

Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune

VOLUME I ISSUE 8

OCTOBER 1984

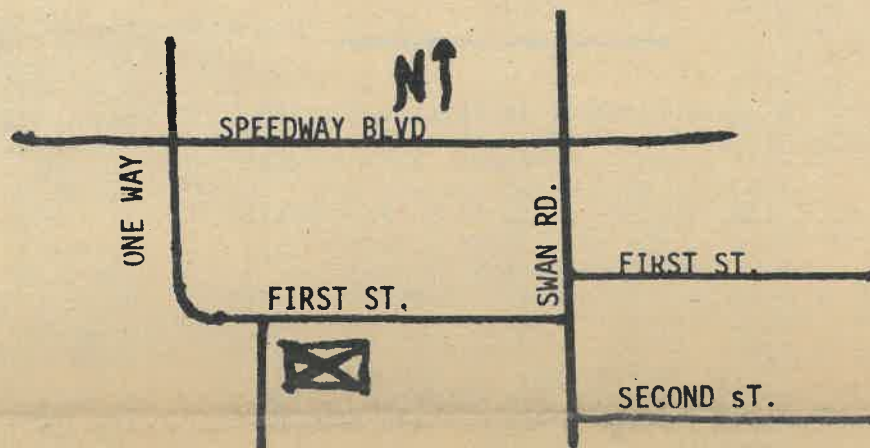
CALENDAR

OCTOBER 25 VVA GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Disabled American Veterans,

OCTOBER 25 VVA GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 18, Hall, 4656 E. 1st St. (see map) at 7:30 p.m. ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD, AND YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.

NOVEMBER 1 LIGHT UP THE DARKNESS. Drive with your headlights on today in support of our POW/MIA's. Let our elected officials, present and future, know that this issue must be resolved.

NOVEMBER 12 VETERANS DAY PARADE. Join the Chapter in the march/walk and hold your head high. Details will be announced at the meeting. Info inside.



VOTE

The every-four-years festival of robust rhetoric is upon us again. As in all races, both groups of contestants are trying hard to sell themselves as the great gift of hope. Various political action committees are busy perpetrating propaganda in the interest of their choice. Many in and out of government have expressed their displeasure over these narrowly defined, single-sided funders versus John Q. Public's ability to influence his representative, so that matter can be tabled for the moment. Still, our individual and group electoral power is not something to blow off with over-rationalized

statements of "My vote don't count." Only about one quarter of the eligible, or more appropriately, of the potentially eligible voters elect the presidential ticket to run this country. If it has often appeared that the lot of the Vietnam and Vietnam Era Vet is not being improved, maybe it's because when someone says, "I didn't vote for that clown," they really meant that they did not vote. This election, nearly a decade after the war, get out, register, learn the candidates and issues, and then CAST THAT BALLOT.

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

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Fragments

By Chuck Hovey

According to the Department of State in a recent release, terrorism has become a serious threat to the United States and world. Between 1973-1983, 5175 terrorist incidents were recorded worldwide which left 3689 people dead and 7791 wounded. 40% of these attacks were directed at the United States; 271 Americans were killed and 116 wounded.

1983 Incidents

37.2%	Western Europe
25.6%	Latin America
22.8%	Middle East and North Africa
7.8%	Asia-Pacific Region
3.4%	Africa
2.4%	North America
.8%	E. Europe and USSR

Victims

48%	Diplomatic and Government Personnel
18.4%	Military Personnel
14.0%	Business Personnel
	Remainder - Private Citizens

Methods

49.5%	Bombings
15.2%	Armed Attacks
14.3%	Arson
7.7%	Kidnappings
2.4%	Barricades and Hostages
1.7%	Barricades without Hostages
1.7%	Hijackings

The week beginning November 11, 1984, has been designated Women Veterans Recognition Week. It's time to show some gratitude to those we have, at times, taken for granted.

The future of the VVA Charter will be decided in the next few weeks. Currently, there are 52 co-sponsors in the Senate, but this does not guarantee passage of the Charter. Only Sen. Dennis DeConcini has committed himself in Arizona, so please contact your Senator and Representatives now to garner support.

Judge Weinstein, presiding court officer for the Agent Orange class action suit, has set back the filing date for claims to January 2, 1985. After hearing testimony, he delivered this ruling and also delayed settlement judgment until after reviewing the claims. The VVA Board of Directors recommended this course of action at the last board meetings.

According to an article published in the San Diego Union on February 5, 1984, the Veterans Administration released 1982 statistics which showed \$14 million was spent on education, rehabilitation and readjustment programs for Vietnam Vets in San Diego County. An additional \$3 million went to business loans and jobs programs bringing the total figure to \$17 million for the county's 106,000 veterans.

Meanwhile, according to Congressional statistics, \$29.5 million was spent in the same period on similar programs for the county's 40,000 Southeast Asians. The inequity is obvious and deserves our attention not in the spirit of malice, but common sense. After all, weren't we treated as immigrants upon our return?

US ORDERED TO TRIAL

The 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected a Justice Department request to spare the government from a trial on charges that its use of Agent Orange harmed the spouses and children of veterans exposed in Vietnam.

Government lawyers argued that a trial on these charges would undermine military discipline and further pointed out the US is immune under Supreme Court Doctrine from being sued over military orders; in this case, the use of Agent Orange. The court, however, ruled the potential harm was not severe enough to halt the case and favored the seven chemical companies that are suing for reimbursement of \$180 million which they agreed to pay in a recent class action law suit.

The Court of Appeals upheld an earlier ruling by Judge Jack Weinstein who had decided that although veterans could not sue the government for injuries, they could be held liable for harm to spouses and children. No trial date has been set as of this date.

A research study is being conducted at Cleveland State University on women who served in Southeast Asia in any capacity during the Vietnam War. In order for the study to be representative of the many women who served in Southeast Asia during this period, your help is needed. Information will be solicited by means of a questionnaire and all replies will be held in strict confidence. If you wish to participate in this study or if you would like more information please contact:

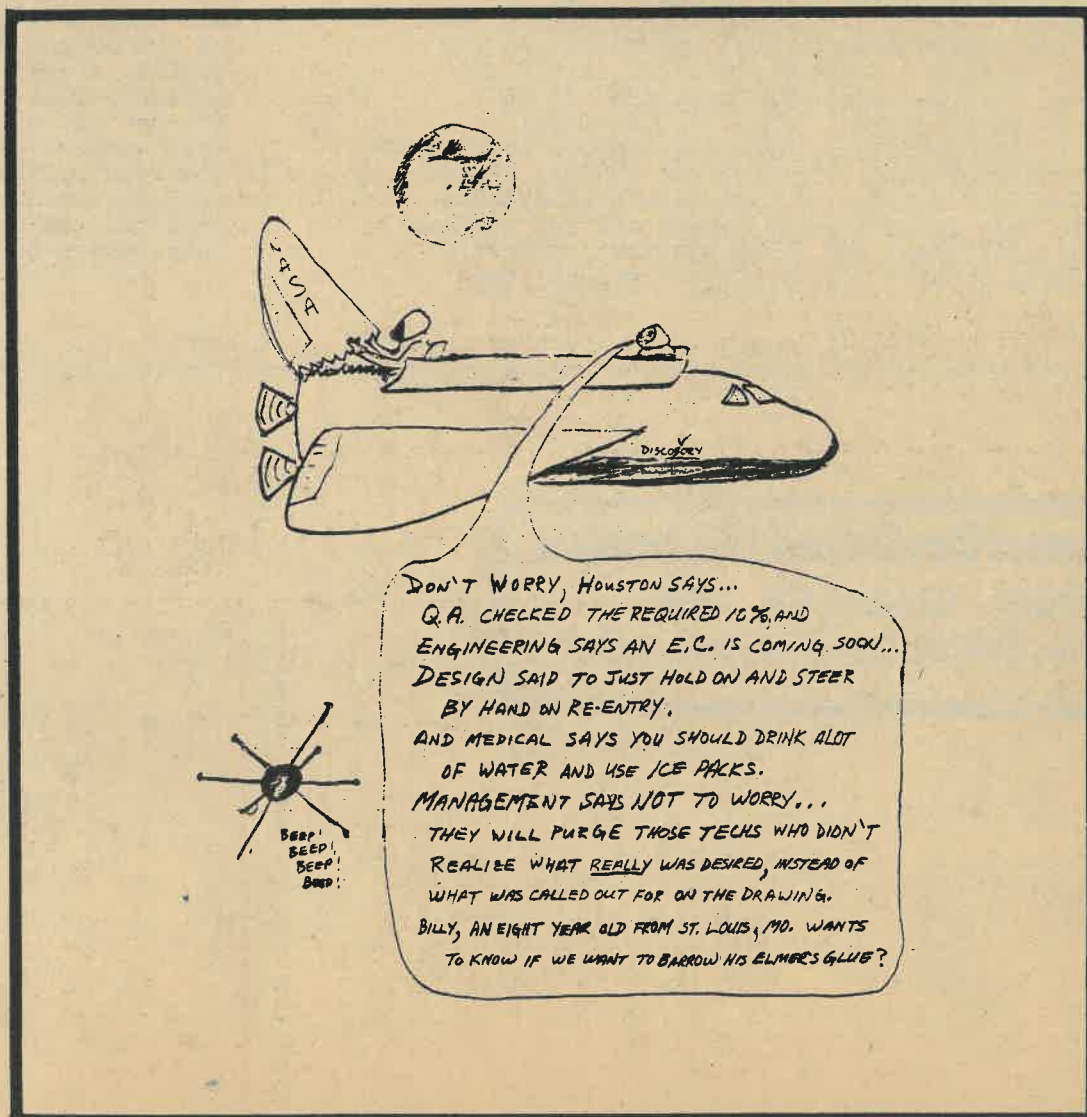
Margaret A. Gigowski
c/o The Department of Psychology
Stilwell Hall
Cleveland State University
1960 E. 24th Street
Cleveland OH 44115

GRENADA - The recent military action on Grenada has produced an abundance of decorations for those directly and indirectly involved. Although there were never more than 7000 officers and enlisted on the island during the entire nine days of activity, the Army awarded an astounding 8612 medals. This included 4581 commendation medals, 2495 achievement, 685 Bronze Stars and the remainder for valor, wounds, deaths and miscellaneous. Included within this group also were 50 achievement medals for Pentagon personnel who never left the safety of their offices.

According to the Green Machine, the awards program was designed to lift morale and spirit; a worthwhile goal, perhaps, in these days where the services are pushing to maintain volunteer armed forces. The Pentagon was also quoted as saying: "many support and staff personnel received the awards for their support ... outside of the actual combat zone or for their services in Grenada after hostilities had ceased."

The other services were more stingy with their decorations. The USMC, about 1000 strong ashore during the battle, issued 10 Purple Hearts for combat deaths and are still reviewing commendations for bravery. The 22nd Marine Amphibious did receive a unit citation, but otherwise the Marines were more selective. The Navy awarded 7 Purple Hearts for combat deaths/wounds and like the Corps is reviewing for further action. Admiral McDonald, Commander-in-Chief Atlantic reportedly made it clear there would be no individual awards for staff officers. The Air Force is still contemplating awards.

It seems obvious the military, i.e. the Army, is continuing a long held Vietnam premise of squaring public support by the excess awarding of medals. The prior cherished tradition of medals for valor ought not be diluted by excess giving and the awarding to desk types, however vital their contributions, raises some real questions concerning ethics and motives.



From the Top

TO THE MEMBERSHIP

This past month I have received some curious and sometimes frustrating inquiries about different issues concerning the chapter and the overall condition of Vietnam Veterans in general. These inquiries have come from members and non-members. They have ranged from sincere questions about the status of HR 2204 (GI Bill extension) to annoying complaints that the chapter has not done enough to promote the Emergency Job Training Act, as if we were responsible for the action or inaction of the VA or the DES. I do not now nor have I ever professed to have all the answers. I have always made an honest effort to answer questions as accurately as possible or find someone who could.

Constructive criticism is encouraged and welcome. I would like nothing better than to see some fresh input and energy, but there always seems to be a small fraction that complains about the order of things but never offer alternative solutions to improve the situation they complain about.

We have made an enormous amount of progress in the last year and the future of our chapter is very bright. To maintain this momentum we need membership support; people to get behind our projects, and not in their way.

Jim Randall
President, 106

Fellow Vets and Associate Members of Chapter 106: We have come a long way in our short period of existence. For those of you who volunteered your services, MANY THANKS! Without your help, there wouldn't be a Chapter 106. And a very SPECIAL THANKS to the spouses and friends who have had to deal with the absence of their mates while these projects were taking place. There have been some trying times, to say the least.

As we grow, so do the responsibilities of the Chapter. We need all members input, whether it be positive or negative. It is the only way we can continue to move forward and become a chapter with recognition. **BECOME ACTIVE!**

Mike Buckley
Vice President, 106

Scuttlebutt

A local VVA Chapter is sponsoring a slightly different type of contest in its ongoing efforts to promote education and awareness. Having all been participants in a major conflict, the members will be promoting a measure to secure peace by boring the two primary nations involved, the US and USSR. Here's how it is going to work: simply send us a postcard indicating who you think are the seven (7) most boring people in this country. Simultaneously, we have asked the Soviet Afghani Vets to do the same in their nation. After all the tabulations are complete, these 14 will be sent to the other country and within a week, both Moscow and Washington will be willing to negotiate anything for their return. It's easy, it's simple and a learning experience for those who don't hear. Send your postcard in today and don't miss out on the most boring political contest in your life. Remember to use proper postage.

Sister Column

By Bess Jones

On 12 August 1984 in St. Paul, there was a public unveiling of a 33-inch statue called "Nurse." I talked to Diane Carlson Evans of River Falls, WI., who is heading the Vietnam Nurses Memorial Project. She said that there were to be three small statues made to tour through the country to remind people of female veterans and to make money for a larger-than-life statue to be erected at a later date. She pointed out that there will be minor changes made to remove any insignia that designate a particular branch of service. And even though the statue has a stethoscope around her neck, the statue is to honor all women who served in Vietnam, civilian or military. For more information you can write:

Vietnam Nurses Memorial Project
511 Eleventh Ave. South
Box 45
Minneapolis, MN 55415

I also received a letter from Margaret A. Gigowski at the Cleveland State University. She's doing a research study on women who served in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. She says that the questionnaire is being redied for publication. She is interested in how our experience in Southeast Asia has affected our lives. She wants to include all women, civilian or military, who served anywhere in Southeast Asia. If you want to participate in the study you can write:

Margaret A. Gigowski
c/o The Department of Psychology
Stilwell Hall
Cleveland State University
1960 East 24th Street
Cleveland, OH 44115

Thank you for your responses to and interest in this column. If you have any other information, please write:

Sister Column
P.O. Box 22166
Tucson, AZ

Chapter Election Time

The Chapter elections will be held this month at the General Meeting. **YOU ARE THE DECIDING FACTOR!** We must have a good turnout. Nominations may be made at the meeting in addition to those already made.

The following nominations have already been made:

President	Jim Randall
1st Vice-President	Mike Buckley
2nd Vice-President	Dan Glesinger
(New Position)	
Treasurer	John Paulus
Corresponding Sec'y.	Chuck Hovey
Recording Sec'y.	Rex Beving
Board of Directors Members At Large (Three Positions)	Dennis Thompson
	Pete McHugh
	Clifford Tracy
	Tony Garcia
	Bill Pritzen

This is a very important function. **DON'T MISS THIS MEETING.** Remember, if you don't vote, you can't gripe!

YOU, TOO, CAN ADVERTISE IN THE MONSOON TRIBUNE!!!

If you have a business, or know of a business, which would like to support the work the Monsoon Tribune is doing in getting information to Viet Vets throughout Southern Arizona and would like to advertise in the Tribune, the rates are very reasonable and the circulation is growing. Basic rates for business card sized ads are \$10 per month, with rate breaks for longer runs and larger ads. For further information, contact Mark Toth at 628-7016.

GREETINGS
and THINGS

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POW/MIA Update

Many people have asked, "Why would the communists hold our POWs?"

The communists have always maintained that our military people were not POWs but criminals and pirates. With these and other labels, they justify cruel and inhumane treatment. The communists do not value humanity as we Americans do. Alexander Solzhenitsyn explains in this way:

"If the government of North Vietnam has difficulty explaining to you what happened to your brothers, your American POWs who have not yet returned, I can explain this quite clearly on the basis of my own experience in the Gulag Archipelago. There is a law in the Archipelago that those who have been treated the most harshly and who have withstood the most bravely, who are the most honest, the most courageous, the most unbending, never again come out into the world. They are never again shown to the world because they will tell tales the human mind can barely accept. Some of your returned POWs told you that they were tortured. This means that those who have remained were tortured even more, but did not yield an inch. These are your best people. These are your foremost heroes who, in a solitary combat, have stood the test. And today, unfortunately, they cannot take courage from our applause. They cannot hear it from their solitary cells where they may either die or remain for 30 years...."

Twelve years after the end of World War II, Russia released about 7,000 German POWs - they did not account for the remaining 93,000 Germans they continued to hold. After the Korean War, the communists held many Americans. Reports as recent as 1982 reveal that American POWs may still be alive in prisons in North Korea and China, nearly thirty years after that war ended. Two Americans, John Downey and Richard Fecteau, were released by the Chinese communists after being held for some 20 years.

It has been reported that one of the motives the Vietnamese communists have in keeping American POWs is to use them as leverage to force the United States to pay for war damage. At the time of the Peace Accords in January, 1973, President Nixon and Dr. Henry Kissinger did, in fact, SECRETLY promise the Vietnamese communists \$3.25 billion in postwar reconstruction aid. They included detailed lists of equipment, aid and personnel promised for postwar reparation. Not a penny of this was ever paid directly, though the United States has contributed millions to communist Vietnam through international financial institutions.

Though Dr. Kissinger is most visible in this tragedy, there are many others who share the blame, who have known the facts but have done nothing. Their complicity and silence have become part of the "fearful web we weave when once we venture to deceive." There are those whose careers would be wiped out if the truth were known, so the silence continues. "Wait long enough and all the men will be dead," they say.

The American people are ignorant of the POW crisis largely due to the silence of the media. With a few exceptions, it is all but impossible to get this issue before the American people, especially any kind of in-depth report. If the same amount of media attention that was given to the 52 American hostages in Iran had been given to the 2500 missing in Southeast Asia, this crisis would have been resolved long ago because public pressure would have demanded a solution. About three months after the end of the Vietnam War, the Defense Department was changing the status of the missing from MIA (missing in action) to PFOA (presumptive finding of death) to KIA (killed in action) based on the fact that "no new information had been made available." The Vietnamese communists argue they are not accountable for anyone declared dead. Their argument, however, does not release them from a moral and legal responsibility.

These missing Americans have continued to honor their country. Now, we must ask, "What will their country do for them?" We, individually and collectively, are their country. WHAT PART WILL YOU PLAY IN THEIR REPATRIATION?

Eleanor D. Reitz, sister
Major Victor J. Apodaca, USAF
MIA, North Vietnam, June 8, 1967

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Subscriptions to the Viet Vet Monsoon Tribune are now available at the incredibly low rate of \$5 per year. Fill in the coupon below and send a check or money order payable to VVA Chapter 106 care of this newsletter.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

American Legion Dedicates Memorial Fountain

On September 19th the Morgan McDermott Unit 7 American Legion Auxiliary dedicated a memorial fountain honoring American POWs and MIAs at the Reid Park Zoo Elephant Enclosure entrance. The simple yet eloquent plaque on the fountain reads:

In Honor Of The

MIA-POW

1984

Donated by

Morgan McDermott
Unit No. 7
American Legion
Auxiliary

Census Figures

More than one half of our country's population resides in the South and West, moving the center of population across the Mississippi River. Another 36 million Americans are expected to be on hand for the year 2000, bringing the population to 268 million.

In each year since 1979, more women than men have enrolled in our colleges and universities such that 21% of all women between 25-34 years of age have finished four or more years of college, up from 12% in 1970. By 1983, 53% of all working age women were in the labor force. Remarkably, 53% of all women aged 20-24 were single, and 52% of all families have two incomes. Between 1972 and 1982:

6% of the working force used public transportation.
98% of total employment growth was in white-collar and service workers.
2.1% of employment growth was in manufacturing.
66% (approx.) of the work force drives to work alone.

The median population age is 30.6 years with 11.6% of the population at 65 or over.

VVA OFFICERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN, REPRESENTATIVES

President	Jim Randall
Vice-President	Mike Buckley
Treasurer	John Paulus
Corresponding Secretary	Bob Arambula
Recording Secretary	Rex Beving

Legislative Committee	Dick Koppe
Membership Committee	Neil Gregerson
Public Affairs Committee	Pete McHugh
Women's Affairs Committee	Norma Herman
Fund Raising Committee	John Paulus

State Council Representatives	Bill Pritzen
	Pete McHugh

Welcome Welcome

We would like to welcome the following new members to Chapter 106. We look forward to seeing you at the next meeting and at the parade.

J. L. Himes

Alfred A. Mendoza

VA CHANGES COLLECTION PROCEDURES

The Veterans Administration has begun using a more simplified procedure to attach wages of veterans who received overpayments in educational benefits. Under the new guidelines, the government will file only one notice and then the employer will automatically deduct the money from wages until the debt is satisfied. THIS ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION WILL BE USED ONLY AFTER A JUDGMENT AGAINST A VETERAN HAS BEEN ENTERED IN COURT. This affects more than 250 overpayment suits already filed against veterans in Tucson. The VA estimates Tucson and Southern Arizona vets owe \$500,000 to \$750,000 alone in comparison to a nationwide figure of \$45 million in overpayments. Official did stress arrangements can be made between veterans and the government for repayment to avoid going to employers.

Chuck's Realm

THE UNEMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE On October 1, I became one of the over 750,000 unemployed Vietnam Vets. It's not a unique experience, but disheartening when you're over 35, supposedly overqualified, overeducated, and overcome. The surprise, however, was encountered while waiting to file for unemployment compensation with a vacillating group of 12-14 individuals. One expects the wait, one copes with the bureaucracy, one fills out endless forms, answers unlimited questions, BUT discovering over half of the people present were Vietnam Vets was a bit shocking. Unemployment compensation is a form of temporary assistance until one finds a job, but for these Vets, perhaps, it becomes an ambivalent means of survival.

Dennis spent three tours in Nam as a grunt; each return from the war zone made readjustment more difficult. The last time, however, he suddenly found himself without a war to fight and the Army etting him his mind was a bit out of synch and "certainly not what a soldier should have." Obviously, the light and space of Vietnam had taken its toll, but the military authorities were not willing to concede this. A dishonorable was preordained, but a more understanding commanding officer prevailed, granting him a general under honorable conditions. It has not been easy since. Dennis is a trained inhalation therapist, but was disabled from an accident at his last job. He is tired of being told to find work by various agencies and then chastised for doing such while his back is under consideration for disability. Times are hard, and his only alternative is unemployment compensation. Vietnam is something he is trying to understand; he's a good person trying to make some sense, some type of rationalization, in this irrational society.

Agent Orange Bill To Reagan

The Senate voted unanimously, late Wednesday, to provide compensation to certain Vietnam Vets exposed to Agent Orange and further established a commission to review the claims of others. The measure is, apparently, a compromise with HR 1651 which easily passed the House earlier.

According to the bill, temporary compensation would be granted over a period of two years to vets who have skin diseases conclusively linked to Agent Orange. A special scientific commission would also be funded to study diseases which may have been caused from exposure to the herbicide. The sponsors estimate the cost of the bill to be approximately \$7.5 million over the next year.

MARINES' 209TH BIRTHDAY BALL

The Marine Corps' 209th Birthday Ball will be held 10 November 1984 at the Holidome on South Paló Verde Blvd,
 1800 Dinner (Prime Rib)
 2000 Birthday Ceremony
 2100 Dancing and Live Music

There will be a no-heat bar at 1800 and again at 2100. Tickets are \$17.50 per person for dinner and dance, \$2.00 for dance only. Advance reservations must be received by 5 November. Check or money payable to:

Leatherneck Fund
 must be sent to:
 4th Bulk Fuel Co.,
 P.O. Box 12219
 Tucson, AZ 85732
 Additional information, Call:
 1st SGT Wright 790-7015
 Dennis Thompson 745-9199

Arizona Veterans Service Commission
 700 W. Campbell, Suite 17
 Phoenix, Arizona 85013

Notice To All Veterans And V.A. Claimants Regarding Hiring Of Attorneys

This is to advise you that on June 12, 1984, a United States District Court issued a preliminary injunction enjoining the Veterans Administration from "enforcing or attempting to enforce in any way" the provisions of 38 U.S.C § 3404-3405, commonly referred to as the "\$10 attorney's fee limitation." National Association of Radiation Survivors v. Walters, et al., C-83-1861 MHP (Northern District of California, June 12, 1984). The Court determined that the plaintiffs had a high probability of success on the merits of their claim that the \$10 fee limitation violates both veterans' due process rights under the Fifth Amendment and their right to petition the government and associate freely under the First Amendment. The preliminary injunction provides that it will be effective pending trial on the merits or further court order.

The Order means **That You May Hire An Attorney Of Your Choice And Pay Her/Him Any Amount You Agree Upon And That The Ten dollar Attorney's Fee Limitation Is Not Currently In Effect.** On June 20, 1984, the government appealed this decision of the United States Supreme Court. You are advised that the Supreme Court might reverse or modify the District Court's decision in whole or in part. **Accordingly, Any Fee Agreement Between You And An Attorney Should Take Into Account The Uncertainty Arising Out Of The Above Facts.** A further notice will be posted in this location should the District Court's order be changed in any way.

Nurses Memorial Project Launched

The Vietnam Nurses Memorial was organized recently to establish a memorial for nurses who served in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War. The Project has been undertaken by Diane Carlson Evans, of River Falls, Wisconsin, and Minneapolis attorney Donna-Marie Boulay, both of whom are former military nurses and VietVets.

A preview showing of a statue entitled "Nurse" was held on July 8, 1984, in Minneapolis. Brodin, a past president of the Minnesota Society of Sculptors and the artist who sculpted the "Monument to the Living" at the Minnesota State Capitol, was commissioned by the Project to create a memorial for them.

The statue, a thirty-three inch brown wax figure will be cast in bronze late this summer. The "Nurse" wears a jungle fatigue uniform, boots, and carries a helmet. The statue was designed for the nurses who cared for the sick and wounded in Vietnam, to give them recognition for their long hard hours of work and sacrifice, for the patients they nursed during that war, to help them feel important about their contributions to society and history, to pay tribute to them as veterans, and to raise public awareness of the fact that women served in Vietnam.

ERRATA

We would like to apologize to Mark Kimble of the Tucson Citizen for misspelling his name. We would also like to note that the article in last month's issue "McNulty Briefs Trib on Vet Bills" was written and researched by Paul Middleton.



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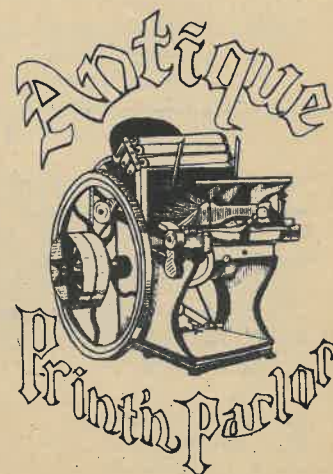
*If your hair
 is not becoming to you,
 You should be
 coming to us.*

Rosemary Crisafi

FOOTHILLS MALL
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 Tucson, AZ 85741

VVA National has requested a block of rooms for members at the Hotel Washington. Large groups should contact Libby Dyer (202) 638-5900 to make arrangements. Individuals or small groups may use the toll-free number (800) 424-9540. Be sure to ask for the VVA block.



601 E. Sixth Street
 Tucson, Arizona 85705
 (602) 884-7544

Inside

Dear Fellow Veterans:

My new address is as follows:

William G. Orr, SCC
P.O. Box 791
Safford, AZ 85546

Thank you for the address change. I really do enjoy the newsletters.

Also I would like to say hello to all my brother veterans of the Santa Rita Veterans Association, and to say "Keep up the good work, men." I'll miss you guys. I should be out sometime in November.

And a special hello to Bill Pritzen and Rachel Holland. Thanks for everything you have done for me and the men of the SRVA.

Sincerely,

Bill Orr

Other news: The SRVA is still collecting toys for the Christmas season, to be given to Casa de los Ninos. Bring the toys to the next meeting or get in touch with Bill Pritzen and get them to him. Holidays are not far away, and the SRVA is doing its best to help out. Let's help them do it.

Veterans Day Parade

The Chapter will be having an entry in the Veterans Day Parade on November 12. Join us for an uplifting experience. Wear whatever you please, although if you want to march in the color guard, a uniform is preferred (fatigues OK). Last year, the crowd response was great! We got applause along the entire parade route, and several VietVets came out of the crowd to walk with us. For more details, contact John Paulus at 296-5674.

Historically, In October

- 1954 French forces depart Hanoi for the last time - October 9.
- 1955 Diem defeats Bao Dai in an October 23 referendum and proclaims the Republic of Vietnam with himself as President.
- 1957 Communist insurgency in South Vietnam begins in accordance with Hanoi's decision to organize 37 armed companies in the Mekong Delta.
- 1961 Maxwell Taylor and Walt Rostow visit Vietnam and recommend American combat intervention with troops disguised as flood relief workers. President Kennedy rejects the idea in lieu of increased aid.
- 1964 Viet Cong attack Bien Hoa Air Base, but LBJ nixes retaliation recommendations - October 30.
- 1965 US forces defeat NVA units in the Ia Drang Valley in the first large scale conventional clash of the war.
- 1969 Massive anti-war demonstrations in Washington, D.C. - October 15.
- 1970 American combat deaths in Vietnam during the last week of October total 24, the lowest since October, 1965.
- 1972 A diplomatic breakthrough occurs between the United States and North Vietnam at a Paris meeting on October 8. A few days later President Thieu, SVN, announces he is implacably opposed to the negotiations continuing.

"Short of destroying the entire country and its people, we cannot eliminate the enemy forces in Vietnam by military means; in fact, 'military victory' is no longer the US objective. What should now also be recognized is that the opposing leadership cannot be coerced by the present or by any other available US strategy into making the kinds of concessions currently demanded."

Daniel Ellsberg
Melvin Gurtov
Oleg Hoeffding

Arnold Horelick
Konrad Kellen
Paul Langer

Rand Corporation staff members who accomplished research on Vietnam for the federal government. Letter to the New York Times written as individuals and not as Rand employees. October 8, 1969

File Your Class Action Claim Now

If you or your family have suffered adverse effects from Agent Orange, JANUARY 2, 1985 IS THE CUTOFF DATE FOR FILING!!! THAT'S IT!!! After that, you have 120 days from the time any adverse effects were noted to file a claim. Call the Court Toll Free Number in the Quick Reference or write to the court address listed in the legal notice. DO IT NOW BEFORE YOUR GRANDCHILDREN BECOME THE LAST CASUALTIES OF THE VIETNAM WAR!!!

Agent Orange Pact Gets Tentative OK

Judge Jack B. Weinstein tentatively approved a proposed \$180 million settlement on September 25, 1984, in a class action suit for Vietnam Veterans and their families who believe they were harmed by Agent Orange. The decision, if final approval is given, would end five years of litigation between the Veterans and the seven companies that manufactured Agent Orange during the conflict. Judge Weinstein, however, still reserves the option to reject the settlement outright if an equitable plan for distributing the money is not developed. Hearings begun on September 26 to determine how much of the \$180 million will go to scores of lawyers for the Vets.

Judge Weinstein realized it was not possible for class members to receive significant individual compensation from the settlement funds, but felt hardships would be reduced to some small degree. The settlement, according to Weinstein, "provides funds to help at least some men, women and children whose hardships will be reduced to some small degree." He also urged the compensation plan be governed by compassion, not scientific, alluding to the difficulty of proving a link between Agent Orange exposure and maladies which may appear years later.

The compensation plan proposal is to be drafted and submitted to him in November and hearings will begin next March 5, 1985.

Rape Declared Incidental Injury

US District Judge Thelton Henderson, San Francisco, ruled that Betty Ann Buckmiller cannot sue the government after she was beaten and raped two years ago while being held in detention at Fort Ord. The precedent cited was simply military personnel cannot sue the government for injuries incidental to their service.

The female soldier was left unguarded and alone in a barracks after being returned from an AWOL charge when the incident occurred. Obviously, rape is an act of violence and the injuries suffered, physical and psychological, are hardly "incidental". It is not quite the same as sunburn, self-inflicted wounds or Agent Orange as was asserted for years. The two men involved were tried and sentenced to prison, but Judge Henderson has blocked collection of damage under the liability clause.

If rape is incidental, one can only speculate if the victim had been a ranking male officer and endured the same by two men, would the ruling have been the same?

Posthumous Citizenship

The House voted earlier this week to grant posthumous citizenship to Cpl. Wladyslaw Stanizewski, a British-born Marine slain in the Vietnam War. Stanizewski volunteered for combat duty in 1967 and was killed after a few months in-country. The parents expressed that their son's only wish was to become an American citizen one day and the House reciprocated, with the father present, by approving unanimously a bill to grant the Marine his wish.

Letters Etc.

The opinions and viewpoints expressed here are those of individual members and do not represent the Vietnam Veterans of America nor is the VVA responsible for the contents of any letters, poems, cartoons or thoughts expressed here. We welcome any correspondence and will make this a forum for all members and readers.

A BREED APART

There's a special breed of American. A breed apart. The Vietnam Veteran.

He or she (for there were many women who endured that awful experience) may live in a small country cross-roads or a bustling metropolis. He may be black, Chicano, Native American or white. He may be a successful businessman, public employee, or the transient you saw in the park.

He may drive the latest Mercedes, or take a bus to pick up his food stamps. He may teach the local Sunday school class, or spend his weekends in prison. Some have put the horror behind them, while others dread the nightmares that come with sleep.

He may have spent his time in-country as a grunt, slogging through rice paddies and watching for trip wires. He may have been a crew chief on a Cobra, drove a deuce and a half, or rode an aircraft carrier off the coast. She may have stood in a blood spattered operating room trying to hold back the tears as she worked to put a nineteen year old boy back together.

The differences are many, but the similarities are, too, if you know what to look for. It's there in the serious look in eyes that saw too much, too soon, then came home to see his own countrymen turn their backs on him while they burned the flag he fought for,

It's there in the shattered marriages, wives and children who can't understand the sudden mood swings from elation to depression to rage.

He's spent years in confusion, trying to sort out the sights, sounds and experiences from that far away time and place, sitting in the dark, a cigarette in hand.

But he carries himself with a certain pride, knowing he's done his part; answered the call of his country when it needed him. While others may have burned draft cards, rioted on college campuses, hid behind student deferments or ran away to Canada, he stood like a man and did his duty.

With the pride is a certain bitterness at a country that took away his youth, his health, and left 2500 of his comrades behind and forgotten. Bitterness at a system where his readjustment was neglected, while those who stayed at home got a head start in careers and education. Bitterness at a public that labels him a killer or calls him a crybaby.

He's been spit on, cursed at and lied to. The V.A., media, and his own family have ignored him. He's been denied medical treatment, educational benefits and job opportunities.

He doesn't want a handout, just a fair chance. Don't offer him charity, when he only wants what's coming to him. Don't ask him how many people he's killed, but be there if he ever wants to talk. Don't turn your back or shut him out; he's been shut out too long.

If you know him, be proud. If you're one of them, be prouder still. A breed apart. The Vietnam Veteran.

Nick Russell

FOR THOUGHT

Recently, I passed through Lindberg Field in San Diego. It being on a Friday, and due to the close proximity of recruit training camps for both Naval and Marine Corps personnel, many "boots" were catching flights home for their first leave. Sitting up at the bar awaiting my next flight afforded me the opportunity to see several new marines and sailors being turned away.

Over a decade ago most of us found ourselves in similar straits. We were old enough to be drafted or volunteer to learn the art of waging war, but too young to have an alcoholic beverage. The same feelings of remembered frustration came back as I watched the faces. Time and aging, along with another round of brew, allowed me to rationalize "Well, after all I had to do it, too," as the fellow faded around a corner.

It was then the bartender straightening up his glasses under the bar in front of me said, "Would you believe ... his I.D. said 1966?"

Mark Toth

April, Again

Like a perennial yet unwanted

Horrible blooming plant -

The contours of painful memories

Emerge in contorted, twisted orchid-like

Petals - and -

Small particles of bitterness

Waft out like pollen

And itch me itch me until

I recognize the source

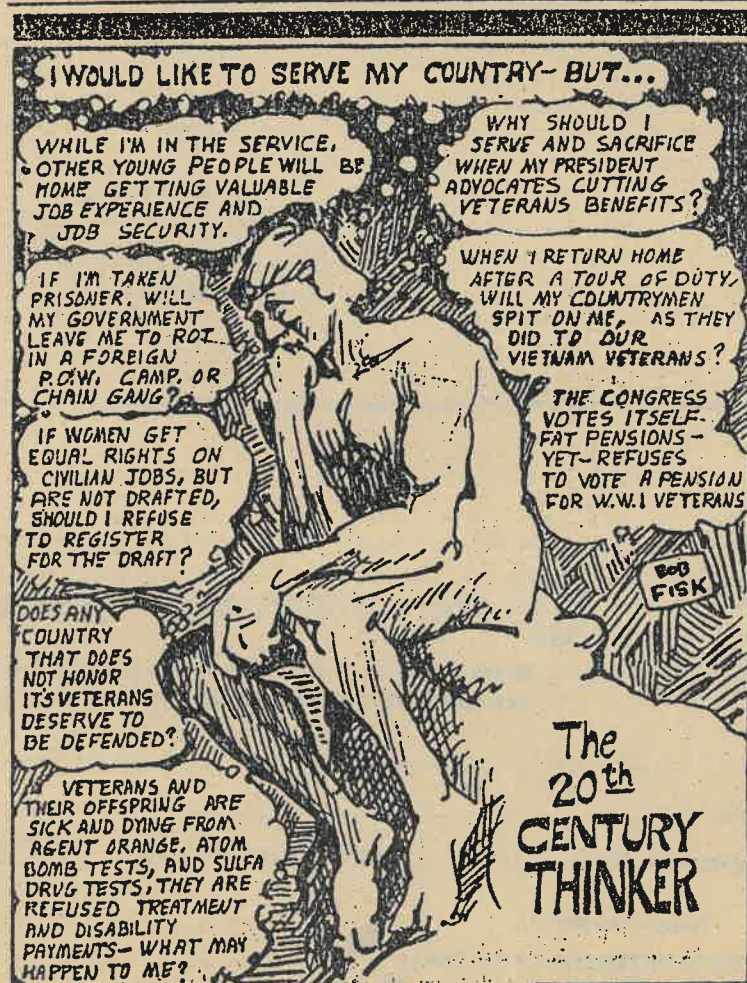
The source is a place far away -
A place known as Khe Sanh and a
Time when metal flew wildly through the air -
Metal flying wildly like so many tiny plows
Unleashed upon fertile fields of young skin,
Furrowing so rapidly and deeply and
Unpredictably...

It was a place once lush and fecund,
But in those early months of '68
It stank of dried blood and powder burn -
And the air moaned and the earth buckled and spat
As two sides set out to pulverize the other.

E. O. Bergland

Mr. Bergland is a Vietnam Vet who was at Khe Sanh during the siege of 1968. This is his reflection on that event.

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Darts *** And Laurels

- ### Governor Mario Cuomo, NY; signed into law a tuition assistance program for VietVets pursuing undergrad programs on a full and part-time basis.
- *** Ronald Reagan; considered a measure to tax disability and educational benefits for Vietnam Era Vets only.
- ### Rep. David Bonior and Sen. Sonny Montgomery; their stirring rebuttals in Congress to VFW National Commander Clifford Olson's denunciation of the VVA invaluable in establishing the perspective to help all veterans, not just a few.
- *** VFW Commander Clifford Olson; for refusing to honor veterans beyond 1964. His gaffe letter will remain as an example of indifference towards VietVets for a long period of time.
- *** New VFW Commander Billy Ray Cameron, a VietVet. His criticism of VVA MIA/POW policy and action is incongruent with 2500 Americans languishing away in obscurity. When the day comes that one American is not worth the time or effort to be found, we as Americans have lost.
- *** VVA National; Chapter 106 has accomplished a myriad of successful projects, but National ONLY WRITES OF ONE CHAPTER IN ARIZONA. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY REQUESTED IN THE VETERAN.
- ### DAV Chapter 18 for their outstanding support, camaraderie, and the use of their meeting hall. Our sincere thanks and hope that other veterans' groups learn from this shining example.
- ### Bess Jones; for her work on the Women's Committee and the Sister Column.

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DEADLINE: General Meeting before each issue.

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Chuck Hovey
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Chuck Knippenberg
Nick Russell
Mark Toth
Neil Gregerson
Paul Middleton



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Want Ads

If you wish to place an ad in the want ads column, please submit your ad to this newsletter by the time of the general meeting preceding the month of issue. The ads are free if you are a member of the VVA.

SERVICES

Tutoring in algebra, basic electricity/electronics, and computer programming in BASIC, FORTRAN IV/V and PASCAL. Vets preferred. Send inquiries c/o the newsletter to Mark.

FOR SALE

1961 Chevrolet Impala 4-door, white w/ blue interior. 283 V-8 engine. Powerglide automatic trans., air conditioning. Good condition, mechanically sound. John Paulus 296-5674

WANTED

Wanted: A file cabinet for 106. Any type will serve, and your contribution is tax deductible. Contact Craig at 882-3010.

FREE KITTENS. Black. Call Mike Buckley at 745-6503

Quick Reference

VVA (602) 790-7602 Ch#106
 (202) 332-2700 National
 (202) 332-3305 Officers
 1-800-424-7275 HOTLINE

VARO 622-6424 Tucson
 263-5411 Phoenix
 1-800-352-0451 AZ

VAMC 629-1450

VA POW Hotline 1-800-821-8139
 Vets Outreach Center 323-3271
 VA IG Hotline 1-800-368-5899

Federal Information Center
 522 N. Central Ave, Rm120
 Phoenix, AZ 85004
 (602) 261-4736 Jobs Tape

DES Vets 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 Vets Svc Comm 628-5388
 Pima Voter Registrar 792-VOTE
 AO Class Action 1-800-645-1355

Sen. Barry Goldwater
 Federal Bldg 301 W. Congress
 Tucson, AZ 85701 629-6334

Sen. Dennis DeConcini
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