the food, crafts and shows.



Chapter 106 Potluck

VVA Chapter 106 Women's Committee is hosting a Christmas potluck dinner. The gathering will be held on Sunday, December 9, 1984, from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Dos Caminos Apartments Clubhouse, 1210 South Turquoise Vista, just east of the intersection of 22nd and Kolb. All VVA members, their families and friends are cordially invited to attend. Bring a dish, your own eating utensils, and HAVE A GOOD TIME! Also, please feel welcome to bring donations for our food and toy drives. That afternoon will be one of the last opportunities to donate before the items are designated for distribution. COME SHARE THE SPIRIT!

Women's Committee Is Rolling

Chapter 106 may boast the presence of an established Women's Committee! We are a group whose objectives will be to raise awareness of women's issues concerning Vietnam and to be a support group for ourselves and the Chapter. All women Vets, female spouses, friends and "significant others" are invited to join us. Our next meeting will be December 12, 1984, at the home of Rachel Holland. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. and our major order of business will be to sort the food collected for the holiday food bank. Please call Rachel for directions: 327-3537. You will be hearing more about our group and its activities in future "Monsoon" editions!

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

BULK RATE
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Fragments

By Chuck Hovey

Vietnam became a military power to contend with after U.S. withdrawal and the massive resupply to RVN before their downfall. Based on reliable sources compiled by the March issue of Soldier of Fortune, here is a listing of what we left behind:

M16 Rifles	791,000
Other Rifles	857,000
.45 Caliber Pistols	90,000
M60 Machine Guns	50,000
M79 Grenade Launchers	47,000
Mortars (variety)	12,000
M72 LAW	63,000

ARTILLERY	
M107 (175mm)	80
105mm Towed Howitzers	1,000
155mm Howitzers	250

RADIOS (All Types)	48,000
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TRUCKS (All Types)	42,000
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TANKS/APCs	
M41A4	300
M48A3	250
M113/M113A1	1,200

AMMUNITION (All Types, In Tons)	130,000
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SHIPS (All Types)	940
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HELICOPTERS	
UH-1	430
CH-47	36

AIRCRAFT	
A-37	113
F-5A/B	51
F-5E	22
A-1	36
C-130A	10
C-119	40
C-7	40
O-1/O-2	159
C-47	36
T-41	22

The Vietnam Veterans' Art Group, a touring organization, was developed in 1981 by a group of Viet Vets, mostly artists, who became aware that the American public had been shown the war through the eyes of professional observers rather than by those who had directly participated in the conflict. The collection is unique in that all of the art is by participants and no "official" art is included. The exhibition includes works in all media by over 60 artists from 25 states as well as Australia and North Vietnam. Vietnamese artifacts, scrapbooks and letters are also shown. The group is sponsored by members of Congress and actively solicits art from interested veterans. Interested parties should contact their Congressional Representatives for inclusion of their works in the exhibit.

The Air Force notified Peggy Phillips last week that information indicated that her husband, Capt. David J., Phillips, Hr., may be alive in a Southeast Asian POW camp. Mrs. Phillips had believed herself to be a widow since Capt. Phillips F-5 aircraft crashed and exploded in South Vietnam on July 3, 1966. The flier's remains were never recovered and he was listed as killed. The information revealed in the letter turned out to be false and Mrs. Phillips stated that Air Force should have investigated further before communicating with her about unsubstantiated intelligence.

DOD spokesman Lt. Col. Robert Shields said letters like the one Phillips received are a result of POW/MIA families "beating us on the head and shoulders for news." He did not, however explain why the letter was sent, but did state Phillips is the first complaint about a letter.

NAVY BUFFS

The Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships is available from the Government Printing Office. The volumes are brief histories arranged several ways and also by the name of all ships commissioned from 1775 to the present. The appendices include discussions and tabulated data on specific ship types and other related subjects. For prices of individual volumes and to order, write the Government Printing Office, Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. 20402

In that same regard, for background information on how ships' names and sponsors are chosen; for ships types and basic sources of names, write to:

Ships Histories Branch
Navy Historical Center Bldg 57
Dept of Navy Wahington Navy Yard
Washington, D.C. 20374

Maps of military installations in the United States are available for \$2.55 from:

Defense Mapping Agency
Office of Distribution Services
Attn: DDCP
Washington, D.C. 20315

For those of you who ever wondered how the Department of State based its decisions, now is your chance to find out! Write to the following address and request to be placed on the mailing list. After filling out a returned questionnaire, you will be in the know.

Dept. of State
Office of Public Communications
Bureau of Public Affairs
Rm 4827A
2201 C St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

During October, Congress voted a myriad of extensions and raises which affect thousands of Veterans and dependents. The provisions of the Omnibus Bill are as follows:

More than 2 million veterans with service-connected disabilities will receive a 3.2 percent cost of living increase. In addition, benefits would increase by the same percentage for surviving spouses and children of Veterans who died of service-connected causes. The effective date for this increase is 1 December 1984.

Vietnam Era GI Bill users will receive an immediate 10 percent cost of living boost.

The Vietnam Era Veterans Readjustment Appointment Program which is designed to enable Vietnam Era and disabled Vets to obtain Federal employment has been extended two more years.

The Emergency Veterans Job Training Act has been extended with tentative application date until May 29, 1985 and a cutoff date for commencing training of September 1, 1985.

Remember H.R. 1870 which would authorize the Secretary of the Treasury to coin and sell a National Medal in honor of Viet Vets through the U.S. Mint? This legislation was given final congressional approval in October and sent to the White House for signature. The medal would honor the almost 3 million Vietnam Veterans, but a design contest is tentatively scheduled.

The President has finally signed a bill that would compensate Vietnam Veterans exposed to Agent Orange and create a commission to review the basis of claims of other Viet Vets. The bill provides temporary compensation for two years to Vets who have developed skin diseases already conclusively linked to Agent Orange at an annual cost of \$7.5 million. The commission will study which diseases may have been caused from exposure to the herbicide. It will also look into diseases among 380,000 Vets who may have been exposed to radiation either in tests or as members of the occupation forces in Hiroshima or Nagasaki after the atom bombs exploded in 1945.

GET YOUR VA AGENT ORANGE EXAM NOW!!!!

North Adams, Massachusetts area VVA members employed some of their characteristic training to "capture" the first officially chartered Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter. They called it Firebase Trantino for the Sons of Italy cinderblock hall that used to stand on the same site. Smaller and more unassuming than the American Legion hall across town or the sprawling VFW post up the hill, the VVA found home when the Sons of Italy donated a shack known as Club Trantino on condition that the Vets evict a motorcycle gang. In true spirit, there was not a single incident of violence and in fact, most of the bikers became members after revealing their Viet Vet status.

A memorial to Vietnam Veterans who perished will rise soon in Manhattan's lower end. The memorial will tell the story of the war by using letter to and from home, newspaper clippings, etc., from families and participants. These will be etched on a plain glass wall 70 feet long and 14 feet high. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Commission and the New York Times shared some of their contributions to make this memorial perhaps the most significant tribute to the war's victims. What better way to tell the way the war was than by using the words of those who fought it, those who died in it, and those who could only stay at home and grieve.

Officer Losses In Southeast Asia by Rank, 1 January 1961 - 31 December 1976

RANK	ARMY	NAVY	COAST GUARD	USMC	USAF	TOTAL
General/Admiral	0	0	0	0	0	0
LtGen/VAdm	0	0	0	0	0	0
MGen/RAdm	0	0	0	0	0	0
BGen/Commodore	5	1	0	0	1	7
Col/Captain	17	13	0	4	55	89
LtCol/Commander	111	71	0	23	90	295
Major/LtCommander	228	123	0	66	279	696
Capt/Lieutenant	1009	154	1	202	532	1898
1Lt/Ltjg	1468	151	2	303	211	2135
2Lt/Ensign	496	17	0	284	8	805
CWO-4	4	0	0	2	4	10
CWO-3	29	0	0	2	0	31
CWO-2	277	0	0	7	0	284
CWO-1	904	4	0	6	0	914

Enlisted Losses in Southeast Asia by Rate

Rate	ARMY	NAVY	COAST GUARD	USMC	USAF	TOTAL
E-9	41	4	0	17	14	76
E-8	185	11	0	30	18	244
E-7	951	63	1	107	52	1174
E-6	2133	182	1	293	114	2723
E-5	5123	322	1	718	196	6360
E-4	11494	613	0	2306	200	14613
E-3	12803	633	1	4339	131	17907
E-2	473	65	0	5615	6	6159
E-1	142	3	0	378	0	523

CAUSES OF CASUALTIES AMONG US PERSONNEL January 1965 - June 1970

	Small Arms	Fragments	Booby Traps/ Mines	Punji Stakes	Other Causes
Deaths	51%	36%	11%		2%
Wounds	16%	65%	15%	2%	2%

In comparison, World War II and Korean War small arms deaths were 32% and 33%. Source: Department of Defense

Letters Etc.

The opinions and viewpoints expressed here are those of individual members and do not represent the Vietnam Veterans of America nor is the VVA responsible for the contents of any letters, poems, cartoons or thoughts expressed here. We welcome any correspondence and will make this a forum for all members and readers.

Welcome Home Nurse

Thirteen years and some days ago, I flew out of Vietnam for the last time carrying memories that were of women in white at Qui Nhon Hospital where I had gone to see friends.

The thought didn't register then, nor since, that there was anything different about women nurses in Vietnam from any other nurse in any other hospital anywhere in the world, until a few months ago.

Until a few months ago, I had been giving lip service to the concept of women veterans while vigorously advocating equal rights for women in jobs, pay and responsibilities. I found to my surprise that I had been indulging in an unconscious hypocrisy about women veterans.

It was simple once I figured it out. I had carried a gun; I had dodged and been lucky some; I had not dodged enough and was still lucky twice; I had caused some of "them" to fall; I had seen some of "mine" fall.

I was a soldier, they were only nurses - nurses who worked day after day, week after week, month after month trying to undo the carnage that I and soldiers like me had done to each other.

I dealt with death and destruction a few times; some more and less. Yet many times those women had to deal with a few or many wounded and dying. Many times those women used scalpel, hemostat, suture and IV with skilled hands to save lives that skilled hands had tried to end merely by pulling a trigger.

My awareness was started by the reserved, slightly hesitant presentation of Diane Evans of a study titled "PTSD and Women Veterans" to our State Council. It was thinking that crystallized into sharp relief at the August 12 dedication of a statue to nurses called "Nurse" unveiled in St. Paul, Minnesota.

That statue means as much to women who had been or still are nurses as "The Wall" means to me, for I had seen Diane recall her days in Nam and cry at "The Wall".

At the unveiling of "Nurse", I heard an appeal for all women veterans to stand together, and I saw Diane and her peers stand tall and proud. The smiles on their faces shone so that for a moment in time, nothing else could be seen.

I never said "Welcome home" though I've heard you ask, and for that I'm sorry. Please accept a soldier's apology and the warmest "Welcome Home" I can give for jobs well done.

Dennis A. Woodford
VVA Chapter 5
Western Wisconsin Chapter

The Chip

TO give the children what they have
is no justice in their eyes
The children, though still young and innocent
can tell the difference between truth and lies

To give them praise is 'nt enough
We know what we could
But we steal from them what we never had
Don't take away their childhood

Don't make them fight our wars
let them forget our hate
let the children live their lives
let them choose their own fate

Don't give them guns to kill
don't give them our power to destroy
let them live free while they can
give them a life they can enjoy

Don't put our ideals of freedom in their head
let them choose for themselves instead
we can't pass on what we can't win
let the children grow up free of our sin

Don't punish them for our mistake
let them love and give what we take
wash their minds free of our waste
let them grow up free of our bitter taste

Trust in their judgement
don't put the chip on their shoulder
let them grow up to be children
let them grow up to be older

Let them play, give them this day
there will always be time to grow old
don't flutter their little minds
let our heroic war stories go untold

maybe then they won't know how to kill
if they don't know they never will
sometimes the innocent survives
let them grow up to be alive

Don't drop our bomb
or shoot our big gun
give them time to be children
let them play and have fun

Give the children back their youth, don't burden this young face
give the children a chance ...

They may save our dying race...

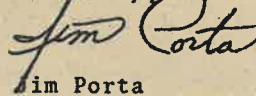
PAUL SCOTT GRAY
age 17

TO: Chapter 106 President and Members:

Via this letter I wish to congratulate all those of you that worked so hard in organizing the Congressional Debate. The debate was very professional and informative, and it makes me proud to say I am a member of the V.V.A.

Once again, thanks to all for a job well done.

Sincerely,


Jim Porta

Differences

There are those who believe Vietnam Veterans are merely "crybabies" as former VA Director Robert Nimmo stated publicly and just didn't have the lauded "right stuff" that brought their predecessors through similar kinds of crisis. Psychologists, however, attribute the higher post-war casualty rate to important differences to World War II:

*** The average age of the combatant in Vietnam as 19.2 years compared with 26.4 in WWII.

*** Vietnam was a guerilla war with no front line or easily identifiable enemy.

***Although WWII Veterans were overseas longer, Viet Vets were exposed to more actual combat or the threat of danger for virtually their entire year overseas. The rear areas afforded little relief from stress due to the constant fear of guerilla attack.

***During World War II, most went to war in units. Returning home, there was time to talk and unwind. On the average, most had at least six months in transit with medical/psychological staff available. Most Vietnam Veterans, however, found that going to war and coming home was an isolated individual experience.

At the completion of the tour, the Viet Vet was transported by a commercial jet and moved from fighting position to Main Street, USA, within 36 hours.

***Vietnam Veterans did not return as heroes, but came home to a divided nation. Whereas WWII was a united effort with visible reasons for the war, i.e. Hitler, Mussolini, Tojo, Pearl Harbor, the justification for Vietnam was nebulous and loudly debated. The warriors came to be blamed for the war, and most importantly, for the losing effort.

From the Top

Are you (the Vietnam and Vietnam Era Vet) doing better today than you were 10-15 years ago? Before you answer, listen to this....

We all know by now, Vietnam was a Politicians Playground. Never before in the history of this country had we allowed Capitol Hill to conduct the business of the military. Today those same politicians have surfaced as our "friends" and want you to know they support the Vietnam Vet and "wasn't that war a real bad 'thing'". They will tell you no more than what you want to hear. Judge them by their actions - not their war stories.

There is a fine line between proper use of, and being used by. We need politicians to obtain our goals, but let's not ever be used again! There are people in politics who are good, honest and sincere. It's not as simple as categorizing politicians as all bad. Remember those who failed to support our Charter Bill. They would have you fade into the woodwork; that's denying you as a Veteran, and supporting a failed political ideology.

What about the media? They used us to create their version of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, a convenience created for \$\$\$\$. Any horror that shocked the world, you can bet a Viet Vet was responsible. Television and the movies portrayed us as sinister and evil.

Have they changed? California, August 84. A man walks into McDonalds', opens fire and kills people. The news media, from sheer reflex, report him to be a Vietnam Vet. Normally, confirmation would have been required, but not here. Was he? NO!!!

If this were not enough, exactly who is it conducting a secret war in Central America? According to the news media, Viet Vets are responsible. Anything from a helicopter shot down, filled with Viet Vets, to a secret battalion of volunteer Viet Vets as trainers and technical advisors. And who writes the manual on overthrowing governments and political assassinations? You got it - a Viet Vet!

November 11 is Veteran's Day, and for the Vietnam Vet, and the female Vet, is a special day to remember. At Salute II, in Washington, D.C. the dedication of the bronze statues will take place. American Airlines has committed itself as the official carrier to Salute II. They announced a 40% reduction. Since most of us were transported to and from Vietnam by air, American's offer became very attractive - Freedom Bird II and all that....

Upon investigation I was appalled to find that by traveling with American on their special rates, Arizona Vets could cut off a whopping \$9.00 from standard deals offered to the general public. That equals 2.73% off. Will it ever end? Let's stop the pretense....

Well, folks, can you say you're better off today? That's for you to answer, but I add this caution - the same people who used us in Vietnam are back again. Don't be fooled. A dog, if starved long enough, will be lured by a token bone.

Mike Flannery
Chairman,
VVA Arizona State
Council

THANK YOU!

I'm going to take this opportunity to thank many of the VVA members and supporters for their efforts in making our Debate a success, a success in that we accomplished our objective to provide a public service.

Thank you's go to Craig Hilts and Neil Gregerson, our sound and cleaning crew. Ron Borque, Jane Darrien and the Pima College Video Crew, Mel Coley, Bob Camwell and their video crew. Matt Mazer for his donating the Temple of Music and Art, Gary Ford and August West Productions for their donating of time and equipment for the slide show. Dave Hefely and Dan Glessinger for the fantastic VVA logo. Antique Print'n' Parlor for our flyers, Chuck Hovey, Dick Koppe and Pete McHugh for putting up with my endless phone calls. Rex Beving, Bob King, John Paulus and all the others who were there and pitched in.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Jim Click for making it possible for four Chapter members to attend the Statue Dedication in Washington, D.C. this Veterans Day.

Jim Randall, President

Sister Column

By Bess Jones

The responses to the last couple of columns have been scant and I thought perhaps a more detailed idea of what-there-is-to-do would help.

The VVA National Board of Directors has charted a Special Committee on Women Veterans. As I understand, this committee consists of two board members in Washington, D.C., and the other committee members are located throughout the nation. But as always, there is a need for more members.

The following areas of interest have been identified by the National Board. The suggestion they made was that you pick two areas and then participate.

1. **Coordination.** There is a need to do a network using state contacts or resource people in various geographical areas. We need to generate and keep updated a list of people. There is also a need for state contacts or resource people.
2. **Women's Column.** There is a need for material, i.e. poems, stories, articles of interest, for the VVA Veteran's women's page. The suggested articles are on things that are important to all veterans with a concentration on education of our peers.
3. **Recruitment.** There is a need to figure out a way to get more women to join the VVA and then carry out the ideas.
4. **Education.** We need people to serve as historians for veterans and to be a resource for people researching female veterans.
5. **Public Affairs.** People working in this area would provide resource and referral services for anyone interested in women veterans.
6. **Legislature.** People are need to keep up-to-date on legislation concerning women. Also there is a need to push and monitor all Agent Orange and PTSD research on women.

As you can see, the Committee is aimed toward women who served in the Armed Forces. But the work is not restricted to "Females Only." We need the help of our brothers in this major undertaking. If you see any area that interests you, please contact:

SISTER COLUMN
P.O. Box 22166
Tucson, AZ 85734

Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk!

"Quality...uncompromising
and unchanging"

-Frederic Miller, 1855



POW/MIA Update

POW LOBBY. The Insiders, a non-profit organization, based in Vienna, VA, is seeking people to join the "POW Lobby". They want those who will work in the local community or organizations and would be willing to lobby the White House, State Department, Department of Defense, etc., and encourage our government to rescue the live men and women who are still prisoners in Southeast Asia. Anyone interested, contact Jim Franklin at 4701 Kenmore Ave, Suite 1001, Alexandria, VA 22304.

Many of you have requested information regarding my brother, Major Victor J. Apodaca, USAF. Following is the information we received from the Air Force: (See letter below.)

After 17½ years, under request of the Freedom of Information Act, I received additional information about Vic. With the Help of Chuck Hovey of Chapter 106, we charted the coordinates given on information received from Department of Defense. From these coordinates, we found that Vic and his co-pilot, Jon Busch, were actually hit over Laos in the area of Boualapha. When they exited the area, their plane flew over Dong Hoi, North Vietnam, and landed 200 miles out in the Gulf of Tonkin. The area where the plane went into the water was near Hainan Island, which is controlled by the Red Chinese. In fact, at the southern tip of this island, Yulin, is a Red Chinese Naval Base. This leads me to believe that, in all probability, Vic and John were picked up by the Red Chinese. It is a distinct possibility that both men are now prisoners in CHINA.

Why is it that our own government couldn't have told my family the truth 17½ years ago -- ANOTHER INDICATION OF GOVERNMENT COVERUP!

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

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 366TH TACTICAL FIGHTER WING (PACAF)
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96337

9 June 1967

Mr & Mrs Victor J. Apodaca
Indian Hills Colo 80454

Dear Mr & Mrs Apodaca

Please accept my personal condolences concerning the missing status of your son, Captain Victor J. Apodaca Jr. I feel you will want to know the circumstances that led to his missing status.

Captain Apodaca was aircraft commander of an F4C aircraft which departed DaNang Air Base at 5:40 P.M., 8 June 1967 on an armed reconnaissance mission over North Vietnam. His aircraft encountered hostile anti-aircraft ground fire during the mission and he reported that his aircraft was hit. The lead aircraft advised him to exit the area and head for the coast. Your son replied that he was having major control problems. Approximately 30 to 40 seconds later, the lead aircraft heard an emergency radio signal. These signals come from an emergency radio all crewmembers carry for use in case they have to eject from their aircraft. The lead aircraft turned back to search, but saw nothing. An air search was attempted but had to be terminated because of darkness and deteriorating weather. An electronic search, which consists of other aircraft listening for additional radio signals, was continued throughout the night with negative results, and an air search was resumed at daylight. This search was also unsuccessful and was discontinued at 12:45 P.M., 9 June 1967. An electronic search will continue and any new developments will be relayed to you immediately as they occur.

I realize the anxiety you must feel at this time and I sincerely hope this information will ease your apprehension somewhat.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to communicate with me.

Sincerely

Robert W. Maloy
ROBERT W. MALOY, Colonel, USAF
Commander

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.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

The Spirit of 106

Chapter 106's drive to obtain two new search and rescue helicopters for the county is snowballing with success. Donations are already being received for the worthy project and planning is nearly complete for future fund-raising events. Working in conjunction with the Pima County Sheriff's Department, Chapter representatives have cemented plans with Bell Helicopter for a demonstration of the birds on the morning of November 29, 1984, to kick off the formal drive. Dignitaries, press, law enforcement officials, etc., will be in attendance and the two stars, the Search and Rescue Helicopters, will be available for public inspection. In a very short period of time, Chapter 106 will be able to formally dedicate their living memorial to the 106 Pima County residents who gave their lives during the Vietnam conflict. Reciprocally, countless lives will be saved by the living memorial during the years to come. Come support the efforts, visit the demonstration, and volunteer your time to achieve our goal. More information will be given at the November meeting.

Do You Remember?

The Boonierat Song

I landed in this country,
One year of life to give,
My only friend a weapon,
My only prayer, to live.

I walked away from freedom
And the life that I had known,
I passed the weary faces
Of the other going home.

Boonie Rats, Boonie Rats,
Scared but not alone,
300 days more or less
Then I'm going home.

The first few days were hectic
As they psyched my mind for war,
I often got the feeling
They're trying to tie the score.

The first day with my unit
We climbed a two click hill,
To find an enemy soldier,
To capture, wound, or kill.

Boonie Rats, Boonie Rats,
Scared but not alone,
200 days more or less
Then I'm going home.

The air was hot and humid,
The ground was hard and dry.
Ten times I cursed my rucksack
And wished that I could die.

I learned to look for danger
In the trees and on the ground,
I learned to shake with terror
When I hear an A-K round.

Boonie Rats, Boonie Rats,
Scared but not alone,
100 days more or less
Then I'm going home.

"SKYHAWKS" is our motto,
"AIRBORNE" is our cry,
Freedom is our mission,
For this we do or die.

Boonie Rats a legend
For now and times to come,
Wherever there are soldiers
They'll talk of what we've done.

Boonie Rats, Boonie Rats,
Scared but not alone,
50 days more or less
Then I'm going home.

They say there'll always be a war
I hope they're very wrong
To the Boonie Rats of Vietnam
I dedicate this song.

Boonie Rats, Boonie Rats,
Scared but not alone
Today I see my Freedom Bird,
Today I'm going home.

The author of this was allegedly an M60 machine gunner of the 101st Airborne under the double canopy of the Ruong-Ruong valley in the spring of 1970. The music was added when his unit moved into the Elephant Valley where the composer was allegedly killed in action. The song was popularized in John M. DeVecchio's critically acclaimed and best selling novel, The 13th Valley, about a battalion operation against the 7th NVA Front headquarters in a remote I Corps Valley during the summer of 1970.

RAP GROUP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to keep a Vets' rap group going at the VA Hospital. Persons to lead the group on occasional Wednesday nights are required. For further information, call Rachel at 327-3537.

Chuck's Realm

One of the most haunting memories I have of Vietnam is of unnecessary death. Now, before you armchair military academics challenge this, let me offer a brief analysis. One can successfully argue that death is inherent to war and to be expected, but there are further distinctions. Being killed by the VC/NVA/PLA is one thing and becoming a statistic due to friendly fire is yet another. Yet, there is one ugly category which defies logic - defective logistics! During the Vietnam War, there were numerous incidents of malfunctioning weapons, defective ammunition, mislabeled containers, etc., which jeopardized military performance and unfortunately, cost human lives. Not a great deal is made of it now, as traditional veterans organizations and others seem to be busy isolating individual scapegoats. It was, however, a classic example of defense contractors valuing quantity and bonuses over quality and no bonuses. QUANTITATIVE VERSUS QUALITATIVE, the perpetual argument. One incident, I can talk about it now, involved a friend who came from a town near mine in Iowa. During a firefight, he pulled the pin out of an M-26 grenade and it immediately detonated. Suddenly, all of us wondered who the real enemy was! A few days later when all the grenades were stood down and checked, we received a message that delaying fuses were not adequately placed in some lots of grenades; quantity vs. quality. When I returned home, his parents asked me how he died and I lied out of respect; I shouldn't have out of respect to the Boonie Rats left behind. I should have told the truth and let his parents, hundreds, perhaps, of GIs' parents demand explanations from the pentagon. I opted out just like many are doing now. There were other incidents of grunts begging parents to send cans of Teflon and silicone to use on their malfunctioning M-16's, bayonets from surplus stores and boots that would not rot on their feet. QUANTITY VS. QUALITY.

Those of you who believe in deja vu can be assured and frightened by a recent General Accounting Office report. This paper found 25% of our air-to-air combat missiles, the Sidewinder, and 33% of the Sparrows to be "unserviceable". 80% of the TWO anti-tank missiles in the Marines' inventory have safety problems and their use is severely limited. One could go on and on, but the underlying message is national security and saving combatants' lives not only from the enemy, but from defective weaponry. We are pumping millions of dollars into defense without evaluating whether the current model is QUANTITATIVE or QUALITATIVE; whether the bonuses and incentives have surpassed concern for the poor grunt out in the field.

I will not venture an opinion for I am afraid I can't be objective. My M-16 jammed too many times, too many terror filled moments were experienced when the 5.56 ammo didn't detonate in the chamber or hand grenades didn't explode; too many memories. One can only hope somewhere, there is someone who cares enough to prevent this ugly thing from happening again.
QUANTITY VS. QUALITY

Darts ***

And Laurels

- # To Governor Bruce Babbitt and Mayor Lew Murphy for their LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS proclamations.
- # To radio station KAIR, Bill Roemer and Linda Mendoza for their fantastic LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS newsspots.
- * To the VFW National and their sponsoring politicians for not seeking to grant the VVA a federal charter, and for valuing the east-west ideology over service to Vietnam Era Vets.
- # To Rep. Jim McNulty for his continued support of Vietnam Era Vet issues as one of 43 representatives who are deemed Friends of the Vet by VVA National rating system.
- * To all the local Vets organizations who were asked to participate in LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS on a humanitarian basis, but chose not to for various reasons. How will the MIA/POW's ever get home this way?
- # To USS Arizona Detachment, Marine Corps League, for their camaraderie and dedication. Our gratitude and hope that other local veterans' groups follow your sterling example.



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Notice To All Veterans And V.A. Claimants Regarding Hiring Of Attorneys

This is to advise you that on June 12, 1984, a United States District Court issued a preliminary injunction enjoining the Veterans Administration from "enforcing or attempting to enforce in any way" the provisions of 38 U.S.C § 3404-3405, commonly referred to as the "\$10 attorney's fee limitation." National Association of Radiation Survivors v. Walters, et al., C-83-1861 MHP (Northern District of California, June 12, 1984). The Court determined that the plaintiffs had a high probability of success on the merits of their claim that the \$10 fee limitation violates both veterans' due process rights under the Fifth Amendment and their right to petition the government and associate freely under the First Amendment. The preliminary injunction provides that it will be effective pending trial on the merits or further court order.

The Order means **That You May Hire An Attorney Of Your Choice And Pay Her/Him Any Amount You Agree Upon And That The Ten dollar Attorney's Fee Limitation Is Not Currently In Effect.** On June 20, 1984, the government appealed this decision of the United States Supreme Court. You are advised that the Supreme Court might reverse or modify the District Court's decision in whole or in part. **Accordingly, Any Fee Agreement Between You And An Attorney Should Take Into Account The Uncertainty Arising Out Of The Above Facts.** A further notice will be posted in this location should the District Court's order be changed in any way.

Historically, In November

- 1946 Amid growing tensions, French warships bombard Haiphong - November 23.
- 1953 Ho Chi Minh announces he is ready to discuss French peace proposals.
- 1954 General Lawton Collins, Eisenhower's special envoy, arrives in Saigon to affirm American support for Diem with \$100 million in aid and naval support to assist thousands of refugees fleeing North Vietnam.
- 1961 As a result of Taylor mission, Pres. Kennedy decides to increase aid to South Vietnam without committing US troops.
- 1963 Diem and Nhu are overthrown by general's coup and executed.
- 1964 Viet Cong shell Bien Hoa killing two Americans - November 1.
- 1967 General Westmoreland exudes optimism concerning victory while traveling around US. Repeatedly uses phrase: "There is light at the end of the tunnel".
- 1969 Revelation of My Lai massacre which occurred year before.
- 1970 Lt. William Calley goes on trial at Fort Benning for his part in the My Lai Massacre - November 12.
- 1971 Nixon announces that an additional 45,000 American troops will leave South Vietnam during December and January.
- 1972 Kissinger resumes talks with Le Duc Tho to end the war - November 20.
- 1973 Congress overrides Nixon's veto of law limiting the president's right to wage war.

"I believe that one of the reasons for the deep division about Vietnam is that many Americans have lost confidence in what the government has told them about our policy. The American people cannot and should not be asked to support a policy which involves the overriding issues of war and peace unless they know the truth about that policy."

Richard M. Nixon
President
Washington, D.C.
November 3, 1969

VVA Officers

VVA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS, REPRESENTATIVES

President	Jim Randall
1st Vice President	Mike Buckley
2nd Vice President	Dan Glesinger
Treasurer	John Paulus
Corresponding Secretary	Chuck Hovey
Recording Secretary	Rex Beving
Board Members-At-Large	Bill Pritzen
	Rachel Holland
	Cliff Tracy
	Tony Garcia
	Pete McHugh
	Chuck Hovey
Chapter Historian	Neil Gregerson
Membership Committee	Pete McHugh
Public Affairs Committee	Rotating
Women's Committee	John Paulus
Fund Raising Committee	
State Council Representatives	Bill Pritzen
	Pete McHugh

Inside

Dear Brothers and Sisters of Chapter 106:

It has been about four months since our last correspondence.

I thought I'd let you know of our progress here at Santa Rita. Last week John Larkin and Dan Venella, two CPO's started interviews for the Veterans Stress group.

We have 60 vets on our roster, 37 of them are in regular attendance 17 of which are Vietnam Vets.

On November 11, at 5:30 p.m. we will have our S.R.V.A. banquet, this will be the first one with outside guests in attendance.

Bill, we miss you and hope you are well. If there is any way that you can come to our next meeting it is scheduled for Nov. 1, 1984 at 5:30 p.m.

I have invited Bess Jones to the Banquet but have not heard back from her as yet. I'm wondering how she is doing and await her reply.

There is no one else for us to write to, and it seems as if no one cares about the imprisoned Vets.

If you would please run this in the column we would greatly appreciate it.

We will keep you posted on our monthly progress.

Sincerely yours,

Mike Rovin
Santa Rita Veterans Assn.
10,000 S. Wilmot Rd.
Tucson, AZ 85777

Scuttlebutt

November. The brunt of the year is over, elections are past and we can get on with being confused over the holidays. Speaking of that, here are the Last Annual Awards for various reasons:

1. The Walter Cronkite Award for Media Improvement - Jim Randall. From his first stutter, we knew he had potential and now "Media" Jim is an old hack at radio-TV spots, but really wants to emcee The Muppet Show.
2. The Good Old Boys Recognition Award - Chuck Hovey and Rex Beving. They discovered their home towns in Iowa were within LAW distance of each other, thus comprising at least fifteen minutes of conversation. Taped for "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" with Media Jim subbing for Jack Palance.
3. The Haight-Ashbury Laid Back Award - Craig Hilts. His unswerving dedication to mellowness in spite of fanatic nervousness by others has inspired many not to follow his example, i.e. Kermit the Frog, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Ron Reagan. Best known for supporting Harry Truman in the 1984 elections and discussing possible relocation to Independence, Mo.
4. The Agent Orange Is Like A Spring Shower Award to Robert Nimmo, former VA director, various policymakers in the VA Pentagon and current administration to include chemical companies and the EPA. May their eyes never open and their ears remain stuffed with plugs.
5. The Chapter 106 Participation Award - to politicians seeking credibility in a special group such as VVA. There is a motion on our floor to change meeting sites to your respective political rallies so you may attend a meeting and use our name. Wasn't Adlai Stevenson a member?
6. The rest are anonymous, classified and so secret that we don't even know what they're about.



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File Your Class Action Claim Now

If you or your family have suffered adverse effects from Agent Orange, JANUARY 2, 1985 IS THE CUTOFF DATE FOR FILING!!! THAT'S IT!!! After that, you have 120 days from the time any adverse effects were noted to file a claim. Call the Court Toll Free Number in the Quick Reference or write to the court address listed in the legal notice. DO IT NOW BEFORE YOUR GRANDCHILDREN BECOME THE LAST CASUALTIES OF THE VIETNAM WAR!!!

The Great Debate

Chapter 106 sponsored a debate between the three candidates for Congressional District Five on October 15, and the event was a resounding success. Incumbent Jim McNulty, Jim Kolbe, and Herb Johnson (Libertarian) discussed questions from a panel of interested citizens and members of the media on issues included under the broad topic of foreign policy. Those attending came away with a much clearer idea of each candidate's views on such issues as Central America, Lebanon, and the POW/MIA situation.

The program was titled "Tough Questions From Tough People" and lived up to its billing. The evening began with a short welcome from 106 President Jim Randall, who told the audience of over 200 that VVA had sponsored the debate on foreign policy because, "As former ambassadors to Southeast Asia, we know firsthand the consequences of U.S. foreign policy." His welcome was followed by a slide show of pictures from Vietnam, a special presentation donated by August West Productions, which set the tone for the evening. Moderator Dick Koppe then opened the discussion.

The hottest topic of the evening was U. S. involvement in Central America. All three candidates were against sending U.S. troops into combat. Kolbe and McNulty could foresee no circumstances under which they would advocate the use of troops, and Johnson said that U.S. troops should be used only for the defense of America in America. Beyond that, they disagreed sharply about policy in the area. Kolbe favored military and economic aid while McNulty wanted military aid tied to human rights improvements and was against covert aid to Nicaraguan rebels.

The POW/MIA question prompted promises of action, but both Kolbe and McNulty maintained that dealing with North Vietnam is impossible in the kind of "blackmail" situation that exists, and demanded that an accounting be made by the Vietnamese before any more concrete steps could be taken.

Chapter 106 would like to thank the panelists for their participation: Mark Kimble, Sandy Rathbun, Tom Volgy, Matt Mazér, Chuck Hovey. We would also like to thank Matt for donating his time, effort, and the Temple for the evening. August West Productions should take a bow for the slide show, which drew comments on its appropriateness from the audience, and we thank them also for their help with the sound system. Our thanks go also to KGUN for their help with the public service announcement and to all the radio and TV stations who helped inform the public about this important event.

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Letters Etc.

The opinions and viewpoints expressed here are those of individual members and do not represent the Vietnam Veterans of America nor is the VVA responsible for the contents of any letters, poems, cartoons or thoughts expressed here. We welcome any correspondence and will make this a forum for all members and readers.

Welcome Home Nurse

Thirteen years and some days ago, I flew out of Vietnam for the last time carrying memories that were of women in white at Qui Nhon Hospital where I had gone to see friends.

The thought didn't register then, nor since, that there was anything different about women nurses in Vietnam from any other nurse in any other hospital anywhere in the world, until a few months ago.

Until a few months ago, I had been giving lip service to the concept of women veterans while vigorously advocating equal rights for women in jobs, pay and responsibilities. I found to my surprise that I had been indulging in an unconscious hypocrisy about women veterans.

It was simple once I figured it out. I had carried a gun; I had dodged and been lucky some; I had not dodged enough and was still lucky twice; I had caused some of "them" to fall; I had seen some of "mine" fall.

I was a soldier, they were only nurses - nurses who worked day after day, week after week, month after month trying to undo the carnage that I and soldiers like me had done to each other.

I dealt with death and destruction a few times; some more and less. Yet many times those women had to deal with a few or many wounded and dying. Many times those women used scalpel, hemostat, suture and IV with skilled hands to save lives that skilled hands had tried to end merely by pulling a trigger.

My awareness was started by the reserved, slightly hesitant presentation of Diane Evans of a study titled "PTSD and Women Veterans" to our State Council. It was thinking that crystallized into sharp relief at the August 12 dedication of a statue to nurses called "Nurse" unveiled in St. Paul, Minnesota.

That statue means as much to women who had been or still are nurses as "The Wall" means to me, for I had seen Diane recall her days in Nam and cry at "The Wall".

At the unveiling of "Nurse", I heard an appeal for all women veterans to stand together, and I saw Diane and her peers stand tall and proud. The smiles on their faces shone so that for a moment in time, nothing else could be seen.

I never said "Welcome home" though I've heard you ask, and for that I'm sorry. Please accept a soldier's apology and the warmest "Welcome Home" I can give for jobs well done.

Dennis A. Woodford
VVA Chapter 5
Western Wisconsin Chapter

The Chip

To give the children what they have
is no justice in their eyes
The children, though still young and innocent
can tell the difference between truth and lies

To give them praise is 'nt enough
We know what we could
But we steal from them what we never had
Don't take away their childhood

Don't make them fight our wars
let them forget our hate
let the children live their lives
let them choose their own fate

Don't give them guns to kill
don't give them our power to destroy
let them live free while they can
give them a life they can enjoy

Don't put our ideals of freedom in their head
let them choose for themselves instead
we can't pass on what we can't win
let the children grow up free of our sin

Don't punish them for our mistake
let them love and give what we take
wash their minds free of our waste
let them grow up free of our bitter taste

Trust in their judgement
don't put the chip on their shoulder
let them grow up to be children
let them grow up to be older

Let them play, give them this day
there will always be time to grow old
don't flutter their little minds
let our heroic war stories go untold

Maybe then they won't know how to kill
if they don't know they never will
sometimes the innocent survives
let them grow up to be alive

Don't drop our bomb
or shoot our big gun
give them time to be children
let them play and have fun

Give the children back their youth, don't burden this young face
give the children a chance ...

They may save our dying race...

PAUL SCOTT GRAY
age 17

TO: Chapter 106 President and Members:

Via this letter I wish to congratulate all those of you that worked so hard in organizing the Congressional Debate. The debate was very professional and informative, and it makes me proud to say I am a member of the V.V.A.

Once again, thanks to all for a job well done.

Sincerely,


Jim Porta

Differences

There are those who believe Vietnam Veterans are merely "crybabies" as former VA Director Robert Nimmo stated publicly and just didn't have the lauded "right stuff" that brought their predecessors through similar kinds of crisis. Psychologists, however, attribute the higher post-war casualty rate to important differences to World War II:

*** The average age of the combatant in Vietnam as 19.2 years compared with 26.4 in WWII.

*** Vietnam was a guerilla war with no front line or easily identifiable enemy.

***Although WWII Veterans were overseas longer, Viet Vets were exposed to more actual combat or the threat of danger for virtually their entire year overseas. The rear areas afforded little relief from stress due to the constant fear of guerilla attack.

***During World War II, most went to war in units. Returning home, there was time to talk and unwind. On the average, most had at least six months in transit with medical/psychological staff available. Most Vietnam Veterans, however, found that going to war and coming home was an isolated individual experience.

At the completion of the tour, the Viet Vet was transported by a commercial jet and moved from fighting position to Main Street, USA, within 36 hours.

***Vietnam Veterans did not return as heroes, but came home to a divided nation. Whereas WWII was a united effort with visible reasons for the war, i.e. Hitler, Mussolini, Tojo, Pearl Harbor, the justification for Vietnam was nebulous and loudly debated. The warriors came to be blamed for the war, and most importantly, for the losing effort.

SPN and RE Codes

In order to jog memories and perhaps assist you in locating buddies, locations, etc., various military ops will be listed. If you have questions concerning a specific one, please contact the Tribune by mail.

STARLIGHT USMC operation against Viet Cong 18-21 AUG 65 1st Regiment south of Chu Lai in Quang Nai Province. Corps/MR I.

SILVER BAYONET 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) 23 OCT-20 NOV and ARVN units operation in Pleiku Province. Operations included Divisions 3d Brigade Battle of Ia Drang Valley. Corps/MR II

JUNCTION CITY Largest operation in Vietnam. 22 FEB-14 MAY 22 US Battalions and 4 ARVN Battalions. Elements of US 1, 4, and 25th Infantry Divisions, 196th Infantry Brigade, 11th Armored Cavalry, and 173d Airborne fought in War Zone C (Tay Ninh Province) and bordering provinces. Corps/MR III

DEWEY CANYON Operation by USMC 9th Marine Regiment (Reinforced) north of A Shau Valley. Corps/MR I

In the 1950's, the Armed Forces began using two and three digit figures on the DD214. They appeared in the block reserved for "Reason and Authority", usually block 11c. Usually, the figure was preceded by "SPN" (separation program number) or "SDN" (separation designation number for the Air Force). During the 1960's, the codes were computerized so that names of people who received certain codes would be located. Block 11c also came to bear the specific regulation and paragraph under which a person was discharged and block 15 contained a reenlistment code which indicated whether a person was eligible to reenlist.

The SPN and RE codes were apparently intended as a form of military shorthand to denote the reason for discharge and desirability for reenlistment, but both codes have led to a certain amount of abuse and misunderstanding, particularly within the private sector. Any other code than RE-1 could cause a potential employer to wonder about one's military service. Most importantly, employers had access to SPN code definitions and even though you may have been honorably discharged, the SPN code could indicate an isolated incident, observations without substance, etc., by one individual. Employer access to the code definitions did not necessarily mean that the revisions would be automatically received. Since the employer may not have the revised list or amendments, some old derisive codes had become less incriminating or possibly even good. In addition, many employers believed that any code is "the code" and caused him/her to wonder about the character of a veteran's military service.

The practice ended on May 1, 1974, and after this date people could request a separate statement of the reason for their separation. If you were discharged before that date, you can have the two codes and the notation as to the regulatory authority for discharge removed. If you are curious about what your specific code may mean, drop us a line at the Monsoon Tribune.

Want Ads

If you wish to place an ad in the want ads column, please submit your ad to this newsletter by the time of the general meeting preceding the month of issue. The ads are free if you are a member of the VVA.

SERVICES

Tutoring in algebra, basic electricity/electronics, and computer programming in BASIC, FORTRAN IV/V and PASCAL. Vets preferred. Send inquiries c/o the newsletter to Mark.

FOR SALE

1961 Chevrolet Impala 4-door, white w/ blue interior. 283 V-8 engine. Powerglide automatic trans., air conditioning. Good condition, mechanically sound. John Paulus 296-5674

WANTED

Wanted: A file cabinet for 106. Any type will serve, and your contribution is tax deductible. Contact Craig at 882-3010.

FREE KITTENS. Black. Call Mike Buckley at 745-6503

Quick Reference

VVA (602) 790-7602 Ch#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 AZ

VAMC 629-1450

VA POW Hotline 1-800-821-8139
Vets Outreach Center 323-3271
VA IG Hotline 1-800-368-5899

Federal Information Center
522 N. Central Ave, Rm120
Phoenix, AZ 85004
(602) 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 Comm 628-5388
Pima Voter Registrar 792-VOTE
AO Class Action 1-800-645-1355

Sen. Barry Goldwater
Federal Bldg 301 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701 629-6334

Sen. Dennis DeConcini
33 North Stone
Tucson, AZ 85701 629-6831

Rep. James McNulty
1605 N. Wilmot Ste#108
Tucson, AZ 85712 629-6030

Rep. Morris Udall
300 N. Main St.
Tucson, AZ 85701 629 6404

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DEADLINE: General Meeting before each issue.

Staff Members:

Craig Hilts
Chuck Hovey
Bess Jones
Chuck Knippenberg
Nick Russell
Mark Toth
Neil Gregerson
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