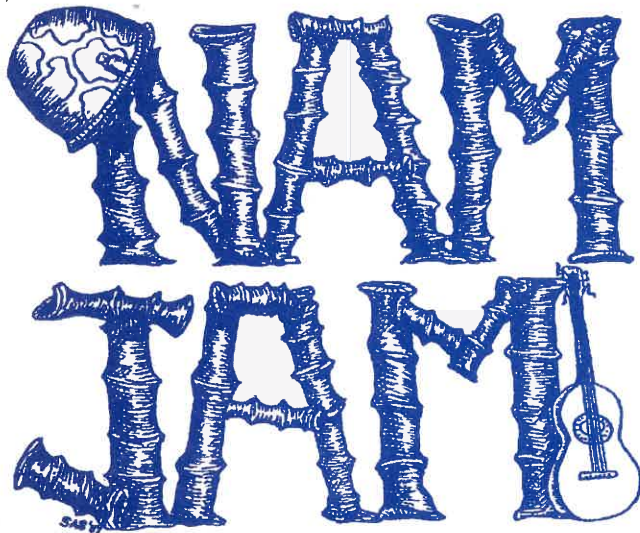


Monsoon Tribune

This might be the **LAST** issue! We do not have anyone to compile the available information for this newsletter. They give articles to us for the Monsoon Tribune and we need some help putting the information together. The Monsoon Tribune is just a small newsletter that gives out information needed for the members of Vietnam Veterans of America and our friends. We need an individual that will fill the position of Editor. Someone with a lot, or they will accept some, or no qualifications. This person will fill a new position (Monsoon Tribune Editor) on the board of Tucson Chapter 106. You are needed today, call one following person:

Chester Rick	President	297-4268	Pager 793-0309
John Shirley	Vice-President	888-3136	Pager 410-2755
Pete Duerr	Treasurer	887-5626	Pager 410-1120



Sunday, October 8, 1995

Tucson, Arizona

Reid Park; 22nd Street & Country Club

DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center

Family Fun, Entertainment & Music

>>>>> Admission Is Free <<<<<

What is VVA

Vietnam Veterans of America was founded in 1978. Its congressional charter was granted in 1986, and it remains the only veterans service organization devoted exclusively to improving the lives of those who served in uniform during this nation's longest and most divisive war.

Our goals are to promote and support the full range of veterans' issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for our generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans. We hold as our first principle that we are measured by our deeds and openness as evidence of our core values of justice, integrity and meaningful achievement.

As the leading Vietnam veteran advocate, VVA provides support and assistance in securing benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs and in representation on Capitol Hill.

VVA is the largest national service organization devoted exclusively to Vietnam-era veterans. We are the organization to watch. Together, we will forge a strong future.

Vietnam Veterans of America
Tucson Chapter 106
PO Box 40903
Tucson AZ 85717-0903

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U. S. POSTAGE
TUCSON, ARIZONA
PERMIT NO. 2458

Vietnam Veterans of America Membership Application

Individual Membership is open to all Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty for other-than-training purposes between Jan. 1, 1959 and May 7, 1975. **Associate Membership** is open to all veterans, family members, friends, and the general public.

Membership (select one):

Individual Vietnam-Era Veteran with copy of DD Form 214

Associate Membership

Renewal of Membership Member Number _____

Name _____ Sex: Male Female

Phone _____ Date of Birth _____ Social Security # _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Recruited by _____

Membership Type (select one):

Annual: Vietnam-Era Veteran or Associate

1 year @ \$20

Life Member: Vietnam-Era Veteran or Associate

age 49 and under @ \$250

ages 50-55 @ \$225

ages 56-60 @ \$200

age 66 and over \$150

Payment Method (select one): Check Money Order Visa Master Card

Card Number _____ Exp. Date ____/____

Signature _____ Date _____

Return this form to:

Vietnam Veterans of America
Tucson Chapter 106
PO Box 40903
Tucson, AZ 85717



Monsoon Tribune

Schedule of Events

Apr 24	Monday	7:30 pm	Annual Meeting & Election	VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.
May 17	Wednesday	6:45 pm	Bingo	VA Medical Center Hall
May 21	Sunday	3:00 pm	Nam Jam Meeting	Speedway & Euclid
May 22	Monday	7:30 pm	Monthly Meeting	VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.
May 29	Monday		<i>Memorial Day</i>	
June 21	Wednesday	6:45 pm	Bingo	VA Medical Center Hall
June 25	Monday	7:30 pm	Monthly Meeting	VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.
July 4	Tuesday		<i>Independence Day</i>	
July 15	Saturday	9:00 am	State Council Meeting	Prescott
July 19	Wednesday	6:45 pm	Bingo	VA Medical Center Hall
	Sunday		Nam Jam Meeting	
July 23	Monday	7:30 pm	Monthly Meeting	VFW 345 E. Roger Rd.
October 8	Sunday		<i>Nam Jam 1995</i>	Reid Park

MEMBERSHIP

Is your membership current? We have 59 members who haven't paid their Annual Dues for 1995 and we don't want to lose you. When was the last meeting you attended? Bring in the above membership form to the meeting on April 24 and get your membership current. Tucson Chapter 106 has the largest membership than ever. We now have 134 members and we don't want to lose 59.

7th NATIONAL CONVENTION

The convention will be held August 15-20 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Houston, Texas. We can have 3 delegates at this convention. Do you want to go? The applications will be sent to each Chapter soon. Ask about it at the next meeting.

ELECTION and ANNUAL MEETING

April 24 7:30 pm

VFW 345 E. Roger Road

The Annual Meeting will provide a report from each Executive Officer and each Committee Chairman showing the results of their work for the previous year.

Membership Affairs	John Shirley
Department of Corr. Liaison	Gail Skinner
Chapter Armorer	Chuck Bald-Coulter
Product Sales	John Shirley & Dan Olivares
Esperanza En Escalante	Mike Brasher
VA Volunteer Service & TQI	Chuck Bald-Coulter
Associate Member Liaison	Deborah Fahnestock
Secretary	Mike Brasher
Treasurer	Pete Duerr
Vice President	Albert Snell
President	Chester Rick II



The Election will be for President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, the Board of Directors, Nomination Committee, and several other committee chairmen. The Nomination Committee encourages every member of the chapter to become involved and participated in the process to insure the best future of Vietnam Veterans of America Tucson Chapter 106. The Nominations are open until the time of the election. Members of this committee are Louie Leos, Robert Taylor and Gail Skinner.

After the Election the annual meeting will also show us a brief outline of the plans for this year.

NAM JAM MEETING, COME ONE, COME ALL!

The next meeting is on May 21 3:00 pm, Northwest Corner of Euclid and Speedway in the Church Hall. We can use your help! This event is produced and presented by the members of Tucson Chapter 106. The Nam Jam is scheduled for October 8th at Reid Park. Lets not wait until the last minute to plan this great event, lets do it now!

Schedule of Events

Wednesday	7-19	6:45 pm	Bingo	VA Medical Center Hall
Saturday	7-22	9:00 am	State Council Meeting	Prescott
Monday	7-24	7:30 pm	Monthly Meeting	VFW @ 345 E. Roger Road
Monday	7-31	7:00 pm	Nam Jam Meeting	Speedway & Euclid
	8-15 thru 8-20		7th National Convention	Houston, Texas
Wednesday	8-16	6:45 pm	Bingo	Va Medical Center Hall
Sunday	8-27	3:00 pm	Nam Jam Meeting	Speedway & Euclid
Monday	8-28	7:30 pm	Monthly Meeting	VFW @ 345 E. Roger Road
Monday	9-4		Labor Day	
Wednesday	9-20	6:45 pm	Bingo	Va Medical Center Hall
Monday	9-25	7:30 pm	Monthly Meeting	VFW @ 345 E. Roger Road
Sunday	10-8		Nam Jam '95	Reid Park

Most Severe Budget Cuts Ever

The House and Senate's Department of Veterans Affairs budget proposals' slash many important veterans' programs and many jobs:

- > As many as one million veterans will be denied health care services.
- > 500,000 disabled veterans would wait more than one year for resolution of benefit claims.
- > With the loss of 600 employment specialists, some 100,000 veterans will not be placed in jobs.
- > Medical programs would lose 8,200 to 9,500 full time doctors, nurses and other employees in a single year.
- > Cancel about 200 construction projects totaling 3.4 billion dollars (needed to bring VA hospitals up to community standards)
- > Eliminate 8,200 health care positions in 1996 and 53,000 by 2002
- > Consider closing at least five hospitals in 1996 and 35 to 41 hospitals by 2002
- > Deny care to 142,000 veterans in 1996 and 916,000 by 2002
- > Cancel 150 research projects each year for seven years.
- > Increase prescription copayments for veterans.
- > Reduce Veterans Benefits Administrations staffing by 960 employees.

Veterans are concerned that under the same budget proposals they would receive treatment unequal to other Americans. Who also depend on federally funded medical care Medicare and Medicaid will be allowed to 5 to 7 percent growth rate under the proposals. However, they allow DVA health care zero growth.

"Veterans have sacrificed, fought, and died for their country throughout history. Our proposed budgetary savings were no exception. The long-term cuts now being proposed by the House and Senate budget committees are hasty and irresponsible" Brazee said. VVA is joined by the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America and others in opposing the cuts.

Please review this material then write and call you congresspersons. Please take the time to contact them and let them know you are not happy with their decision to slash the VA budget.

IMPACT OF PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS ON VETERANS PROGRAMS

Senate	House
<p>VA is faced with maintaining a deteriorating infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixty-six percent of VAMCs will be at least 30 years old by FY 1996. - Seventy-three percent of VA hospital beds do not comply with current community patient privacy standards. - Many facilities have more than two beds per room, inadequate and/or congregate bathing/toilet facilities, and inadequate size or configuration of space. 	<p>VA is faced with maintaining a deteriorating infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sixty-six percent of VAMCs will be at least 30 years old by FY 1996. - Seventy-three percent of VA hospital beds do not comply with current community patient privacy standards. - Many facilities have more than two beds per room, inadequate and/or congregate bathing/toilet facilities, and inadequate size or configuration of space.
Medical Programs	Medical Programs
Assuming a freeze at the 1995 appropriation plus one-half the pay raise results in an impact in 1996 would be:	Assuming a freeze at the 1995 appropriation the impact in 1996 would be:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$642 million - 8,200 FTEs - 142,000 unique patients that would have required approximately 57,000 inpatient and 1,300,000 episodes of care in 1996 - equivalent to closing 5 VAMC at 300 beds each <p>By 2002, the impact would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$5.564 billion (annual reduction) - 53,000 FTEs - 916,000 unique patients that would have required approximately 372,000 inpatient and 8,400,000 episodes of care in 2002 - equivalent to closing 35 VAMCs at 300 beds each 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$747 million - 9,500 FTEs - 165,000 unique patients that would have required approximately 67,000 inpatient and 1,500,000 episodes of care in 1996 - equivalent to closing 6 VAMCs at 300 beds each <p>By 2002, the impact would be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - \$6.363 billion (annual reduction) - 61,000 FTEs - 1,046,000 unique patients that would have required approximately 425,000 inpatient and 10,000,000 episodes of care in 2002 - equivalent to closing 41 VAMC at 300 beds each
Benefits Programs	Benefits Programs
<p>Maintain compensation and provide full cost of living adjustments for all veterans currently receiving compensation</p> <p>Repeals the "Gardner" decision that extended compensation to VA medical patients suffering an adverse outcome in cases where no fault was found with VA</p> <p>Target compensation in the future to veterans with combat disabilities and veterans disabled during performance of duty</p> <p>Restore the funding ration for GI Bill benefits</p> <p>Provides for other OBRA extenders included in the President's 1996 Budget</p>	<p>Maintain compensation and provide full cost of living adjustments for all veterans currently receiving compensation</p> <p>Limits compensation benefits for certain incompetent veterans</p> <p>Provides for other OBRA extenders included in the President's 1996 Budget</p>
Construction Programs	Construction Programs
Zero out construction of VA medical facilities	Limit major construction - savings of \$1.031 billion over 7 years would apply only to the medical program
Medical Care	Medical Care
<p>Shield the VA's medical system from cuts and funds the system at the 1995 level plus one-half the pay raise and no administrative reduction</p> <p>Phase in a higher prescription co-payment for upper income veterans</p>	<p>Hard freeze at the 1995 appropriation level</p> <p>Increase the prescription drug co-payment to \$5 in 1996 and 1997, and to \$8 in 1998 and beyond</p>
Departmental Administration	Departmental Administration
<p>Assumes the 1995 level of funding for GOE less the funds for the one time modernization effort in the 1995 base</p> <p>Overhead reduction of 15 percent</p> <p>Provides for 50 percent of the funds needed to pay for the annual cost-of-living increase scheduled for salaries of federal employees (except SES and Executive Schedule) so agencies do not have to absorb the whole cost within their fixed appropriations</p>	<p>Hard freeze at the 1995 appropriation level</p> <p>Overhead reduction - percentage not specified</p>