



# Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

Volume III Issue No. 11

VVA CHAPTER 106

November, 1986

## FREE BOWLING NIGHT



Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106 is holding a FREE BOWLING NIGHT sponsored by Fiesta Bowling Lanes on Friday, December 5th at 8:30 PM. The lanes are located at 501 West River Road (one block west of Oracle). All Vietnam Era Veterans, families and friends are urged to participate!

There will be 3 FREE games of bowling, shoe and ball rental and sodas and munchies for each participant. All you have to do is show up and have some fun with fellow Vets!

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE

For more information call Dave Bently, Bill Rasmussen or Mike Smyth. Their phone numbers are on Page 7 (Board of Directors).

## IN SERVICE TO AMERICA

Dave Croteau and Albie Ginaro of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Chapter 106 of Tucson participated in a special three-day training conference sponsored by the VVA National Office this past weekend in Washington, D.C.

The theme of the conference, "In Service to America," provided a strong foundation for hundreds of VVA chapter members to share their experiences and gain from each other's knowledge and expertise, address salient issues affecting Vietnam Veterans nationwide, and develop strategies to implement and improve services to Vietnam Veterans and their families.

Members of VVA Chapter 106 also met with Jan Scruggs, the Vietnam Veteran who led the



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# BOARD TALK

Dave Croteau gave a report on his trip to the National Conference "In Service to America". He was highly impressed by their professionalism and is convinced they are providing outstanding representation of our needs.....Another goal was passed by the board—"To have an annual event to sponsor or raise funds for a worthwhile organization or project to put the name of Vietnam Veterans of America in a positive way to the community." If you have an idea of a worthwhile project for us to undertake call a board member and give us your idea. We hope to have an annual event that will become synonymous with VVA in the minds of Tucsonans.....Dave Croteau stressed the need to have a Chapter Service Representative, part time for now, not full time due to the size of the chapter but someone who can maintain a library of information for members to send them in the right direction when making a claim to VA. We are trying to recruit someone for this post, preferably someone who has had dealings with the VA--are you that person? Would you like to help your fellow vets get through the VA maze? If so, let a board member know.....It was voted to make it a chapter policy to encourage participation of spouses and friends in the chapter.....Committees and filling them. Newsletter--Gene Voelzow volunteered to help John Shirley. Fund raising--Bill Rasmussen volunteered on the condition that he not be the only one. Gene Voelzow and Mike Smyth volunteered to help. This is a committee that **all** of us need to make a commitment to!!!! **Public Affairs**--This is an on going need. We need someone who will make a full time commitment. Someone with an outgoing personality, not necessarily for interviews to be done by him or her but someone to act as a contact for the media and direct them to the right person in the organization. This job also calls for someone to keep track of all the news organizations for running our public service announcements. You won't need to write them, just get them to the right places. Volunteers anyone? Incarcerated Vets--Tony Garcia has taken over this demanding job. **THANKS TONY!!!**.....Speaking of incarcerated vets, the VVA is the **only** non-religious organization allowed in the prison. The incarcerated vets at Santa Rita are making toys for their families. The excess toys will be donated to non sponsored orphanages. They are putting the names of POW/MIA personnel on each toy they make. GREAT IDEA!!.....Bill Rasmussen asked the board to entertain the thought that we raise the dues to cover the cost of giving each new member or renewing member a name tag, lapel pin and a certificate. The board thinks it is a good idea. What's **your** opinion?.....Gene Voelzow brought up the fact that the chapter is sadly lacking in minority representation and that all efforts should be expended to recruit minority vets into the organization. The board agreed.....Dave Croteau asked that Mike Brasher be recognized for his efforts in the Veteran's Day Parade.....

We want to thank the members who gave us their input from the last Board Talk. We really appreciate your ideas and it's good to know that you agree with most of what we are doing. Please continue giving us your inputs. Again, this is a democratic organization, we exist to do **your** bidding. If we don't know what you want how can we do it??

Till next month.....

Your board.....

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# In Service to America

Continued from Page 1

Vietnam Veteran who led the drive to construct the National Vietnam Veterans' Memorial built in Washington, D.C. to honor soldiers who died in the Vietnam War.

In addition, the conference keynote speaker was Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, former commanding Naval Officer who recently joined his son to write My Father, My Son, a moving account of his decision to defoliate Vietnam waterways with Agent Orange and the resulting devastating medical effects of this action upon his son and grandson.

The conference helped members of VVA Chapter 106 develop new ideas and skills to improve services to Vietnam Veterans in Tucson.

The contributions made by Vietnam Veterans during the war are finally receiving recognition and understanding from the American public.

But our service to America did not end in Vietnam. Our commitment to our community and to our country continues today as we seek to provide comprehensive services to our brothers and sisters and make Vietnam Veterans' issues--such as Agent Orange-related problems, post-traumatic stress syndrome, and employment--an important element in our nation's political, social and economic agendas.

The result of our participation in "In Service to America" will be improved services to enhance the lives and opportunities for Vietnam Veterans in Tucson.



Top, attendance at "In Service to America" special presentation by Admiral Zumwalt. Left, Maude DeVictor who was depicted in the recent TV movie "Unnatural Causes" was a featured guest. Right, 6:00 AM at the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial statue.



# HISTORY

November 61--US Special Forces medical personnel are deployed to provide assistance to the Montagnard tribes around Pleiku; out of this will develop the Civilian Irregular Defense Group (CIDG) and will be the chief work of the US Special Forces during the war.

2 December 62--Following a trip to Vietnam at President Kennedy's request, Senate Majority Leader Mike Mansfield (D-MT) becomes the first major US official to refuse to make an optimistic public comment on the progress of the war.

22 November 63--President Kennedy is assassinated. He has failed to brief his successor, Lyndon B. Johnson, about important details concerning the US role in the undeclared war in Vietnam.

11 November 64--Veterans Day. NBC-TV shows a film (provided by a Japanese agency) that gives the North Vietnamese version of events; among other film clips, it shows the first US POW, Lt Everett Alvarez.

5-8 November 65--During a series of raids against North Vietnam, US fighter-bombers from the aircraft carrier Oriskany damage or destroy nine anti-aircraft sites, five missile launchers and several support buildings; two planes are lost.

18 November 66--The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, meeting in Washington, declares that the US 'presence in Vietnam is justified' and expresses support for the Johnson administration.

25 November 67--Robert S McNamara resigns as Secretary of Defense to be president of the World Bank.

6 November 68--Richard Milhous Nixon is elected President of the United States.

15 November 69--More than 250,000 protestors gather in Washington DC to participate in the largest anti-war demonstration in the nation's history.

10-11 November 70--For the first time in five years, there are no US combat fatalities in Indochina.

7 November 72--Richard Nixon is re-elected president with 97% of electoral votes, with only 55% of electorate voting, the lowest turn out since 1948. Nixon pledges himself to secure 'peace with honor in Vietnam.' US B-52s set a record for concentrated bombing of a single province -Quangtri- in a single day.

7 November 73--Congress overrides President Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act.



Veterans Day, November 11, 1986, VVA 106 (Photo by Bernie Croteau)

# Veterans Day

Tucson Chapter 106 participated in the Veteran's Day Parade through downtown Tucson on November 11th. Afterwards we gathered at Reid Park for conversation and good times. Reporters from KUAT radio and television interviewed several of us. Dave Croteau and Louie Leos did an outstanding job representing VVA 106 to the media. There were many non-members who attended and a few of them became a part of our chapter. A special thanks to all who attended and especially to Coors Distributing Co. for providing the refreshments.

## PROGRAM

This month's program will be presented by Dave Croteau and Albie Ginaro who attended "In Service to America," a VVA National conference held in Washington, D.C. Highlights of the conference and national update will be discussed.

This month's General Meeting will be on MONDAY, November 24th. For obvious reasons we had to change the date. In keeping with the good spirit of the Chapter, we will feature a TURKEY RAFFLE. Tickets are \$1.00 at the door. Come on down!

Due to changes in the December schedule it has been necessary to change some of the meeting dates. The December General Meeting is being replaced by the BOWLING PARTY held on December 5th.

If you haven't made a meeting or have thought about it, but haven't had that chance, NOW IS THE TIME to come out and give us a try!

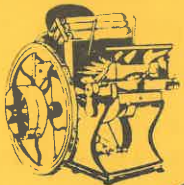
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# 'Unnatural Causes'

Rachel Leos, daughter of Louie Leos

There is a lot of hurt and pain that the Vietnam War brought, but in my opinion this senseless war that gave us only tears and hurt is still very much in the every day lives of many of the Vietnam Veterans.

There are three types of men and women who fought in this war, and are now alive, the ones who fought bravely and survived with injuries or were lucky enough to survive with only nightmares, the ones who are held P.O.W. and waiting for their "Proud, Strong" country they risked their lives for to rescue them from a nightmare that never seems to end, and there is also the soldiers who survived the war to come home with the happiness and hope of leaving the war forever in their minds and in their hearts, but when they left this horrid place they not only brought the pain and all the suffering they wished to leave behind, they brought something else that would not only remind them of all the suffering they went through but would make them relive that awful memory day after day. They brought back the chemical that is known to us as Agent Orange. The movie "Unnatural Causes" showed to us a part of the pain, John Ritter played an excellent role and showed through his acting talent the pain these men face, and Maude DeVicтор through her talent showed what every American should be doing to help repay some of the appreciation these men deserve, not only one day out of the year, but every day of their lives and ours.

Agent Orange is a dioxin the contaminant of the herbicide 2,4,5-T, a main ingredient of the defoliant code-named Agent Orange, named this because barrels containing the defoliant were painted with bands of orange. Agent Orange was used throughout this country on farmlands, in forests, to both clear brush, and control undergrowth.

The effects of this dioxin have not been proven to the extent that is needed to show that it is the cause of genetic damage, cancer, and death. But it has been proven that dioxin can cause Chloracne, a chronic skin condition. There have also been reports of headaches, depression, irritability, blood disorders, and kidney and liver cancer in those who were exposed to Agent Orange, and what is the worst effect is the defects of these men and women's children, this chemical that not only effected their generation, but now has survived to invade their children's generation.

The words: pain, suffering, hurt, and tears have been used often in this report, because this is the effect of our Vietnam War, the war that our government refuses to acknowledge. "Why?" that is my question, why do these men have to go through the pain day in and day out, and why does our government not aid those who are asking? Aid to these men should not have to be asked for, it should be given freely and with love and appreciation.

The word Vietnam Veteran means a lot to me, it means love, the love I have for these men who fought for people they did not know, but they gave us freedom, and risked their lives for us, they spent a part of their lives in hell, and are now suffering because of what they gave, and I am also suffering because these men fought for me, fought for us and when a person who risks something of their own for a person that shows a lot for that person, but when a person risks his life for a person for people whom they don't even know that brings out a special love, the kind of love I have for these men.

But I think the word Vietnam Veteran means the most to me because my father is a Vietnam Veteran, and the love I have for him is far more than the love between a daughter and father, it is a feeling of pride also, the kind of pride that is so strong and so alive that just the word Vietnam Veteran brings tears to your eyes. That feeling was the pride and love that engulfed me while I watched this movie, and also on Veteran's Day, as I felt the tears swell up in my eyes I thanked God for the most important person in my life, my father, a man who fought for the lives of other people and a man who represents what a Veteran is, pride, bravery, and a love for his country, my father, my Daddy, the Vietnam Veteran.

# MEETING DATES

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: November 24th, D.A.V. Chapter 18, 7:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING: BOWLING PARTY!! FIESTA LANES 8:30 PM DECEMBER 5th!

BOARD MEETING: December 11th, D.A.V. Chapter 18, 7:30 PM

BOARD MEETING: January 8th, D.A.V. Chapter 18, 7:30 PM

GENERAL MEETING: January 22nd, D.A.V. Chapter 18, 7:30 PM

## VETERAN'S BENEFITS SEMINAR

DAV Chapter 18 is holding a Veteran's Benefits Seminar on Dec 7 at 2 pm. Service representatives from the DAV and other groups will give presentations and hold a question and answer session. This program is aimed mainly at relatives of veterans on benefits and how to obtain them. The DAV has invited all veterans and especially their relatives to attend.

### HELP WANTED

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS PERSON(S):** Your Chapter is in need of a good person or persons to work on information for a better understanding to the public and Vets.

If you (or someone you know) can handle this job, please contact any of the members of the Board of Directors.



## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

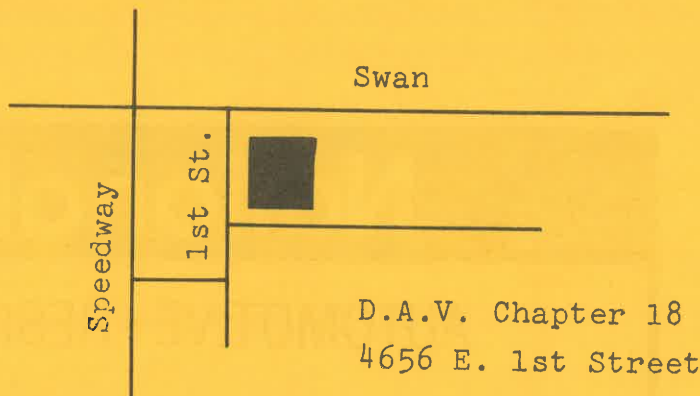
### TUCSON CHAPTER 106

P.O. Box 40903 (602) 790-7602

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