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Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

Volume V

Issue III

VVA CHAPTER 106

March 1989

VVA-106 LEGISLATIVE ACTION ACTIVITY

The following Arizona state legislation has been endorsed by VVA-106 and needs the support of the membership. Please take the time to write and/or call your respective legislators concerning:

- 1.) S.B. 1037 - ASRP; military service; credit
- 2.) H.B. 2115 - appropriation; veterans' nursing home
- 3.) H.B. 2046 - conveyance; Arizona veterans memorial cemetery
- 4.) S.B. 1078 - supplemental appropriation; veterans' services commission
- 5.) S.B. ____ - Ex-POW license plate legislation
- 6.) S.C.R. 1005 - American Wars Museum and Research Institute location

To contact your state legislature Senators or Representative you can make a direct telephone call to their Phoenix offices by using the following toll free telephone line: 1-800-352-8404.

VVA-106 is also petitioning Congress to conduct oversight hearings to determine the impact of presently designated federal wilderness and further petitioning Congress to designate no additional federal wilderness until the negative impact on disabled and aged veterans and their families are eliminated. To contact our local Congressional delegates call the following Tucson numbers: Senator John McCain - 629-6334

Senator Dennis DeConcini - 629-6831

Rep. Morris K. Udall - 629-6404

Rep. Jim Kolbe - 322-3555

Speak up America is listening. Do it now.

Barry W. Arcala
VVA-106 Legislative Coordinator

"101 Viet kids 'smile,' thanks to U.S. doctors"

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) -- The first U.S. doctors to work in communist Vietnam have operated successfully on 101 children who suffered mouth deformities, the official Vietnam News Agency said yesterday.

It said former Prime Minister Pham Van Dong received the doctors from "Operation Smile" at the Presidential palace in Hanoi on Friday and told them that he hopes the two nations increase cooperation in medical and other fields.

Seven plastic surgeons and two other physicians corrected cleft lips and palates of children at the Olof Palme Institute for the Protection of Childrens Health, said the report, monitored in Bangkok.

"Operation Smile" is a Norfolk, Va. based agency and one of various private charitable groups that have responded to a U.S. government call for more humanitarian aid to Vieynam.

The Arizona Daily Star
February 26, 1989



**Veterans
Administration**

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSURANCE HOAX CONTINUES TO FRUSTRATE VETERANS

A GI insurance dividend hoax that first appeared more than 25 years ago continues to plague veterans.

The Veterans Administration insurance center in Philadelphia reports it is receiving between 7,000 and 15,000 applications a week for a non-existent dividend.

For many years the principal victims of the rumor were World War II and Korean Conflict veterans, who were told that the VA was sending a check for hundreds of dollars -- a so-called insurance dividend -- to any veteran who requested. In recent years, however, bogus brochures also have been targeting veterans of the Vietnam war.

The phony applications claim dividends have been authorized by recent Congressional legislation. In fact, there is no insurance dividend for veterans who do not keep their insurance in force and no dividend legislation has been proposed in Congress.

The hoax causes thousands of veterans and dependents wasted effort, and generates needless labor and mailing expense at the VA's 58 regional offices across the country.

VA Insurance --2

The hoax applications usually are unwittingly printed in magazines, newspapers and newsletters, or distributed in handbills. When notified of the error, editors have been cooperative about publishing retractions. Attempts to trace the origin of hoax have been unsuccessful, but it is believed that its life has been perpetuated by the innocent duplication of bogus information.

The VA's legitimate insurance dividends are paid annually to current policyholders. More than 3 million veterans share in an annual dividend distribution, but payments are automatic and no application is needed.

Veterans and dependents with questions about government life insurance policies can phone a VA insurance specialist toll-free from throughout the U.S. Insurance holders and beneficiaries can obtain immediate service on address or policy changes, dividend information and other actions by dialing 1-800-422-8079, from 8 AM to 5:30 PM EST.

#

February 3, 1989

(Dist: I,II,5,7,9,10)



**RAVEN
RACEWAY**
WIDEST 3/8 IN THE WEST!

DAVID L. MANES
President

12500 S. Houghton Rd.
Tucson, Arizona 85747
(602) 629-0707

MARY STOUT CAMPAIGN
P. O. BOX 5101 ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22205-0101
PHONE AND FAX: (703) 243-2972

February 2, 1989

Dear Friend:

We have formed the MARY STOUT CAMPAIGN Committee to see that Mary Stout, President of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., is re-elected to lead VVA into the 1990's.

VVA has been a leader in the veterans community and in service to America and Mary Stout has been the leader who has taken us there and kept us there. Since her election as national President in 1987, her election as national Secretary before that in 1985, her direction of national Membership Affairs from 1983 to 1985, and her work with her home Chapter 227 of Northern Virginia, Mary has been with us as a positive example and leader for us all to follow. We want her to be in the lead for another two years. But we cannot do this alone. We must have your support and we need it right away.

The MARY STOUT CAMPAIGN Committee agrees with Mary Stout when she says, you are the vision of Vietnam Veterans of America; and, your vision will lead VVA into the 1990's. Regardless of what some may say, the purpose of why VVA was formed 10 years ago is very much alive today. The time is now for us to be in the lead in the veterans community and Mary Stout is the leader to take us there.

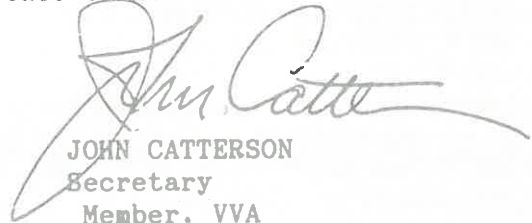
Please join us by contacting us today and giving your support and energy to the MARY STOUT CAMPAIGN.



ZACK EARP
Chairman, MARY STOUT CAMPAIGN
Chair, VVA California State Council



MIKE TARPLEY
Vice Chairman
Chair, VVA
Virginia State Council



JOHN CATTERSON
Secretary
Member, VVA
Board of Directors



PAUL LIEBERMAN
Co-Treasurer
Member, VVA
Chapter 227



BOB SHERMAN
Co-Treasurer
President, VVA
Chapter 227

The City of Tucson will be implementing the Veteran's Housing Assistance Program in 1989. This program will provide an honorably discharged Veteran of low to moderate income up to \$20,000 to purchase building materials to build a home on land the Veteran owns or leases, within the city limits of Tucson.

To qualify for participation, the income level according to the Veteran's family size may not exceed 80% of the median income for the Tucson area, as follows:

1 person	16,300
2 persons	18,650
3 persons	20,950
4 persons	23,300
5 persons	24,750
6 persons	26,200
7 persons	27,650
8 persons	29,150

This is a limited program, providing funds for at least ten Veterans. The funding source is the State of Arizona, Dept. of Economic Security and the City of Tucson. The funds will be granted on a first-come, first-serve basis to the eligible Veterans.

To be considered, the Veteran must complete an application, submitting all the following information:

1. Copy of the Veteran's DD 214.
2. Proof of land ownership or leasing rights.
3. Copies of the blueprints, floorplans, and plot plan for the house to be constructed (These will be returned to the Veteran).
4. A complete list of building materials needed and the cost.
5. The builders name and licensed contractor number.
6. Certification that the house to be constructed shall be the legal and principal residence of the Veteran.

The Veteran must be ready, willing and able to begin construction within 45 days after the award of funds and complete the property within 180 days.

The funds for the purchase of building materials will be provided via periodic drawdowns. All invoices for building materials purchased are to be submitted at the time of each request for funds. Inspections will be made throughout the construction period and to certify completion of the house.

Applications will be available at the Community Services Department, Room 116, 1501 N. Oracle Road (The Tucson House) on May 1, 1989.

If you have any questions, contact Jeanne Shaw, Project Coordinator at 791-4171.

If you feel that you may qualify for most of the above requirements but lack one or two, please call Betty Slaybaugh at 296-7040 for suggestions and more details.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Tucson Chapter 106 announces the VETERANS GOLF CLASSIC to be held on April 8, 1989 at Canada Hills Country Club. Sign-up begins at 9:00 AM with a shotgun start at ten o'clock.

Format for play: two man best ball, Handicap and Callaway Flights, Low gross and low net with tee prizes and chances for other great gifts.

Entry fee is \$75.00 per person which includes green fees, cart, entry gift and awards banquet. Our guest speaker is U. S. Senator John McCain speaking on issues of interest to all veterans.

Admission for the banquet only, which will be at around 4:00 PM, is only \$15.00 per person, so even if you can't afford or simply don't play golf, please come out for this very special event.

Just a reminder the Golf committee is still selling raffle tickets for a custom set of golf clubs retailing at \$800.00, price two dollars per ticket.

For further details contact Randy Fahr, Committee Chairman at 323-3512.

This should be a landmark tournament for our Tucson veterans so plan to attend. PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS PRIOR TO APRIL 1, 1989 SO APPROPRIATE SEATING ARRANGEMENTS CAN BE MADE.

SAM NUNN, GEORGIA, CHAIRMAN

JOHN C. STENNIS, MISSISSIPPI
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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
 WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6050

January 12, 1989

Dear Fellow Veteran:

The political climate of our nation is in a state of transition. We are on the verge of inaugurating a new president. The historic 100th Congress has concluded its legislative schedule, and members of Congress are readying themselves for the upcoming legislative session. But as we prepare for the future, I would like to make you aware of several legislative measures that were enacted during the past year.

As a former member of our nation's armed forces, you have exhibited your dedication and commitment. It is imperative that this nation reciprocate. It is my belief that the services and programs that will be established as a result of recently passed laws are a positive step forward in fulfilling the promises that were made to you upon your induction into the military.

Most veterans are pleased with the Veterans Administration's elevation to cabinet level status. Specifically, Public Law 100-527 allows for the VA to assume cabinet level status on March 15, 1989. The Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs will have direct daily contact with the President, and I believe this access will facilitate a better working relationship between veterans, their advocates, and the President's administration.

Under Public Law 100-628 -- the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Amendments Act of 1988 -- money will be channeled toward addressing the homeless veteran situation. The two-part provision of the bill that pertained to veterans provides an appropriation of \$30 million in each of fiscal years 1989 and 1990 to aid homeless veterans. The first part authorizes the VA to use up to 40 percent of the funds appropriated under the bill to convert to domiciliary beds underused space located in facilities under the jurisdiction of the VA. The second part authorizes the VA to use the remaining 60 percent of the funds for furnishing care, treatment, and rehabilitative services to homeless veterans who suffer from chronic mental illness.

During the past few years, many individuals have contacted me about enacting legislation that provides veterans with the opportunity to pursue disability compensation claims in a court of law. Well, after many years of contentious debate, Congress passed Public Law 100-687 -- the Veterans Administration Adjudication Procedure and Judicial Review Act.

This new law calls for the establishment of a Court of Veterans Appeals. This court is scheduled to adjudicate certain appeals by veterans who have exhausted the review process of the Veterans Administration. The existing VA's Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), which had been the final arbiter in veterans benefits cases, would be retained as a quasi-independent agency and is still the first place veterans go to seek disability compensation benefits. There are, however, some reforms BVA will undergo.

Under the new law, the chairman of BVA is to be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate for a term of six years. The other members of the board are to be chosen by the chairman, approved by the President and appointed by the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs for nine-year terms.

The Court of Veterans Appeals will consist of a chief judge and no more than six associate judges, and will have exclusive jurisdiction over questions of fact regarding individual claims for benefits, with the exception of those involving the schedule for rating disabilities. Decisions by this court would be appealable to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court could review those decisions.

Representatives of appellants before the CVA may be members of the bar admitted to practice before the court or non-lawyers who meet standards of proficiency prescribed by the rules of practice for the court. This provision allows certain individuals affiliated with veterans organizations to represent veterans before the CVA as they currently do before the VA. This legislation also lifts the \$10 limit imposed on the amount of money a veteran may pay an attorney to represent him before the VA. Although this measure would not lift the limit until a veteran has exhausted the VA process, "reasonable" fees would be allowed during the judicial review stage of consideration of a case.

I realize that some veterans may have questions regarding previous decisions made by the Board of Veterans Appeals, and many others may want to know what their options are when pursuing disability compensation. That is why my offices will be available to help all those requiring any assistance or clarification of the new law.

I had previously made you aware of the transfer of the Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery to the VA for inclusion in their National Cemetery System -- Public Law 100-322. I am pleased to notify you that on the 18th of November, Governor Mofford signed the agreement transferring the 225 acre cemetery to the VA. General Turnage -- the Administrator of the VA -- signed off on the agreement on December 5th and the transfer is tentatively expected to become effective sometime in April 1989. The Arizona State legislature must pass a bill approving the transfer, and the federal legislation requires the state to fund a percentage of the cemetery's overall operating costs for the next 3 years. The VA has asked the state to come up with \$390,000 over the next three years, and Representative Jim Hartdegan is preparing the legislation for the transfer and appropriation.

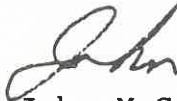
The Arizona congressional delegation was successful in incorporating language in Public Law 100-696 -- the Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 -- that will transfer acreage from the Phoenix Indian School property to the VA and the State of Arizona. The measure calls for the transfer of a 4.5 acre parcel to the VA for future expansion of the Carl Hayden VA Medical Center. The acreage is contiguous to the existing VAMC, and plans are underway for the expansion. In addition, the State of Arizona will receive a separate 1.5 acres for the future site of an old soldiers home. The Arizona Veterans Service Commission is currently working on a feasibility study and plan for a 200-bed old soldiers home that would cost approximately \$14 million. There is still much work that needs to be done before the home becomes a reality. But with the assistance of our veteran community, I am confident we can muster the support needed to get the home funded and constructed.

Alexis de Tocqueville once commented that "America is a land of wonders, in which everything is in constant motion and every change seems an improvement". America is the land of unprecedented opportunity, and we have always prided ourselves of being on the cutting edge of progress. But there was a time when a change in our military policy so weakened the effectiveness of our armed services that it posed a threat to our national security. We have since reversed the path we were on, and our military strength and readiness are once again formidable and superior. In fact, the greatest challenge we currently face is preserving the strength we have built up during the Reagan Administration while moving forward to reach the kind of arms control agreements that will really reduce the risk and cost of war.

Decreasing the risk and cost of war is attainable, but in order to accomplish this we must restore public confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the Department of Defense. In addition, we must continue to strengthen and modernize our military forces. But perhaps even more importantly, we must negotiate arms control agreements from a position of strength and with a firm insistence on agreeing only to those forms of arms control which really do improve our security. As a member of the Armed Services Committee in the Senate, I will continue to work on accomplishing these aims.

I hope you will find the preceding information helpful, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance. Your counsel and guidance is always appreciated.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

Membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. is open to Vietnam Era Veterans
Associate Membership to the Public at Large

Name _____ Phone _____

Present Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

\$20.00 Annual Dues Enclosed _____

Copy of DD Form 214 Enclosed _____

Return this form to

• VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA •

Tucson Chapter 106, P.O. Box 40903 Tucson, Arizona 85717

- I am a Vietnam era veteran and would like to be a Member. (Enclose DD Form 214)
- I am not a Vietnam era veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member.

Your Local Chapter No. _____

I want to give more. Enclosed is my check for \$20, \$50, \$ _____

New Member or Renewal

(All contributions are tax deductible.)

Membership Card No. _____

A CONGRESSIONALLY CHARTERED VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA Tucson Chapter 106
P.O. Box 40903 Tucson, Arizona 85717 (602) 790-7602

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 John Shirley 884-7544

***** CALENDAR *****

* MAR. 23rd - GENERAL MEETING: Thursday at D.A.V. 18, 4656 E. 1st St. at *
 * 7:30 P.M. *

* APR. 13th - BOARD MEETING: Thursday at D.A.V. 18, 4656 E. 1st St. at *
 * 7:30 P.M. *

* APR. 27th - GENERAL MEETING: Thursday at D.A.V. 18, 4656 E. 1st St. at *
 * 7:30 P.M. *

* MAY 11th - BOARD MEETING: Thursday at D.A.V. 18, 4656 E. 1st St. at *
 * 7:30 P.M. *
