

AGENT ORANGE

Information has been received from Rep. Jim Kolbe's office that he is a co-sponsor of H. R. 1129, which helps to protect any settlement Vietnam Veterans received from Agent Orange. Under this bill veterans would not have to declare the settlement as income for federal tax and program purposes. This legislation currently has 72 sponsors and has been referred to the House Committee on Government Affairs. On the State level, Barry Arcala and I have met with Rep. Ruth Solomon and she plans to either sponsor legislation herself or to work with Rep. Jim Hartdegen in doing so. The State legislation would shelter the Agent Orange Payments from State taxation. Barry has also requested that this item be placed on the agenda for the next Tucson City Veterans Affairs Committee.

RETIREMENT

Last year we were very active in lobbying for the passage of the Senate Bill which would allow Veterans to buy back time (spent in the Military Service) in the State Retirement System. Everyone was elated when this was included in the retirement package, passed at the end of the last legislative session. However, it was soon discovered that the formula for the buy back was at no cost to the State. Therefore the cost to the individual Veteran is so exorbitant that it is prohibitive to most. The formula cannot be changed as it is consistent with preceding buy backs. This year the strategy is to join forces with the Arizona Education Association and others who are lobbying for a bill that would allow a person in the State Retirement System to retire with 80 points rather than 85. Recently letters endorsing this plan have been sent to Sen. Doug Todd and to Rep. Jane Hull, who are the Co-Chairpersons of the Retirement Committee. Their report is due the end of this year.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

On December 31, 1989, educational benefits will expire for some 750,000 veterans which the VA estimates are still potentially eligible, some of whom are enrolled in schools and receiving assistance. There are approximately 60,000 veterans who are currently enrolled in educational or training programs and they have been notified that their payments will terminate the end of the year. We have been in support of Senate Bill 945, introduced by Senator McCain, as it would "ensure that all veterans eligible to receive educational assistance under the Veteran' Educational Assistance Program have 10 years after discharge or release from active duty in which to pursue a program of education with such assistance."

PTSD

H.R. 3037 has 43 sponsors in the House of Representatives. It calls for adding at least 15 inpatient PTSD units by 1991 and 15 more by 1994, for a total of 30 additional units. The Vet Center is expanded by adding at least 20 centers by 1991 and 20 more by 1994, for a total of 40 more units. It encourages the DAV to recruit qualified professionals to administer PTSD care. It gives statutory authority to the Advisory Committee on Readjustment of Veterans. It creates a research program for the treatment of PTSD. Also it establishes a pilot program for PTSD in halfway houses.

Submitted by Betty Slaybaugh, Legislative Coordinator, VVA-106

NEWSLETTER

Yes, I am back, and not too happy. Unfortunately Dan Driscoll had to resign his position as writer/editor of the Monsoon. I know some or maybe even a group of you want to get your feet wet in the newspaper business, NOW IS YOUR CHANCE!! Give me a call at 884-7544 or 888-3136 to say your tired of the typos and spelling errors and want to take over, PLEASE!

Congradulations to Berie & Dave Croteau on the birth of their first child Gabriel.



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 CHAPTER 106

P.O. Box 40903 Tucson, Arizona 85717 (602)790-7602

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Al Snell

October 26, 1989 - GENERAL MEETING: Thursday D.A.V. 18, 7:30 p.m.

November 9, 1989 - BOARD MEETING, Thursday D.A.V. 18, 7:30 p.m.

November 10, 11, & 12th NAM JAM, Raven Raceway

December 14, 1989 - BOARD MEETING Thursday, D.A.V. 18, 7:30 p.m.

D.A.V. 18 is Located at 4656 E 1st Street.

Regular Chapter meetings are held the second and fourth Thursdays
of each Month

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Because of the impending Xmass schedule general meetings will be suspended until January 1990. Board meetings will remain the same, the second Thursday of each month, November 9th and December 14th.

What's needed now is an annual Xmass party. Volunteers please step forward give me a call with your suggestions, contact John at 884-7544 or 888-3136.