

NAME ME

Last chance, folks. Send in or better yet bring in your votes to the next meeting. One man - one vote is a great idea, but we need many more than that. One more name for your consideration that was submitted early and printed late - Keg O' News. Voting will absolutely end May 24th at the end of the meeting.

NEWSLETTER, CHAPTER 106, VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, TUCSON, AZ 85717
VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3, MAY 15, 1985

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

QUICK REFERENCE NUMBERS

VVA	(202) 332-2700 National HQ
	(202) 332-3305 Officers and Directors
	1-800-424-7275 Hotline
VA Regional	622-6424 Tucson Only
	1-800-352-0451 Remainder of AZ
VA Medical Center	629-1450
VA POW Hotline	1-800-821-8139
Veterans Outreach Center	323-3271
DES Vet 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 Veterans Service Commission	628-5388
Pima County Voter Registration	792-8101
Sen. Barry Goldwater	629-6334
Sen. Dennis DeConcini	629-6831
Rep. Morris Udall	629-6404
Rep. James McNulty	629-6030
Agent Orange Class Action Court	1-800-645-1355

FRAGMENTS

by Chuck Hovey

AN AGENT ORANGE SETTLEMENT?

AS you are already aware, an announcement was made on May 1 regarding a settlement to the Agent Orange class action lawsuit. There are a variety of viewpoints concerning this pending action, but certain concerns readily stand out.

The settlement has not been approved by the court, contrary to press reports which lead you to this conclusion, and until it is, nothing is assured or denied. Generally, in a class action suit, the settlement may or may not parallel the original suit. Calls to the toll free court number produce only closely guarded comments. Therefore, be advised that nothing is certain until Judge Weinstein approves a settlement and the court issues a public statement of the exact stipulations. Additionally, the agreement will be reviewed, analyzed and commented upon by VVA National.

Secondly, the method of determination, review and funds disbursement has not been created and had not been at the time of public announcement. A fund of \$180 million expanded to \$250 million with interest may initially dazzle the mind, but when you compare this to the number of affected individuals, service people from the U.S., New Zealand and Australia, spouses, unborn children, etc., the funds begin to expire rapidly. Another factor is, of course, the method of determination and continual review to determine the sum of money to be awarded. The complexities in this area are limitless; i.e. which medical data and physicians will be accepted for verification, children who begin showing effects in later years, etc.

If a system is developed, how far will any given sum go towards adequate medical treatment with today's high-priced health industry?

Finally, the fact that the chemical companies desired to settle out of court is a moral victory, of sorts. Veterans and survivors needed our day in court, and

DINNER FOR 400?

YOU BET!

by Pete McHugh

Our Vietnam Veterans Recognition Dinner is well on its way to success. The dinner, hosted by Chapter 106, will be held Tuesday, May 29, at the Holiday Inn Holidome (Palo Verde at I-10)

Rex Beving, super ticket seller, reports sales of individual tickets and corporate tables are going very well. Jim Click Ford, Pima Savings, and a list of a dozen or more corporate sponsors are giving us their support and, most importantly, their interest.

The dinner committee sent hundreds of letters, made many personal calls and were supported by public service announcements and news releases to make the recognition dinner a super success.

Proceeds from the dinner will allow us to start a scholarship fund and will provide our chapter with some vital things (such as a phone and perhaps office space so we can grow as a credible service organization.

Where do you come in? Attend the dinner. You are the guest of honor. The dinner is our first annual banquet and our membership's support will help ensure our continued growth and development.

Reservations can be obtained by contacting Rex Beving, 749-4044, but please hurry as seating is limited and we are 75% sold out.

Come for dinner. You deserve it.

still do, but we must strive to make the public aware of the full Agent Orange story that was not told. A moral victory is quickly forgotten, so a vigilant group, as we are, must not hesitate to continually pursue our goals of full VA benefits, disability compensation and medical treatment. If we do not, then only we, the Vietnam Vet, are to blame.

REPORTS & MORE

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

On March 21, 1984, the bill for VVA's Congressional Charter was favorably reported out of the Administrative Law and Government Relations Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. This committee is responsible for initial consideration of the bill. The next step in the process is consideration before the full Judiciary Committee.

As of this writing, only Senator Dennis DeConcini and Congressman James F. McNulty have co-sponsored this legislation. The national office has requested that all Chapter members send letters of thanks to the senators and representatives who co-sponsored this bill. I will be working with the legislative committee and state council to contact and encourage the other senators and representatives of this state to co-sponsor this legislation. Their addresses are listed below.

Jim Randall
President, 106

Sen. Dennis DeConcini
33 North Stone
Tucson, AZ 85701
Rep. James McNulty
1605 N. Wilmot Ste#108
Tucson, AZ 85712

Sen. Barry Goldwater
Federal Building
301 W. Congress
Tucson, AZ 85701
Rep. Morris Udall
300 N. Main St.
Tucson, AZ 85701

VICE-PRESIDENT'S REPORT

At the end of US involvement in Southeast Asia, over 1,400 American servicemen and civilians were officially listed as POW's or MIA's, and another 1,200 were classified as KIA, body not recovered.

Since that time, the return of American remains has been almost nonexistent. Only 97 of the 2,500 POW/MIA's have been returned or accounted for. Our government admits Vietnam is warehousing some 400 remains in Hanoi. Yet, officially, very little has been done by our government to have these bodies returned or to investigate, in depth, vietnamese refugee sightings of Americans in POW camps or forced labor units. From 1979 through 1983, there were over 2,000 live sighting reports, and of these over 600 have been eyewitness accounts by the refugees. President Reagan has said: "The resolution of the POW/MIA issue is of the highest national priority." If this is the case, why did Congress allocate only \$350 thousand to investigate the fate of our 2,500 still missing? What's more puzzling is, of the \$350,000, only \$175,000 was used. Per POW/MIA, our government spent \$70.00. It is hard for me to accept that the POW/MIA issue is on the White House priority list. I accept that the POW/MIA issue is high on the White House priority list, or on the list at all.

If the attention that was given by the media to the American hostages in Iran was also given to the 2,500 missing in Southeast Asia, this issue would have been resolved years ago. Nobody knows how many more may die waiting for our government to take proper action. The media need to give this serious national problem more exposure. The VVA needs to form a committee on this issue. For information contact Chuck Hovey, 795-7183, or Mike Buckley, 745-6503. Tomorrow may be too late.

Mike Buckley
Vice-President, 106

THE SISTER COLUMN

As of March 31, 1983, female veterans in the United States and Puerto Rico constitute 4.1% or 1,150,000 of all living veterans. This is 3.5% or 39,000 higher than the 1979 census. Further VA statistics indicate 36% of female veterans served during peacetime only and one out of five is at least 65 years old. California has the largest female vet population (149,000) followed by New York (74,000), Florida (73,200), and Texas (72,800) and Pennsylvania. These states constitute 37% of the total veteran population. Arizona has 19,900 female vets and is growing considerably.

Sisters, we need your input. With 19,900 of us out there in Arizona, there must be several thousand here in Southern Arizona. To discuss our concerns, we have to speak out, and this is one place we can and will be heard.

FRAGMENTS

Veterans can request awards, ribbons, medals and citations, individual and unit, they are eligible for by contacting their respective branch:

- Marines: Commandant, USMC
Code: D1
Washington, D.C. 20380
- Army: Commander, RCPAC
ATTN: AGUZ-PSE-AW
9700 Page Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63132
- Air Force: Commander, USAF Military
Personnel Center
ATTN: AFPM-PE
Randolph AFB, TX 78148
- Navy: Chief of Naval Personnel
Department of the Navy
Washington, D.C. 20370
- Coast Guard: Commandant, USCG
13th and E St., NE
Washington, D.C. 20226

HISTORICALLY, IN MAY

1954-The French were defeated at the Battle of Dienbienphu on May 7. The Geneva Conference began the next day.

1967-Ellsworth Bunker arrived in Saigon to replace Henry Cabot Lodge as Ambassador.

1968-Peace Talks began in mid-May in Paris between the U.S. and North Vietnam. Negotiations bogged down on the shape of the conference table.

1970-President Nixon announced the Cambodian invasion on May 1,

1972-The Northvietnamese Army captured the city of Quang Tri, May 1. Nixon ordered the mining of Haiphong Harbor and intensification of North Vietnam bombing.

1975-The U.S. Merchant Ship MAYAGUEZ was siezed by the Cambodians in the Gulf of Siam on May 12.

QUOTES:

"We know we cannot win a ground war in Asia."

Spiro T. Agnew
Vice-President, United States
Face The Nation (CBS-TV)
May 3, 1970

FRAGMENTS

VETERAN AWARDED \$1 MILLION FROM VA.

A Hartford, Mass. man whose arms became paralyzed after surgery at the US Veterans Administration Hospital in Newington, Conn., won a \$1 million damage award in a recent federal court ruling.

Robert Powers, 58, suffered paralysis after a neck operation at the hospital ten years ago. Federal District Judge T. Emmet Clarie ruled that Powers is entitled to the damage payment because government doctors were negligent in failing to take fast action to correct the problem and in failing to warn Powers adequately about the possible risks before surgery was performed.

COMING ATTRACTIONS

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is Thursday, May 24th at 7:30 p.m. at the Broadway Christian Church, 4741 E. Broadway, just east of Swan. There's ample parking and the building is handicapped accessible. A Voter Registrar will be available for those who would like to register for upcoming elections. Please bring some form of I.D. Restrooms, coffee and doughnuts will be available.

CAR WASH

Chapter 106 will have a car wash May 19 from 9:00 a.m. till whenever at the Rumrunner, 3206 E. Speedway. Towels, soap, sunshine and goodtimes will be provided. Bring your sunscreen and a smile. Part of the proceeds will go to the memorial being erected in Presidio Park.

WANT ADS

This is the place reserved for letting fellow members know if you have or need something to buy or sell or share or do. We ran one ad in the last issue, and we got results. Star/Citizen, eat your heart out. And it's free!! Send your ad c/o NAME ME (or whatever this publication ends up being called) P.O. Box 40903.

"Anyone on his way through town having been approached by a vacant building looking for a veterans group tenant should refer it to the general membership at the next meeting. The above represents the expression of Chapter 106's desire to find a place to call home. We have many talents to use in renovating older buildings in trade and rent donations are tax deductible, so pass the word and find us a home.

WANT TO DO SOMETHING GRAPHIC? If you can hold a pencil or a brush and do something more than write or paint houses, your newsletter needs you, so come out of that artistic closet and HE-E-ELP.

Piano for SALE. Kincaid Console-\$975
Call Bill Pritzen. 743-7747

WELCOME

The VVA would like to welcome the following new members:

C. K. Freidinger	Eleanor D. Reitz
Paul R. Lavoie	Bill DeLong
David Croteau	Allan A. Fowler
Steven Nelson	Deane Apperson, Jr.

We look forward to seeing you soon, and we're proud to have you with us.

NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS

Some of you have failed to submit a copy of either your DD214 or a copy of your orders that will prove your eligibility for the VVA. All we need is your name and the pertinent dates of service. We stress that ALL information is strictly confidential, and if there is something on the document you'd rather blank out, feel free to do so, but send us something. This is not just a local requirement; this is a requirement of the national VVA, and to remain in good standing as a local chapter, we must have proof from EACH member. See or write to Craig Hilts for details on getting documents if you have none in your possession.

VVA CHAPTER 106

OFFICERS

President	Jim Randall
Vice-President	Mike Buckley
Recording Sec'y	Rex Beving
Corresponding Sec'y	Bob Arambula
Treasurer	John Paulus
Asst Treasurer	Gene Zabel

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Legislative	Dick Koppe
Fund Raising	John Paulus
Public Affairs	Pete McHugh
Women's Issues	Norma Herman
Membership	Craig Hilts

STATE COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE

Bill Pritzen

TO THE READERSHIP

Are you bored? Disinterested? Or maybe just shy? Put some excitement into your life. Send us a letter. Do you like something you see here? We love to read nice things about us, so tell us what you think. Do you think we aren't fit to print toilet paper? We'll never know if you don't write to us, and we promise to print it (with expletives deleted, in the finest Washington tradition). Send us a quote. A poem. A song. A picture. A thoughtful response. An instinctive reaction. The bald truth or hairy lies. Heartfelt congratulations or hateful condemnations. Should we be more like the National Enquirer (STARTLING NEW EVIDENCE SHOWS VA IS RUN BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS) or People Magazine (JIM RANDALL: PRESIDENT OR SEX SYMBOL) or the Wall Street Journal (DIOXIN CASE CREDITED WITH CHEMICAL STOCK BLOOM). This is your newsletter! The whole tone of the newsletter represents you as a member. The more you give us, the closer it comes to being an accurate representation. This should be a forum of ideas as well as a listing of facts. Maybe the idea you have is shared by another member, and by putting it out for public view, you can generate a response. The pen is mightier than the sword, so wield the weapon of choice and write!

Craig Hilts

VOTER REGISTRATION

There will be deputy registrars at the next meeting to register voters. Politicians listen to voters, so we all need to be one. Bring some ID (driver's license, etc.) and sign up. **IF YOU DON'T VOTE, YOU CAN'T COMPLAIN.**

FRAGMENTS

Several studies have pointed out that the anti-malarial drug, DAPSONE, commonly used in Vietnam, may have residual adverse side effects, especially for persons of Mediterranean descent, Blacks, and Hispanics. VVA National is investigating the validity of these reports and will keep chapters informed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

For each of us, the memories that were the Vietnam War, ending with the Nixon years, is all too tangible, but now, sixteen years after the 1968 Tet offensive, there is a new generation of brothers and sisters, sons and daughters, who only have the Hollywood and TV perspective. This November, during Veterans Week the membership, by digging into old closet trunks could set up a Vietnam Veterans Awareness Week. What do you think? Remember, if they do not know, they cannot care.

Mark Toth

UNTITLED

Old men toss the
Glove of war
That young men are asked
To pay for.

Sweethearts and mothers wave
a tearful goodbye as
lovers and sons march off to die.

Politicians debate our
Face we must save
But is it their sons
That lie in their grave?

History echoes the cries
Of Khe Sanh.
Now Marines die in
Lebanon.

This madness must cease
Lest we all die for peace.

Jim Randall

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DEADLINE: 10th of each month.

STAFF MEMBERS: Mark TOTH
Craig Hilts
Chuck Hovey
Chuck Knippenberg

I remember sitting at a bus stop just a few days after returning from Nam. My skin was still an off-yellow, everything caught my attention and obviously many pounds had been shed since the last time I had been home three years ago. An elderly woman cautiously sat down beside me on the bench and initially took only secretive glances. A few moments later, she leaned over and inquired of my health due to the obvious appearance. I assured her I was fine and needed only a few months of Grandma's TLC (tender loving care) to regain a more "normal" appearance. Not content with that, she doggedly pursued one line of questioning after another until I finally interrupted and asked what she wanted of me.

She looked deeply into my troubled eyes and then abruptly spat: "Your skin color, the nervousness, back from the war, eh? One of those pot smoking deranged soldiers?"

Taken back a bit, I could only submissively reply: "Ma'am I just came back and only want to get it together again."

She gave me a hard stare, then rose with a fury and pointed pointed a finger at me emulating a Prophet of Old. God, she reminded me of those Vietnamese elders who would do the same every time their village was entered. Larry; the last time resulted in his death when he broke the rules. He let his guard down enough to talk to a child in Vietnamese and was killed by the boy's mother.

My eyes rolled to the sky as she shouted: "Your type ruin our beautiful country; why don't you just leave! Leave her now and join the rest of your communist friends in Canada!!!"

There were no tears left. I silently stood, gazed at this confused rock of patriotism and simply walked away. Where is home today and where can it be tomorrow were the only thoughts in my mind. I could hear the sounds of the Vietnamese taunting as my unit departed their village. At times, it's the same now with only the countries changing. I didn't have the heart to tell her one thing though. You see, she was the nurse who was with my mother during those long hours of labor and helped bring me into this world on that cold winter day in Iowa. Now, she cast me out with far less difficulty and compassion.

by Chuck Hovey

SCUTTLEBUTT

Word has it Jim Randall has surreptitiously accepted a "one of those kind" photo layouts with Field and Stream magazine. You will find him between the Bull Moose article and Uncle Bert's Fabulous Fishing Flies of Fosdick, Florida.

Gene Zabel announced he would not seek the Presidency this year contrary to local rumors. Community and other leaders reportedly uttered a sigh of relief, but the PRESIDENT does not believe a word of it and has ordered his campaign committee to keep an eye on Zabel. Gene denies this denial and commented they should all be banned.....

Craig Hilts was recently abducted by a Washington style cabinet constructed by him from traditional deadwood. After his release, Craig commented this was the most unruly Washington cabinet he had ever made and from now on he would stick to drawers in the future.

RESERVATION

Vietnam Veterans Appreciation Banquet
Holiday Inn Holidome
May 29, 1984, 6:00 p.m.

Name _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Please send _____ tickets

(\$180 per table; \$20 per ticket)

_____ Tables (ten seats each)

OR

_____ Individual tickets

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____

(Make check payable to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 106)

MAIL TO: V.V.A., Chapter 106
P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, AZ 85717

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE
CALL: Rex Beving, 749-4044

WINNING

Why did the young men have to fight and die?

Dying made orphans, it made mothers cry. In a world full of people, love is what it takes.

We should have learned that from our past mistakes.

Where was this glory we've all heard so much about?

Was it just a story that lends itself to doubt?

We've all grown weary, of anger and from pain.

We'll never return there, we're not going back again.

So here's to the children, may the legacy be clear.

Victory's not winning when the cost is very dear.

The guns are all silent now, the weeds have grown around.

Freedom's cpst lies sleeping under dew on hallowed ground.

Was it hate that won the war, or was it love that won the peace?

Questions like these give my mind a fragile ease.

What of the brave young soldiers who gave their lives in vain?

Is god's tender mercy falling with the rain?

Copyright 1984
by Neil Gregerson



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 _____

\$9.00 Annual National Dues \$9.00 Chapter Affiliation Fee \$9.00 Total \$18.00

Return this form to

• VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA •
P. O. Box 40903, Tucson, AZ 85717

- I am a Vietnam era veteran and would like to be a Member.
- I am not a Vietnam era veteran, but would like to be an Associate Member.

I want to give more. Enclosed is my check for \$20, \$50, \$ _____
(All contributions are tax deductible.)

Your Local Chapter No. 106

New Member or Renewal
Membership Card No. _____