



# THE “AZ-LZ”

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## The Advantages Of Newsletters For VVA

The purpose of any newsletter with Vietnam Veterans of America is to provide specialized information to a targeted audience. When we were growing up, it was not possible to read anything on the computer, because computers were not around, but once in a while it was nice to sit down on the couch or your favorite easy-chair and cuddle up with a cup of hot cocoa and see what was going on in the world in the way of a book of some sort. It's sort of the same thing with the “AZ-LZ” newsletter can be a great way to express the views of the writer, what is going on with that given State Council and its Chapters and then to consider doing the same thing within your State Council and Chapters. It's always a good idea to share the thoughts, methods and ideas with other people to improve the “how-to” or “situations” in your state to enhance the membership, pay compliments, or be a little more creative. I truly enjoy “THE VETERAN” with its myriad of stories and photos that I'd likely not ever know about if it was not for VVA National. Locate the newsletter within your State Council and have them dress up your newsletter, talk about the “innumerable things” going on in your state and cause interest in your newsletter and its readers and send it out nationwide. The other item is to pass them onto your children and grand-children “so they see what you do “for a living” within VVA”. They'll not be too interested in some of it, but you never know unless you try.

## Make Your VVA Events—“Cinematic”

One thing about VVA-Arizona, is that we video record a lot of the events that are held within the state of Arizona. Having written materials is one thing, but having videos of a Vietnam Veterans 50th Commemorative event or a “NAM JAM”, or a Veterans Day parade or a Leadership and Education Conference or VVA Convention or some other event that brings and keeps the memories of Vietnam Veterans of America chapters and State Councils is that one item that we Vietnam Veterans can pass on to the families that we are a part of. One way to express the events and adventures of VVA is to video it, takes a lot of photos and add the military music (in most cases).

VVA-Arizona has had the opportunity to have about 100 DVD movies of various events to include one member who returned to Vietnam in 2011 as he recorded fifteen cities in Vietnam for a memory for him, his son and many others who have contemplated returning back to the country of so long ago. These too, become memories for your children and grandchildren to enjoy and “YOU” can explain what is going on about that event while you still can. **It's a worthwhile project to do, while you still can.** Considering **video documenting** your chapters or State Coun-

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# World War I—100 Years

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



WWI  
100  
YEARS

VETERANS DAY

NOVEMBER 11, 2018

If we don't remember anything else from World War I, we better remember that likely one or both of our grandfathers or uncles fought in that war and one of them possibly lost their life. We need to remember them for what they did for us 100 years later. We have rebelled for hundreds of years and now America and the world will pay for it in time to come. We have rebelled for a millennia and God warned us *not to forget*, and when you have eaten and are full then beware: **LEST YOU FORGET**.



# Fifteen to Twenty Million Died In World War I



# The War That Didn't Really End . . .

**W**orld War I ended at 11 am on the 11th day of the 11th month of the year 1918. Six hours before that, a delegation of the German government signed the Armistice, around eighty miles from Paris, France. At 11 am, all guns fell silent. The troops came home and the “inter-wars” began right away and 21 years later, the inter-war turned into wartime in 1939 and it lasted until two atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in September 1945. War-then-Peace-then-War.

The history of the early 20th century is much more muddled than that. The First World War did not die and the violence did not stop. Fighting between the Allied Power ended, but everywhere else it continued in many diverse forms. International war bled into civil war which was indistinguishable from revolutionary-to-revolutionary and to counter-revolutionary. The new nations fought against the old nations internally and against other different nations. For example Poland fought Russia and they both fought the Ukraine. Baltic nations fought Bolsheviks. The Finns fought within themselves in a civil war and other equipped armies in Eastern Europe with exemption. Why the explosion after 1918? Well, the German Empire was only one of the “empires” that beset the imperial order.

The Russian front had its own time to bear with Lenin trying to install the Communist-mark within his own country, however the Austro-Hungarian Empire led to the formation of the new states such as: Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland for starters. As they formed into nations, the threat of Communism and seizure of power was always within their front.

Upon the development of these new nations, Communism set in some of them, while Centrist origins prevailed in others. In Poland and Ukraine, the Jews were attacked with their allied enemies. The “Bolshevik Brew” mustered itself throughout Eastern Europe and Russia while Nazism made its way after the war to be used full time in the 1920's, 1930's and 1940's.

Muslim Empires made their approach to the front of those countries such as Turkey and Greece. By the 1920's, ethnic cleansing was burning itself in various Christian countries. The Muslim brotherhood was now founded within the Middle East of Turkey, Greece, Egypt, Palestine, Jordon and Syria. India went through various struggles with Britain and then they left India to itself after huge skirmishes.

A melee came to Asia when Korea became its own nation from Japan after thousands were killed. China went through the same hard times with a civil war going on. All that to say, the Allies had to meet in Versailles to remove German holdings from China and give some of them to Japan. The Chinese students of the time didn't care for this thus, they formed the Chinese Communist Party. The events in India, China, Japan and Korea signaled a paradox of the peace with Germany in 1918.

On one hand, the Allies ended the “empires” within Europe and this was the beginning of the end of one large empire. The war truly weakened France and Britain, but strengthened America, and turned a different light upon those in Asia which changed the face of the Eastern Hemisphere. And there was Vietnam who in 1919, was still owned by France and remained as such until 1954 when France yielded ownership, but the Communists were trying to take a foothold in Vietnam and did so in 1975.

The distress of the War was not observable until US Forces came home when 50,000 died in combat and another 50,000 died from the influenza epidemic. The Armed Forces sacrifice was light compared to that of World War II or the US Civil War. November 11, 1918 has come and gone with Germany being totally devastated in part by the Jews, socialists and other traitors at home. By this time, Adolph Hitler is putting together a “new plan” using Mein Kampf on the day the war ended.

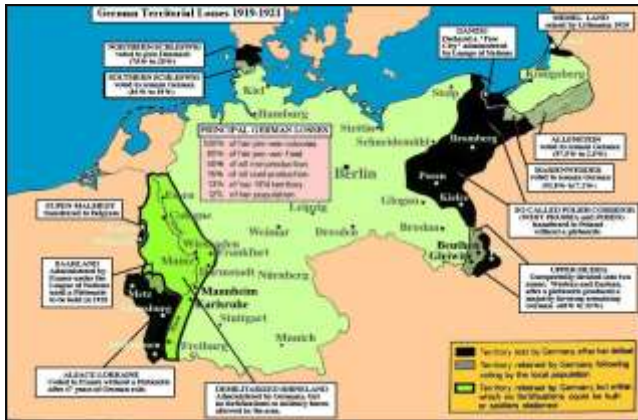
America, at this interval paid too much attention to the end of hostilities within Belgium, Holland, France and too little to the “wildfires raging elsewhere”. The “peacemakers” provided the “warmakers” the opportunity to come with all of the “ammunition that they needed”. In summary, all the nations that were formed out of World War I were: Austria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Turkey and Yugoslavia.



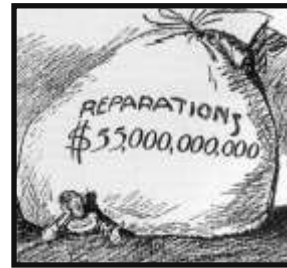
# What Happened Starting November 12th 1918?



The **“Breaking up”** of four old empires



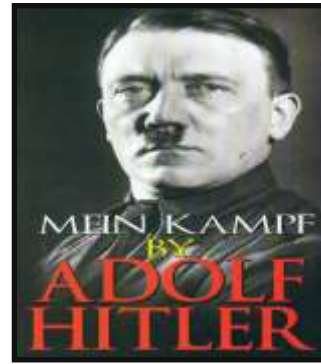
**“Former German colonies”** to UK & France



**“Inflation”** beyond inflation



**“Chaos”** in much of post-WWI Europe



The **“Planning”** of World War II



**“Trying to eat”** every other day



**“A Physical mess”** in Europe

# If We Don't Do Anything Else, We Better Remember

We should be remembering the lessons of World War I. But the question is **will there ever be a time without war?** While many people solemnly think of the lives lost in war and considering the events leading up to the war, most do not consider **the root causes of the war**. In the long term we can hope that religion will change the nature of man and reduce conflict. But history is not encouraging in this respect the bloodiest wars in history have been religious wars. Men praying to the same God killed each other by the thousands in America's Civil War and by the millions in World War I and World War II. **Unless men change**, a real peace must be built on the assumption that the most that we can do is learn to live with our differences rather than dying over them.

Statesmen such as Nixon and MacArthur appear irrelevant to younger generations. Each generation feels it is different, that is immune to the mistakes of the past generations, whether regarding stock market crashes or international conflicts and this is especially true of the last few generations which have never seen a single conflict costing millions of lives.

Surprising to many, Jesus Christ predicted nearly 2000 years ago that man's kind fondness for and skill in waging war would bring us to a point where without His direct intervention, all life would be extinguished from this planet. Later in the book of James the brother of Jesus, asked and answered the question of what causes human conflict? **"Where do wars and fights come from among you? Do they come from your desires for pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and can't obtain. You fight and war. You do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive because you ask amiss that you may spend it on your pleasures."** (Jas 4:1-3).

Mankind's nature is clearly at the heart of the problem, and because we have no collective desire to change or nature, we will evidently have no peace in the near future it is only after the return of Jesus Christ and the removal of the spirit who now influences our nature and directs the course of this world that we will finally enjoy peace. **This is one lesson we should never forget.**

Could there be a more accurate description of what happened in World War II, as Britain, America, Canada, Australia and her allies literally pushed their enemies to the end of the earth? Two World Wars should've humbled us, but instead we have become arrogant and prideful, despising God and His commandments. **It is no wonder that terrorism has come to our shores but if you do not obey Me and do not observe all the commandments and if you despise My statutes or if your soul abhors My judgments so that you do not perform all My commandments, but break my covenant I also will do this to you: I will even appoint terror over you (Leviticus 26:14-16).** He further warns us, **"I will break the pride of your power"**. And further punishments will result from our pride and are forgetting the One who pours out such great blessings on us.

Many recognize human nature is a cause for war and strife, but few realize that God uses natural human inclinations to punish rebellious nations in order to bring them to repentance. God allowed the modernist Assyrians (Iraq) to bring death and destruction upon the stiff-necked nations of Israel twice over the past century at the same time He made our nation strong by His mighty arm sparing us from complete destruction and punishing the punisher, but we have not learned from these conflicts. Refusing to give God His due glory, America and its allies are prideful and descending into immorality. God will not be so gentle with us the next time. Defeat is in our future and we see ourselves as the source of our own economic strength having forgotten the true source it says in Deuteronomy 8:18, **(But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day)**. And you shall remember the Lord your God for it is He who gives you power to get wealth. Further punishment is coming upon the Israelite nations as many others, prophecy shows. Speaking of our people, the prophet Jeremiah wrote "alas for that day is great so that none is like it and it is time of Jacob's trouble but he shall be saved out of it". **Nevertheless, millions will die in the future because "we have forgotten"**.



# The Inside Story of 1LT Tony Shaw

AN ARMY OFFICER'S SERVICE IN THE VIETNAM WAR AND RETURN TO VIET NAM AFTER THE WAR

I am a Viet Nam Combat Veteran. From July 1969 to June 1970 I served as a First Lieutenant, commanding an armored cavalry platoon in the Third Squadron, Fourth Cavalry of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. We were set up in a blocking position, west of Saigon. Our Division mission was to protect Saigon from VC and NVA attack and to prevent infiltration of enemy forces into this part of Viet Nam from the Ho Chi Minh Trail. We rode on top of armored personnel carriers ("ACAVs") and on



General Sheridan light tanks from the 25<sup>th</sup> Division Base Camp in Cu Chi to the Boi Loi and HoBo Woods, the VC stronghold of Trang Bang, Go Da Ha, and the Nui Ba Den Mountain near Tay Ninh City. Our Squadron mission was to search out and destroy Charlie in woods, jungles, rice paddies, and rubber plantations. I was wounded and involved in some serious fire fights. After I survived that experience I was happy not to have to do a second tour. I immediately went to law school, settled in Prescott, Arizona, and began raising a family and working as a



lawyer, trying all the while to forget about my experience in that war. Emotions run deep when you survive such an experience. Some Vets have adjusted well and are able to appear normal in everyday life. Others are haunted, so much by past events that it has affected their ability to live at peace with themselves. All of us who had experienced this war felt we had a common bond that others could never understand. We were a band of brothers. Like many Viet Nam veterans I noticed that I felt continually drawn to return to the area where we went hunting for Charlie every day. I felt drawn to return to the place I once hated and feared.



## Tony Shaw — Restoring Vietnam



continues to be found everywhere. A Luoi is only a few miles from Hamburger Hill and the border with Laos where the U.S. 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division fought one of the bloodiest and most controversial battles of the war.



ry day to help with the work and to see if we had any more gifts for their friends. Our contribution of money and labor helped build the school,



mind myself this was the A Shau Valley of all places, one of the most deadly to Americans during the war. The Vietnamese people with whom we worked on the construction site had family members who had shot at us daily.

I am a lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America and have been a member of the local chapter in Prescott since 1980. I gave the dedication speech for the Veterans War Memorial Statue, which depicts Viet Nam Vets in combat, on the Prescott Courthouse Square in 1989 and again in 2006. In early 2006 I read an ad in our VVA magazine about Veterans Vietnam Restoration Project (“VVRP”) and knew instantly this was my ticket back to Viet Nam. I signed up with VVRP and went to Viet Nam in April 2007 with Team # 22 to work alongside the Vietnamese in constructing a kindergarten school in the town of A Luoi in the A Shau Valley. A Luoi is west of Hue, the old Imperial capitol of Viet Nam, and is populated by five indigenous tribes. The entire region was defoliated by large quantities of Agent Orange, and unexploded ordinance

Until Team # 22 went to A Luoi, the A Luoi district had been largely off limits to American veterans who fought there. Our project was the first one undertaken by an American Non-Governmental Organization in the district since the war. Until we got there, the Vietnamese people had not seen many Americans, especially ones that stay and work with them for two weeks. We took gifts of ball caps and stuffed animals for the Vietnamese children who came to our construction site daily. The gifts were well received and were excited about receiving the gifts and came by every day to help with the work and to see if we had any more gifts for their friends. Our contribution of money and labor helped build the school, while the gifts helped build good will with the children who are the future of Viet Nam. The experience was fantastic for me and the Vietnamese people. The negative experience of my previous experience is gone!

My vision now is of a people who have forgiven us, a people that appear happy living their new life of peace. Everywhere we looked the country was under construction with people actively building homes, schools, hospitals. The people were vibrant; the streets were packed with motorcycles and bicycles, and the people often lined the streets cheering us and asking us happily in pretty good English who we were as we rode our purchased Vietnamese bicycles to the work site daily from our hotel. The Vietnamese people sought us out to say hello. We really were welcome in their country, especially in their homes. I had to remind myself this was the A Shau Valley of all places, one of the most deadly to Americans during the war. The Vietnamese people with whom we worked on the construction site had family members who had shot at us daily.





## Tony Shaw—Projects for Vietnam



Seldom have I participated in a project that I felt was doing as much good as this one. The work is more symbolic than actual hard labor, but the results are dramatic. The Vietnamese construction folks do most of the work; we provide friendship and grunt work moving sand and bricks, and we provide the materials. They get a badly needed new school. We gain a new life of peace with ourselves by helping them. The recurring nightmares of most of the Vietnam Vets who have participated have stopped, replaced by images of beautiful country sides, happy people, no guns or planes, a growing economy, and people who have forgiven us. I needed to forgive them, and by

going back I found a way to accomplish that. I kept a detailed diary and took many photographs. My experience is summed up best by some of the quotes from this diary:

*"We climbed Hamburger Hill today with John Ward, our in-country representative who fought on the Hill in 1969 with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. After working on this for years, Ward finally was able to get the Vietnamese government to allow Americans to visit this site. The hike was steep, following a trail that went straight up to a height of approximately 3,000 feet above sea level. Although the Hill's foliage was completely decimated in the battle as a result of the firepower, bombing, and artillery, we found a pristine rain-forest like none other we had seen before. The only remains of the battle were some of the NVA battlements and bunkers. During this hike we met Paco people from one of the indigenous tribes carrying down the trail heavy backpacks loaded with scrap metal or fragments of 500 pound bombs to sell on the open market."*

*"During a weekend break from A Luoi a number of us toured the old DMZ area, visiting the Khe Sanh battlefield, the Rock Pile, and old Camp Carroll. The highlight of this tour was a visit to the home of a NVA veteran in the area where a former VVRP Team built housing for disabled NVA veterans. The family, who lived in a nice stucco house surrounded by banana trees, was moved by our visit. They welcomed us with tears streaming down their cheeks. The word of our arrival spread, and soon the entire neighborhood turned out for a celebration. What got to me was having the NVA Veteran show me the wounds he had suffered. I then showed him my wounds. We hugged, tears flowing, after this the Vietnamese broke out their bottle of wine for several rounds of toasting."*



## Tony Shaw — People of Vietnam Along The Way



One day, after working on the school house in the morning, we rode our bikes to an area where we parked the bikes and walked a jungle trail to a beautiful waterfall where we did some swimming. Upon return to the trail head, I found my bike's front tire was flat. I was getting ready to push the bike back to the hotel, several kilometers away, when a young Paco boy, recognizing my problem, with hand gestures, directed me to his home, a short distance away. In no time at all he had the tire off the bike, the inner tube out, a patch affixed, and the tire back

on the bike. I offered him some Vietnamese money in payment, but he resolutely refused to accept it. He had fixed my tire as a gesture of friendship. I was moved. The next day, as we were wrapping things up on our last day in A Luoi, I decided what I would do with my bike would give it to this young man who had fixed my tire. After we found him and I gave him the bike, I will never forget the look on his face when our interpreter told him what I was doing. He bowed deeply, saying in halting English and very polite, 'Thank you.' Nobody in his family had a bike because they were very poor. It is moments like this that have made this trip worthwhile."



*"At the end of this trip, after concluding the work at the work site, I traveled with another VVRP team member, Tom Dierwa, who had been a medic and had fought with the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division at Pleiku in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam. We went to Pleiku and the battlefields of the Ia Drang Valley, with the Vietnamese guide who had guided Col. Hal Moore in 1998 when he was writing the book, "We were soldiers once and young." We later went to the area where I had been during the war. We visited the*

*Cu Chi tunnels near the site of our old 25<sup>th</sup> Division base camp. We found the HoBo and Boi Loi Woods, but I didn't recognize them as they have changed with more jungle since the war. We visited the famous Cao Dai Buddhist Temple in Tay Ninh City and the Nui Ba Den Mountain on which I had operated in 1969."*



*"On the way back to Saigon we happened on a restaurant in Tay Ninh City where we had a wonderful lunch. The woman who owned the place and served us was a former VC soldier. She began her service in 1969 at the age of 14 and served until the end of the war. She was highly decorated and honored as a VC hero in that region. She had lived in the tunnels. We determined she would have been shooting at my tanks and me while I was trying my best to kill her. She said that her unit had felt very threatened by the awesome fire power of our tanks and machine guns. She was very gracious, smiling all the time, and before we left she got out her medals and pinned them on. We hugged many times. She said war is terrible and she is for peace now. I told her I was too. She was ecstatic when she learned about what our team had done in A Luoi. We never cried, but I did notice when we were leaving that her eyes began to water. Mine did as well. Later, Tom said that this was the most moving thing he had seen in his life, and that if opposing warriors who wanted only to kill and maim each other at a young age, could forgive like this, there is hope for the world.*



## Tony Shaw—"Experiences"

Between the time I returned from Viet Nam the second time and 2011, I gave presentations with videos and pictures to civic groups, churches, service clubs and Veterans Groups. My son Michael from Cottonwood, Arizona saw one of these presentations, and I was happily surprised when he mentioned he was moved enough to want to go back on one of these VVRP teams with me. This resulted in Michael and I going back to Viet Nam with five other Vietnam Vets and family members on VVRP Team # 26 in April 2011. Michael too had a positive experience and got along well with the other Vets, family members, and even better with the Vietnamese guides and interpreters who were closer to his age than our ages.

To try and describe what things were like in 1969 and what things are like today to family is done more easily when you are able to show them rather than describe it to them. I agree with another of my Veteran team members, Bud Bruton, who has said "Healing takes many forms but healing with family members makes it even better and more complete, and they understand better by being there with us."

Team # 26 built a kindergarten school in another beautiful area of Viet Nam near Khe Tre, northwest of Da Nang and southeast of Hue—another AO of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division. We stayed in a resort, visited usually by Vietnamese people rather than foreigners, on a mountainous stream. We traveled each day



to the work site by vehicle and explored the surrounding countryside when we were not working. Michael and I had a good experience working alongside our Vietnamese construction people, visiting war cemeteries and museums, riding elephants, exploring ancient ruins, visiting the beautiful beaches of the South China Sea, and traveling back to the areas where I fought in the war, including meeting again the female warrior I had met before, and exploring this time some of the famous places in



the Mekong Delta where the Ninth Infantry Division fought during the war.



## Tony Shaw—The Healing of Vietnam



One memorable experience occurred when in Hue. Michael was wearing his ASU long sleeved shirt. A man walked up out of the crowd and showed him a business card and asked if he knew this guy. The card was my own that I had given the guy four years before. This person was another friend I had met in Hue who had been an ARVN soldier on our side during the war and who had been treated badly after the war but was doing much better then as a rice farmer. Our experiences in 2011 are summed up by my Team # 26 Veteran member, Kevin Boylan, who said:

*“It was quite a memorable experience. Fortunately, many things have changed since I was last there over 40 years ago. Electricity has found its way to most villages, regardless of how far out in the boonies they are. However, many things remain the same. The sights, smells and sounds are all unforgettable. This expedition will be remembered for many things: visiting Communist party dignitaries in Hanoi and at the village level; friendly encounters with local residents in the marketplace and having a 15 minute conversation in which neither party understood a word the other was saying; surviving street crossings in Hanoi; being attacked by giant flying cicadas each evening at sunset; burning leeches off one another after swimming in the streams; walking through the ‘Hanoi Hilton;’ visiting the children in kindergartens in the middle of nowhere; water buffalo traffic jams; working with our Vietnamese counterparts on the construction site; hearing a far different perspective on what happened during the ‘American war’ in Viet Nam; eating all the wonderful food; and enduring a case of Uncle Ho’s revenge. Most of all, the trip will be remembered for the relationships and experiences shared with my fellow VN vets as we returned to a place where memories, and in some cases lives, have been frozen in time for four decades.”*



At the end of our time in Viet Nam in 2011, Michael and I traveled to the Viet Nam National War Memorial in Cu Chi with the mission to find and photograph the benches the Vietnamese constructed honoring two fallen American heroes of the First of the Fifth Bobcats, a Mechanized Infantry Battalion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. I found these benches, photographed them, and explained the significance of them to our Vietnamese Guide, who did not know about them. The benches are the result of former American Vietnam War Veterans who returned to Viet Nam in 2008 and 2010. These veterans had hated the Vietnamese and vowed never to return to Vietnam after losing two of their close friends who died as heroes



saving other Americans in a firefight. However, they were convinced to go back for purposes of their own healing. They went to this War Memorial and saw that the Vietnamese had honored many of their own Veterans with such benches. The honor of these benches was to the Vietnamese similar to our honor of Veterans who died and received the Medal of Honor posthumously. The American veterans made a request of the Vietnamese government, through their interpreter and guide, that Viet Nam consider honoring their two brothers in arms who had lost their lives heroically, thinking such request would never be granted. To the surprise of the American Veterans, the Vietnamese Government

granted the request, and now those benches, honoring two fallen American heroes alongside the Vietnamese heroes, exists. They were constructed in 2010. Needless to say, these American Veterans are now totally changed in their opinions of the Vietnamese people and are eager visitors to Viet Nam.



## Tony Shaw — Traveling in “Vietnam-Laos-Cambodia”



I went back to Viet Nam twice more in 2014 and 2016. In 2014 I went with VVRP's final team of 30 American Combat Veterans and some of their wives to Hue and Phong Xuan village about 30 miles north of Hue. We worked on another school house and participated in several final celebrations with Vietnamese people and Vietnamese government dignitaries, commemorating our work in Viet Nam. I toured Viet Nam north of Hue on small 150cc motorcycles with three other Veterans during this trip, visiting such exotic places as Dong Ha in Quang Tri Province, the old DMZ, Vietnam's famous limestone caves north of the old DMZ, two beautiful and mountainous Vietnamese National Parks on the west side of the Country near Laos, Kay Sanh battlefields, Indigenous people villages, and the A Shau Valley. I also rode motorcycles and elephants in the Lake District of the Central Highlands south of Pleiku and Buon Ma Thuot with a Vietnamese guide.

In 2016 I traveled to Vietnam with another of my sons, Daniel from Coer d'Alene, Idaho, to primarily do an 8-day motorcycle ride through the Central Highlands with 7 other American Veterans of this war. We started this very interesting and educational trip in Da Lat, which sits with pine trees at approximately 5,000 feet elevation, and traveled through Buon Ma Thuot, Pleiku, Kontum, Dak To, Plei Kan on the border of Laos and Cambodia, Dak Glei, A Dot, A Luoi, and ending in Hue. We traveled through beautiful bamboo and jungle mountains, drank weasel crap coffee, purchased handmade metal tools, which had been made by the Vietnamese from metal that came from our bombs in the Vietnam War which were deposited in the soil, visited beautiful waterfalls and rubber plantations, inspected silk factories and Tofu plants and ate the Tofu, toured rice, coffee, and tea plantations, visited indigenous villages and orphanages in Kon Tum, walked on rickety wooden bridges over rivers that looked like a relic in an Indiana Jones movie, shot poisoned darts with vil-



lagers at targets, swam in mountain pools and waterfalls, hiked Hamburger Hill, which by now was a new Park and with our name for it, and enjoyed the Historic French Citadel in Hue.



Also, on the 2016 trip, Daniel and I rode motorcycles over the famous Hai Van Pass on infamous Highway 1, “the Street without Joy” in the novel by Graham Greene, high above the South China Sea, from Hue to Da Nang and visited an American Ex-Pat Veteran friend of mine, who

had married a Vietnamese woman. We managed to survive riding motorcycles in Da Nang, a 2,000,000 population city, with hectic traffic everywhere and without incident. At the start of our 2016 trip, Daniel and I visited famous Ha Lang and Ha Lan Bay north of the Haiphong Harbor and Hanoi, did some hiking, sea kayaking, and climbing there, and visited historic Hanoi sites. At the end of this trip, Daniel and I again visited Tay Ninh City, attended a Buddhist Church service at the Cao Dai Temple, traveled up the Nui Ba Den Mountain, which was the site of one of my ACAV and Tank skirmishes during the War, visited the famous Cu Chi Tunnels, adjacent to my old 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Base Camp and proved to ourselves and to our Vietnamese guides' astonishment that we too could get into those tunnels from the trap doors on the ground, and again visited my old enemy.



## Tony Shaw—The Forgiving



I believe that American Vietnam Veterans who travel back to Viet Nam after the war is a positive way to heal us from the horror of war and to reach out to the world in peace. America's first ambassador to Viet Nam after the war, Douglas "Pete" Peterson, agrees this is a way to reach out to the world in peace. Having spent nearly seven years as a POW in Viet Nam, Peterson is a man with a reason to be bitter toward his former enemies-yet he is not. On September 10, 1997—the 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the day he was shot down—Peterson visited the site of that memorable event in his life. With two of the Vietnamese men, involved in his capture at

the time standing before him, he said:

*"I return here not to relive what was probably the most unhappy day of my life, but to signify to the entire world that reconciliation with a former enemy is not only possible but absolutely the right way to reach out."*

The Vietnamese are a forgiving people. This has been ingrained as a part of their culture. That same humility exists today. The Vietnamese welcome Americans with open arms and high expectations of forging a new relationship mutually beneficial to both.

American Vietnam War Veterans can do good in the world, heal, and not forget the experience of this war in a way that is necessary for their healing by going back to Viet Nam. We shouldn't forget this War and the Veterans who fought it! A poem found by an American chaplain in the rubble after a Viet Cong mortar attack against the Tan Son Nhut Air Base in Saigon in late 1968 expressed words applicable to all combatants of that war and why it is important not to forget. It is entitled "Lest We Forget," and simply says:

**"Not for fame or reward,**

**Not for place or rank,**

**Not lured by ambition**

**Or goaded by necessity,**

**But in simple obedience**

**As they understood it,**





## Master Gunnery Sergeant Timothy A. Gerdes



MGySgt Gerdes enlisted in the USMC in February 1990 and attended recruit training at MCRD, San Diego. Upon graduation he attended the Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center in Dam Neck, VA as a Intelligence Specialist. Upon graduation he was assigned to the 1st Marine Division G-2, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force where he served as an Intelligence Analyst from October 1990 until June of 1993. During his tenure with the 1st Marine Division MGySgt Gerdes deployed to Saudi Arabia & Kuwait for Operations DS/DS, as well as to Mogadishu, Somalia for Operation Restore Hope. During June of 1993, he joined the 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division for counter-narcotic operations along the US/Mexico border as part of Joint Task Force – Six, and served as the intelligence officer for the duration of the mission. In March of 1994, the battalion became the Battalion Landing Team for the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and deployed in October of 1994. While under-

way, MGySgt Gerdes served as the primary intelligence interface to the battalion's infantry companies preparing them for operations in Somalia for Operation United Shield. After returning to CONUS in May of 1995, He was transferred to the Department of Justice for assignment with the United States Border Patrol, Yuma Sector Headquarters as the senior intelligence analyst for the Border Patrol's Drug Detection and Monitoring Cell. During July, 1996, MGySgt Gerdes returned to the DOD, assigned with Marine Aviation & Weapons Tactics Squadron – One, MCAS Yuma, Arizona. After supporting numerous Weapons and Tactics Instructor courses as the senior enlisted intelligence instructor, he was transferred to Marine Air Group – 13, 3rd Marine Air Wing, as the Groups' Intelligence Chief. In June, 1999, he was selected for promotion to Gunnery Sergeant and earned his AA in Criminal Justice from AWC, in Yuma AZ. By July, 1999 he was transferred to the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, MCAS Cherry Point. During his tenure with this Air Wing, he served as the wings Intelligence Operations Chief, Intelligence Chief as well as the Intelligence Chief of the Marine Air Control Group – 28. In Dec of 2004, He then received his Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice from Mount Olive College. He then deployed with the 2nd Marine Air Wing to Al Asad, Iraq in support of OIF from February 2005 until June of 2005, when he returned to CONUS due to his selection to the National Defense Intelligence College, Bolling AFB, Washington DC. for participation in the Post Graduate Intelligence Program. In August 2006, he then MS in Strategic Intelligence. During this tenure in Washington, D.C. he was selected and promoted to Master Sergeant. Upon graduation from the National Defense Intelligence College, He joined the 2nd Marine Division, 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force, at MCB Camp Lejeune, NC as the Division G-2 Intelligence Operations Chief. In February of 2007, he deployed with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force Forward, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in Fallujah, Iraq where he served as Officer In Charge of the Joint Prosecution and Exploitation Center until February of 2008. During this deployment he performed the role of adjunct professor for Park University teaching two semester's of US Foreign Policy for forces on Camp Fallujah. In June, 2008, he was transferred to MFR, HQ in New Orleans, LA as the Intelligence Operations Chief, where he was selected to be the SNCOIC of the survey and emplacement team for Project Legacy in Helmand Province, Afghanistan. He deployed to Afghanistan in November, 2009 and again in January 2010 in support OEF with the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade G-2 / Project Legacy Team. In November 2009, he was selected for MGySgt, and upon his return to CONUS was transferred to Camp Pendleton as the Intelligence Chief of the 1st Marine Logistic Group, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force in July 2010. In August 2011, He joined the I Marine Expeditionary Force as the Intelligence Chief for I Marine Expeditionary Force Regional Command Southwest, for deployment to Helmand Province Afghanistan in support of OEF in March, 2013. His last assignment prior to retirement in May, 2014, was as the senior enlisted advisor and intelligence operations subject matter expert at the Marine Detachment, Dam Neck VA, Navy and Marine Corps Intelligence Training Center. Throughout his career, he provided tactical intelligence support to conventional & special operations units in both training, wartime environments, and with numerous national, theater level intelligence agencies in order to provide the greatest understanding of the environment to commanders and operation specialist alike. MGySgt Gerdes personal decorations include: The Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation & Achievement Medals, Combat Action Ribbons and various Service and Unit Awards. I appreciate this man for what he has made of himself in the Marines, but also as a family man and a Christian.



# The Start Of The INTERNET

In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a healthy young wife by the name of Dorothy (Dot for short). **Dot Com** was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of person. Indeed, she was often called **Amazon Dot Com**.

And she said unto Abraham, her husband, "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said, "How, dear?"

And Dot replied, "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. The sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by **Uriah's Pony Stable** (UPS)." Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent.

To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was known as **Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS)**, and she developed a language to transmit ideas - **Hebrew To The People (HTTP)**.

And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called **Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites**, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. Indeed he did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks.

And Dot did say, "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the **Bay of Ezekiel**, or "eBay" as it came to be known. He said, "We need a name that reflects what we are."

And Dot replied, "**Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators**." or "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it **YAHOO Dot Com**. Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young **Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid** (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside.

It soon became known as **God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything** (GOOGLE). That is how it all began. And that's the truth. I would not make this up. ☺

In reality, it began by way of many forms, the following is a start:

The conceptual foundation for creation of the Internet was largely created by three individuals and a research conference, each of which changed the way we thought about technology by accurately predicting its future:

**Vannevar Bush** wrote the first visionary description of the potential uses for information technology with his description of the "memex" automated library system.

**Norbert Wiener** invented the field of Cybernetics, inspiring future researchers to focus on the use of technology to extend human capabilities.

**The 1956 Dartmouth Artificial Intelligence Conference** crystallized the concept that technology was improving at an exponential rate, and provided the first serious consideration of the consequences.

**Marshall McLuhan** made the idea of a global village interconnected by an electronic nervous system part of our popular culture.



# U.S. Army “Futures Command”



It will likely cost from \$30B-to \$50B on an annual basis for the U.S. Army’s Futures Command to work towards the modernizing the service. The “**FUTURES COMMAND**” will think on and work on about “tomorrow’s fight”. “The only thing that is more expensive than preventing war is fighting a war,” and the only thing more expensive than fighting a war, is fighting and losing a war. This Futures Command is all about setting the United States Army up to not only win on the battle-field, but to be decisive and unquestionably dominate on the battlefield so that we inflict punishment and destroy the enemy at the least cost to ourselves.”

The Futures Command hopes to help do that by working with technology companies, startups, academia and businesses of all sizes with ideas on how to modernize the Army and be prepared to fight forces of similar strength. The mission is to provide soldiers with the weapons and equipment they need, when they need them and ensure success on future battlefields – all at a much faster rate than the Defense Department’s acquisitions process allows now. Senator John McCain, R-Ariz. helped form this command and it would not have been developed without him at the helm.

## VVA-Utah State Council and Chapter 1079



The Utah State Council, Chapter 1079 and the city of Layton, Utah have made great strides to create a replica of the Vietnam Veterans Wall for their state. Below are the details of what they did and have commemorated as of late.

Our Vietnam Wall is approximately 83 percent the size in D.C. about 370 feet long, making it one of the largest replicas in the country. It took four years and a whole lot of fundraising to get it done.

Sealed in the Wall at the apex is a metal box containing the medals earned by the 58,000 plus kids on the Wall that they never got to receive or wear including: the Expeditionary medal, Vietnam Service, Vietnam Campaign medals and the Purple Heart. Those medals are theirs now. Eight benches are along the walk way – each one dedicated to the 8 women on the Wall.



It was the result of a promise I made 51 years ago when I left Vietnam; to do something that would make the world remember our service in Vietnam. That the service to our war was with integrity, dedication, loyalty and honor. This Wall presented itself to us four years ago and I made good on my promise. It is more incredible than we anticipated. Dedication ceremony drew between 2500 and 3,000 people. An Honor Walk with bag pipes preceded the dedication (about 1200 people in the Walk). It is the result of a great partnership of Utah State Council.



## “1955” — All Over Again



Gas costs 20 cents a gallon?



Class, sit down to your typewriter!



That is a “Cash What” !!



A 15 cent Hamburger?



Two Dollars Per Night Motel??



Your stay will be \$15.00 a day

## The Title We Know As: “Old People”

I'm passing this on as I did not want to be the only "Old People" receiving it. Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see.

- **Old People** are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the National Anthem. **Old People** remove their caps, cover their hearts, stand at attention and sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.
- **Old People** remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy, and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age and the Moon Landing. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, and Vietnam.
- If you bump into an **Old People** on the sidewalk he will apologize. If you pass an Old People on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. **Old People** trust strangers and are courtly to women and treat them with great respect.
- **Old People** hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.
- **Old People** get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.
- **Old People** have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children, grandchildren or their animals.

It's the **Old People** who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs **Old People** with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country, and decent values. **We need them now more than ever. I wish there were more of them.**

Thank God that He made **Old People**, as there may be some more **Old People** in the years to come, we'll just have to wait and see. ☺



# Do You Recall Any Of These?





# Very Strange Facts Of The USA



More people live in New York City than in 40 of the 50 states



This is enough drinking water in Lk Superior for 12 states



Russia sold Alaska for 2¢ per acre to the USA



Michigan has a labyrinth, it is seen on Google Earth.



The Library of Congress contains approximately 838 miles of bookshelves—long enough to stretch from Houston to Chicago.



Kansas can feed everyone in the world with wheat for about two weeks.

I hope you like articles like this because I find them very interesting and it keeps the mind going in a different sort-of-way to pass onto your children and grandchildren. There is a myriad of things we do not know about our world and it is up to us to find out as much as we can, before it is too late.



# Autonomous Robots



The Department of Defense is considering whether delaying the use of autonomous robots in combat is unethical, as they could keep troops out of the line of fire, according to a top official at the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command. “Is it immoral not to rely on certain robots to execute on their own given that a smart weapon can potentially limit collateral damage?” One would think that possibly DOD might require a human presence during use of smart weapons, but allowing robots or other

smart technology tools to operate more independently is “being discussed” as the ethical path to prevent troops’ deaths or injuries.

**Military advantages.** Those who call for further development and deployment of autonomous weapons systems generally point to several military advantages. First, autonomous weapons systems act as a force multiplier. That is, fewer warfighters are needed for a given mission, and the efficacy of each warfighter is greater. Next, advocates credit autonomous weapons systems with expanding the battlefield, allowing combat to reach into areas that were previously inaccessible. Finally, autonomous weapons systems can reduce casualties by removing human warfighters from dangerous missions.

# WWII Norwegian Hero Passes



Norway mourned a World War II 99 year old Joachim Roenneberg, who was in charge of a five-man team that blew up a plant that produced heavy water, depriving Nazi Germany of an ingredient it could have used to make atomic weapons. He was noted as being as “one of our finest resistance fighters” whose *“courage contributed to what has been referred to as the most successful sabotage campaign in the country of Norway”*.

Roenneberg, then 23, was asked by the Special Operations Executive, Britain’s war-time intelligence gathering unit — to destroy key parts of the heavily guarded plant in Telemark, Norway.in a raid in February 1943. Four years ago, he noted that “not a shot was fired”

They parachuted into snow-covered mountains, and the group was joined by a handful of other commando soldiers before skiing to their destination. They penetrated a heavy-water plant to blow up its production line. At the time, Roenneberg said he made a last-minute decision to cut the length of his fuse from minutes to seconds, to ensure the explosion would take place on time but making it more difficult to escape. The SOE group skied many miles across the mountains to escape and they ended up in Sweden. A documentary was created called “Operation Gunnerside” and has been created in books, documentaries called the “The Heroes of Telemark”.

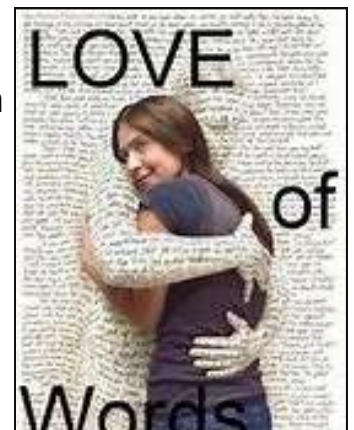
The small town ordered all flags to fly at half-mast and flowers were laid at the foot of a sculpture of Roenneberg, showing him in his WWII uniform, walking up a rocky path. Inaugurated in 2014 by Roenneberg, the granite monument carries the names of all the men who took part in the World War II raid. What an honor to think they stopped an atomic invasion of anywhere in the world.

## Lexophilia—Who on Earth “Dreams This Stuff Up”?

- How does Moses make tea? Hebrews it.
- Venison for dinner again? Oh deer
- I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- Haunted French pancakes give me the crepes.
- England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- I tried to catch some fog, but I mist.
- They told me I had type-A blood, but it was a Typo.
- I changed my iPod's name to Titanic. It's syncing now
- Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid, but he says he can stop any time.
- I stayed up all night to see where the sun went, and then it dawned on me.
- This girl said she recognized me from the club, but I'd never met herbivore.
- I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I just can't put it down.
- I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- Why were the Indians here first? They had reservations.
- I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- Broken pencils are pointless.
- What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- I got a job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- Velcro - what a rip off!
- When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U.C.L.A.
- The batteries were given free of charge.
- A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.
- Police were called to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- The guy who fell on to an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
- When she saw her first strand of grey hair she thought she'd dye.
- Acupuncture is a jab well done. That's the point of it.

To you readers, don't laugh too hard. These are jokes we wish had known when we were growing up.

After all, we all like to play with words.





# We ALL Need To “INCREASE”

We are living in a day of modern marvels with things that our grandparents never could have even imagined taking place. For instance, recently I saw a news story about the development of a flying car. I know they have been talking about this for some time, but it seems that we are getting closer to that being something that comes to pass. It is hard to imagine what the future will be like considering the rapidity with which things are changing every day. Now we can imagine artificial intelligence, flying cars, and all kinds of marvels in the future, but can you imagine God in your future? Can you imagine confidently the fact that God is present in the future already and that means your future?

The name “Joseph” which means: “Increase”, is an important figure in the Bible's Book of Genesis. He was sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, he rose to become vizier, which is the second most powerful man in Egypt next to Pharaoh. His presence and office caused Israel to leave Canaan and settle in Egypt. The composition of the story can be dated to the period between the 7th century BCE and the third quarter of the 5th century BCE, which is roughly the period to which scholars date the Book of Genesis.

Joseph was a man who could have been bitter about his past and fearful about his future, but he was neither. When he was reunited with the brothers who had sold him into slavery in Egypt, they were fearful that Joseph would take revenge. But Joseph said, “But as for you, ye thought evil against me; but God meant it unto good.” Joseph realized that even the bad things that had happened to him God had turned for the good. God had a purpose that wouldn't be thwarted by evil brothers and a vacillating father. Joseph looked back to his past in the pit, in the house of Potiphar, in the prison, and in the palace, and Joseph recognized the presence of God.

Now I will tell you what that did for him. Looking back and acknowledging God's presence gave Joseph confidence regarding the future. The promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob that colored Joseph's own perception of his self-history is the same promise that informed his confidence about the future.

Genesis 50:24-25 says, “And Joseph said unto his brethren, I die: and God will surely visit you, and bring you out of this land unto the land which he sware to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob. And Joseph took an oath of the children of Israel, saying, God will surely visit you, and ye shall carry up my bones from hence.” Notice the word “surely.” Joseph said, “I am going to die. I am not going to be with you forever, but God will be. And God will *surely* visit you, and God will *surely* give you the land that He promised to our fathers. When that happens, you take my bones and pack them out of here.”

Joseph was imagining a day well beyond his own life. *Most of us rarely imagine life without ourselves, or if we do, it is a morbid thing where we worry about our children and grandchildren.* We should not be totally oblivious to the fact that the world will not stop rotating on its axis once we are gone, neither should we be fearful for our children and grandchildren in days to come.

*Joseph was a man who saw God in his future because he acknowledged God in his past. Those who choose to see God in their past can confidently imagine Him in their future.* May God help you to be aware of God's presence in your past and rely on the fact that God will surely be with you in the future.

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Over our lives, we too need to INCREASE. We cannot stay STAGNANT or DECREASE. It is expected that we GROW and INCREASE for God, for our family and for the Kingdom of God. Be there for your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and help them to INCREASE as well.

# How Good Are You At History?



History will always be apart of our world and each generation that goes by, fewer and fewer kids of the earlier generations such as our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will know less and less about it. At our age, we all know that history repeats itself and always will. Man makes the same mistakes all the time. You'd think we would have learned after all of these thousands and thousands of years. But the answer appears to be "no".



On this page reveals several foreign currency bills from various countries throughout the world mostly in the early to mid 20th century from various countries in the world that we have had conflicts with. As a result, those conquering countries have chosen to create "new currency" for that conquered country. Although, the conquering country does not usually last that long in terms of a "long time", they do make a mark and leave a great impression through the currency they create. One can "see the history" in the creation of the bills on this page when it comes to the intent of taking over the land.



Sometimes, between currency and stamps, it shows a visual interpretation of "what the conquering country was thinking or saying without saying it". These bills are mostly in our lifetime, but consider telling your grandchildren about them. They will be very glad you did. Everyone needs a good history lesson now and then.



# Veterans Day in Yuma, Arizona-Nov 2018



Veteran's Day each year seems to be getting better and better for all of us that have served and those still serving. Faith Baptist Church provided all of us with a wonderful day headed up by Pastor John Goetsch. Every year, he provides a wonderful message about veterans, the Gospel, various circumstances that America has been involved in and the honoring and remembrance that American veterans deserved over time.

This November 11, 2018, happen to mark the 100th anniversary of World War I with 15-20 million men that died and a future loss of millions more in the next plus decade. This war had marked a lot of the future wars of America and the world to where we are as of today. We have been involved in World War I (1917-1918), World War II (1941-1945), Korea (1950-1953), Vietnam (1960-1975), Gulf War (1990-1991) and currently the Global War on Terror) (2001-current) and God is still protecting us. The world does seem to learn mistakes and aggression's don't seem to end with an amicable solution and understanding mankind as we should. We at Faith Baptist Church are grateful for the man who made us always feel like veterans and show it, tell it, be the example of it and tell others about it. Thank you Pastor Goetsch.



The Choir provided a myriad of honoring songs all of the military services and the congregation sounded out on those several hymns that always bring back sweet memories for all of us. We so appreciate April Goetsch for putting together this rendition of songs for us to recall and fully remember our own service time over the life of many of us in our 70's to 90's.

Pastor provided a sermon and heartfelt message on what God has done for us over the centuries by providing us with the grace of God and His mercy for our country. After all, God is the reason we are in the first place. In addition, Faith Baptist Church gifted us with a specific challenge coin as a commemoration of our military years in the service we chose and our time in a conflict America was involved in. It was a deep time in our hearts to reflect back so many years ago as we reflect on our own time and lives while in the military. Life travels fast and before we know it, it is over with.



There were three World War II veterans on hand, to receive a special honoring and a coin on behalf of what they did to save the world during the years 1941 to 1945. Few know or remember what benefit they provided the world as they saved America and other countries We thank the World War II veterans.

We had a myriad of veterans in our church from all of the service branches of Department of Defense and they were met by



the service songs that were played and sung by the pianist and choir. With that the men and women all stood up to be recognized by the others in attendance. With that, afterwards we were all given a beautiful challenge coin as a remembrance of today given by the pastor of the church named John Goetsch. We thank him for his great devotion to us.



# Veterans Day In Yuma, Arizona-2018 (Cont'd)



We graciously remembered the POW's and MIA personnel who are still in that situation and are thankful the US Government is doing all they can to recall the bodies of those in the foreign countries. It is wonderful that the families are still on the look-out for those military members that could still be alive.



We are so thankful for the little ladies who provided nice roses for the wives of the veterans at service today. They were so sweet and attentive to making them feel welcome and wanted for being a wife.

The Honor Guard consisted of MSGYT Tim Gerdes, SSGT Ryan Fife and MSGT Arnold Deal who raised the colors as the Star Spangled Banner was being played. I so appreciate these three Marines who have been faithful in the USMC. They looked sharper than sharp in their dress blues they performed their duties with utmost distinction in their performance of honoring America in the way they did.



Faith Baptist Church held their "21 Gun Salute" to honor those veterans in attendance to honor those alive today and deceased. The men lined up are from Chapter 835 from Vietnam Veterans of America. They have all served in the military of the various branches and many of them in Vietnam in the 1960's and 1970's. This is quite statement to see these men be a part of the event as they were. TAPS was played by Howard Greene at the end of the 21gun salute.



It is an honor fly the American flag and support it and our country and I would also like to honor this fine young Marine **SSGT Ryan Fife** as someone special to me. He is a superb man supporting his country, his family and his church. I so appreciate him in many, many ways. Thank you Brother Ryan.





# Honoring A GREAT Man



You know, once in a while you meet a man that means a lot to you and the man I am speaking about has been a true blessing to me and hundreds of others since he has been our Pastor. I dare say, since he began his ministry as "that is the type of man he is that God made". He has gratitude, humility, focus and is a military leader in his own right.

He has supported all of the military in every fashion you could think of from those in WWII to the living spouse of the soldier, to those in Korea, the forgotten war in which many have died off. Then onto the Vietnam War vets who served in Southeast Asia during the fifteen year war against Communism. And of course the Gulf War and the Global War on Terror which likely will never end. In short, he has been there for **EVERYONE** within his reach and he is to be honored and recognized for **ALL** he has done over the many years I have known him. Pastor John Goetsch: Thank you so very much for being who you are: "A Veteran of the Veterans".

## Remember Veterans From WWI To GWOT

Many of us can remember our grandfather's in World War I and our father's in World War II, and then our Uncle's in Korea, and then us in Vietnam and our nephews or children in the Gulf War and the Global War on Terror. May I suggest you talk to your children about **ALL** of the members in your family that served in one or more of these wars and have them understand the sacrifice.



World War I



World War II



Korean War



Vietnam War



Gulf War



Global War On Terror

Do something special for **ANY** veteran such as giving them a nice USA challenge coin to "remember them for their service".



# DOD—50th SITREP Newsletter

## Vietnam War Commemoration “SITREP”

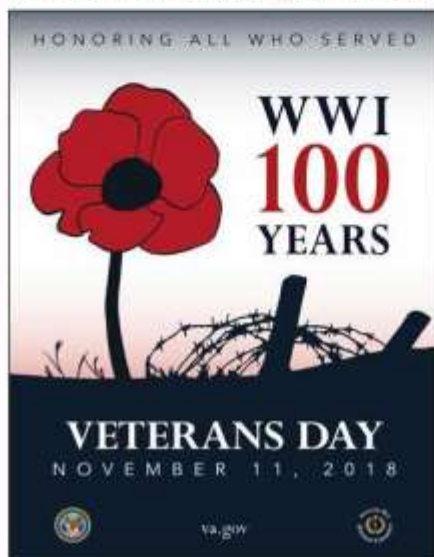
2018—Issue 10

“Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!”

Friday, October 26

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Next month, this nation will recognize *Veterans Day*. Originally known as “Armistice Day,” Veterans Day is observed each year in the U.S. on *November 11*. This particular day was chosen because it’s the anniversary of the end of World War I. Although it began as a recognition day for one war, we honor ALL veterans of every U.S. war on this special day. This year, the [U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs](#) has released the official Veterans Day poster to honor “all who served” and mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War I. To download a copy of this poster and/or previous years (1978 to present), please visit their [website](#).



Veterans Day is one of the busiest holidays for the Vietnam War Commemoration, alongside Memorial Day and National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29). During Veterans Day weekend last year, our Partners held **over 300** events nationwide. Outstanding job! Please be sure to visit the [Partner Portal](#) of our website and order your materials for this year’s Veterans Day events as soon as possible. The clock is ticking!

As the nation prepares to recognize our veterans next month, we would like to mention Sergeant Major John L. Canley, U.S. Marine Corps

### *Above & Beyond*

#### National Archives Foundation

The National Archives in Washington, DC is holding a Veterans Day commemoration event at the National Archives Museum on **November 14, 2018 at 2 p.m.** The event will include remarks from former Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, as well as a Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin presentation and a veterans support panel discussion. From November 9-16, there will be Vietnam-era helicopters displayed on the front lawn of the National Archives Museum. The [Remembering Vietnam Exhibition](#) will be open for visitors through January 2019.

(Retired) a Vietnam war veteran. This month, Sergeant Major Canley was awarded the nation’s highest award for valor—The [Medal of Honor](#)—for his leadership and heroic efforts at Hué, one of the most violent battles of the Vietnam war. He was also presented the Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin at a [pinning ceremony](#) in Charlotte, NC last month. Please join the nation in thanking and honoring Sergeant Major Canley and all Vietnam veterans.

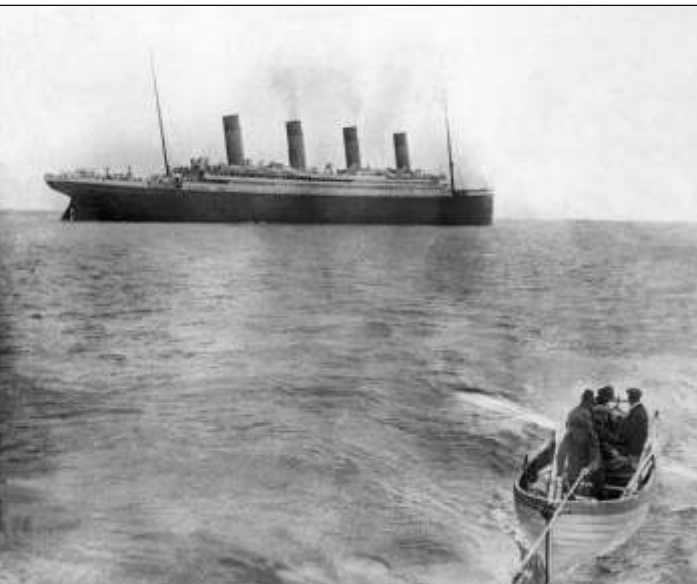


Retired Sergeant Major John L. Canley

We thank you for the exceptional work that you do and for being a ... *Proud Partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!*



# Those Days Of The Early-To-Mid 1900's



Can you see what these pictures actually say about our lives in the 1900's? Life was different, interesting, enjoyable, only semi-modern and a couple of these photos are very historical as well.

# The Man Who Invested In The Future “Of Others”



Jakob Fugger of the Lily, also known as “Jakob Fugger the Rich” or sometimes as “Jakob II”, was a major German merchant, mining entrepreneur and banker. He was a descendant of the Fugger merchant family located in the Free Imperial City of Augsburg, where he was born and later also elevated through marriage to Grand Burgher of Augsburg. Within a few decades he expanded the family firm to a business operating in all of Europe. He began his education at the age of 14 in Venice, which also remained his main residence until 1487. At the same time he was a cleric and held several pre-bendaries, even though he never lived in a monastery. Fugger is held to be one of the wealthiest individuals in modern history.



Jakob Fugger secured his legacy and lasting fame through his foundations in Augsburg Germany. A chapel funded by him and built from 1509 to 1512 is Germany's first renaissance building and contains the tombs of the brothers Ulrich, Georg and Jakob.

The Fuggerei which was founded by this Jakob in 1521 and is the world's oldest social housing complex still in use. The Damenhof, part of the Fuggerhäuser in Augsburg Germany and is the first secular renaissance building in Germany and was built in 1515 and is still around today, 2018.



At his death on 30 December 1525, Jakob Fugger bequeathed to his nephew Anton Fugger all of the company assets totaling 2,032,652 guilders. Jakob is among the most well-known Germans and arguably the most famous citizen of Augsburg, with his wealth earning him the moniker "Fugger the Rich". In the year 1967 a bust of him was placed in the Walhalla, a "**Hall of Fame**" near Regensburg that honors laudable and distinguished Germans.

**Today in 2019, the Fuggerei charges the equivalent of one (1) Euro per year for rent which includes an apartment and some food. All of this since the year 1520.**



So, what is being said here. Well, God gives us all that we need. But we are here to help others that are not as fortunate as we are. Always remember, **everyone of us are only one step away from homelessness.**

We see people all the time on the streets of any city begging for something which consists of a place to live and food in their stomach. Once again, **please keep in mind, we are all one step from being homeless and hungry.**

**Do for others while you can, because none of us can take anything with us when we pass on.**



# Mike Thompson — “Ashes Are Ashes”



2018 New Drama  
Playwright of the Year

MIKE THOMPSON



ASHES ARE ASHES

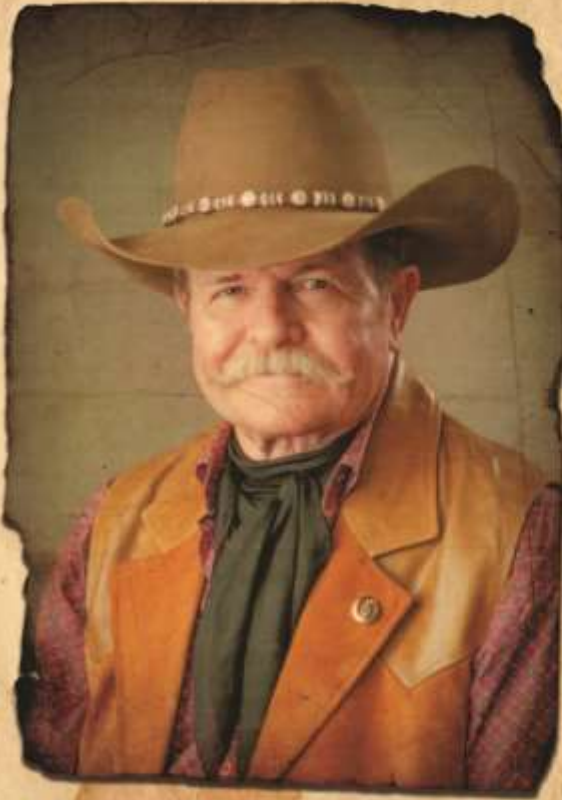
*Today three Vietnam combat veterans are together to discuss carrying out the final wish of a recently deceased friend. Decades before, in Vietnam, they had made a pact to try to carry out the final wish of each member of the group when they die. They have a problem: It seems that the final wish of their deceased buddy is now illegal. He wants his ashes scattered at THE WALL. What can they do to carry out his final wish?*

Three men, old Vietnam combat buddies, have gotten together to discuss carrying out the final wish of one of their recently deceased comrades. Decades before, in Vietnam, they had made a pact to try to carry out the final wish of each member of the group when they die. They have a problem: it seems the final wish of their dead buddy, Eddie, is now illegal. He wants his ashes scattered at **THE WALL**. What can they do to carry out his final wish? Rolf Hanks is a very successful attorney from Houston, Texas. Gordon Beeler is a wealthy investment banker from Portland, Oregon. Daniel Powell is an undercover narcotics agent. Hanks and Beeler are well-groomed and dressed. Powell looks like an old hippie in worn clothes, long white hair, beard and mustache. They met at The Wall earlier and are now in Powell's old, sparsely furnished house, drinking beer, eating pizza and discussing the day and their friend, Eddie's final wish. A large bronze urn sits before them on the table. Powell tells of his meeting with Eddie's sister earlier and her vehement denial of the scattering of Eddie's ashes at The Wall. She was hesitant about giving the costly brass urn to an old hippie like Powell, but, since Eddie had demanded that Powell be given the urn for a final visit to The Wall, finally relented, stating that she knows it is illegal to scatter the ashes at The Wall and the urn was sealed. She will go to the fullest extent of the law to prosecute if the ashes aren't in the urn. Powell suddenly blurts out that he had scattered Eddie's ashes before the other two arrived. Now begins a heated discussion as to the new problems. Breaking the federal law and feeling the wrath of Eddie's sister.

**Editor's Note:** Those of us able to read this are not in ashes and we should take the time and reflect on our life as it is today and realize that we are extremely fortunate that we are still alive and with family. We all have a story to tell and I am grateful to Mike Thompson for the time he has spent in writing about veterans and especially Vietnam Veterans who have served their country well. You do realize that we saved the Eastern Hemisphere from Communism during the 1940's to the 1970's? It was a huge accomplishment and we did it. Thanks to you.

## About The Author—Mike Thompson

# MIKE THOMPSON



Mike Thompson is an award-winning author, playwright and photographer. He retired from the government where he tested explosives and was curator of an Army museum. He is a Vietnam veteran and medic (1966-67), with a military career spanning forty-two years (1960-2002), including the Air Force, Army, Army Reserves and National Guard. Mike, his wife, Ruthie, and cats, Daisy and Molly, live on the Laughing Horse Ranch, Land and Cattle Company, San Angelo, Texas. He has owned several businesses and worked as an on-road salesman for several companies, an actor, carpenter, bartender, oil landman, raised horses and done many other things while trying to decide what he's going to be if he grows up. Today he writes, takes pictures, collects cowboy art and gear, travels, drinks beer and western dances with Ruthie at assorted dance halls and saloons across Texas.



Mike and Ruth Thompson — “Cowboy Hall of Fame”

Having known Mike Thompson for nearly thirty to thirty five years and having also worked with him at Yuma Proving Ground where he worked for several decades. May I congratulate him on his new playwright “Ashes For Ashes”.

Mike is an extremely talented writer about anything when it comes to military, cowboys and 'ol time writings. I so appreciate his talent and how he gets the word out especially to the veterans of America to remember each other and those from other wars and conflicts that America has been involved in.



## Comments on “Ashes Are Ashes”

I don't think anyone can really know the determination, commitment and dedication to duty and the way it was understood by the men and women in uniform. This short piece shows us a bit of that – a war hero, highly decorated soldier, and admired leader in any service member's mind . . . and a civilian sister, hurting and not understanding, who lost her brother to a cause bigger than him. It is a tough concept at times to get, and the play offers one insight into the complexity . . . and . . . and mystery . . . behind the combat-hardened veteran. –**Mike Buck, Colonel, USAF (Retired)**

Just finished “Ashes Are Ashes” . . . I see why you received the award . . . quite good . . . you were very descriptive, I could visualize the characters, the Montana setting and The Wall. Good quick read, good old duffers war and remembrance yarn. –**Robert Martinson, LTC, USAR, (Retired)**

“Ashes Are Ashes” is a fond remembrance and farewell to a fellow brother-in-arms. His clever buddies ensure his final wishes. Mike Thompson has successfully presented us the feelings and desires of man 'Nam veterans. – **Fran Blake, Military Writer**

Mike Thompson's award-winning play, “Ashes Are Ashes,” is a gut-grabbing drama about 3 Vietnam veterans facing a dilemma - - a legal and moral dilemma requiring some creative problem-solving. How do they keep their promise to their dying friend's last request? – **Travis Monday**

The title “Ashes Are Ashes” makes one wonder, did the author misquote the widely known phrase “Ashes To Ashes”? But it is made clear as you read the play that is not the case. “Ashes Are Ashes” is an easy play to read, interesting and somewhat humorous -play. It has an ending that explains the title. – **Vern Fetch – Colonel, U.S. Army (Retired)**

Eddie! You crawled outta the grave to write that one. The story invokes memories of camaraderie and the mischievous wit – written by a Soldier from the trenches. Thanks for sending the play. I didn't make Vietnam, enlisted in '72 and January '73. –**Major SF/FAO – Wayne Crisp (Ret)**

“Ashes Are Ashes” is a play about American men who've stared at death, formed a bond and celebrate the past and sacrifices made. Author Mike Thompson, an up and coming novelist, is like millions of others who've walked the steamy, thankless jungles of Vietnam only to be rejected at home. He clearly knows and understands the love and friendships that form between those who walk-the-walk, face the palpable fear, but quietly honor one another because their country doesn't. Millions wear flags in their lapels, but only 1% pay the price. They know death, terror, hardship, sorrow and humorous irony when the grim reaper calls the roll. Thompson' play is about the final goodbye for one of the few by those who lived, loved, drank and faced death together. “Ashes Are Ashes” is a great read and you admire those who form the bond that makes their lives quietly livable. Read it, watch it. Learn about real life. – **Darrell Dorgan, SP4, XXIV Corps**

Wow . . . powerful play. I enjoyed the reread even more. The characters are realistic and believable. The “War Stories” snippet they share are revealing of the situations they could have experienced. You know I like the references to Frenchy and the Beatles song having “a ticket to ride” . . . the combat flag caper is priceless. My favorite song of the era was, “Lolling, lolling on the liver”. I read some of the passages to my wife this morning over tea and coffee. She wondered out loud if it was really a true story? “Could be . . . could be,” I said. The success of their venture is well developed . . . and the conclusion is great. Well done . . . a special tribute to our brotherhood.

# Marines To Be Cyber-Tested



The United States Marine Corps is aggressively trying to recruit cyber talent. Beginning last Fall, all enlisted Marine applicants will be given a cyber-test while at a military entrance processing station, according to Capt. Alex Ryan, operations analyst for manpower studies and analysis branch at Manpower and Reserve Affairs. Officer candidates won't be administered the test.

Ryan said that the test doesn't change the process of classifying occupational specialties, but, rather, provides another tool for better talent management. Those in other work roles that aren't cyber-related but that do well on the test could be eligible to move into the newly established cyberspace operations occupational field using the normal processes that allow for moves.

This new field will utilize the test to screen applicants, and other occupational fields — such as communications, signals intelligence and ground electronic warfare — have expressed interest in leveraging the test in the future to judge potential in other technology-intensive fields. The test was initially designed by the Air Force for joint use to predict training performance in entry-level cyber-related fields. It includes questions in four categories: networking and communications; computer operations; security and compliance; and software programming and web design. Looking to reinforce its posture in an increasingly modern battlefield, the Marine Corps requested 1,000 billets related to cyber/electronic warfare/information operations in the most recent budget. In addition, the commandant of the Marine Corps approved growth for Marine Corps Cyberspace Command.

The U.S. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command or MARFORCYBER is a functional formation of the United States Marine Corps to protect critical infrastructure from cyber-attack. Marine Corps Forces Cyberspace Command is the Marine Corps component to U.S. Cyber Command. It comprises a command element, the Marine Corps Cyber Operations Group, and the Marine Corps Cyber Warfare Group, a total of approximately 800 personnel. MARFORCYBER was established on January 21, 2010 under the command of LtGen George J. Flynn. As of 3 July 2018, MGen Matthew Glavy is in command.



## Membership Count for VVA-AZ

VVA-Arizona is somewhat on the grow with 1,301 members throughout the state. See below for the numbers per chapter:

At-Large 332  
Chapter 95-47  
Chapter 106-223  
Chapter 432-130  
Chapter 835-55

Chapter 975-132  
Chapter 1011-173  
Chapter 1043-115  
Chapter 1093-94

Total: **1,301** Total Members for Arizona



## No More “Painted” Cars



## A “New Name For America” Back In 1893



During the 1800's America was truly considered a great nation in many ways. But, in 1893, an amendment was proposed to rename the country to the "United States of Earth. This this amendment filed in 1893 by Wisconsin Rep. Lucas Miller figured eventually every nation in the world would be admitted as part of the United States, so we might as well go ahead and rename the country the "**United States of Earth**." But how, you may ask, how would legislative representatives spread across such a vast territory conduct the business of government? Don't worry, he had the answer. Amazingly, that was only the beginning of the amendment's weird proposals. Among its other questionable ideas was to abolish the Army and Navy and instead rely on state militias for defense. It also called for all laws to have the continuous support of a majority of the people they affect.

In fairness to this Representative from Wisconsin, he had an idea that was about 70 or so years earlier than they could have been created. For example, the voting process would have been by "**electricity**" and the tallying of the votes would have been by a machine that could tally them up, such as what Herman Hollerith came up with for "**computers**" in the early 1890's. Wow, very forward thinking back in the day.

# We Need To Learn From Others' Lives

It may sound silly to you, but it will take all the time you have to live out your life. So, when we say that "experience is the best teacher," we need to understand that life is not long enough to learn everything we need to learn on our own. There needs to be a way by which we can learn more than we could learn from our own personal experiences. We need to learn from the lives of others. **We need to learn from the Bible.**

That is why genealogies, like the one found in Genesis 36, can be such a rich resource to us. They are full of life stories compressed into mere verses. You can see from history what works, what doesn't work, what honors God, what does not. We can learn from the experiences of other people when we learn from the Bible. Genesis 36:1 says, "Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom." What follows is the genealogy of Esau. Now, at this point it seems to be much bigger and more impressive than Jacob's genealogy, but this is the last we hear of Esau's family as such. There are lessons we can learn from this. Let me give you a couple.

**First, You make a name for yourself between the beginning and ending of your life.** We read several times of Esau "who was Edom." The word "Edom" means "red." Esau was "red" possibly because of his color when he was born, the red pottage he so desperately wanted from his brother, or because of the angry disposition that the Edomites had towards the descendants of Jacob, the Israelites. So, you are making a name for yourself every day. How you live does matter.

**Second, Things grow. Families grow.** Verse 16 says, "In the land of Edom." We are talking here both of a country and of a nation of people in that country. Edom was a man's name. Then, the children of Edom, his family, were the Edomites who lived in what became the country of Edom.

Similarly, in Genesis 34:7 it says about the evil done against Dinah, Jacob's daughter, that the brothers were angry because "he had wrought folly in Israel." There was no Israel at this point. Israel was a man. It wasn't a nation, and certainly it was not a piece of ground at that point. So, the children of Israel became the nation of Israel, and the children of Esau became a nation in the land of Edom. These nations took on many of the characteristics of their forefathers. So, things grow, whether you have a family or not.

**Third, there will always be someone to follow you.** Genesis 36:33 says, "And Bela died, and Johab the son of Zerah of Bozrah reigned in his stead." The following verses talk about kings that came from the family of Esau. In each case it says that they reigned, they died, and someone reigned in their stead. It doesn't matter who you are or how much you accomplish, there will always be someone who will reign in your stead. That is not to discourage you, but to give you some context for life.

Winston Churchill said, "*The farther back you can look, the farther forward you are likely to see.*" You can't see what is coming down the pike if you don't know history. Churchill was a man who was way ahead of his time. He saw ahead of time what was coming because he knew history. Likewise, we look at this genealogy and we see that there were men who lived, reigned, died, and were subsequently replaced. There will always be someone to take your place. That should give us context for our lives.

**Finally, we will not be forgotten.** There are a couple of random events mentioned here. One man found mules in the wilderness. Another man fought Midian in the field of Moab. These are obscure references that none of us remember anymore, but they were things that happened. So, at some point we will probably be forgotten by others, but we will be remembered by God. God knows you to your core. We are reading about people at the very beginning of history, some of the most ancient nations in the world, yet God remembers names. They may be obscure and odd to us, but these are real people who lived, died, and exist somewhere even now.



# Where Are We In The USA, Headed?

- Did you know that about one-fourth of the global prison population is in the United States?
- Did you know that Apple has more money than the U.S. Treasury?
- Did you know that if you have no debt and also have 10 dollars in your wallet that you are wealthier than 25 percent of all Americans?
- Did you know that by the time an American child reaches the age of 18, that child will have seen approximately 40,000 murders on television?
- Did you know that there are some things that are great about the United States, and there are definitely some things that are not so great.
- Did you know that once upon a time we were the most loved and most respected nation on the entire planet, but those days are long gone. What did we do wrong?
- Did you know that we have wrecked our economy, we have lost our values and we have fumbled away our future. Do you want to know why? Read below.
- But if you look close enough, you can still see many of the things that once made this country a shining beacon to the rest of the world.

Here it is 2019 and look at us. If and if I say if to be honest, we (the USA) is a mess, a big mess, not a small mess. Just today (as I write this), two boys aged 16 years were arrested for "TERRORISM" because they thought they could get away with something. It sounds like they don't have the right family values at home either. How are they doing at school? Who do they look up to at home to guide them? Need I go on?

I'm not drawing a comparison, however no matter what city we live in, we see these kinds of things going on in our city, town or village and as a Vietnam Veterans, we need to be concerned for the children of today. We can try to make a difference in their lives by helping them, working with them, showing them the way to life and guiding them in the way to go.

We need to invest in our grandchildren, however if they live miles away, we can't always be there for them, but you can write them, call them, and remember them on their birthday and Christmas and just because. We also need to invest in people where you live as well. We can't get ahold of "everyone", but we can always do our share.

Be a volunteer for schools, your church, your city government and do what you can for children of today. We have a lot of broken homes, television has become a vicious element of life that people frankly "like to copy" and 99.9% of the time, you don't get away with it, why? Because it is just television.

Inside your church, "be an inviter to church" to children and their families and have them attend services on Sunday's and Wednesday's and mentor these people to get back on the right track. "If we think life is rough now", just wait for a few year to pass and it will be a lot worse. Or, we, all of us can start now to make that huge difference in people's lives to bring them back on course with the way they are supposed to be. *Be respectful, loving, studious, scholarly, academic, mindful, serious about life*. We have work to do. Let's not go to our grave knowing there is someone we could make a difference for. Don't wait, invest in family and those that could become family while you are still alive. **It will be the best investment you have ever made.**

# The Things We Did Not Know

- #1 The amount of cement that China used from **2011 to 2013** was greater than the total amount of cement that the United States used during the entire 20th century.
- #2 In more than half of all U.S. states, the **highest paid public employee** in the state is a football coach.
- #3 It costs the U.S. government **1.8 cents** to mint a penny and **9.4 cents** to mint a nickel.
- #4 Almost half of all Americans (47%) do not put a single penny of their paychecks into savings.
- #5 The state with the **most millionaires** per capita is Maryland.
- #6 The state of Alaska is **429 times larger** than the state of Rhode Island is. But Rhode Island has a significantly larger population than Alaska does.
- #7 Alaska has a **longer coastline** than all of the other 49 U.S. states put together.
- #8 The **city of Juneau**, Alaska is about 3,000 square miles in size. It is actually larger than the entire state of Delaware.
- #9 When LBJ's "War on Poverty" began, **less than 10 percent** of all U.S. children were growing up in single parent households. Today, that number has skyrocketed to 33 percent.
- #10 In 1950, **less than 5 percent** of all babies in America were born to unmarried parents. Today, that number is over 40%
- #11 The poverty rate for households that are led by a married couple is **6.8 percent**. For households that are led by a female single parent, the poverty rate is **37.1 percent**.
- #12 In 2013, women earned 60 percent of all bachelor's degrees that were awarded that year in the United States.
- #13 According to the CDC, **34.6 percent of all men** in the U.S. are obese at this point.
- #14 The average supermarket in the United States wastes about **3,000 pounds** of food each year.
- #15 Right now, more than 200 million people around the planet are officially considered to be unemployed. Meanwhile, approximately 20 percent of the garbage that goes into our landfills is food.
- #16 There is a city in Bangladesh called Dhaka where workers are paid **just one dollar** for every 1,000 bricks that they carry. Meanwhile, the "inactivity rate" for men in their prime working years in the United States is hovering near record high levels.
- #17 According to one recent survey, **81 percent of Russians** now have a negative view of the United States. That is much higher than at the end of the Cold War era.
- #18 Montana has **three times** as many cows as it does people.
- #19 The grizzly bear is the official state animal of California. But **no grizzly bears** have been seen there since 1922.
- #20 One recent survey discovered that "**a steady job**" is the number one thing that American women are looking for in a husband, and another survey discovered that 75 percent of women would have a serious problem dating an unemployed man.
- #21 According to a study conducted by economist Carl Benedikt Frey and engineer Michael Osborne, **47 percent of the jobs** in the United States could soon be lost to computers, robots and other forms of technology.
- #22 The **only place** in the United States where coffee is grown commercially is in Hawaii.
- #23 The original name of the city of Atlanta was "**Terminus**".



# VA Changing Their Website

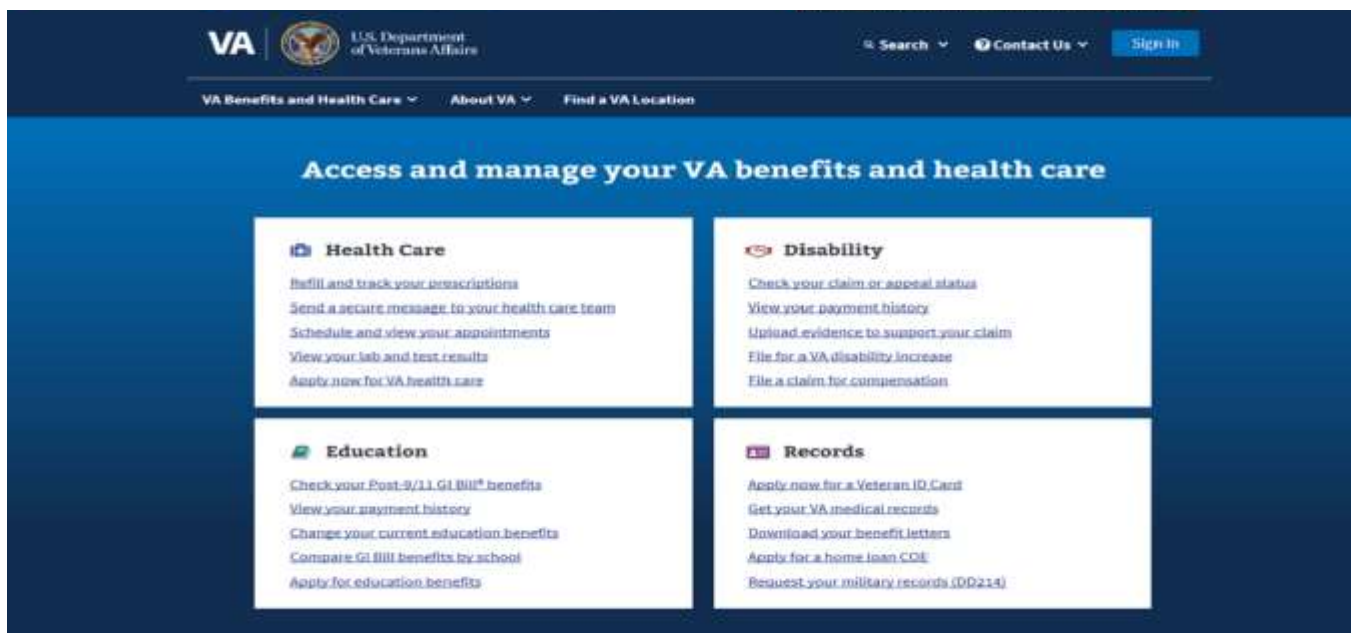
**Coming Attractions.** Secretary Robert Wilkie told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee last month that the new site would debut on Veterans Day, and that it would be part of his goal “to make accessing VA services seamless, effective, efficient, and emotionally resonant.” See <https://preview.va.gov>

**A familiar feel.** The change comes exactly three years after the launch of Vets.gov, which went live in 2015 in an effort to “streamline a Veteran's experience to discover, apply for, track, and manage the benefits they have earned in one place using any device,” according to a 2017 report to Congress from the U.S. Digital Service. That site received more than 600,000 applications for health care and education benefits from its launch to the time of the 2017 report, and lessons learned in its construction informed the new VA site.

**What else changed?** More links are available on the main page. The current VA site has three categories displayed prominently (health care, benefits, and burials and memorials), but other information is stored in drop-down menus that can be difficult to navigate, especially on mobile devices. The new site has four featured areas (health care, disability, education, and records), followed by a dozen clear headers that take visitors to information on career and employment, pension, home loans, and other benefits.

**Getting personal.** The new setup also allows beneficiaries to register for their own online account, which will enable them to create a personal page similar to an online banking portal, Jacobs told FCW. This feature, already available at Vets.gov, will allow the user to log on and receive personalized medical updates, check on claims and appeals, view available balances for education-related benefits, and read up on other individualized details.

**What's next?** A new tool designed to improve the process for veterans to apply for increased disability compensation is now in beta mode, meaning it's still undergoing tests prior to an official launch. Beneficiaries can use the beta version to file claims, and provide feedback on the process, here.



# Marine Sentinel's To Carry New Weapon



The Sentinels of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier hold among the most revered posts in the U.S. armed forces, so it makes sense that they should have a sidearm to match. Sig Sauer will present a cache of four specially-designed 9mm, M17 pistols to the Tomb Guard Platoon of the Army's 3rd Infantry Regiment. Created to the same specs as the M17's adopted as part of the Army's Modular Handgun System and fielded to soldiers earlier this year, the ceremonial M17 Tomb of the Unknown Soldier pistols are distinguished by a stainless steel slide and a custom wood and aluminum grip.

## Worthwhile Web Sites To Look At

Sometimes we get recommended to us to "LOOK AT THIS" and "LOOK AT THAT" and frankly we never know what is there or do we even want to be there. On this occasion, you might want to look at these below as they likely will have information to just interest for you to enjoy.

[www.virtualwall.org](http://www.virtualwall.org) is a location that provides as much information as possible about lost friends or family from the days of Vietnam. So, if you have Isot a good friend as I did, you'll want to see about them and obtain some details about what happened and then contact their family and be a blessing to them.

[www.counterparts.net](http://www.counterparts.net) is a website that is dedicated to those we left behind, those who escaped, those who came back, and those who never gave up. Counterparts is an active veterans organization and supports humanitarian efforts in Southeast Asia. Our Locators and Liaison Officers maintain contacts with numerous US and Foreign veterans organizations.

[www.vietnam.ttu.edu](http://www.vietnam.ttu.edu) Texas Tech University Vietnam War site that contains the Virtual Vietnam Archive currently contains 7 million pages of scanned materials. Types of material include documents, photographs, slides, negatives, oral histories, artifacts, moving images, sound recordings, maps, and collection finding aids. All non-copyrighted and digitized materials are available.

[armytogetherweserved.com](http://armytogetherweserved.com) or TWS contains comprehensive military records of Military Veterans posted by the Veterans themselves including memories and photographs. In addition to its military records search capability, TWS is the largest online community of Veterans existing today and is a powerful Veteran locator. TWS enables Veterans to find those they served with by matching their service information entered on their TWS military service page with the service information of other Veterans in its membership. TWS members can review matching members.

[militarybenefits.info/military-discounts](http://militarybenefits.info/military-discounts) is a wonderful site that is Offered by Stores, Services and online sites by military benefits for 2019 veterans and military discount list of hundreds of companies that offer military discounts to service members, retired military, veterans, spouses.

[www.veteranssavings.com](http://www.veteranssavings.com) Provides veteran savings and deals for military veterans, retired and active duty members deserve the many discounts available to them. As a thank you, our country and plenty of companies offer steep discounts and even free products and services only to military and immediate family members.



# Al Hague—Author



Al Hague Cpl USMC 1963-1966 served in Viet Nam 1965-66 in the III MAF. Al was born in a small hill town of Massachusetts and was raised like so many during the late forties and through the fifties. The American Flag, Pledge of Allegiance and the Star Spangled Banner were a very important part of life. To say we recall life was much simpler then is truly an understatement and it probably was for a young man or woman of those times. It was also certain that the parents of young people had to work hard to provide for their families but the path seemed clearer then. Politics were always politics but the dissemination of information was much less available and people lived in somewhat of a sheltered world. Upon graduation from high school Al decided to join the Marine Corps just like his father who had fought in WWII and participated in the battle of Guadalcanal. Al went to boot camp at

the famous Parris Island in South Carolina and then later was stationed at Camp Lejeune for about a year.

Al enjoyed a varied business career for many years until retirement in 2009 while residing with his wife Diane in Spokane Washington. Upon retirement Al started his free lance writing career working for two sporting magazines Clayshooting USA and Trapshooting USA Magazines covering clay target shooting championships nationally and internationally. In early 2018 Al began to fulfill a dream of writing a novel and the story of a sweet set of words called “A Marines Daughter” began to take shape.



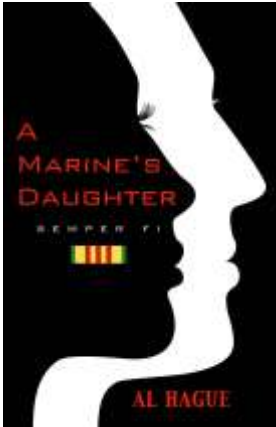
As the story came together the message became clear that other men were of the same retirement age and now with their families raised and careers over they had much more time to dwell on the past. In the research with other vets it was clear that a variety of experiences was a common thread. Many worse than others depending on the job they did but the one common thread for all returning from Viet Nam was the treatment they received from the people of the USA. Not all the people of course but enough to create severe negative feelings and memories.

Today Al lives and writes in his home in the Phoenix area of Arizona, enjoys playing golf when possible and spends much of his time looking after his health. He and his wife Diane also work at their travel agency business as much as possible.

Al through his exposure to Agent Orange like so many, plus his time at Camp Lejeune with the poison water discovery suffers from a list of diseases. In August of 2018 Al suffered a heart attack, which revealed Coronary Artery Disease a presumptive of Agent Orange. In April of 2018, Al was diagnosed with bladder cancer, also a presumptive from the time at Camp Lejeune, living with the poisoned water on base. Several years ago Al was diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes also a presumptive of Agent Orange and along with that kidney disease which has progressed to stage three.

At this time Al is receiving amazing care and treatments through the VA hospital in Phoenix and at age 73 is doing as well as possible. In the back of the book is an explanation of his experiences on getting help through the VA. Today Al is working on a sequel to “A Marines Daughter” with the hope of continuing the story of the characters.

# A Marine's Daughter



**A Marine's Daughter by Al Hague** is a novel about a Viet Nam Veteran Marine nearing his final tour of duty in life. Since his retirement he has come to realize besides his health issues which are significant he has secrets and memories from his past that he needs to deal with. Unable to resolve them on his own he reaches out to his successful attorney daughter for help and support. The relationship has always been good but it reacts new heights with this endeavor.

While this is certainly a fictional account the Veteran reader will be reminded of the time in the Corps. It is important to say that this story could be about any Viet Nam Vet in any branch but authors commonly write about details they are familiar with. Without giving the story away it is not really a war story. It is however, a relationship story brought about by war and the struggles that go with memories of war. The main character also has an enormous struggle with forgiving his country for the memories of the treatment so many vets received upon returning home.



ories of the treatment so many vets received upon returning home.

Here is an excerpt from the story:

*"It was a hot and nasty day on the barren, dry and dirty hill about 5 clicks northwest of the air-base at Da Nang, South Viet Nam. Even with the presumed cooler air from the Gulf of Tonkin, an important armpit of the South China Sea, it was stifling and insufferable. Corporal Jonathan Milo, sat on a stack of sandbags, writing a letter back home to his family, letting them know that he arrived safely a few days ago. Writing a letter in such conditions was not easy. Jon fought against the sweat dripping off his forehead and onto his paper, smearing the ink. Chuckling to himself, he wondered if his mother might believe the ink was messed up from tears falling on the paper. He had to make sure she knew it was sweat. It's hot and sticky! The humidity is so bad your clothes soak through in minutes every morning. Nighttime didn't bring much relief either.*

*His actual arrival date was April 5, 1965, and he became part of the 3rd Marine Amphibious Force. Jon had been in the Marine Corps since 1963 and was a very squared away Marine, earning the rank of E-4 rather quickly by Marine Corps standards. He was stationed at Camp Lejeune when the Corps cut his orders to Okinawa. Jon, as his friends and family called him, was a tall guy about 6' 2", very rugged and in shape at 185 pounds, at least for the time being. His rugged good looks and quiet, confident manner had served him well in the Corps, and he had always led by example.*

*If he had one fault, it was his undying devotion to whatever the Corps and his government leaders directed him to do. His kind of dedication and unwavering commitment was required to be a leader and to set an example for those young men he led every day. Viet Nam was his first combat assignment, except for a short time quelling a civil war in Central America when he was with the 6th Marines at Camp Lejeune. Now his unit's task was to protect the Da Nang Airbase from the Viet Cong.*

*Marine Corps units were spread around the base, forming a perimeter of Marines that would be required to not only guard the base's perimeter, but also to conduct search and destroy missions and engage the enemy. As a squad leader, Jon was responsible for the organizing, training, and the individual assignments of his squad of twelve men. Often the squad, which was part of a platoon of about fifty, was reinforced by a weapons team with mortars and automatic weapons, depending on the mission. At the young age of 24, Jon had an enormous responsibility not only to his men but also to his officers. Scuttlebutt (gossip) was saying the platoon would be part of a major operation soon and it was a fact in the Marine Corps that scuttlebutt was never wrong. Well, almost never, it depended on one's point of view. The smart way was not to believe anything until the orders came through the chain of command."*



# What Seems To Be The Most Wrong With

There are a myriad of **prevalent disabilities** with a lot of us who served in Vietnam and often times we don't realize it until way later in our life and by then it is and has become too late to do too much about it. Often times we can get some relief, but by-and-large the years in life have taken us over. The VA did a study on the most prevalent disabilities among new compensation recipients in FY 2017:

**Tinnitus:** 159,800 cases— who likes to listen to the ringing sound in your ears?

**Limitation of flexion, knee:** 83,329—Hard to walk when you get old

**Hearing loss:** 81,529—For those of who fired M16's and M60's and other weapons.

**Lumbosacral or cervical strain:** 73,073.—For those with a lumbosacral strain is an injury to muscle tissue in the lower back. A strain usually involves one or more of the large muscles, called the paraspinal muscles, that help to support the spine while walking, twisting, bending, or lifting heavy objects.

**Limitation of motion of the arm:** 67,563.

**Scars, general:** 61,580—If you got shot, stuck or stabbed, you'll have at least one.

**Post-traumatic stress disorder:** 51,273—For those of us who went through a lot.

**Limitation of motion of the ankle:** 50,384.

**Migraines:** 41,912

**Paralysis of the sciatic nerve:** 36,584.

The Semper Fi Fund is excited to announce the:

## LCpl Parsons Welcome Home Fund for Vietnam Veterans


**Eligibility Criteria:**

- Blind/legally blind
- Paralyzed (paraplegia, quadriplegia)
- Amputation (loss of leg, arm or any combination)
- Burned over 50% of the body
- Severe Traumatic Brain Injury — cannot function independently (needs 24/7 care and supervision)
- Life threatening illness linked to Agent Orange exposure (recognized by VA)

**If eligible, assistance may be provided in the following areas (case by case basis):**

- Transportation grant (Adaptive Vehicle or Modifications, Vehicle Repairs)
- Housing grant (Modifications, Repairs, Adaptive Home)
- Medical Care grant — (not covered by insurance or VA)

Must have one or more of the conditions

 For more information, please call  
760-725-3680 or contact us at  
[Vwestcoastcw@semperfifund.org](mailto:Vwestcoastcw@semperfifund.org)

The program will expand our mission to care for veterans from all US military service branches who are catastrophically injured from combat operations in Vietnam.

# COLA Increasing In Year 2019



The 2019 COLA for military retired pay, Survivor Benefit Plan annuities, Social Security checks, and VA disability and survivor benefits will be 2.8 percent. It will first appear in the January 2019 checks. MOAA accurately forecasted this final outcome over a month ago based on annual trends and factors such as energy commodities, shelter (housing), and transportation services.

The 2.8 percent 2018 COLA will be the second-largest COLA of the past decade, trailing only the 3.6 percent COLA year of 2011. Groceries are one of the more than 80,000 items factored into the Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) monthly calculation of the Consumer Price Index (CPI). BLS describes CPI as a measure of the average change over time in the prices paid by urban consumers from around the country for a market basket of consumer goods and services. This basket of goods includes the ordinary items or services you'd expect to use on a daily basis: food and beverages, housing, apparel, transportation, medical care, recreation, or education and communication, among others.

Some of the biggest factors that influence your COLA include the prices of: food, clothing, housing, fuels and transportation fares, and charges for medical services and drugs. With the price of fuel on the rise, for example, we've seen a comparable rise in CPI.

The weighting of each category is calculated in accordance with a two-year-long survey that looked at family purchasing data through approximately 24,000 weekly diaries and 48,000 quarterly interviews.

Measured price changes on those items over time determine the annual COLA. The calculation is made by comparing the average CPI from July through September of the current year to the average for the same months of the year prior.

Any percentage increase in the year-over-year averages is rounded to the nearest tenth of 1 percent. For example:

Average CPI for July through September 2016: 235.057

Average CPI for July through September 2017: 239.668

Percentage change in average third quarter CPIs: 2 percent = 2018 COLA

The average individual disability payout, excluding service-connected death payouts, was \$11,822 in FY 2017, per the report, for a total of \$3.51 billion. That's up slightly from the year before, with an average of \$11,661 resulting in \$3.32 billion in payouts to new beneficiaries.

The total VA disability compensation for FY 2017, including service-connected death payouts, was \$76.52 billion, up more than \$5 billion from the previous year.



# VA Modernizing Claims Processing

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently completed a significant modernization effort in which more than 7.8 million paper files were removed from 60 locations in fewer than 22 months, enabling rapid scanning into VA's electronic claims processing system by multiple third-party vendors. This will lead to faster claims decisions for Veterans.

"Improving the delivery of benefits and services to Veterans is central to our mission," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This significant effort will not only improve VA's claims process, it will also lead to quicker decisions for Veterans because millions more records will be available electronically."

This milestone was part of a long VA effort to improve the Veteran experience and streamline claims processes. In 2013, VA began removing paper records from its regional offices to save space and taxpayer money. The effort expanded in 2016 when the agency launched the File Bank Extraction initiative. This initiative removed more than 1.7 million paper claims files across 59 VA locations and contributed to reduced claims processing time by establishing more electronic records. Additionally, in Nov. 2017, VA began extracting nearly 6.1 million paper records held within the Records Control Division (RCD) of the Records Management Center (RMC) in St. Louis, MO. The VA is currently working with the General Services Administration (GSA), which owns the Goodfellow Federal Center complex that houses the RMC, to return the RCD's leased warehouse space back to GSA. As a result, VA will save nearly \$1.8 million per year. The other areas of the RMC remain open and operational. The 6.1 million paper records extracted from the RCD are temporarily stored in a secure facility certified by the National Archives and Records Administration where they are inventoried, prioritized and sent to multiple VA vendors for rapid scanning into VA's Veterans Benefits Management System (VBMS). Records removed during File Bank Extraction will also be scanned and up loaded to VBMS.

## VVA Achievement Medal Presentation



VVA-AZ President Gene Crego presenting to Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, (AZ08) in Glendale Arizona with the VVA Achievement Medal.

# Happy Valentines Day



A little girl was talking to her father. "Since Valentine's Day is for a Christian saint and we're Jewish," she asks, "will God get mad at me for giving someone a valentine?"

Thelma's father thinks a bit then says "No, I don't think God would get mad. Who do you want to give a valentine to?"

"The whole ISIS group," she says.

"Why them?" her father asks in shock and some surprise.

"Well," she says, "I thought that if a little American Jewish girl could have enough love to give them a valentine, they might start to think that maybe we're not all bad, and maybe start loving people a little bit. And if other kids saw what I did and then they sent valentines to them, they'd love everyone a lot. And then they'd start going all over the place telling everyone how much they loved them and how they didn't hate anyone anymore."

Her father's heart swells and he looks at his daughter with new found pride. "Thelma, that's the most wonderful thing I've ever heard." "I know," Thelma says, "...and once that gets to them in their heart, they would see the err of their ways, **LIKE WE ALL SHOULD**."

# Thou Shalt Be Kind

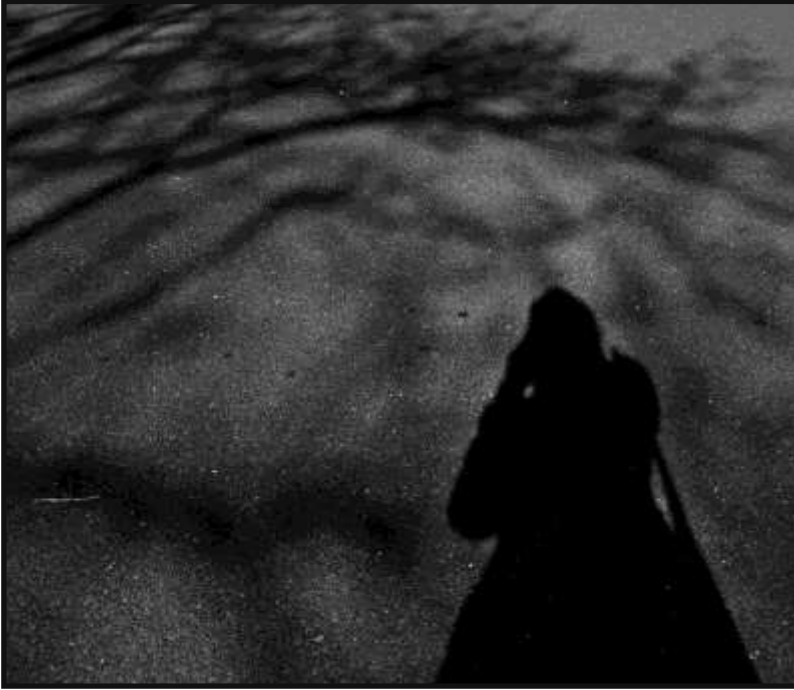
There should expressly be a commandment that says: **Thou Shalt Be Kind**. Well, I'm not one to ask God to change the Ten Commandments, but often times, we do not read between the lines and "**we all know that we should be kind**". We think that we can be anyway we want "because we have the right to do and say and think anything we want". Mmm, that is not right. How would "WE" like to have someone else talk to us and treat us the way we do others? I didn't think so. Our heart is just as sensitive as other people walking around. And quite frankly, we can provide good and sweet things upon others the way we receive those kind remarks, comments and actions from others in our lives. Boy, what I would give to take back what I've said, and what a difference it would be to receive comments, compliments from those whom I would think would say and do for others.



It costs \$0.00 to say "**I love you**". It also costs \$0.00 to "**do something very nice for someone else**". And it costs \$0.00 to "**think nice, sweet thoughts about people**". It gives and keeps our heart in check for someone else and provides something for us that we will enjoy for yet someone else. This is what God would want and for and all of us to do is to think sweetly and kind and loving for others in our life and our neighbor. We hope you have a sweet, kind, loving Valentines Day for someone else. After all, **it costs \$0.00 to do anything to make their heart feel full, all because of you.**



# For A Time, We Are A Shadow



Have you ever thought about your life? Compared to eternity, we are simply a shadow. The world has been around for nearly 6000+ years, and in that time, we are a mere shadow "in its time". Think back to our parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, etc. and our "short life" of 70+ (maybe longer) years.

Cambridge says: *an area of darkness, caused by light being blocked by something or a "small amount"*. We and others see ourselves and then "poof", the shadow of us gone.

We need to make the most of our life while we have it and make it count for God, people and ourselves for the shadow will be gone very **QUICKLY**.

## Women's Memorial Dedication

*25th Anniversary of the  
Dedication of the Vietnam  
Women's Memorial*

*November 9, 2018*

*5:00 - 7:00 pm  
at*

*DAR Constitution Hall  
1776 D Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006*

*RSVP by October 30, 2018*

*Dress: Business Casual*

Vietnam Veterans of America Women Veterans Committee and the National Board of Directors celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial on Friday, November 9, 2018, and hosted a reception at the DAR Constitution Hall, in Washington, D.C. Our honored guests were the women who served with the U.S. military forces during the Vietnam War. Fifty years after the end of the war, it's time we give these women the **Welcome Home** they so richly deserve. A lot were invited you and we thank all that came to join us in making this evening a memorable celebration of the service of these amazing women.



We need to give the women of the Vietnam War a lot of credit as they helped save hundreds of lives and were there for us all of the time from tending to us while in a hospital to feeding us to supplying something as simple as a donut. It truly meant a lot.

# Vietnam Women's Memorial 25th Anniversary

## Vietnam Women's Memorial to Commemorate 25th Anniversary

### *Veterans Day weekend events set to honor*

## Women Veterans of the Vietnam Era

This Veterans Day weekend marked the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Women's Memorial on the National Mall. To commemorate this milestone, a weekend of poignant events honored the service and sacrifice of the 265,000 women veterans—military and civilian—who served during the Vietnam era.

Hosted by Eastern National in coordination with the Vietnam Women's Memorial Advisory Group, the National Park Service, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, programs will include a candlelight ceremony on Saturday evening, November 10, 2018, at 6 pm and a storytelling program on Sunday morning, Veterans Day, November 11, 2018, from 9 am to noon. The weekend culminated in a Veterans Day ceremony at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, where the annual Observance at the Wall was dedicated to the commemoration of the Vietnam Women's Memorial's 25th anniversary.

The master of ceremonies for the Veterans Day Observance at the Wall was Diane Carlson Evans, chair of the Vietnam Women's Memorial Advisory Group and founder of the Vietnam Women's Memorial. A former army combat nurse and Vietnam veteran, Ms. Evans led a 10-year mission to complete the circle of healing and place a memorial on the National Mall to the women who served in the Vietnam era. With its 1993 dedication, the Vietnam Women's Memorial became the first in the nation's capital to recognize the service of military women—as well as the patriotic service of civilian women—to their country.

Other noted speakers included Jim Knotts, president and CEO of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund; Patricia Trap, acting superintendent of National Mall and Memorial Parks; and Vietnam veterans Allen Hoe, civilian aide to the secretary of the army, and Colonel A. Jane Carson, USA (Ret.).

Anniversary events were open to the public and was held on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the National Mall; the candlelight and storytelling programs took place at the Vietnam Women's Memorial statue, 300 feet from the Wall. The schedule of events was on the website at [VietnamWomensMemorial.org](http://VietnamWomensMemorial.org).

### About the Vietnam Women's Memorial Advisory Group

In 2015, the Vietnam Women's Memorial Foundation became the Vietnam Women's Memorial Advisory Group when it joined Eastern National. The Vietnam Women's Memorial Advisory Group supports all forms of women from any conflict.



# Vietnam Women's Reception

A Vietnam Women's Reception was held in Washington DC at the DAR building on the 20th of November 2018 and below are some photos of the event.



# Discounts For Seniors Or “Older Folks” 😊

## CELL PHONES

- **AT&T** – plan for over 65s that costs \$29.99 per month. You’ll get 200 anytime minutes, and 500 for evenings and weekends.
- **Great Call** – a senior plan for \$14.99. However they do have various additional fees, so expect to pay a little bit more. The plan offers health and safety tools, which include 24/7 access to urgent care, medication and refill reminders, daily automated calls to check in with you.
- **T-Mobile** – plan for \$60 a month for seniors 55+, which gives you 2 lines with unlimited talk, text and LTE data.
- **Verizon Nationwide** – 65 Plus Plan where you can get a plan for \$29.99 that includes 200 minutes and unlimited text messaging, it also comes with 2GB of internet so you can browse your favorite websites from your phone. Keep in mind, however, that this plan is not available for new Verizon customers.
- **Consumer Cellular** – a plan that includes unlimited talk for \$30.

## EATING OUT

- **McDonald’s**: discounts on coffee and beverages (55+)
  - **Whataburger**: free drink with purchase of a meal, depending on location (55+)
  - **Wendy’s**: give free coffee or other discounts depending on location
  - **Piccadilly Cafeteria** – 10% discount with “Prime Time for Seniors” card
  - **IHOP** – 10% discount and a menu for people aged 55 and over at participating locations
  - **Golden Corral**: Senior discount varies by location
  - **Krispy Kreme Senior Discount**: 10% off (50+) (discount varies depending on location)
  - **Perkins Restaurants**: Fifty-Five Plus menu Offers special deals (55+)
  - **Subway**: 10% off (60+) varies by location
  - **The Old Spaghetti Factory**: Spaghetti Factory “Senior Menu” discounted list of menu items
  - **Uno Pizzeria & Grill**: “Double Nickel Club” 25% off on Wednesday (55+)
  - **Sizzler**: Offers “Honored Guest Menu” (60+) varies by location
- Papa John’s Senior Discount: check with your local stores (no standard senior discount policy)

## HOTELS

- **Marriott** – 15% discount (62+). You can book online or call and ask for the senior discount
  - **Red Roof Inn** – option of “senior rate” when you book online, may not be available for all locations
  - **Choice Hotels** – 10% discount if you book in advance (60+)
  - **Hyatt Hotels** – up to 50% off in participating locations. To qualify for this deal you have to make a reservation in advance and book for two people (60+)
  - **La Quinta** – varying offers at participating locations (65+). Book online or call and ask for senior discounts
  - **Omni Hotels** – varying offers at participating locations (55+)
  - **Motel 6** – 10% discount (60+). Call and book over the phone in order to get discount
  - **Wyndham Hotels** – varying offers at participating locations (60+)
- Hampton Inns & Suites** – 10% off when booked 72 hours in advance

If you happen to see a homeless person, in your areas where you live or visit, consider buying them a meal and a room for the night as 99% of the homeless that you see on the street do just that, and that is they live on the street and have little or nothing to eat. Remember, **WE ARE ALL** one step away from being homeless



# The Trung Sisters Of Vietnam



The Trung Sisters, by their individual names of Trung Trac and Trung Nhi, lived in the times of 39-43 AD), and were heroines of the first Vietnamese independence movement. They headed a rebellion against the Chinese Han-dynasty overlords and very briefly established an autonomous state in Vietnam. Their determination and apparently strong leadership qualities were quickly cited by scholars of Southeast Asian culture as a testimony to the respected position and freedom of women in Vietnamese society.

Trung Trac, the elder sister, was the widow of Thi Sach, lord of Chau Dien, in northern Vietnam, who had been assassinated by a Chinese general for plotting with other lords to overthrow the Chinese. She (Trung Trac), assumed leadership of the movement and in 39 AD she, with her other sister Trung Nhi and other members of the group marched on Lien Lau, forcing the Chinese commander to flee. Within a year the sisters and their allies held 65 northern citadels. In the lower Red River delta, the Trung Sisters jointly proclaimed themselves as queens of an independent state (of unknown name) extending from southern China to the site of Hue. The Trung Sisters' while revolutionaries-without troop support, or supplies, and without trained forces, were hardly a match, for the Chinese troops. He defeated them first at Lang Bac, near Hanoi. The Trung Sisters then retreated, where they were defeated and were unable to defeat the enemy, and they took their lives.

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# Men "Love" To Shop



Ah men. We have it made. All we do is **SIT** around and wait on the one who loved us first. After all, we **DID** take them to the altar and committed ourselves to them for **LIFE**. They are the ones who gave us little **CHIL-DREN**. Those little ones who love us regardless. And then, there are those vacations with the one you **LOVE** the most. C'mon, what is a little shopping when it comes to the one you are **COMMIT-TED** to for how long? **LIFE**.

# Are You A “Thomas Jefferson”?

His portrait is on the \$2.00 Dollar Bill This is amazing. There are two parts to this. Be sure to read the selected quotations of Jefferson in **RED** below. Thomas Jefferson was a very remarkable man who started learning very early in life and never stopped.

At 5, began studying under his cousin's tutor.

At 9, studied Latin, Greek and French.

At 14, studied classical literature and additional languages.

At 16, entered the College of William and Mary. Also could write in Greek with one hand, while writing the same in Latin with the other.

At 19, studied Law for 5 years starting under George Wythe.

At 23, started his own law practice.

At 25, was elected to the Virginia House of Burgesses.

At 31, wrote the widely circulated "Summary View of the Rights of British America," and retired from his law practice.

At 32, he was a delegate to the Second Continental Congress.

At 33, wrote the basis for the Declaration of Independence.

At 34, took three years to revise Virginia's legal code and wrote a Public Education bill.

At 36, was elected the second Governor of Virginia, succeeding Patrick Henry.

At 40, served in Congress for two years.

At 41, was the American minister to France and negotiated commercial treaties with European nations along with Ben Franklin and John Adams.

At 46, served as the first Secretary of State under George Washington.

At 53, served as Vice President and was elected President of the American Philosophical Society.

At 55, drafted the Kentucky Resolutions and became the head of the Democratic Republican Party.

At 57, was elected the third president of the United States.

At 60, obtained the Louisiana Purchase, doubling the nation's size.

At 61, was elected to a second term as President.

At 65, retired to Monticello.

At 80, helped President Monroe shape the Monroe Doctrine.

At 81, almost single-handedly, created the University of Virginia and served as its' first president.

At 83, died on the 50th Anniversary of the Signing of the Declaration of Independence.

Thomas Jefferson-"When we get piled upon one in large cities, as in Europe, we shall become as corrupt as Europe."

Thomas Jefferson-"The democracy will cease to exist when you take away from those who are willing to work and give to those who would not."

Thomas Jefferson-"It is incumbent on every generation to pay its own debts as it goes. A principle which if acted on, would save one-half the wars of the world."

Thomas Jefferson-"I predict future happiness for Americans if they can prevent the government from wasting the labors of the people, under the pretense of taking care of them."

Thomas Jefferson-"My reading of history convinces me that bad government results from too much government."

Thomas Jefferson-"No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

Thomas Jefferson-"The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government."

Thomas Jefferson-"The tree of liberty must be refreshed from time to time with the blood of patriots and tyrants."

Thomas Jefferson-"To compel a man to subsidize with his taxes, the propagation of ideas which he disbelieves and abhors, is sinful and tyrannical."

Are you a Thomas Jefferson? **Are you teaching** someone to be a Thomas Jefferson? We need to find “another” Thomas Jefferson among our young people. There has got to be **ONE MORE**.



# Reduction in Veteran Homelessness



Veteran homelessness in the U.S. continues to decline, according to a new national estimate announced today by U.S. Housing and Urban Development according to Secretary Ben Carson. HUD's Annual Homeless Assessment Report finds the total number of reported Veterans experiencing homelessness in 2018 decreased 5.4 percent since last year, falling to nearly half the number of homeless Veterans reported in 2010. In announcing the annual estimate, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary's Wilkie and Carson noted that local communities are reporting reductions in the number of Veterans in their shelter systems and on their streets. "The reduction in homelessness among Veterans announced today shows that the strategies we are using to help the most vulnerable Veterans become stably housed are working," said Wilkie. "This is good news for all Veterans."

"We owe it to our Veterans to make certain they have a place to call home," said HUD Secretary Carson. "We've made great strides in our efforts to end Veteran homelessness, but we still have a lot of work to do to ensure those who wore our nation's uniform have access to stable housing." "In 'Home, Together,' the new federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, we redouble our commitment to ending homelessness among Veterans and among all Americans," said Matthew Doherty, executive director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. "Working together at the federal, state and local level, we can and will continue to make progress until all Americans have a stable home from which they can pursue opportunity."

Each year, thousands of local communities around the country conduct one-night "Point-in-Time" estimates of the number of persons experiencing homelessness — in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs and in unsheltered locations. This year's estimate finds 37,878 Veterans experienced homelessness in January 2018, compared with 40,020 reported in January 2017. HUD estimates among the total number of reported Veterans experiencing homelessness in 2018, 23,312 Veterans were found in sheltered settings, while volunteers counted 14,566 Veterans living in places not meant for human habitation. HUD also reports a nearly 10 percent decline among female Veterans experiencing homelessness. In January 2018, local communities reported 3,219 homeless female Vets compared with 3,571.

The decrease in Veteran homelessness can largely be attributed to the effectiveness of the HUD-VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which combines permanent HUD rental assistance with case management and clinical services provided by the VA. HUD-VASH is complemented by a continuum of VA programs that use modern tools and technology to identify the most vulnerable Veterans and rapidly connect them to the appropriate interventions to become and remain stably housed. Last year alone, more than 4,000 Veterans, many experiencing chronic forms of homelessness, found permanent housing and critically needed support services through the HUD-VASH program. An additional 50,000 Veterans found permanent housing and supportive services through VA's continuum of homeless programs.

To date, 64 local communities and three states have declared an effective end to Veteran homelessness, creating systems to ensure that a Veteran's homelessness is rare, brief, and one-time. HUD and VA have a wide range of programs that prevent and end homelessness among Veterans, including health care, housing solutions, job training and education. More information about VA's homeless programs is available at [VA.gov/homeless](http://VA.gov/homeless). Veterans who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless contact VA Medical Center and ask to speak to a homeless coordinator or call the National Call Center for Homeless at 877-424-3838.

# POW-MIA Recoveries

## **Missing To Date:** 1,592

1,592 Americans are listed by DOD as missing and unaccounted.

In addition, 63 US personnel were accounted for between 1973 and 1975.

## **Loss Locations:**

South VN - 795

North VN – 452

Laos – 297

Cambodia – 48

PRC – 7

Accounted: 991 since 1975

Recovery Locations: Vietnam – 671, Laos – 275 Cambodia – 42, PRC - 3

## **Since April DPAA accounted for:**

-Lt. Cdr. Larry R. Kilpatrick, U.S. Navy, of Stone Mountain, Ga. Listed as MIA 06/18/1972, in North Vietnam. Recovered 12/12/2017. Identified 05/18/2018

-Col Frederick M. Mellor, USAF, of Cranston, RI. Listed as MIA 08/13/1965. Recovered 03/30/1992. Identified 07/13/2018.

-Col. Richard A. Kibbey, USAF, of Delmar, NY. Listed as MIA 02/06/1967 in North Vietnam. Recovered 04/03/2017. Identified 08/06/2018.

-Cmdr. James B. Mills, USN, of Bakersfield, Ca. Listed as MIA 09/21/1966 in North Vietnam. Recovered 07/09/2018. Identified 08/20/2018

-Mr. George L. Ritter, Air America, of PA. Listed as MIA 12/27/1971 in Laos. Recovered 12/13/2017. Identified 09/25/2018.

-Lt. Richard C. Lannom, USN, of Union City, Tn. Listed as MIA 03/01/1968 in North Vietnam. Recovered 12/13/2017. Identified 09/25/2018.

## **Defense Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Agency (DPAA) Fiscal Year 2018 Report**

Accounted for 203 formerly missing persons from past conflicts

Highest yearly total reached by DPAA or previous federal organizations

**Additionally identified the remains of three additional personnel who were previously accounted for as part of group burials.**

## **Broken down by conflicts:**

10-Vietnam War

37-Korean War

156-World War II

Are focused on the research, investigation, recovery and identification of the approximately 34,000 (out of approximately 83,000 missing DoD personnel) believed to be recoverable, who were lost in conflicts from World War II to Operation Iraqi Freedom.



# National Academies Veterans and Agent Orange Report



The release of the **National Academies report Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 11 (2018)** will take place at 11am EST on Thursday, November 15, 2018. This update—the result of our years-long grassroots effort which resulted in the passage of the Toxic Exposure Research Act on December 16, 2016—includes the panel’s opinion of the feasibility to study the generational health

effect of military toxic exposures. Copies of the report will be available for free download in PDF format from links found at <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/25137>. A briefing on the report’s content is scheduled for November 15 from 11:00 am to noon EST at the Keck Center of the National Academies (500 Fifth Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001), Room 101. This briefing will also be broadcast over the web—remote participants will be able to view slides, hear the presentation, and participate in the question-and-answer session that follows. Phone numbers are US: 646-558-8656 or 669-900-6833 or 855- 880-1246.



Today the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs announced that it will be moving nearly 430 medical professionals from taxpayer-funded union work back to health care jobs serving Veterans. The move, which will improve VA’s ability to deliver health care to Veteran patients, will take effect Nov. 15 when VA repudiates certain provisions of master collective bargaining agreements VA accepted during the Obama administration with the following unions: American Federation of Government Employees, National Federation of Federal Employees, National Association of Government Employees and National Nurses United. VA has a separate employment system under title 38 of the U.S. Code for medical employees. The repudiation will apply to all of VA’s nearly 104,000 title 38 employees, eliminating all forms of taxpayer-funded union work for the following professions: Physician, Dentist, Podiatrist, Chiropractor, Optometrist, Registered Nurse, Physician assistant, Ex-

panded-Duty Dental Auxiliary. “It’s common sense,” VA Acting Assistant Secretary for Human Resources and Administration Jacquelyn Hayes-Byrd said. “Allowing health care workers to do taxpayer-funded union work instead of serving Veterans impacts patient care negatively. President Trump has made it clear – VA employees should always put Veterans first. And when we hire medical professionals to take care of Veterans, that’s what they should do at all times. No excuses, no exceptions.”

# Veterans Administration Information



1-800-273-8255 PRESS 1



Online  
My Health, My Care: 24/7 Access to VA



VA offers a variety of health care and services for Veterans through community health care providers and other partners outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a provider (doctor) in their community when VA cannot provide the care they need. This type of care is known as “community care,” and is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA. These services are provided to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran’s specific needs and circumstances. Although some changes have taken place with community care recently, Veterans continue to have access to this type of care. The process starts at your VA medical facility.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is committed to providing eligible Veterans with the care they need when and where they need it. Many programs exist today for Veterans to receive such care; however, the multiple programs and eligibility requirements are confusing for Veterans, community providers, and VA staff. In an effort to streamline VA’s community care programs, the president signed the VA MISSION Act into legislation on June 6, 2018, providing more choices and robust care coordination for Veterans using one consolidated program instead of multiple programs. A significant component of having one method for Veterans to receive care from community providers, although not dependent on the legislation, are the Community Care Network (CCN) contracts to be awarded to as many as four contractors covering an established set of regional boundaries to ensure health care services and resources are available to our diverse Veteran population.

To establish the new CCN, VA released a request for proposal for private sector companies to develop and administer regional networks of high-performing licensed health care providers who will work together with VA providers and practitioners to provide medical, dental, and pharmacy services to Veterans who are unable to receive care at local VA medical centers. The CCN contracts were developed with a focus on transparency, accountability, quality, and increased communications between VA and Veterans. See your local VA CBOC or VA Center for all of the details you might need to operate under this system. It may pay off for you to utilize this proves as you get older.

### Community Care Network Regions





# Memory Problems? Read this and Memorize It 😊

Many older adults are not willing to be tested for memory problems. They worry about losing insurance or their driving license. Many older adults fear they may be showing signs of **dementia** or **Alzheimer's disease**. Not every memory problem is a sign of something serious. It is common to sometimes:

- Forget names or appointments, but remember them later
- Make a mistake when balancing your checkbook
- Need help to use the settings on a microwave or to record a television show
- Get confused about the day of the week but figure it out later
- Have trouble finding the right word
- Misplace things from time to time, such as a pair of glasses or the remote control
- Make a bad decision
- Feel weary of work, family and social events
- Have a set way of doing things and be cross when that is upset

But there are warning signs that should be shared with your health care team. Memory loss that begins suddenly or that gets in the way with your daily life may mean a more serious problem is present. If you have had at least one of the following happen for no known reason in the last month, talk with your health care team.

## **Anxiety-being very worried and afraid**

- Depression-feeling miserable, worried not being able to carry out your usual actions
- Apathy-not interested in anything, not wanting to do anything
- Agitation/aggression-nervous, anxious, feeling violently angry towards someone or something
- Irritability-being annoyed and impatient
- Disinhibition-lacking a block on spur of the moment actions that you would not otherwise do
- Hallucination-seeing an imaginary scene or hearing an imaginary sound as clearly as if it were really there

Depression and anxiety are often seen in the loss of memory and mental ability. This may happen for reasons other than dementia. Apathy is the most often reported warning sign. Also talk with your Health Care Team if you notice a continued change in:

## **Sleep-poor sleep, or sleep problems**

- Appetite-your interest in eating food
- Eating-unusual pattern of eating, refusing to eat for fear of getting fat, eating too much then making yourself throw-up or using a laxative so you will not gain weight
- Sense of smell-things smell different or you cannot smell things you once could
- Sense of touch-trouble telling the shape of something by touch; trouble making out a number or letter written on your skin by touch
- Balance-your ability to stay upright
- The way you walk - wider or shorter steps than usual, need to take more care when you walk
- Driving skill-less than safe
- Personality-the way you think and act that makes you different from anyone else
- Judgment-trouble making decisions

**Money Management** - having a hard time taking care of your accounts and finding a problem early gives you the best chance for treatment, support and future planning. Your health care team wants to know about memory problems or warning signs that happen more than once a month. They can check out what is going on. Then they can help you find ways to better handle these problems.

# Remembering Those That Remember Us



You know there are some places and people that become special in your life without you even knowing why. Once in a while you go to your favorite restaurant and meet the folks there and enjoy your favorite meal. Well, this has happened for many years. Let me explain.

When we go to Applebee's, we are typically met by the hostess that has a *genuine smile on her face*. She asks you: "*Would you like a booth or table*"? She then

brings you water or your favorite drink and supplies you with special menus of the day. She is always *very cordial, and helpful*. Throughout the meal, she may *refill your water, check on a dessert (if need be) and helps you with that WIFI device you can pay with and leave some nice comments about her and your visit*. On selected days you receive a 10% for seniors and a 30% for military. And if that is not enough, you also receive a "delicious meal". All in all, the *hostess is the first person you see* when enter an Applebee's Restaurant and she is the one that can make ALL of the difference in the world by the time you leave after enjoying a nice meal. Well, all of you, meet **Michelle Dykes**, she was the Applebee's server of the year and she had made a very good impression on me and others and we thank her for all she has done in her capacity of **Welcoming us into her Applebee's in Yuma, AZ.**



Michelle Dykes, Hostess of Applebee's in Yuma



But, let's not leave it there, as there is also Michelle's boss. I've known this young man for several years and he too, is a real prize for the Applebee's Restaurant chain. He always makes it point to come over and welcome me into his restaurant as he the General Manager of that same store in Yuma, AZ. This fellow is extremely courteous, friendly, helpful and likes to greet you to his place of work to ensure you have a superb meal. And you know what, *he did make sure of that?* While being the boss of the entire place, he guarantees a nice time in his eatery and everyone enjoys their

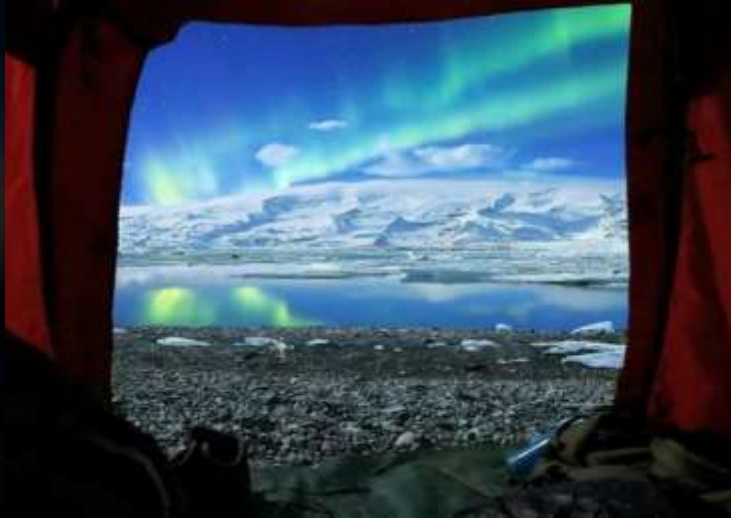
meal, the service, the employees to include the hostess, servers, cooks, and a fair price, etc. On this Veterans 11, 2018, Applebee's provided a complimentary meal for all veterans from all services. They took the time to dress the restaurant up in a "military fashion" and needless to say it will be a long day for him and the others as they wait on us veterans and others "hand-and-foot". During the busy day on Sunday, (Veteran's Day), I happen to meet the Area Director, Mark Giroux who met me at the door of the restaurant and after a few moments he informed me of who he was and together we provided a nice surprise for the General Manager **Emiliano Garcia**. Having known him for a few years, he has made his way into the hearts of his customers and performed as a manager should, in a extremely **professional, courteous and yet a personal way towards his customers**. In my personal opinion, Applebee's is very fortunate to have him on their staff as he provides us with anything and everything in a welcoming sense and provides all of us with a great meal, a great time and a great remembrance of the time we had there. Thank you Emiliano for all you do, for whom you are. You are a true credit to yourself, Applebee's and your country. And to me, a blessing to your staff. Emiliano, I am fortunate to know you and become your friend over these past few years. You're a great one to have by my side or anyone's for that matter.



# Beautiful Places In Our World



A "Moonbow", a form of a rainbow at night



Camping in Iceland at night with a "green" view



A black sand beach in Iceland (of all places)



An untraditional music school in China



Paris from the very top of the Eiffel Tower (wow)



"Underground road" between Denmark & Sweden

# The Year 2019, Then 2020, 2021, 2022. . .



We always wonder what the NEXT year 2019 will bring us. Most of the time, excuse me, all of the time we don't know and if we guess, well, then it is a guess and that is all it can be. Time is slipping away for all of us each year that passes.

Some of the predictions on the next page are just that: PREDICTIONS. Absolutely no one knows anything about what will happen, what could happen or what is going to happen. Everything is simply a "wild guess" based on "thoughts".

Allow me to pass on some "well thought out predictions" that will likely happen because the trend seems to be here and the forecast appears to "in front of us" as time goes by.

**Well, let's start with this, no one knows, repeat: No one knows, except God.**

Here is the "START" of those "knowns" or "unknowns".

5G compatible laptops to arrive by 2019 with a Intel/HP/Lenovo/Dell partnership.

The current 4G broadband cellular network tech is set to be replaced with the 5G standard by 2020, but it seems like Intel is not content with this schedule. The CPU maker intends to speed up things, pushing the 5G adoption to 2019, at least for the US and China zones. AT&T also announced that a true 5G network would be implemented in the cities of Dallas, Waco and Atlanta by the end of 2018.

GM's self-driving cars available for ride-sharing services, competing with Uber

A General Motors executive said Friday that the company is rushing to launch autonomous vehicles for a ride-hailing service that could compete with Uber and Lyft, the latest example of how aggressively the legacy carmaker is pushing to stay at the forefront of automotive innovation. GM says those robotic vehicles — battery-powered Chevy Bolts that are being developed by Cruise Automation, a subsidiary — will appear on American streets without a driver in 2019. The company said vehicles will not have human backup driver.

Harley-Davidson finally releases its electric motorcycle called: "Project LiveWire".

One twist of the throttle and the motorcycle smoothly and very quietly pulls away from a stop, feeling like something attached to the end of a invisible band. This new bike accelerates cleanly into traffic, making barely a sound until you really twist the grip, when a high-pitched whine emerges from the electric motor and drivetrain mounted low between your feet. The LiveWire backs up that sound with performance. 74 horsepower may not sound like a lot, but it's more than a Sportster 883 -- and, at about 450 pounds

SpaceX gigabit internet satellites launch early in 2019, offering a new, global internet service by the end of the year.

Later in the year 2018, the SpaceX will begin a process of testing satellites launching one prototype before the start of 2019. Following a demonstration of the technology, it will begin the satellite launch campaign in 2019. The lasting satellites in the arrangement will be launched in segments over time. The launch of the system onboard of the Falcon 9 rocket, leveraging significant launch cost savings afforded by the first stage reusability now demonstrated with the vehicle.

Volvo ceases production of new product lines of petrol cars and focuses entirely on designing electric vehicles.

All new cars hurled by Volvo from 2019 forward will be moderately or completely battery-powered, in what the company called a "historic end" to building models that only have an internal combustion engine. Between 2019 to 2021, the company will introduce 100% electric models, and ensure the rest of its conventional petrol and diesel range has a hybrid engine of some form. It is the first major manufacturer to make such a courageous move..



# “Forecasts” For The Year 2019

Well, we are entering yet another year. I decided to place the “New Year” toward the last of this AZ-LZ so we can all look at “what might happen” in the new year, or not. One way or another.

Foldable phones to make a comeback in 2019, especially smartphones with foldable screens.  
In a year it has been reported that Samsung’s foldable phone will be a tablet of smaller size that will easily fit in your pocket. It is due to be released under the Galaxy Note line. What once seemed like a mindboggling concept is now being embraced by several tech companies like typical phone companies which are working on a pocket-able Surface device, and other firms which is working on dual-screen computers.

Significant economic recession impacts the US early in 2019 that spreads globally.  
The continuing rapid ascent of global equities combined with rising interest rates within the United States has some financial analysts that are predicting a recession later in 2019. With the USA debt of almost six trillion dollars and the instability of one third of the world, it seems inevitable.

European Union permits the use of self-driving vehicles on roads throughout the EU.  
The European Minister of transports in the UK has made agreements of having England ready for self-driving cars on all public roads by 2019. He will also will be working on a joint-approach to self-driving cars in Europe, to remove obstacles caused by the current approach of each EU country having their own rules on this field.

Cost of solar panels, per watt, equals \$1.25  
For those looking for a range for the cost of solar panels, the cost will run from as low as 0.85 per watt to \$1.25 per watt with output ranging from 150W-350W for a typical solar panel. Thanks to the inverters, solar batteries and other additional equipment needed for a complete solar energy system.

England's "Crossrail" is fully built  
The English Crossrail is the new high frequency and high capacity railway for London and South East England.. When the service opens the Crossrail trains will travel from Maidenhead and Heathrow in the west to Sheffield.

World population forecasted to reach 7,678,174,000  
In demographics, the world population is the total number of humans currently living, and was estimated to have reached 7.6 billion people as of May 2018. It took over 3,000 years of human history for the world’s population to reach 1 billion; and only 300 years more to reach 7 billion. World population has experienced continuous growth since the end of the Great Famine of 1315–17 and the Black Death in 1350, when it was near 370 million.

Two percent inflation rate 2019 and a 3 percent interest rate 2019  
Mortgage Interest Rate forecast for February 2019. Maximum interest rate 5.48%, minimum 5.16%. The average for the month 5.31%. The 15 Year Mortgage Rate forecast at the end of the month 5.32%.

The Middle East war will get bigger and terror will gain 25% throughout the world  
Israel’s Prime Minister stressed during a conference that the free world and Israel has to “act now against Iran” in order to stop the Iranians from establishing themselves in Syria. Iran will likely have nuclear weapons “in a decade” once the nuclear deal is over. The Middle East, it looks as if the world is on the brink of a new conflict over Lebanon. While the chances for escalation are high, the pre-conditions for a new war in the region are still planned.

Weather calamities will increase with the weather somewhat reversing itself  
Weather in the USA will be a bit grimmer throughout the year 2019. We can expect many more storms, more snow and rain to cap off the disasters we have had. In general, the weather will worsening quite bit throughout the entire year. Besides that add about 4-19 miles per hour of wind in most areas of America.

A possible economic crisis will likely occur.  
After about ten years of unprecedented flowering, some of the real economy is finally overheating: And costs are heating up, unemployment is at lows, small business optimism is high, but all indicators that the top of this cycle is in. Financial assets have been goosed to record highs in the bubble. The dip has worked in stocks, bonds and real estate. Buy some extra food, keep some cash very handy and be ready for it to occur. Time is not on our side.

The Answer—Trust  
The other thing we can do is trust God. He has everything under control and no matter what happens it will wind up being the way He prefers it in the world no matter what we do, think or say, so just trust.

# A Message From The President Of Arizona

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**VVA CHAPTER  
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P.O. Box 10363  
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**VVA CHAPTER  
#835**  
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Yuma, AZ 85366

**VVA CHAPTER  
#975**  
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86402

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1042 N. Higley  
P.O. Box 402  
Mesa, AZ 85205

**VVA CHAPTER  
#1043**  
P.O. Box 1043  
Sun City, AZ 85372

**VVA Chapter  
#1093**  
2871 Palmer Dr  
Sierra Vista, AZ  
85650

As we enter another year, we seem to “see time passing faster than usual”, but then at our age, we should know that particular fact already.

We wish all members of VVA and AVVA had a safe and good Christmas and New Year.

December 1st Unified Arizona Veterans Meeting was elected for 2 years as a Board of Director.

We are asking members to donate to the VVA AZ. SC Butte County Relief Fund of \$10.00. Many VVA members of Chapter 582 lost their homes. We thank VVA Chapter 975 for VVA & AVVA members traveling to Butte County with needed items. The address is:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Arizona State Council  
P. O. Box 40435  
Phoenix, AZ. 85067-0435

January will be a busy month. January 9th thru 16th will be at Silver Spring, Maryland for Conference of State Council President's Meeting, BOD Meeting, Committee Meetings, and VSO Training. There will be 5 VSO's from Arizona attending.

January 18th VVA AZ. BOD Meeting at the VAMC Phoenix.  
January 19th VVA AZ. State Council Meeting at the VAMC Phoenix.

The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Bill did not pass the Senate in January. This mean starting all over again. Approved to visit VA Headquarters and U.S. Congress April 8th thru April 10th, 2019.

June 21st is next VVA Arizona Board of Director's (BOD) meeting at the VAMC in Phoenix, AZ.

June 22, 2019 is the next VVA-AZ State Council Meeting at the VAMC in Phoenix, AZ.

June 28th-30th is the Region 8 & 9 Meeting in Sparks, NV to prepare for the VVA National Convention to be held in Spokane, Washington from July 17-20, 2019.

Your VVA State Council President  
Gene Crego

