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**Monsoon  Tribune**

Newsletter for Vietnam Veterans of America

Vietnam Veterans  
of America (VVA)  
Chapter 106  
Tucson, Arizona



## New Complex at Esperanza to Serve Disabled Vets

**E**speranza En Escalante has been awarded \$200,000 from the Department of Veteran's Affairs for the purpose of constructing a three building complex to serve 15 homeless and disabled veterans. Esperanza En Escalante is a transitional housing program for veterans. The VA grant money will provide 65% of the total cost of construction. The State of Arizona Housing Trust fund is providing \$85,000, Pima County is kicking in \$10,000 and "in-kind" donations total \$16,065 making the \$311,065 needed for the construction of the project.

**On October 7**, EEE celebrated receiving this award with a presentation ceremony and catered buffet. Keynote speaker was Kathy Jurado, Assistant Secretary for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs in the Department of Veteran Affairs. Jonathan Gaardner, Chief Executive Officer of the Tucson VA Medical Center served as master of ceremonies. Also present were congressional, state and city representatives as well as Mr. Norman Gallion, Director of the Arizona Veterans Service Commission.



**The need** for this complex had become apparent to the staff at EEE as almost half of the current residents have a serious physical impairment. Betty Slaybaugh, executive director, EEE, feels the disabled have special needs which will be better served in a separate unit, geared to dealing with such issues as chronic pain and medication management.

**Education and support** will be provided toward wellness issues including nutrition and appropriate limited exercise. Mental health counseling will be provided in individual, group and family sessions. Considerable attention will be paid to the issue of acceptance and adjustment of physical limitation. ■

### Inside

#### RUN FOR THE WALL

Read the special message from the Arizona Chairman and also how RFTW got started.

Page 2

#### MORE EEE

Learn what opportunities await you at EEE.

Page 3

#### NAM JAM '97

If you didn't go read what you missed. Complete coverage.

Pages 4-6

#### NOTES & QUOTES

Keep up to date on chapter happenings and what members are talking about.

Page 7

# RUN FOR THE WALL

## A SPECIAL MESSAGE

By Terry Rolinger, Arizona Chairman, Run For The Wall

Dear VVA Friends,

The 1997 Run For The Wall has been over for a few weeks now but I continue to get cards and e-mails from participants thanking all of you for the wonderful hospitality that VVA provided for Run For The Wall here in Arizona. I want to add my personal thanks, both as Arizona Coordinator for RFTW and as a VVA member, for supporting RFTW. Next year will be the tenth anniversary of Run For The Wall. We are looking forward to passing through Arizona again and maybe even picking up a few folks from here to make the trip with us to Washington. The more voices, the louder the message.

RFTW rolled into Kingman, AZ about 4:00 PM on May 14th. The 78 motorcycles and numerous support vehicles were met at the KOA campground by Sam Darnell of VVA coolers full of ice ready for the After hours of 100 Rest assured the name VVA will be repeated in a very positive light Trevino and Dick Chapter 432 who had cold sodas and beer thirsty participants. plus degrees across the desert, the VVA oasis was a welcome sight indeed. After greeting everyone they proceeded to whip a fantastic dinner of grilled pork chops, *real* mashed potatoes and gravy, corn and fresh rolls.

I returned to camp at 6:00 AM the next morning to find that Sam and Dick had been up long before and had a hot breakfast of scrambled eggs, sausages pork chops, bakery fresh croissants, and hot coffee ready for the crew. They pulled out at 8:00 AM, well rested and well fed, ready for the ride to Gallup, NM where they would spend the next night.

All of this was made possible by the generous contributions of VVA Arizona State council and the four chapters. I thank all of you again. You can rest assured that the name VVA will be repeated many times in a very positive light throughout the country as a result of your hospitality for this event. I strongly encourage more of you to become personally involved next year, either through assisting with the dinner, joining up with the run, or both. If you are short on time, try to make it at least to Angel Fire. It will be an experience you will never forget. ■

Run For The Wall was started in 1989 by a couple of Vietnam Veterans who traveled across the heartland of America talking to local radio, TV and newspapers, reminding them we have thousands of men and women still unaccounted for from all of our wars. We continue that tradition every May, getting the message through the USA in a safe and orderly manner.

Although the main issue is awareness we find it important to see that the Vietnam Veterans get the welcome home they never received, the first step in the healing process.

There is no charge for participating in RFTW. All you have to do is pay your own expenses.

The trip takes ten days to reach the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where the run officially ends on the Friday evening before Memorial Day. However, activities are generally planned for the weekend including participation in the Rolling Thunder Parade in Washington, D.C. on Sunday. What a sight to see as 200,000 motorcycles all start at once and parade through downtown Washington, ending at the Wall!

You don't have to ride a motorcycle to participate. Chase trucks, motorhomes, and cars are welcome. The important thing is to participate.

For more information, contact the Arizona representative, Terry Rolinger at POB 7382, Nogales, AZ 85628 or at (520) 287-7920. Terry's email address is [rolinger@dakotacom.net](mailto:rolinger@dakotacom.net). The national email address is [inforftw.org](mailto:inforftw.org) or visit the Web site at [www.rftw.org](http://www.rftw.org).

The Monsoon Tribune is a publication of Chapter 106, Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). Please direct all article submissions, chapter correspondence or inquiries to: Vietnam Veterans of America, Tucson Chapter 106, P.O. Box 40903, Tucson, AZ 85717-0903. Telephone 520-571-5766, Fax 520-887-0128. This publication is edited by Valery Maldonado and Joe Kelley. Please direct e-mail submissions or inquiries to [joekelley@worldnet.att.net](mailto:joekelley@worldnet.att.net)

## ESPERANZA EN ESCALANTE

# How you can help

### A Success Story

**H**i. I'm Bruce, a former resident of Esperanza en Escalante who has successfully made the transition from homelessness to independent living. I am a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Army Signal Corps for three years (13 months in Vietnam 3/67-4/68). Personal problems after the service led to substance abuse and eventual homelessness. After two years on the street, I was admitted to the VA hospital. It was there as an inpatient that I was referred to EEE. After my initial interview with the director, I was placed on a waiting list and waited five months before being admitted.

During my two years at EEE I received counseling and therapy which were invaluable to my recovery and most importantly it restored my self esteem. My recovery is an on going process and I continue to attend meetings and visit a gym on a regular basis as a means of physical therapy.

I am a recipient of social security disability and although I am unable to re-enter the work force, I volunteer my time at EEE, attending fund raising events, formatting the newsletter and whatever else is asked of me. I want to assist others to receive the help I was given. It saved my life for which I am very grateful.

### EEE WISH LIST:

**BACK HOE** - As EEE continues to do construction and site development it has been determined that a primary and on going need of EEE is for a back hoe. It is expensive to rent one each time we need to do an individual job.

**GOLF CART**- The building and storage cover a large area (19.6 acres) and many of our disabled residents are limited in the assistance they can give without the use of some kind of feasible transportation on the property.

**ROTO TILLER** - The residents at EEE are in the process of developing a vegetable garden. To prepare the soil, a roto tiller is needed and rental price is exorbitant. We all know the sense of pride and accomplishment there is to harvesting and serving food from one's own garden. We'd like to make that sense of accomplishment a reality to our tenants. ■

### COMMUNITY SERVICE AT EEE

For the past several years we have had volunteers at EEE who have satisfied traffic citations by doing Community Service at EEE and their efforts are greatly appreciated. This service for city citations can be done at the rate of \$5 for each hour of CS. If a ticket carries an \$80 fine then the hours needed would be 16. At the completion of the hours a letter on EEE letterhead stating the hours worked is taken to Sentence Enforcement at City Court.

Community Service cannot be used if the citation was for the following:

- Driving without insurance
- Driving on a suspended license
- Driving under the influence
- Driving without registration
- Certain citations dealing with drug arrests. ■

### SPOTLIGHT

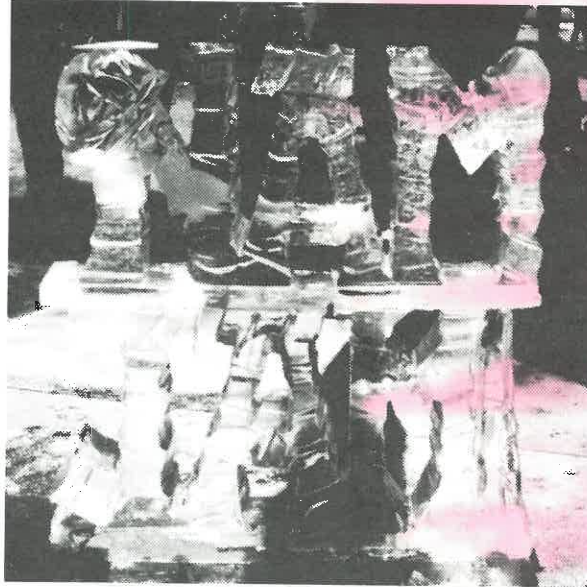
On behalf of the residents of EEE, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Wayne and Gloria Adams for their generosity. They donated a 1982 Ford Station Wagon for use by the occupants of EEE. With a substantial donation from DAV#2 and proceeds from the fund raising efforts of our own Finance Committee, we were able to purchase the necessary insurance coverage. This vehicle allows groups of men to go to the Community Food Bank, grocery store and attend other activities, and provides transportation to those who have none. In addition to this unselfish gift Mr. Adams, a veteran of the USAF, also volunteers his time to EEE. Thank you.

# NAM JAM '97

By Dann Mohr & Valery Maldonado

The Eleventh Annual 'Nam Jam' was held on Sunday, October 5th at Reid Park. Though billed as a musical event, it is more a tribute and a "Welcome Home" celebration to all veterans, particularly of the Vietnam Era who may still have not heard those healing words. The trees of Reid Park provided shade for the 15,000 plus people in attendance. Some may have thought they were instead at a Biker event as more than 1,000 bikers showed up to honor their military brothers and sisters.

Opening the day long festival was Chester Rick III, President, VVA Chapter 106-Tucson. Olga Garcia, a Marine Corps vocalist, and Ron Allen, trumpet player, treated the crowd with a beautiful rendition of the Star Spangled Banner and Taps. The Tucson Detachment of the Marine Corps League Honor Guard, led by Ben Rivera presented Colors. They were accompanied by the Marine Corps Scottish Pipers who, after playing a heart warming version of the Marine Corps Hymn, received five minutes of resounding cheers from all. Close to a dozen bands and musical groups donated their musical skills and talents. They ranged from Country-Western to Rock N'Roll to Native American music. There certainly was something for everyone's musical taste.



Scattered throughout the park were various military related displays as well as numerous food vendors. Carnival games kept the kids occupied as well as the "Old MacDonald" train ride. A display of a fully restored OH-6A (Charlie Chopper) light observation helicopter from the Valley Aircraft Restoration Society, Inc. of Mesa was a crowd pleaser. Costing close to \$1 Million and 10,000 man hours to complete the restoration, this helicopter was detailed with a simulated pilot and co-pilot, each wearing authentic gear. Also on board were guns and armament of the era. One

veteran visitor, Dennis Robinson, while looking over the paper work of the craft, realized he had been on this machine's crew at one time!

The main attraction of the day was the Nam Jam Museum. Two huge military tents housed an extensive collection of war relics and memorabilia of the Viet Nam War. Mary McQuoid, wife of veteran Richard McQuoid, stood at the front of the tent to greet all vets with a warm "welcome home". Mary commented that all us were deeply moved by the entrance—a sand bagged bunker. Denny Evans and Bill Fort, decorators of the bunker entrance, also stayed at the front all day extending greetings and explaining different pieces of memorabilia. Upon entering the museum, many vets closed their eyes, took a deep



## ONE MORE CHANCE TO SAY HELLO OR GOODBYE

breath and were taken back by the smell of the musty canvas and well oiled firearms. Many felt at home immediately while many fought back tears. Visitors were able to view tattered and faded fatigues, boonie hats, berets, and spit shined boots. Medals, ribbons, and awards were also on display. Hugs and handshakes were plentiful by former comrades in arms viewing the artifacts.

Each museum committee member had at least one story to take home as a reminder of that day. Bob Maldonado tells of a biker from Chicago who broke down emotionally while viewing a picture of a river boat he was stationed on for thirteen months. Richard McQuoid and Dan Driscoll, both members of VVA Chapter 106, celebrated the news that they had actually served together with the 26th Combat Engineers at LZ Baldy-LZ Ross Area in 1968-69. Gerard Berume met the nurse, Lee Crosby, who is featured in a photograph he chose to display his poetry with. Lee was the first person Gerald saw as he left the stage after reading his poem. He was able to present her with a beautiful long stemmed red rose. Valery Maldonado had the pleasure of meeting a Marine vet standing in front of a SeaBee Display. This display, constructed by Valery, was made to honor Tucsonan George Daglio. In the display George is quoted as saying "We



worked 24 hours a day for six months. The VC would mortar us constantly and the Marines would return fire while we kept building". The Marine vet asked Valery to tell George that he was one of those Marines. He said reading George's words made him realize that his stay was important and that he helped save American lives.

At the far end of the tent was the Shrine and flowers. Also present were pictures of children, now grown, who were never able to experience the feeling of being held by dad. Letters to loved ones as well as gifts left to honor fallen comrades also decorated the displays. For many it was one more chance to say hello or goodbye to someone. For others it was a chance to pay respect to the many who gave their all. Not many museum visitors left with a dry eye.

The final display is a tribute to the cofounder of the museum—Deborah Fahnstock. As mentioned elsewhere in the *Monsoon*, Deborah is taking time off to complete her convalescence from fighting cancer. The Museum Committee didn't think a simple "thank you" would suffice, especially to the founder of a museum that has been the start of healing for so many. Under the guidance of Deborah and Bob Byars, Deane Cooper rose to the occasion this year and assumed Deborah's work. She stepped into some mighty tough shoes and filled them beautifully.

Continued—Page 6

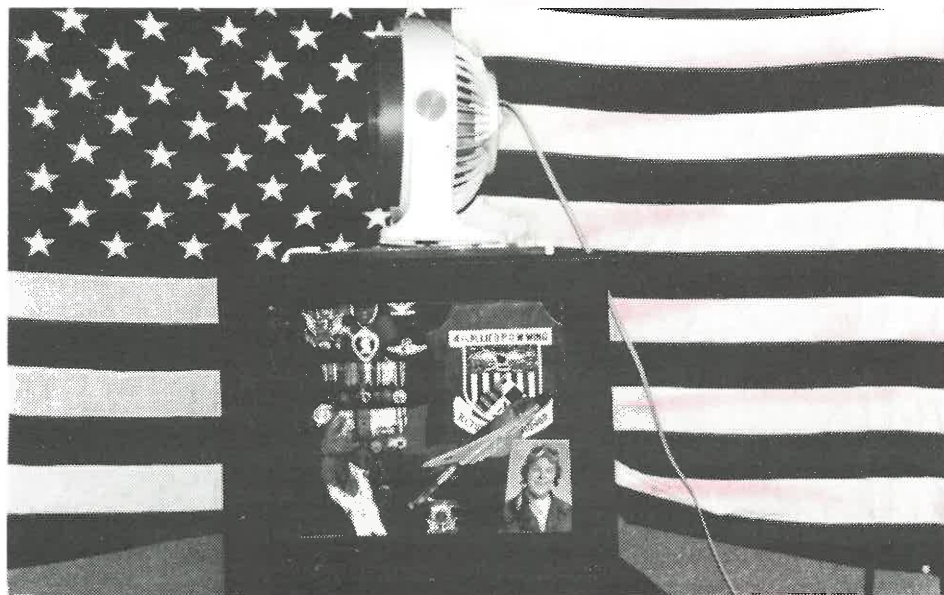
## NAM JAM '97: A TIME TO ENJOY AND HONOR

Continued—From Page 5

While there are numerous stories, no one could forget seeing Bill Fort give a hug to the mother of a departed Marine. Another was Mary hearing a co-worker utter “It was you.” at work the next day. It seems that one of the many vets Mary had welcomed to the museum last year turned out to be a fellow coworker. It was that visit that started his healing process. It was this year that he realized it was Mary who helped him start that so important journey.

One display at the entrance of the museum caught the eye of many. It read “IN HONOR OF SSGT. JIM SCHNEIDER \*MIA\* (Missing in America). It seems that Bill Fort and Dennis Robinson, past friends of Jim, had been storing some of his stuff all these years and had exhausted all means of trying to locate him. They made up the display in honor of their friend. Well, guess who turned up for this year’s Jam. You bet— Jim! For more than two years he has been in Mexico. It seems a combination of medical reasons, brushes with the law, hopelessness and PTSD had kept him lost. Jim heard about Nam Jam '97 and decided to show up. Jim said, “I’m tired of missing myself and my friends”. The reunion was tearful and joyful. Jim’s friends were heard to say “There is a God and miracles do happen.”

Nam Jam '97 certainly proved to be a day for bikers, hippies, yuppies, rainbow children, white, black, yellow, red, all races, all creeds. All coming together for a day to enjoy music, food, drink, and friendship in honor of our nation’s veterans. ■



# Chapter Notes & Quotes

## VVA CHAPTER 106: MINUTES OF MEETING—OCTOBER 26, 1997

### MEMBER NOTES

Our dear **Deborah Fahnstock** has decided to step down from her duties with the Museum Committee. As most of us already know, Deb has been battling cancer for several months and feels her direction in life has changed. She's going to be "living up the moment" and "clearing the decks for all the joys life has to offer." Deborah states: "I send my love and will always honor the brotherhood and sisterhood". "I loved the museum this year and feel positive about the community carrying on next year."

**Deane Cooper** has promised to continue the tradition of Healing for the Vietnam Vet started by Deborah and Terry Rollinger. The entire committee has pledged to help her.

**Valery Maldonado** received a call from **Darryl** regarding a letter from the VA. Valery asks "Darryl, please call me back. I have the information for you and your wife. Thanks."

Meeting called to order at 6:35—President, **Chester Rick** presiding...**Walt Maxam** moved to accept the minutes as submitted, seconded and passed... The Treasurer's report was presented by **Peter Duerr** and **Joe Luke** moved to accept the report subject to audit. Seconded and passed. ...**Chester Rick** discussed the National Convention and made suggestions regarding the Education Committee...**Peter Duerr** discussed his trip to Washington, D.C. He was able to attend the opening ceremonies of the Women's Dedication and he shared his impressions and literature with all in attendance...**Chester** opened discussion to this year's Christmas Party. It was moved by **Robert Maldonado** that **Deane Cooper** be Party Chairman again, seconded and passed. It was decided that the party will be a potluck held at the home of **Karen Sertich**. It will be a potluck (no desserts) and will be held on the 13th of December. Please RSVP to Karen or call Deane at 790-2612. It was moved by **Deane Cooper** to accept the above party arrangements and seconded. Motion passed...There was an announcement by **Joe Luke** that the traveling wall will be in Silver City, New Mexico beginning November 1, 1997...A motion was made to forgo the December 22, 1997 meeting. Motion was made by **Gerard Berume** and seconded. Motion passed. ...There was discussion of the Stand Down on November 8th...Discussion of the Parade on Veterans Day...Our Bingo in December will be attended by Girl Scouts. It was suggested that we ask Rita to invite the Boy Scouts and do something for both groups...The Veterans's Day Ceremony was discussed. Gail Skinner will be doing the benediction...Mr. **Joe Kelley** was nominated by Deane Cooper for Committee Chair position of Editor of the *Monsoon Tribune*. Seconded and Motion passed...It was moved by **Pete Duerr** to supply an on line service to our Editor and seconded. Motion passed. In addition he discussed setting up a home page for the chapter. The idea is well received and Joe will get back to us this... Our drawing was held and members #195, #59—**Dan Driscoll** and #47—**Michael Cusickall** lost out on \$60. Next month the drawing will be for \$70. **Chuck Bald-Coulter** won the drawing for \$15...Following the meeting a discussion of Nam Jam 97 was held. ■

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*Please remember that the '97 Board Meeting will be our Budget Meeting. You have no right to complain if you are not here.*

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