

Special
points of in-
terest:

- Ten Dollars from everyone in VVA-AZ
- World War II Accomplishments
- SITREP Special
- LIFE – In General
- Remembering
- VA Items of interest for the Veteran
- Things YOU did not know

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The “AZ-LZ”

Volume 13—Issue 2

May - August 2019

The Least We Can Do Is: GIVE

The United States has had enough disasters in the last year to last a life time. When you look at all of the fires, the terror situations, the hit-and-run car accidents, the shootings, severe weather changes, deliberate this and that, it makes you wonder: “What is going on?” Mankind has become something else and I must say the world as we know it today, appears to be falling apart. And that, to me is an accurate statement. A lot of it has had to do with mankind. The disasters

within these United States are tremendous and we as Vietnam Veterans must help those in trouble.. Those fires and other tragic situations that our fellow American’s are in need a lot of help and we need to be there for them at all costs. Just think if some of Phoenix, Tucson or Yuma or Prescott was burned up and hundreds died, inside their homes and missing? These could be our grandchildren and believe, we would

do anything for them, however, we don’t know any of these people, and yet we need to do something.

It was recommended back in December 2018 that everyone in VVA-Arizona give at least \$10.00 a month to those people that have lost everything.

Ten dollars is not a lot of money, but if you multiply it with ALL of the VVA members in Arizona, then it can be. Bring \$10.00 to your next meeting.

Chapter Thinking

There are a lot of chapters within Vietnam Veterans of America that need some help. We all have individual thinking about how to get the chapter on target to grow somewhat and do something for the Vietnam Veterans within it. Chapter Presidents: Consider putting together a team of three (3) people that are “GOOD THINKERS” and develop some ideas that can increase, enhance and sort of “redevelop” your chapter for some substantial growth. Develop a plan and within a few months work out the details for actually executing it and see what happens, Some things may not work, but others will and you have to do something now before you cannot any longer. VVA has a lot of good talent that can turn your group into something “no one would have ever considered before this”. Do it soon before it’s too late.

Life—Way Back In The Air



For those of us that flew way back in the 1950's and 1960's, this is a glance of what it was like to receive meal on the 4 propeller plane. I must say life was a lot different back then. People were nicer, employees followed the rules and everyone pretty much listen to what was going on. Oh, yes those

wonderful meals back then. They were good, but if you compare them to today's food and enjoyable drinks, etc., you will find a huge difference. It's kind of nice to see what took place back then and see the huge difference in how we travel and get there much faster. Twelve hours from London to Phoenix on a 747.

Open Air Schools



This is the way school might have been in the mid-west in the 1950's when children really and truly wanted to learn. The teacher gave them a break from that boring class room and made it a nice day for them to learn all of their reading, writing and arithmetic skills and it makes the

day go a little faster and it is more invigorating to learn rather than be bored out of your being. Well, most of us or some of us might have taken classes in this type of setting, and this is a talk you can have with your grandchildren about an interesting day in your life way back.



Learning Math In Russia

One can be pretty smart when it comes to having "something" to write on to learn a particular subject or not. These ladies are taking and making every attempt to learn something, even if it takes a sidewalk to

make it happen. Sometimes, it takes a little ingenuity to make something happen even if it takes some smarts when you don't have paper to write on. Pretty clever these girls who only needed chalk.

If Penguins Can Go To Church, So Can We...

God made this world to love and honor Him and to attend church to learn the Bible and **“DO THE RIGHT THING”**. As well, to love and honor your brother and sisters within your family and those not associated with your family. Life can be hard and difficult, but we all have to be understanding and if we have the love of God in our

hearts, then we will always internally, through our heart know the right thing to do to pass on salvation to those that do not know of it. Our world is surely in trouble with all for the violence and turmoil going on, so if you have been skipping church lately, then follow the penguins, as it seems that they know where to go.



This is 1933, Hitler Is Hoping For The World...



On November 12, 1918, Hitler had a dream about the world. His dream consisted of taking over the entire planet with Nazism. **Mein Kampf** would become the book everyone would have to read and he would ensure all did. If he had won WWII, two-thirds of the USA would be under **“New Germany”** while the other one-third would be under **“New Japan”** (west coast). For the next 21 years, Hitler made a point to win over all of Germany (at least in his mind) and some of the rest of Europe and then launch a new war. He made Germany a better place for some and a worse place for others and then the crack-down on winning or taking the rest of Western and Eastern Europe, then Russia, then The United States of America. It was all planned out directly after the Great War (WWI).

The swastika as shown is one of the oldest and most widespread of humanity’s symbols. It can be found on artifacts thousands of years old from several continents. While it was used by the Norse and other Germanic peoples from the beginnings of those societies, the swastika is far from just a Germanic symbol. It was one of the central symbols of Proto-Indo-European society, the society that gave rise to the Germanic, Celtic, Slavic, Greek, and Roman societies in Europe, as well as Hindu society in India, which accounts for its use by both ancient and modern-day Hindus and Buddhists. **History always repeats itself.**

A Quiz For The VERY Bright

1. Name the one sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score or the leader until the contest ends. **Boxing**
2. What famous North American landmark is constantly moving backward? **Niagara Falls**
3. Only two vegetables can live to produce for many growing seasons. Other vegetables must be replanted every year. What are the only two perennial vegetables? **Asparagus and rhubarb**
4. What fruit has its seeds on the outside? **Strawberries**
5. Only three words in standard English begin with the letters 'dw' and they are all common words. Name two of them. **Dwarf, dwell and dwindle...**
6. There are 14 punctuation marks in English grammar. Can you name at least half of them? **Period, comma, colon, semicolon, dash, hyphen, apostrophe, question mark, exclamation point, quotation mark, brackets, parenthesis, braces, and ellipses**
7. Name the only vegetable or fruit that is never sold frozen, canned, processed, cooked, or in any other form except fresh. **Lettuce**
8. Name 6 or more things that you can wear on your feet beginning with the letter 'S.' **Shoes, socks, sandals, sneakers, slippers, skis, skates, snowshoes, stockings, stilts.**

A Last Chance To Go To PARIS

Well, most of you reading this are well into your possibly very late 60's or mid-70's, so here is a strong recommendation. Before you cannot go anywhere any where overseas, make it an opportunity to treat your wife to maybe one of her last BIG trips. Paris could be the place to go and you seriously might consider it. Never been there? Well, according to a lot of travel firms, here are



Chateau de Chantilly



The French Louvre



The Music Museum

Most of these view points are very inexpensive to get into and some are free.

Getting to Paris could be \$0.00 if you use air miles on a credit card.



The Eiffel Tower



Notre Dame Cathedral



Cemetery in Normandy

Breakfast is provided in your ~\$95.00 per night hotel and lunch and dinner are relative anywhere you go. Shop, look and then make that trip of a life time that you wished you had done a long time ago.



Arc de Triomphe



Palace Versailles



Paris Pantheon

Dr. Artie L. Shelton



Dr. Shelton is a fifteen-year prostate cancer survivor and advocate and for the Prostate Health Education Network. He represents PHEN as the PHEN Prostate Cancer Regional Coordinator.

Dr. Shelton was appointed by Governor O'Malley to serve a six - year term as a member of the Maryland Council on Cancer Control and co-chaired writing the prostate chapter for the Maryland Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan Executive Summary.

Dr. Shelton has served on the Department of Defense (DoD) Congressional Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) as a consumer reviewer/advocate and on the consumer work group.

Dr. Shelton states that during his personal venture, with prostate cancer, he became aware of the magnitude of this disease that is impacting all men, but especially on African American men.

Prostate cancer, particularly among African Americans, is a disgraceful tragedy that needs immediate and drastic action.

As PHEN, all health organizations must take the lead and lead by example in the effort to combat this disease that can be cured if diagnosis early. Faith-based and other organizations need to take advantage of their leadership roles and position in society to raise public awareness in the fight against prostate cancer.

Dr. Shelton received his BS, MS, and MD degrees from Howard University. He did his internship and residency training at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He received his fellowship training in Adult/Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at National Institute of Health, Children's Hospital and Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

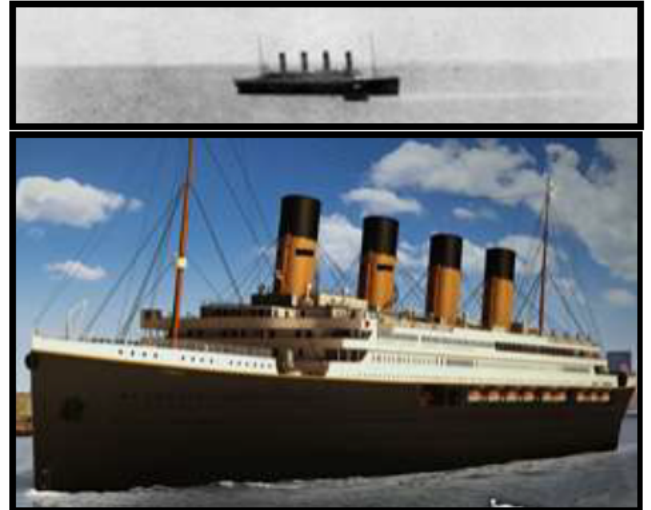
Colonel (Ret) Shelton served 21 years in the U.S. Army with various assignments in CONUS and overseas. . He served as Commander, Pentagon Army Health Clinic; Chief Department of Primary Care and Community Medicine. Appointments as the foreign travel medical escort physician to the Congressional and Senate leadership and personal physician to the Army's Chief of Staff have distinguished Dr. Shelton's military career

In addition, he served ad PROFIS Commander 42nd Field Hospital, Fort Knox KY. In 1993, he deployed to Mogadishu Somalia where he served as the 42nd Medical Task Force Commander. COL Shelton is the recipient of numerous military awards to include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit (2 Oak Leaf) and Meritorious Service Medal (3 Oak Leaf's). Dr. Shelton is President /CEO Shelton Professional Services.

He was recently appointed as the Director of the Veterans Health Council with VVA National.

Pictures Of Titanic I and New Titanic II

The Titanic liner was know that there is another launched in 1912 and Titanic being built in Chi-sank nearly within a few na which is the first of its days it leaving Ireland. kind to be accomplished There was a person there. It is due to be outside of the city of launched in 2022 or Dublin Ireland when it slightly later. Funded by just left the country on an Australian and over-its way to New York seen by the Blue Star and we all know the Line in China The 56,000 end of the story. What gross ton ship will have a some of you may not lot of work to do to finish.



What, You're 75!!

Yes, I'm afraid all of us "**OLD GUYS**" who cannot do too much anymore are dying off quicker than we like. VVA has been an outlet for us for many years, like 40 years of them. But, everything has to come to an end. So, be involved, get your family involved with you and the military side of you and those in your family. Time is running out. We are not trying to be morbid, but do what you can while you can as it will be nice remembrances for everyone involved, mostly you.

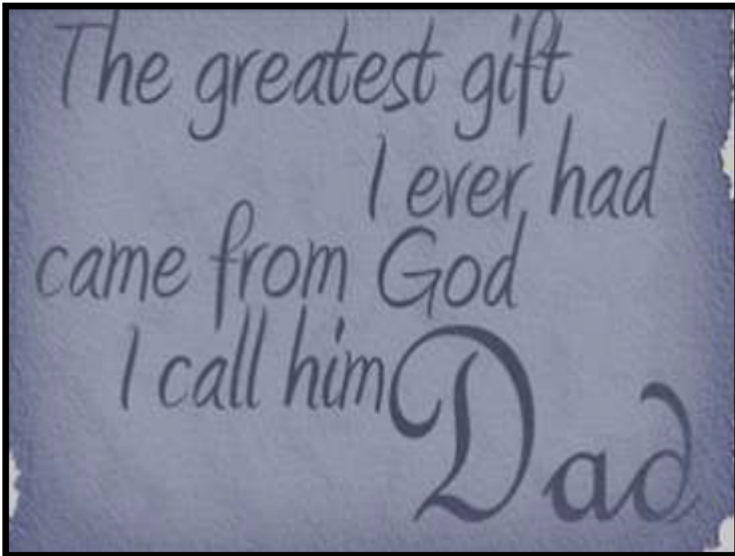


"German Thinking" From 1900 "Of The Year 2000"

To say the least, Germany looked quite a ways ahead when it came to the future of the world. The airplane had not been developed much less anything else you "conjure up" in this drawing. They thought that in 1900 that within 100 years man would, and could sail through the air with no problem and a two person "passenger plane" would be the cats-meow. Well, here it is in 2019 and Germany did not quite have what it takes to travel like it is shown to the right. Were they even close? I don't think so. Even we, can see where we are today 119 years later. But looking ahead into the year 2050, not so fast. Only a dream now.



Remember Your Father On Father's Day



Father's Day is a tremendous day for all of us Dad's have raised all of our children with their Mother's and turned them into something we are very proud of. It has always been blessing to be a Father and take care of your own kids and then your grandchildren and the list goes on from there. Hopefully, you "Dad, will be lovingly remembered on his day". Do something every week or so for your children, so they can remember you all of your life that is left for you and them. And children, **HONOR your father, as the Father says so.**

Vietnam Veterans Day

March 30th of every year marks the day for all Vietnam Veterans whether you served in Vietnam or elsewhere. All veterans that served from 1960 to 1975 somewhere in the world are due to be honored for doing their part whether your job was a combat soldier or a cook or supply person. Everyone did their share and should proud of it. Please make it a point to honor someone **YOU** know and let them know you are **PROUD** of them for they are a Vietnam Veteran.



D-Day Europe—June 1944

General Eisenhower and his staff made the right decision to create D-Day invasion on June 6th 1944 to get the Germans to bend and know they were not going to win the World War II. This was a carry-over-war from World War I as those involved "personally" did not like the outcome and "**had to make it right**" as far as they were concerned. A lot of empires were destroyed then and ten new countries formed, but the world had to be different in 1945, in a **peaceful** way, not in a **takeover**.



Habits Are Hard To Break Or Change

Using the *Cue, Routine, Reward* model is a way to train your mind and body to both be engaged with habit creation. The *cue* comes with an activity that you normally do anyway, but add a subtle change to it. For example, if you are trying to start exercising in the morning, place your workout clothes and shoes in the bathroom when you go to bed. Now, when you wake and go to the bathroom in the morning and brush your teeth, you now have the fitness cue right there to remind you. Do not underestimate the importance of the cue.

Preparing the night before with a gentle nudge from you is very powerful. Just as the alarm is powerful to wake you out of a deep sleep, the cue can get you moving in the right direction or steer you back in the right direction.

The *routine* begins immediately. Put on your workout clothes and shoes and prepare for exercise with a light snack or drink and then begin. What is the routine you are starting? Starting to run again – start easily even if only for 10-15 minutes. The goal of building the habit requires you to do the routine at a certain time of the day regularly – daily if possible. Even if your days in between contain no running, go through the process of waking, putting on the clothes, get yourself ready to train and do something for 10 minutes (walk or stretch). After the routine, you can *reward* yourself.

This may be an actual physical reward like a higher calorie breakfast, lunch, or dinner later in the day or something less tangible with the rush of adrenalin and endorphins from training. The feeling of being more awake, alert, and more productive starting your day is a great reward that often comes with an early wake-up and training session. Life is short, make the most of the one you have right now as it will be over with before you know it. **Death comes like a thief in the night.**

None Of Us Can Imagine

Walt Schumacher suggested between now and the State Council Meeting which is January 19, 2019 to send out letters to each member asking for \$10.00 for the Relief Disaster of Butte County, California (which includes Paradise and other communities from the Camp Fire). There was 50,000 people that had to be evacuated. So far, there has been 88 confirmed dead and 203 missing, over 14,000 structures destroyed. many are staying with friends and relatives. Lodging and rental's are full. Make a check or money order out to Vietnam Veterans of America Arizona State Council and in one corner put **Butte Co. Camp Fire Disaster**. Please address it to VVA Arizona P.O. Box 40435, Phoenix, AZ. 85067. When other VVA State Councils have Board of Director meetings or State Council meetings or Chapter meetings, ask for \$10.00, just ten dollars from everyone to give to the people up there. For a moment, just for a moment, imagine **YOU** up there in northern California without a home, no clothing, no food, no job, no nothing, then you may ask yourself if anyone has ten dollars to give.



“Yes, Yes, Yes” — Being Grateful



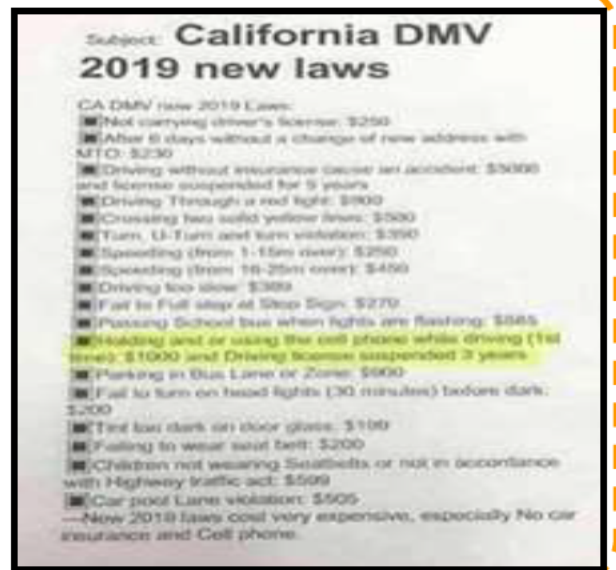
This little boy is poised in Austria in 1934 and you can tell by the look on his face, that he is very happy. Things were probably a little rough back then, but he would not know what is happening except for the fact he just got a new pair of shoes. That grateful look of happiness on his face is simply remarkable. We might consider something like this when the slightest of

good things come into our lives. For example: family, your birthday, grandchild being born, you babysitting them, a gift card being given to you or you giving someone else a gift card, it does not cost.

It never hurts to bless someone for what they have done for you personally, your family or someone else that you have witnessed. Giving a compliment costs nothing while griping costs everything. So bless someone today and think what you can do for someone else in your life. A pair of shoes is nothing, **but the nice look on his face**, means a lot to anyone.

California Law For 2019

If you can see this list of “laws” that were passed recently, you will see that the majority of Californian's could be in serious trouble with their phone or their vehicle. It seemed of no trouble NOT to have a phone in the car back when we were growing up. If you did not have a phone in the house, not a big deal either. This word of technology is not doing a lot of us any good as time goes on. Who needs an immediate answer right away for anything? Patience my friend, patience!!



Willing To Do Anything

It seems like in today's world it is becoming more and more difficult to get a job. And if you look at the qualifications on the back of the board of his back you see he is quite skilled at doing quite bit. We see likely a World War II veteran, a linguist, probably in German, Japanese and English and has three trades and is married with three children. Who would not want to give him a job? In today's world, most people do not have these kinds of skills, but need to and it is our responsibility to show and help the next generation what they need to do to get those skills for their upcoming career.

Mother's Day — A Wonderful Time



If you just read the words, these are only a few of them that describe what a **MOTHER** really does. But if you look at them carefully, such as: house, cook, play, drive, kisses, care, helps, clean, share, family, home, special, jobs, hugs, friends, kind and coffee, we could go on and on with all sorts of terms, words about our Mother. But, let's remember her as she would likely have been a grandmother or a great-grandmother when our children were younger. At any cost, pass onto your grandchildren of all ages and create a picture and story book of her with all kinds of sweet words about her. She needs to be remembered about *who she is and what she was to you*. After all, **she is the one that gave you life so you could give life.** 😊

Grandparent's Day

This is a special day for Grandparents when we get to be special in front of our grandchildren and they remember us as being those special people in their lives. The person of the grandparent somehow changes your heart from the first time you have a little one as a result of your children. It can be a real blessing to have a little boy or little girl to help raise, teach, take on vacation, celebrate birthdays and invest in them for their college and then eventually they will have a great-grandchild **for you to enjoy in your later years.**



Independence Day

All of us ought to remember the 4th of July. Set in time from the War of 1812 when the Star Spangled Banner was written by Francis Scott Key, we almost became part of the British Empire and we need to be thankful that we have become an independent nation and how we have become a nation that had led the world in a gracious, blessed Christian way. Always teach your grandchildren this, **so they know too.**

Children Cleaning The Floor Of Their School



Children in Japan learn what it is like to be helpful in the place where they learn. One day, they will be on their own. But in the mean time, the school system saves a lot of money by having the children “learn how to clean” by doing it themselves and they enjoying handling the chore and it teaches the responsibility of doing chores similar to this at home. This is not slave labor, just cleaning up the mess they likely put on the floor anyway. This is a way to get children to always do the right thing and not just mess up their areas and not care. After all, some today in America could do the same thing. ☺

Refrigerated Lockers

They have thought of a lot of things in Japan when it comes to shopping and ensuring that your cold groceries stay cold. For \$1.00 for three hours you can store your cold items in here until you are ready to go home for the day. We have a lot of inventiveness in America, but it seems the rest of it is located in the Far East. They have a lot of smart kids over there. By the way, it was a twelve year young lady that thought this up. Pretty clever eh?



Expectations Are Met

The STARBUCKS in Japan are slightly different than in America. For example, if you want a drink of what is shown in the photo, then you simply ask for it. And they will make it just for you. All you do is simply tell them the ingredients and “wah-lah”, within a few moments you will have the best STARBUCKS ever. Oh, did I mention the cost. Well, every different ingredient you add will mount that bill quite a bit, so I recommend you be careful mentioning all of what you want inside it. After all, that drink could cost you about \$15.00 to \$20.00 each.

The BEST Thing That Ever Happened To Us Guys

After marriage, husband and wife become two sides of a coin; they just can't face each other, but still they stay together and she's the best thing for him. --Sasha Guitry

By all means marry. If you get a good wife, you'll be happy. If you get a bad one, work your loving magic with her. --Socrates

Woman inspires men to great things, and sometimes men simply don't achieve them, therefore they should listen and consider it. --Anonymous

The great question, which I have not been able to answer... is, "*What does a woman want?*" Well, the answer "*could be simply ask her*" --Dumas

I had some words with my wife, and she had some paragraphs with me. That could be because "*we don't listen well enough, but most especially ME*" --Sigmund Freud

'Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. *We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight, dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays' and then we meet up later, but starting NOW, it's going to be us together.* --Red Skelton

If you start an argument with your wife don't plan on having the last word because sometimes we guys just don't say the right thing. --Anonymous

'There's a way of transferring funds that is faster than electronic banking. *It's called marriage.*' But then who else would you want to spend it? --Sam Kinison



New Army Uniform By 2020



Well, it is here. The 1940's World War II uniform that was worn during the years from 1937 to the late 1950's. This will become the regular Army uniform and the dress uniform for the United States Army. It will be issued about the year 2020 and will be the standard one that will be used in all dress circumstances. The Army then the "true Army" and the color was very becoming on any soldier. It was a proud time for America with the men and women that fought in WWII.

AMTRAK In India

How would **ANYONE** like to ride this train with more people on the outside of it than on the inside? This is a common thing to travel hanging onto the Indian trains to travel quite a distance.

The country of India has the second largest population in the entire world and more than 50,000 people die daily in this country. Let's be thankful that when we board an American AMTRAK that we have a seat and view to enjoy.



Italian Birds

This is a session of birds that come out of the sky and vice versa in Pisa Italy on a daily basis. They just seem to work it out at a given time of day to in fly inward and outward which makes the photographers picture quite nice if you look at it closely. This is an unusual gift that we can enjoy thru the lenses.



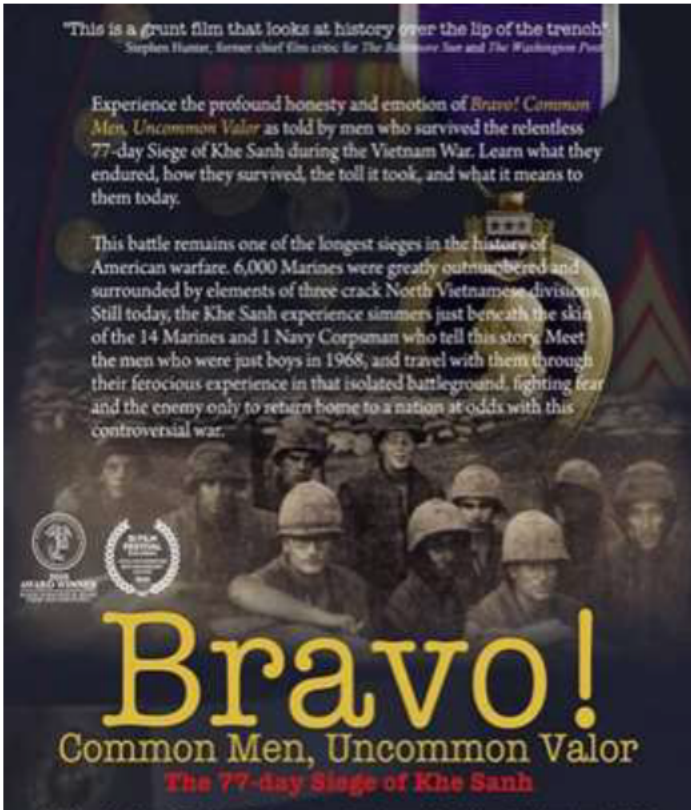
Miracles DO Happen



I don't need to say a lot about this, but these are the fires in Northern California from last year and they burned a lot, but the cross of Christ stood protected. It's amazing that God got our attention through a fire to honor Jesus Christ and then help our fellow Americans get thru this tragedy.



Bravo! - Common Men—Uncommon Valor



Fifteen former Marines of Bravo Company recount their journey from enlistment through the epic 77-day Siege of Khe Sanh during the Vietnam War. One of the longest sieges in the history of American warfare, 6,000 Marines were surrounded by elements of three crack North Vietnamese divisions. They could see the NVA working in their trenches, and endured relentless incoming rocket and artillery fire. Still today the Khe Sanh experience simmers just beneath their skin. Meet the men who were just boys in 1968, and travel with them through their ferocious experience in that wet and isolated battleground, fighting fear and the enemy only to return home to a nation at odds with this controversial war."



MARINE CORPS LEAGUE DETACHMENT 901

Casa Grande, AZ | Once a Marine Always a Marine

Ken and Betty Rodgers produced a documentary about the Siege of Khe Sanh. Ken was a Marine attached to Bravo Company during the siege, now lives in Boise, Idaho, and is a member of VVA Chapter 1025.

Gold Star Mother's Dedication

Butch Morgan, President of Chapter 106 dedicated to the Gold Star Mothers for their dedication of the Vietnam War. This flag pole in Tucson is a nice remembrance of it. They were the life of us all when we were growing up and we owe them everything. Thank you Chapter 106 in Tucson.



Honoring A World War I Veteran



Army Veteran Perry Loyd. Perry served during World War I. Perry enlisted with the United States Army at Camp Jackson (now Fort Jackson), South Carolina on Oct. 10, 1917. After completing basic training, he was assigned to the 371st Infantry Regiment, 93rd Infantry Division, a segregated division of the U.S. Army and the only African-American division allowed to serve in combat during World War I. In April 1918, Perry and the 93rd Infantry Division were deployed to France. Upon arriving, Perry and the 371st Infantry Division were attached to the French 157th Régiment d'Infanterie under command of General Mariano Goybet, who had been in desperate need of reinforcements. For three months, Perry and his fellow soldiers served on the front line under French command, holding positions at Avocourt and later at Verdun, France.

In September 1918, Perry and the 93rd Infantry Division were taken off the front line in preparation for the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. For 47 days, Allied forces launched a massive assault across the entire Western Front in the largest offensive operation in U.S. military history. Perry and his regiment began their offensive in Champaign, France on Sept. 26, 1918. By Oct. 6, the 371st Infantry Regiment had successfully taken positions from German forces across Northern France, including Hill 188, Bussy Ferme, Ardeuil-et-Montfauvelles and Trieres Ferme. On Sept. 29th 1918 while fighting in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive, Perry was wounded in action. Perry survived his wounds and following the Armistice, was discharged at the rank of sergeant. Upon completing his service, Perry returned to his home state of South Carolina, where he worked as a sharecropper until passing in 1946 at the age of 61. Despite being wounded in action, Perry never received the Purple Heart. His grandson and namesake, Perry James, sought to rectify this, researching military records and petitioning with his congressional office. On Oct. 13, 2018, 100 years after being wounded in France, Perry was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for injuries sustained during combat. We honor his service.



A Sheep And A Lion



The origin of the phrase pre-dates the First World War. Plutarch attributed to Chabrias the saying that "an army of deer commanded by a lion is more to be feared than an army of lions commanded by a deer". An ancient Arabian proverb says "**An army of sheep led by a lion would defeat an army of lions led by a sheep**". Alexander III (20/21 July 356 BC –10 June 323 BC) was the Greek Ruler of Macedon, and creator of an empire that included Greece, Persia, Egypt, and many regions beyond them; commonly known as Alexander the Great. He was undefeated in battle and is considered one of the most notable military commanders in history.



VA Appeals Modernization

Act will simplify process for how Veterans make appeals

On February 2019, Veterans' Affairs announced that the Federal Register will publish on Jan. 18 regulations accompanying the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 (AMA), which will help Veterans experience a more transparent claims decision-review process. After publication of the regulations, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie will certify the department's readiness to implement appeals modernization, which will transform a complex appeals process into one that is simple, timely and provides greater choice to Veterans who disagree with a VA decision. Implementation will occur 30 days after the Secretary certifies, as required by law. Accordingly, the AMA will become effective Feb 19, 2019.

"The VA has been preparing for full implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act over the past 18 months," Wilkie said. "Our staff has worked diligently, particularly in the last few weeks, to ensure the new, streamlined process is available to Veterans in February.

The AMA was signed into law Aug. 23, 2017. Under the act, Veterans will now have three options for claims and appeals: (1) supplemental claim; (2) higher-level review; or (3) direct appeals to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. All decision reviews submitted after February 2019 will fall under the new system. VA's goal is to complete supplemental claims and higher-level reviews averaging 125 days. Decisions appealed to the Board under its direct docket will average 365 days. Under the legacy process, appeal resolutions averaged three to seven years.

Higher-Level Review, Supplemental Claim and Appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

- In the Higher-Level Review option, a more experienced adjudicator will conduct a new review of the previous decision.
- Veterans who select the Supplemental Claim option may submit new and relevant evidence, and VA will assist in developing new evidence under its duty to assist.
- If Veterans appeal a decision to the Board, they can choose one of three dockets: direct review, evidence or hearing.

VA's goal is to complete Supplemental Claims and Higher-Level Reviews in an average of 125 days, and decisions appealed to the Board for direct review in an average of 365 days. Under the legacy process, decisions averaged three to seven years.

VA remains committed to reducing significantly the inventory of legacy appeals. VA's fiscal year 2019 budget included funding for 605 additional appeals employees, which VA used to establish two new Decision Review Operations Centers at the St. Petersburg, Florida, and Seattle, Washington, regional offices. The former Appeals Resource Center in Washington, D.C., was converted to a third Decision Review Operations Center.

For more than 18 months, VA has worked toward full implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act, but reform has been a goal for VA and its stakeholders for years. In March 2016, VA sponsored an "Appeals Summit" in which VA, Veterans Service Organizations, Veterans advocates and Congress worked together to design a new appeals system. The summit resulted in the drafting, passage and implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act.

The Richness of ONE MAN



The title of richest person on Earth seems to ping-pong between tech titans every few years. But for all their wealth, Jeff Bezos or Bill Gates won't come close to being the richest human of all time—that would mean besting people like Augustus Caesar who personally owned *all of Egypt* for a period or Song Dynasty Emperor Shenzong, whose domain at one point accounted for 25 to 30 percent of global GDP. But the wealthiest of them all is believed to be **Mansa Musa**, the ruler of the Mali Empire.

If you aren't familiar with the name, a new exhibition opening at Northwestern University's Block Museum is exploring Musa's legacy as part of a new exhibition called "Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture and Exchange Across Medieval Saharan Africa". "Caravans of Gold," which has been eight years in the making, pushes back against misconceptions, and demonstrates Africa's "pivotal role" in world history through 250 artworks and fragments from West African nations, including Mali, Morocco and Niger. One of these items is a reproduction of the Catalan Atlas, produced on the island of Majorca around 1375, which includes pages depicting the vast trade routes near and through the Sahara. At the center of Mansa Musa, the 14th-century king, took power at a time when the Mali Empire was already a source of much of the natural resources, such as gold and salt, used by Europe, Africa and the Middle East. But under Musa's rule, the empire's territory, influence and wealth increased even more. Eventually, under his rule, the Mali Empire enveloped present-day Mali, Senegal, Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Nigeria, Chad and Mauritania.

Despite his vast wealth, the wider world did not know much about Musa until the devout Muslim pilgrimaged to Mecca in 1324. It details that Musa took "8,000 courtiers, 12,000 slaves, and 100 camels each carrying 300 pounds of gold" with him on the journey. When Musa passed through Egypt, so much gold flowed, "This is the richest guy anyone has ever seen, that's the point," and how much you might say? Well, but Mansa Musa is the richest person ever. The 14th century emperor from West Africa was worth a **staggering \$400 billion US Dollars in today's money**.

"It's because of the gold resources and the importance of gold in economies of that period of time" That is the impetus for this trade to really expand. But along with that comes a lot of other things: People move and ideas move and other types of materials move. And what the exhibition does is it traces all of those things, and you begin to see how these networks really extend across a very vast area."

The story of Musa—and that fact that many people outside West Africa have never heard of him—shows just how much the history of the region and its artifacts have been buried over time. "Why didn't we understand," Lisa Graziose Corrin, director of the Block Museum asks, "how important Africa was to that period where, you know, the greatest and purest gold reserves in the world sat in Mali and in the hands of the emperor of Mali?"

Can you imagine having that much money? **\$400,000,000,000 in gold?** Well, the chances of anyone having anything like that is pretty slim, however, the CEO and founder of Amazon has about half of that and Bill Gates has about one-third of that. Well, what is the point?

We can only live and spend what we can live and spend it on. How about giving, oh let's see about 20% of it away? **That would do for a lot of people whom have NOTHING.**

Your Military Memories

Nearly everyone reading this newsletter has been to Vietnam, Germany, Korea or someplace else. Or maybe you have been to all three locations or likely more. If that is the case, you should consider having your medals and other paraphernalia that you collected over your multiple year span placed inside a shadow box. For one day, you may not be around to tell your family and those grandchildren and great-grandchildren what those medals are one day down the road, they will be found and one may say “What are these?”

In order to avoid something like that, seriously consider having it done such as you see here. Consider, starting your military and family history as you likely know most of it and then do your autobiography as once again ,you likely know most of that as well. For one day, you may not be able to manage that effort and it will be too late. Leave something behind for your family as they WILL remember YOU for it, won't they??



“New Paint Color” For The Eiffel Tower



In 1889, many Parisians disliked the Eiffel Tower. And during construction of it, it was painted red. In 129 years the tower has been painted about 19 different times. In 2019, will portray its 20th paint job and the color might be red this time based on the Minister of Culture in Paris “We will rediscover and revive these old colors, like we do when we restore an old painting,” According to Gustave Eiffel, the French civil engineer and architect, he determined that the original red color made it easier to keep the structure from corrosion. Since its construction, the tower has been painted ochre, yellow and several shades of brown. It will take 60 tons of paint to cover Paris’s Iron Lady in whatever color the ministry chooses. The new painting will begin in October and will last three years as part of a lengthier project. Over the next decade and a half the Tower will endure a \$369-million makeover, including installation of a bullet-proof glass wall around the monument. The question will become, how many Parisian's will like the color red? Well, in the month of October. it will be decided which color and what final look it will have in the near future years. Mmm, we wonder what the new color will be like?

The World's Day-To-Night-To-Day And It's Beauty



The one thing we rarely if ever think about is the day and night syndrome of the world. We know it happens and we see it happens, but we don't see it happen from a "**Heaven's Point of View**". We see it from several hundred miles away "in our own back yard". We don't need to say that life travels fast. We can all remember when we were 15 years old, then 25 and so on and now here we are at 70+ years as we look at these pictures, we see the sun traveling quickly around the world and to see the beautiful photos on the left of Switzerland, Iceland and the Black Sea area of the Ukraine, we should marvel at the world God has made for us. It is simply beautiful and it travels at His speed for us. Make it a point to see some of the world before we cannot any longer.

Suicide—A Bad Thing

If a killer roaming America left 45,000 men, women and children dead each year, you can bet society would be demanding something be done to end the scourge.

Well, such a killer exists. It's called suicide, and the rate of it has steadily risen.

Yet the national response has been little more than a shrug, apart from raised awareness whenever celebrities — fashion designer Kate Spade and renowned chef Anthony Bourdain, to name two this year — are tragically found dead by their own hand.

USA TODAY's comprehensive look at this public health crisis and its ripple effect, published Wednesday, includes a daughter's heart-wrenching narrative of losing a mother to suicide, as told by former Cincinnati Enquirer Managing Editor Laura Trujillo.

Although suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in America, efforts to understand and prevent it fall dismally short. The National Institutes of Health, by far the world's largest underwriter of biomedical study, spent \$68 million last year on suicide — a relatively small amount compared with NIH funds devoted to other leading killers.

Accelerated VA Benefits



The VA Secretary Robert Wilkie announced that effective in April, it will provide priority disability benefits claims processing for the initial claims from discharged combat Veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

Secretary Wilkie announced his decision at a hearing before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies. “Those who hold the Purple Heart, the recognition of wounds taken in battle, will now receive priority consideration when it comes to claims before the Department of Veterans Affairs,”

The Veterans Benefits Administration will amend its priority processing categories to include initial claims received from Purple Heart recipients on or after April 1, 2019. Purple Heart recipients are already treated on a priority basis at VA hospitals and are exempt from co-payments for their medical care.

The Purple Heart award is the oldest U.S. military decoration and is awarded to U.S. service members for wounds suffered at the hands of the enemy. General George Washington awarded the first purple-colored heart-shaped badges to soldiers who fought in the Continental Army during the American Revolution. In 1932, it was revived to commemorate Washington's 200th birthday.

VA's RAMP To End Ahead Of New Appeal Law

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (announced it will discontinue the Rapid Appeals Modernization Program (RAMP)_which provided eligible Veterans with early resolutions to their appealed claims, ahead of full implementation of the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 that takes effect Feb. 19, 2019.

The VA will not accept RAMP elections from Veterans with a legacy appeal after Feb. 15, 2019; however, RAMP claims pending on or after Feb. 15 will continue to be processed until the inventory is complete. Beginning Feb. 19, Veterans who appeal a VA decision will have three decision review choices: Higher-Level Review, Supplemental Claim, and appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals. VA will now offer Veterans greater choice in how VA reviews their claim is committed to ensuring the claims process is accurate, timely and fair. "VA has been preparing for full implementation of the Appeals Modernization Act over the past 18 months to ensure the new, streamlined process is available to Veterans who have long sought reform of the broken legacy system," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "We encourage Veterans whose appeal is currently in the legacy system to opt in to RAMP before February 15 to take full advantage of the benefits of the new process."

VA initiated RAMP in November 2017 to provide some of the benefits of the new law's streamlined process before full implementation. Participation in RAMP is voluntary. However, processing times under the program have been faster than legacy appeal processing times. Under the legacy process, decisions currently average three to seven years. Veterans who have a legacy appeal after Feb. 15 will be able to opt in to the process when they receive a Statement of the Case or a Supplemental Statement of the Case after the new law is effective Feb. 19, 2019. Veterans who participate in RAMP can choose to have their VA decision reviewed in either the Supplemental Claim or Higher-Level Review lanes. In the Higher-Level Review lanes, a more experienced adjudicator will conduct a new look at the previous decision based on the evidence considered in the previous decision. Participants who select the Supplemental Claim option may submit new and relevant evidence, and VA will assist in developing new evidence under its duty to assist. VA's goal is to complete Supple-

Start Your Life Again, Time Is Running Out

LIVE YOUR LIFE
 AND RISK IT ALL. TAKE SOME CHANCES. TAKE THE FALL.
 LOVE WHAT YOU DO. DO WHAT YOU LOVE. **SMILE**
 IF YOU CAN IMAGINE IT YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT. IF YOU CAN DREAM IT YOU CAN BECOME IT.
 BE BOLD AND COURAGEOUS. WHEN YOU LOOK BACK ON LIFE YOU'LL REGRET THE THINGS YOU DIDN'T DO MORE THAN THE ONES YOU DID.
DREAM BIG. BE GRATEFUL.
GIVE LOVE. LAUGH LOTS.
 TO BE INSPIRED IS GREAT. TO INSPIRE IS INCREDIBLE.
 THERE IS JUST ONE LIFE TO LIVE. AND WE HAVE TO MAKE THE MOST OF IT.
FEAR LESS. HOPE MORE. TAKE CHANCES.
HATE LESS. LOVE MORE. LIVE YOUR DREAM AND WEAR YOUR HEAVEN AND GOOD THINGS WILL BE YOURS.
 BELIEVE THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE.
THINK HAPPY LIVE WELL. LAUGH OFTEN. LOVE ALWAYS.
ALWAYS CHALLENGE YOURSELF. DON'T JUST ASK FOR THE PROMISE TO KEEP. ASK FOR THE PROMISE TO BE KEPT.
KEEP YOUR PROMISES. ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS. FOR ONE DAY YOU MAY LOOK BACK AND REALIZE THEY WERE THE BIG THINGS.
 DON'T GET WORSE. THE PAIN WILL LEAD. AND PAINERS WHOSE THINGS IN NO PAIN AND LEAVE A TRACE.
 GETTING LOST WILL HELP YOU FIND YOURSELF.
 DON'T GO THROUGH LIFE. GROW THROUGH LIFE.
LIFE IS A JOURNEY. ENJOY IT.
 REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE BORN FOR THE WAY YOU ARE. DON'T TRY TO BE DIFFERENT.
 DON'T WAIT FOR THE PERFECT MOMENT. TAKE THE MOMENT. **MAKE IT PERFECT.**



THIS IS YOUR LIFE.
 DO WHAT YOU LOVE, AND DO IT OFTEN.
LIFE.
 IF YOU DON'T LIKE SOMETHING, CHANGE IT.
 IF YOU DON'T LIKE YOUR JOB, QUIT.
 IF YOU DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME, STOP WATCHING TV.
 IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR THE LOVE OF YOUR LIFE, STOP. THEY WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU WHEN YOU START DOING THINGS YOU LOVE.
 STOP OVER ANALYZING. ALL EMOTIONS ARE BEAUTIFUL. WHEN YOU EAT, APPRECIATE LIFE IS SIMPLE. EVERY LAST BITE.
 OPEN YOUR MIND, ARMS, AND HEART TO NEW THINGS AND PEOPLE, WE ARE UNITED IN OUR DIFFERENCES.
 ASK THE NEXT PERSON YOU SEE WHAT THEIR PASSION IS, AND SHARE YOUR INSPIRING DREAM WITH THEM.
 TRAVEL OFTEN. GETTING LOST WILL HELP YOU FIND YOURSELF.
 SOME OPPORTUNITIES ONLY COME ONCE. SEIZE THEM.
 LIFE IS ABOUT THE PEOPLE YOU MEET, AND THE THINGS YOU CREATE WITH THEM.
 SO GO OUT AND START CREATING.
LIFE IS SHORT. LIVE YOUR DREAM, AND WEAR YOUR PASSION.

Wilson Watson—The “One Man” Regiment



Within the ranks of the military, there exists a certain rivalry between those who serve on the front lines and those who serve in the rear with the gear. While all jobs contribute to putting Americans in the fight, the Marines have long prized their beloved infantry above all. In modern terms, it is referred to as the "grunt versus POG debate" with POG referring to "persons other than grunts." In Vietnam, one might have heard the term REMF. Whatever one might call those in the rear, it would serve students of history well to hold their tongue before calling men like Army mess hall cook Wilson Watson a POG or REMF. Little would they know that they would be speaking of a former Marine who fought the Japanese Army alone for 15 minutes on Iwo Jima before the rest of his platoon caught up. The cook serving up a healthy dose of S.O.S on a plate had previously served up violence on Iwo Jima that would lead to the deaths of 60 enemy soldiers. Yes, quite literally, the soldier cracking eggs in one war was a Medal of Honor recipient Marine in another. Wilson Watson was born in 1922 in Tuscomb, Alabama, to Charles and Ada Watson. While they looked upon their newborn baby with adoration, little did they know he would one day earn the nickname "The One-Man Regiment". In a family with twelve children, it is likely safe to assume that Watson had to do his share of fighting growing up. He spent much of his youth working

on his father's farm and was only able to complete 7 years of grade school as a result. When his nation was thrust into the fray of World War II, Watson didn't hesitate to do his part. August of 1942 saw him at a United States Marine Corps recruiting station in Little Rock, Arkansas, where he began his journey towards a Medal of Honor Marine. He attended basic training at the United States Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego before eventually deploying overseas with his fellow Marines, ready for the fight. Although Iwo Jima was where he would earn his unique place in military history, Watson gained experience as a combat veteran elsewhere throughout the Pacific. Serving with G Company, 2nd Battalion 9th Marines, he saw action in Bougainville, Guadalcanal, and Guam. When the Marines finally hit the beaches of Iwo Jima in February of 1945 for their most iconic battle, they had no idea that a one-man regiment existed among them. Nearly a week after the initial landings, Watson and his fellow Marines had already witnessed what level of savagery it would take to overcome the island. The Japanese were well dug in, with a zealous commitment to fight to the death. Fortunately for America, the Marines were more than ready to match their aggression. As the 26th of February dawned, Watson's squad became pinned down by enemy fortifications that poured withering fire into the Marines. Upon his own initiative, Watson rushed the first enemy pillbox alone. After pinning down the Japanese with rifle fire, he approached the opening of the pillbox and tossed in a grenade. Then, for good measure, he ran around to the back of the enclosure in anticipation of those retreating. When they arrived as expected, he cut them down with a burst of fire. Not yet done with his acts of gallantry, Watson charged into action again when his fellow Marines came under fire from some Japanese soldiers on a small hill. Watson scaled the rocky escarpment, killing every enemy that crossed his path. The Japanese, who were none too pleased with his presence, began to pepper the hill with mortars and grenades. Remarkably, Watson could be seen standing erect, gifting violence right back to the enemy the entire time. For nearly 15 minutes Watson stood alone on the fire-swept hill, although wounded multiple times by bullets and mortar fragments, holding the position until the rest of his platoon could catch up. On that hill alone, it was estimated that he had killed nearly 60 Japanese. Thus, the legend of "the one-man regiment" was born. In the attack, he was shot seven times and was hit in the shoulder by mortar fragments. He was evacuated from Iwo Jima after he suffered a gunshot wound in the neck on March 2, 1945. On October 5, 1945, Private Wilson Watson was presented the Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman at the White House. Following his discharge from the Marine Corps, he enlisted in the United States Army Air Force, and then the United States Army as a Private, where for a time he served in the mundane role of mess hall cook. He eventually reached the rank of Staff Sergeant and finally retired from the military in 1966. He was married to wife Patricia, with whom he had two children: Ricky (b. 1953) and Darlene (b. 1962). Wilson "Doug" Watson—the man that an entire Japanese garrison on Iwo Jima couldn't seem to kill eventually passed away as a local hero and legend on December 19, 1994, in Russellville, Arkansas.

The Greatest Generation



During the 3-1/2 years of World War II that started with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 and ended with the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945, "We the People of the U.S.A." produced the following:

- 22 aircraft carriers
- 8 battleships
- 48 cruisers
- 349 destroyers
- 420 destroyer escorts
- 203 submarines
- 34 million tons of merchant ships
- 100,000 fighter aircraft
- 98,000 bombers
- 24,000 transport aircraft
- 58,000 training aircraft
- 93,000 tanks
- 257,000 artillery pieces
- 105,000 mortars
- 3,000,000 machine guns and
- 2,500,000 military trucks

America put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services, invaded Africa, Sicily and Italy, won the battle for the Atlantic, planned and executed D-Day, marched across the Pacific and Europe, developed the atomic bomb and, ultimately, conquered Japan and Germany.

Region 8/9 Pre-Convention Conference



Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

Region 8/9 Pre-Convention Conference

June 1, 2019

The Nugget Resort Casino ~ Sparks, NV.

Announcement

- *VVA Registration Fee* _____ **\$25.00**
- *AVVA and/or spouses Fee* _____ **\$25.00**
- *Children 16 & under* _____ **Free (no meal)**
- *Luncheon Only* _____ **\$30.00**

Add \$5.00 fee for registration on the same day as the conference begins.

**REGISTRATION FEE INCLUDES:
CONFERENCE HANDBOOK &
BUFFET LUNCH**

For hotel reservations:



The Nugget Casino Resort

800-648-1177

Group Code: GVVA19

Room Rate: \$99.00 + 13.5% + \$2.00

Registrations received after May 8, 2019 will be accepted on a space and rate availability basis.

Reservation cut-off date: May 8, 2019

This is a firm cut-off date. Get your room early!



If We Don't Do Anything Else...



LINKS OF INTEREST:

- [National Coalition for Homeless Veterans](#)
- [Locate a Homeless Veterans Service Provider](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Initiative](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs Homeless Veteran Program Coordinators](#)
- [Department of Veterans Affairs Advisory Committee on Homeless Veterans](#)
- [The Dignity Memorial Homeless Veterans Burial Program](#)
- [United States Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)
- [Department of Housing and Urban Development](#)

“We’ve been giving to the Holiday Hope Fund for the last seven years,” Jackie Williams, chapter vice president, told the *Citizen-Tribune*. “Some of the brothers at our chapter work at Daily Bread Ministry. We see directly how many homeless veterans there are. We try to help as many of them as we can as much as we can.” Vietnam Veterans of America **Chapter 1073** in Morristown, TN, presented a \$2,500 check to Morristown-Hamblen Central Services last month to give gift baskets to area Vietnam veterans. Several chapter members have experienced homelessness themselves, and make a concerted effort to help their brethren every year.





In Service to America

A REFERENCE DOCUMENT
 Prepared by the National Homeless Veterans Committee
 Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.
 8719 Colesville Road, Suite 100
 Silver Spring, MD 20910
 (301)585-4000 (phone)***(301)585-0519 (fax)
 www.vva.org

Homeless Veterans Task Force Business Plan

The Homeless Veterans Task Force was established as a “special” committee of the Vietnam Veterans of America, on September 17, 1993, in accordance with the Constitution of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Article 1, Section 7, Paragraph B. The purpose of the Homeless Veterans Task Force at its inception was to create a coordinated national agenda for all levels of Vietnam Veterans of America, to address the issue of homelessness among veterans and their families.

The mission of the Homeless Veterans Task Force remains as it has been, “recognizing the unique problems regarding the issue of homelessness among veterans and their families, Vietnam Veterans of America will work with all federal, state, and local agencies and organizations to implement “continuum of care” type programs to address those unique problems.” Today it is recognize that approximately 23% of all homeless are veterans. VVA insists that a fair and equitable share of all public and private resources be devoted to homeless veterans and their families.”

In August 2007, the President of Vietnam Veterans of America renamed the Task Force to the Homeless Veterans Committee.

19th Biennial National Convention—Spokane



**19TH NATIONAL
CONVENTION, JULY 15-20,
2019 - SPOKANE**



ANGELS ON THE WALL



1st Lt.
Sharon Ann Lane
US Army

HOME OF RECORD:
CANTON, OH
112TH EVAC, HOSP.
67TH MED GROUP, 44TH
MED BDE—CHI LAI
7 JUL 1943 JUN 1969

PANEL 278 LINE 112



2nd Lt.
Pamela Dorothy
Donovan
US Army

HOME OF RECORD:
BRIGHTON, MA
80TH EVAC HOSP, M
MED GROUP, 44TH MED
BDE—CHI LAI
19 MAR 1942 JUL 1964

PANEL 326 LINE 042



Lt. Annie Ruth
Graham
US Army

HOME OF RECORD:
EFLAND, NC
HHS, 81ST EVAC HOSP,
40TH MED GROUP, 44TH
MED BDE—TUY BOA
7 NOV 1918-14 AUG 1968
WWW.KOREA.USOAF

PANEL 409 LINE 012



Capt Mary
Therese Klinker
US Air Force

HOME OF RECORD:
LAFAYETTE, IN
18TH AIRBORNE EVAC
SQDN, CLARK AB—MAC
OPERATION
BARFLY—REN BOA
PROVINCE
18 MAR 1947—APR 1975

PANEL 019 LINE 122



2nd Lt.
Carol Ann
Elizabeth Drazba
US Army

HOME OF RECORD:
BENNING, VT
11TH ELABOR
LATTIMER, 27 JUL 1943
HOSP, 46TH MED BDE,
44TH MED BDE
11 DEC 1943-11

PANEL 082 LINE 046



2nd Lt.
Elizabeth Ann
Jones
US Army

HOME OF RECORD:
LAFAYETTE, 27 JUL 1943
HOSP, 46TH MED BDE,
44TH MED BDE
11 DEC 1943-11

PANEL 082 LINE 047



Capt.
Eleanor Grace
Alexander
US Army

HOME OF RECORD:
BETHLEHEM, PA
80TH EVAC HOSP, 44TH
MED GROUP, 44TH MED
BDE—CHI LAI
11 SEPT 1943-30 NOV 1967

PANEL 216 LINE 000



1st Lt.
Hedwig Diane
Orłowski
US Army

HOME OF RECORD:
BETHLEHEM, PA
40TH EVAC HOSP, 44TH
MED GROUP, 44TH MED
BDE—CHI LAI
13 APR 1944-30 NOV 1967

PANEL 311 LINE 210

**SUPPORTING WOMEN
VETERANS**

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- AT LARGE

1	Dottie Barickman - IA	11
2	Pete Peterson - OH	12
3	Dennis Howland - UT	13
4	Dan Stenvold - ND	14
5	John Margowski - WI	15

NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- REGIONAL

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REGION 8

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Robert Grabinski - WI

REGION 9

Dick Southern - CA

19th Biennial National Convention Hotel



The Davenport Grand Autograph Collection by Marriott

333 W Spokane Falls Blvd
Spokane, WA 99201
(300 rooms)
All Rooms : \$109.00
Breakfast Buffet : \$ 14+

The Double Tree by Hilton Spokane City Center

322 N Spokane Falls Ct
Spokane, WA 99201
(250 rooms)
Single Rooms : \$109.00
Double Rooms : \$119.00
Breakfast Buffet : \$19+



19th Biennial National Convention Awards

VVA Member of the Year and Incarcerated Member of the Year

VVA Member of the Year and Incarcerated Member of the Year Nominations may be submitted only by the president of the member's Chapter. Nominations cannot be accepted from other members of the Chapter or from a member. If the nominee is the Chapter president, the State Council president (in consultation with the other Chapter officers) may make the nomination. For each Member of the Year nomination, the State Council president must sign the nomination form and attach a separate letter of support. If no president exists for the state, or if the state president is the nominee, the regional director should submit and sign the form and provide the letter of support. In addition to information that supports and strengthens the nomination, the following must be included for each Member and Incarcerated Member of the Year nomination:

1. Evidence of individual's commitment to the goals and purposes of VVA.
2. Details of individual's service to VVA.
3. Average time volunteering for VVA (per week, per month, or per year).
4. Information about individual's personal goals in VVA and how they help further the organization's goals.
5. Individual's efforts and success in recruitment and retention of members.
6. Details of individual's service to his or her community.
7. Notable accomplishments.
8. Positions held in VVA and required letter(s) of support and signatures.

VVA Chapter of the Year and State Council of the Year

Submissions for these two awards are by self-nomination. For VVA Chapter of the Year, the official nomination form must be submitted by the Chapter president and must contain his or her signature, as well as that of the State Council President (if one exists), and the regional director. Both the State Council President and the Regional Director must attach letters of support for the nomination. For VVA State Council of the Year, the nomination form must come from the State Council President and must contain the signatures of and a letter of support from both the State Council President and the Regional Director. What follows is the information required for nominations for these two awards: Details about the Chapter or State Council's service and accomplishments, and financial information, service and accomplishments:

1. Evidence of the Chapter or State Council's commitment to the goals and purposes of VVA.
 2. Details of Chapter or State Council's service to its members.
 3. Chapter or State Council's efforts and success in recruitment and retention of members.
 4. Details of Chapter or State Council's service to its community.
 5. Notable accomplishments.
 6. If a Chapter, the year it received its charter; if a State Council, the year it was founded.
- Required signatures and letters of support.

Chapter Newsletter, E-Mail Newsletter/St Council Newspaper, E-Mail Newspaper of the Year

The submission process for Chapter Newsletter and E-Mail Newsletter of the Year and State Council Newspaper and E-Mail Newspaper of the Year is by self-nomination. For the Chapter Newsletter and E-Mail Newsletter of the Year award, nominations should be submitted by the Chapter President and contain his or her signature, as well as that of the Newsletter Editor and the State Council President. The State Council President also must attach a letter of support to the nomination form. If no State Council President exists, the nomination form with signature and letter of support should be submitted by the Regional Director. For the State Council Newspaper and E-Mail Newspaper of the Year, award nominations must be submitted by the State President and contain his or her signature, as well as that of the newspaper editor and the regional director. The regional director also must include a letter of support. To be eligible for an award, a newspaper, newsletter, or e-mail newsletter (1) must be published by a VVA State Council that is tax-exempt under Section 501(C)(19) (war veterans organizations) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) must have a publisher who is an officer or director of the VVA State Council; and (3) must say that it is the publication of the VVA State Council. A newspaper or newsletter that is published by an organization that is tax-exempt under Section (501)(c)(3) (religious, charitable, scientific, or educational organizations) is not eligible for an award. A nomination for the newsletter or newspaper award must include the official nomination form, along with five copies of the three most recent editions of the publication. Publications will be judged on editorial content, readability, organization, clarity of expression, layout, and graphics.

19th Biennial National Convention Awards (Cont'd)

VVA CHAPTER AND STATE COUNCIL WEBSITES OF THE YEAR

The submission process for the Website of the Year is by self-nomination. Nominations should be submitted by the Chapter or State Council President and contain his or her signature, as well as that of the Webmaster. The State Council President also must attach a letter of support to the nomination form. If no State Council President exists, the nomination form with signature and letter of support should be submitted by the Regional Director. To be eligible for an award, the Website (1) must be published by a VVA Chapter or State Council that is tax-exempt under Section 501(C) (19) (war veterans organizations) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) must have a publisher who is an officer or director of a VVA Chapter or State Council; (3) must say that it is the website of a VVA Chapter or State Council; and must not be the work of a contracted professional. A Website that is published by an organization that is tax-exempt under Section (501)(c)(3) (religious, charitable, scientific, or educational organizations) is not eligible for an award. A nomination for the Website must include the official nomination form, along with the URL (website address), and will be judged on editorial content, readability, organization, clarity of expression, layout, and graphics.

Specific National Convention Awards

Awards to be given:

- State Council of the Year
- Chapter of the Year
- Incarcerated Chapter of the Year
- Member of the Year
- Incarcerated Member of the Year
- State Council Website of the Year
- Chapter Website of the Year
- State Council Newspaper of the Year
- State Council Email Newspaper of the Year
- Chapter Newsletter of the Year (199 members or fewer)
- Chapter Newsletter of the Year (200 members or more)
- Chapter Email Newsletter of the Year



If you have not put yourself or your chapter in for an award, you should seriously consider doing just that. All chapters no matter the state do a lot and what you need to do starting now is write down ALL of the good things, the important things, the pleasurable things towards others. Appoint a person who can write and keep track of the great things done in your chapter to have them recalled when the mention of an award comes forth. If the convention would be missed, then do it once annually within your chapter to remember those who did great for you. Remember those who have passed on and have their family present at an event. There are always some things that are worthwhile mentioning and being honored and respected. **Start today for later this year, there is TIME.**

U.S. Troops To Poland



The U.S. will deploy several hundred more troops to Poland in a push to further boost its military presence in the Eastern region where the Pentagon already has thousands of service members conducting operations. The U.S. ambassador to Poland, Mosbacher, said “the increase will be substantial”. And there likely may be permanent bases in Poland in time. Poland is a country that has a lot of room for military action and is important to Western Europe.

U.S. Space Force—The 6th Branch of Service



A new branch of service is coming into play. A fighting force in space, President Trump says it’s a necessity for Washington because its perceived top adversaries – Russia and China – are beating it to the punch. A \$700,000,000.00+ military budget that would “*fully rebuild the American military,*” and decided to top it off with a promotional line for the Space Force, whose creation is already underway. America’s ‘adversaries’ already have a head start. **It will be part of the U.S. Air Force.**

The key difference is in the mission statements. The Russian ‘space force’ exists to “*observe space objects, detect threats to Russia in space and from space, and counter them if necessary,*” launch satellites for military and dual (military plus civilian) use, obtain satellite intelligence, as well as maintaining them in working order. In short, nothing any country with reasonable satellite-launching capability, including the US, doesn’t already do. What the U.S. military wants to do with his space force is to have the ability to “***degrade, deny, disrupt, destroy, and manipulate adversary capabilities to protect US interests, assets, and way of life.***”

‘Protecting the American way of life’ is known to be a conveniently loose definition that has taken the US into a number of wars, some of which are still raging on the other side of the planet from Washington. China reportedly, Russia have tested missiles on their satellites, in 2007 and 2015.



The “USS Abraham Lincoln”



In driving rain and rolling seas, the F/A-18E Super Hornets and EA-18G Growlers from Strike Fighter Squadron 25 and Electronic Attack Squadron 140 take off and land on the flight deck of the carrier Abraham Lincoln, training for a historic deployment with the Navy's newest combatant command, the 2nd Fleet.

The very much “around-the-clock” flight operations are part of Carrier Strike Group 12's composite training exercise, or COMPTUEX, taking place this month to ensure that the group is ready to deploy later this year.

According to Lincoln commander Capt. Putnam Browne, the crew spent the past year “kicking off the rust” of the ship's Refueling and Complex Overhaul, completed in 2017, and is preparing for deployment as well as a homeport move to San Diego. “People typically say COMPTUEX is much harder than deployment, but that's the way it should be. Just like when you train for a sports evolution, you should over-train before the event happens.”

The exercise allows the ships in the carrier strike group -- Destroyer Squadron 2, consisting of the guided-missile destroyers Bainbridge, Nitze, Mason and Gonzalez; the guided-missile cruiser Leyte Gulf; and the Spanish navy frigate Mendez Nunez -- to work with the carrier and the air wing to test their capabilities, including air warfare, surface and subsurface warfare, and electronic attacks. The standards are high, and if the group doesn't meet them, they won't be certified, said Vice Adm. Andrew Lewis, commander of 2nd Fleet and the exercise evaluator.

“I'm not obligated to make anybody feel good. If I don't think they are meeting the mark to deploy anywhere on the globe, I'm going to tell [U.S. Fleet Forces Command]. It's my responsibility,” Lewis said.

The 2nd Fleet was reactivated on Aug. 24, 2018, to oversee operations and administration for naval assets and attached Marine Corps units to the East Coast and North Atlantic. Its missions include homeland defense and natural disaster response, as well as countering Russian and Chinese regional presence.

“It's a global competition,” Lewis said, addressing the Navy's reasons for standing up the new command. “What's happening in the Arctic and the amount of traffic in the Atlantic, the ability for us to be able to provide free trade and use of sea lines of communication is being threatened. It's a competitive space.”

Veteran's Initiatives Program



Objects taken from the battlefields of Vietnam are more than souvenirs or war trophies. Maps, stories, after-action reports, pictures, military items may have a story that could result in finding the location of missing war dead. We realize that some of the artifacts are nice to have, but what if YOU were missing in Vietnam or your remains were still over there?

Contact the Veterans Initiative at:

Veterans Initiative
Vietnam Veterans Of America
8719 Colesville Rd., Suite 100
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

The Statue of Liberty—What America Is



The Statue of Liberty (*Liberty Enlightening the World*; French: *La Liberté éclairant le monde*) is a colossal neoclassical sculpture on Liberty Island in New York Harbor in New York, in the United States. The copper statue, a gift from the people of France to the people of the United States, was designed by French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi and its metal framework was built by Gustave Eiffel. The statue was dedicated on October 28, 1886.

The Statue of Liberty is a figure of Libertas, a robed Roman liberty goddess. She holds a torch above her head with her right hand, and in her left hand carries a *tabula ansata* inscribed in Roman numerals with "JULY IV MDCCLXXVI" (July 4, 1776), the date of the U.S. Declaration of Independence. A broken chain lies at her feet as she walks forward. The statue became an icon of freedom and of the United States, and a national park tourism destination. It is a welcoming sight to immigrants arriving from abroad.



Bartholdi was inspired by a French law professor and politician, Édouard René de Laboulaye, who is said to have commented in 1865 that any monument raised to U.S. independence would properly be a joint project of the French and U.S. peoples. Because of the post-war instability in France, work on the statue did not commence until the early 1870s. In 1875, Laboulaye proposed that the French finance the statue and the U.S. provide the site and build the pedestal. Bartholdi completed the head and the torch-bearing arm before the statue was fully designed, and these pieces were exhibited for publicity at international expositions.

PARIS, France



The torch-bearing arm was displayed at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, and in Madison Square Park in Manhattan from 1876 to 1882. Fundraising proved difficult, especially for the Americans, and by 1885 work on the pedestal was threatened by lack of funds. Publisher Joseph Pulitzer, of the *New York World*, started a drive for donations to finish the project and attracted more than 120,000 contributors, most of whom gave less than a dollar. The statue was built in France, shipped overseas in crates, and assembled on the completed pedestal on what was then called Bedloe's Island. The statue's completion was marked by New York's first ticker-tape parade and a dedication ceremony presided over by a much smaller version of the Statue of Liberty is a 35-foot replica located on a tiny island on the Seine called the Île des Cygnes, just next to a bridge called the Pont de Grenelle, half a mile or so South-West of the Eiffel Tower. If you visit the Eiffel Tower, you can see the Statue from up top; take a look at the signs that point out the various monuments and buildings around the Tower, and on the sign to the South-West you'll find the Statue as indicated. You can see the Parisian Statue of Liberty from the Eiffel Tower and the statue of former President Grover Cleveland. It is worthwhile seeing it there in person on land.

Arizona State Benefits

Arizona State Veterans Home

-The state of Arizona has 2 Veteran's homes, in Phoenix and Tucson. Both are skilled care nursing facilities. Veterans must be honorably discharged and be certified by a doctor as needing skilled nursing care. Spouses may also be admitted.

Income Tax Exemptions

-Federal (Civil Service or Military Retirement) payments up to \$2,500.00 per year are exempt from state taxes.
-Vehicle License Tax and Registration Fees: No license tax or registration fee is collected from any 100% service-connected disabled veteran for a personally owned vehicle. A veteran residing in Arizona is exempt from a vehicle license tax on a vehicle acquired by the veteran through financial aid from the VA. This also applies to the surviving spouse, if the Veteran dies, until they remarry.

Property Tax

-The property tax of widows, widowers, and disabled persons may be waived in certain cases. Contact your County Assessor office for eligibility.

Arizona Veteran Employment Benefits

-Veterans who pass an examination for employment by the state, county or city will have 5 points added to their certification score. The veteran must have served for more than six months and have an honorable discharge.
-Honorably discharged veterans getting VA disability compensation will have 10 points added to their certification score.
-Certain spouses or surviving spouses shall be given a 5 point preference if the veteran died of a service-connected disability.

Arizona Purple Heart Tuition Waiver

This scholarship is available to:

-Post 9/11 veterans with at least a 50 percent VA disability, a Purple Heart medal, and who were AZ residents during their service
-Dependent children under 30 and un-remarried spouses of AZ military member who were killed in the line of duty on or after September 11, 2001.
-Post 9/11 AZ guard members who were medically discharged or received a Purple Heart.

Arizona Veteran Recreation Benefits: [Hunting and Fishing Licenses]

-Active duty members can get hunting and fishing licenses at the resident rate.
-Free hunting/fishing combo licenses are available for 100% service-connected disabled veterans who have been an AZ resident for at least 12 months.
-Arizona State Parks Offers provides Arizona's 100% permanently disabled veterans with a complimentary "Disabled Veterans Annual Day Use Pass". The pass allows qualified veterans with day use access to all twenty-seven State Parks.

Arizona Veteran Cemeteries:

-The state of Arizona has 3 Veterans' cemeteries which are located in Camp Navajo, Marana, and Sierra Vista. Any veteran who has an other-than-dishonorable discharge is eligible for burial. Spouses and certain dependents are also eligible for burial.
-There is no charge for interment for veterans, and a one-time nominal fee for eligible spouses and dependents.

Teach Our Grandchildren, A Little More



If we don't do anything in our life, let's teach our grandchildren. That will be very important someday to them and hopefully, they will thank us down the road.



A rock “elephant” the size of a 10 story building

A lake the shape of good sized human being



A lake located in Eastern Europe with colors

Crooked growing trees from Southeast Asia

Agent Orange—The Fall Out

The chemical warfare efforts of Operation Ranch Hand were active for just 10 years of this country's military history. Those 10 years of active efforts have had nearly 50 years of fallout, and the impact on future generations still remains unknown.

When the military began the chemical warfare airstrikes, the focus was on reducing ground cover utilized by the Viet Cong and Northern Vietnamese troops and destroying crops that would be used for sustenance. US Military, manufacturers and scientists were aware of the dangers that the dioxins posed to the humans and animals exposed, but there wasn't a pressing concern as the toxins were being used on the enemy. Science overlooked the impact on US military personnel and long term impact on the environment. Air Force researcher Dr. James Clary has been quoted on the subject. "When we initiated the herbicide program in the 1960s, we were aware of the potential for damage due to the dioxin contamination in the herbicide. However, because the material was to be used on the enemy, none of us were overly concerned. We never considered a scenario in which our own personnel would become contaminated with the herbicide."

As Veterans returned home, they began to report a variety of health issues. Initial reports were primarily skin issues, but the list grew to include type 2 diabetes, miscarriages, birth defects and more. The VA continually updates its list of afflictions, conditions and diseases associated with Agent Orange exposure. This is the most up-to-date list of recognized conditions: AL Amyloidosis, Chronic B-cell Leukemia's, Chloracne, Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 Hodgkin's Disease Ischemic Heart Disease Multiple Myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Parkinson's disease, Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-onset Porphyria Cutanea Tarda, Prostate Cancer Respiratory Cancers Soft Tissue Sarcomas

In addition to the number of illnesses reported by American Veterans and their families, the list of afflictions that have impacted the Vietnamese continues to grow. Most notable and heart-breaking are the images of children born with severe birth defects. While many assume the impacts ended after the war, in truth, children are still coming into this world with physical and mental handicaps as a result of their grandparents' exposure to Agent Orange in the 1960s. Globally, we need to be aware of the impact that Agent Orange had on our ecosystem. If genetic abnormalities in humans were caused by exposure and still continue to be prevalent, there is a high likelihood that the dioxin would be found in our food that originated in that area.

The Settlement Details YOU Need To Know

There have been a variety of settlements made to Agent Orange victims since the chemical warfare in Vietnam ceased over 40 years ago. While some settlements had immediate payouts, there may be funds still available, depending on your condition and infliction. The VA is providing assistance, benefits and care for Veterans who have health implications as a result of Agent Orange exposure.

Initially, the Agent Orange Settlement Fund was a result of a class action lawsuit brought against the manufacturers of the chemical agents used in the Vietnam War by the Veterans of the war and their families. This fund and lawsuit did not involve the VA or the government in any way. Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange may be eligible for a wide variety of VA benefits. These benefits may include disability benefits for diseases that have been linked to Agent Orange exposure. These diseases include: AL Amyloidosis, Chronic B-cell Leukemia's Chloracne, Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 Hodgkin's Disease Ischemic Heart Disease Multiple Myeloma, Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma Parkinson's disease Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-onset

The Silent Generation

Born in the 1930s and mid 40s, we exist as a very special age cohort. We are the Silent Generation. **We** are the smallest number of children born since the early 1900s. We are the "last ones". **We** are the last generation, climbing out of the depression, who can remember the winds of war and the impact of a world at war which rattled the structure of our daily lives for years. **We** are the last to remember ration books for everything from gas to sugar to shoes to stoves. **We** saved tin foil and poured fat into tin cans. **We** saw cars up on blocks because tires weren't available. **We** can remember milk being delivered to our house early in the morning with open doors. **We** are the last to see the gold stars in the windows of our neighbors whose sons died in the War. **We** saw the 'boys' home from the war build their little houses. **We** are the generation who spent childhood without TV we imagined what we heard on the radio. **As** we all like to brag, with no TV, we spent our childhood "playing outside". **We** did play outside, and we did play on our own and no one bothered us at all. **There** was no little league **There** was no city playground for kids, they had not been built as yet **The** lack of TV in our early years meant, that we had an understanding of what the world was like. **On** Saturday afternoons, the movies, gave us newsreels of the war with westerns and cartoons. **Telephones** were one to a house, often shared (party lines) and hung on the wall. **Computers** were called calculators, they only added and were hand cranked; typewriters were driven by pounding fingers, throwing the carriage, and changing the ribbon. **The** 'internet' and 'GOOGLE' were words that did not exist. **Newspapers** and magazines were written for adults and the news was broadcast on our table radio. **We** are the last group who had to find out for ourselves. **As** we grew up, the country was exploding with growth. **The** G.I. Bill gave returning veterans the means to get an education and spurred colleges to grow. **VA** loans fanned a housing boom. **Pent up** demand coupled with new installment payment plans put factories to work. **New** highways would bring jobs and mobility. **The** veterans joined civic clubs and became active in politics. **The** radio network expanded from 3 stations to thousands of stations. **Our** parents were suddenly free from the confines of the depression and the war, and they threw themselves into exploring opportunities they had never imagined. **We** weren't neglected, but we weren't today's all-consuming family focus. **They** were glad we played by ourselves until the street lights came on. **They** were busy discovering the post war world. **We** entered a world of overflowing plenty and opportunity; a world where we were welcomed. **We** enjoyed a luxury; we felt secure in our future. **Depression** poverty was deep rooted. **The Korean War** was a dark presage in the early 50s and by mid-decade school children were ducking under desks for air-raid training. **Russia** built the "Iron Curtain" and **China** became Red China **Eisenhower** sent the first 'advisers' to Vietnam. **Castro** set up camp in Cuba and **Khrushchev** came to power. **We** are the last generation to experience an interlude when there were no threats to our homeland. **We** came of age in the 40's and 50's. The war was over and the cold war, terrorism, "global warming", and perpetual economic insecurity had yet to haunt life with unease **Only our generation** can remember both a time of great war, and a time when our world was secure and full of bright promise and plenty. We have lived through both.

The U.S. Navy Is Ready To Go



The U.S. Navy's F-35C Joint Strike Fighter combat ready. The commander of Naval Air Forces, and the deputy commandant for aviation, stated that the Lightning II aircraft carrier variant has "met all requirements" to achieve initial operational capability the Navy said. "The F-35C is ready for operations, ready for combat and ready to win," An added an incredible weapon system into the arsenal of our Carrier Strike Groups that significantly enhances the capability of the joint force. As the last of the three U.S. services that fly the aircraft to declare its combat-ready status, the Navy has been working to make its 2019 timeline and did.

The Top Ten Militaries In The World

United Kingdom has one of the world's newest aircraft carriers, the HMS Queen Elizabeth. It also has nearly 900 aircraft and an active duty military of over 150,000 people. It does have a small Navy for an island nation at 76 total ships and armored vehicles, and a count of 250 tanks.

Germany has 700 aircraft, over 6,000 armored vehicles, 180,000 troops. It lacks most significant power projection platforms like carriers and has few troop transports and submarines.

Italy has two aircraft carriers, a lot of helicopters, almost 250,000 active troops, Those men are equipped with 800 aircraft and 7,000 armored vehicles. Only 200 tanks and less than 125 ships.

France has 204,000 active personnel and 183,000 in reserve. Its forces are equipped with capable equipment. It has armored fighting vehicles totaling 7,000 and just over 400 of tanks.

South Korea has over 624,000 troops; 2,381 tanks; and 1,412 aircraft ready to go. It also boasts over 5 million reserve service members. Most of its equipment is on the newer side.

Japan has a force of 300,000 very capable on both offense-defense. With the fourth largest submarine force and four small aircraft carriers. It has at 1,600 aircraft, 4,000 armored vehicles, and about 130 ships.

India has a large number of troops, they are largely reserve personnel (2.8 million reserve. Armored vehicles over 11,000, but has a relatively small air force and navy and relies on more prosperous allies. A fifth-generation fighter and a supersonic cruise missile weapons are coming.

China has the world's largest military of 2.2 million active troops. Those millions of men and women are equipped with almost 3,000 aircraft, 13,000 armored vehicles, and 714 ships.

Russia fields 3,800 planes, 5,600 armored vehicles, and 282 warships. It's currently trying to develop the T-14 Armata. If successful, that would be the world's most advanced tank, boasting active protection systems, an auto-loader, and nearly unbeatable armor.

America has in its Navy the most aircraft carriers in the world with 11 carriers. The Air Force flies the largest and most technologically advanced air fleet. The Army, Marine Corps are most capable. All four U.S. Department of Defense branches are trained to work together on a battlefield, combining their powers into one joint team.

Those Sayings Of Long Ago

During WWII, U.S. Airplanes were armed with belts of ammo, which they would shoot during dog-fights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measured 27 feet and contained hundreds of cartridges. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say, "**I gave them the whole nine yards**", meaning they used up all of their ammunition.

Did you know the saying "God willing and the creek don't rise" was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat. While in the South, Hawkins was requested by the President to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, "**God willing and the Creek don't rise.**" Because he capitalized the word "Creek" he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

In George Washington's days, there were no cameras. One's image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington have him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are 'limbs,' therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, '**Okay, but it'll cost you an arm and a leg.**' (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn't wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term '**big wig**'. Today we often use the term "**Here comes the Big Wig!**", because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700's, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long, wide bench folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The 'head of the household' always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the bench. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the 'chair man.' Today in business, we use the expression or title '**Chairman**' or '**Chairman of the Board.**'

Common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the 'Ace of Spades.' To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, and **these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't 'playing with a full deck.'**

Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's, radios nor internet, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to 'go sip some Ale and listen to people's conversations and political concerns'. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. 'You go sip here' and 'You go sip there.' The two words 'go sip' were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term '**gossip.**' (Makes more sense than the Oxford Dictionary's version!)

P.S.: You know these are some terms you might explain to your grandchildren to help them understand when you say them.

We'll Be There Soon Enough?!

A ROSE IS A ROSE IS A ROSE

An elderly couple had dinner at another couple's house, and after eating, the wives left the table and went into the kitchen.

The two gentlemen were talking, and one said, 'Last night we went out to a new restaurant and it was really great I would recommend it very highly.'

The other man said, *'What is the name of the restaurant?'*

The first man thought and thought and finally said, *'What's the name of that flower you give to someone you love? You know, the one that's red and has thorns.'*

'Do you mean a rose?'

'Yes, that's the one,' replied the man. He then turned towards the kitchen and yelled, *'Rose, what's the name of that restaurant we went to last night?'*

WHAT KIND IS IT?

A man was telling his neighbor, *'I just bought a new hearing aid. It cost me four thousand dollars, but it's state of the art. It's perfect.'*

'Really,' answered the neighbor. *'What kind is it?'* 'It's twelve thirty.'

IN YOUR 90's?

A couple in their nineties are both having problems remembering things. During a check-up, the doctor tells them that they're physically okay, but they might want to start writing things down to help them remember..

-Later that night, while watching TV, the old man gets up from his chair *'Want anything while I'm in - the kitchen?'* he asks.

'Will you get me a bowl of ice cream?'

'Sure.'

'Don't you think you should write it down so you can remember it?' she asks.

'No, I can remember it.'

'Well, I'd like some strawberries on top, too. Maybe you should write it down, so as not to forget it?'

He says, *'I can remember that. You want a bowl of ice cream with strawberries.'*

'I'd also like whipped cream. I'm certain you'll forget that, write it down?' she asks.

Irritated, he says, *'I don't need to write it down, I can remember it! Ice cream with strawberries and whipped cream - I got it, for goodness sake!'*

Then he toddles into the kitchen. After about 20 minutes, the old man returns from the kitchen and hands his wife a plate of bacon and eggs. She stares at the plate for a moment.

'Where's my toast?'

New VA Outpatient Health Clinic



On behalf of Rima Nelson, Phoenix VA Health Care System director, who held a groundbreaking for a new Outpatient Clinic, located at the northwest corner of 32nd St. and Van Buren. The groundbreaking took place in March. The new Outpatient Clinic (OPC) is a state-of-the-art community based outpatient clinic about 5 miles from the Phoenix VA Health System's Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, at the corner of 32nd St. and E. Van Buren in Phoenix. The new facility will consist of 203,000 square feet of clinical space and around 1,400 parking spaces. When it opens in late 2021, the clinic will serve around 60,000 Veterans with about 600 full time staff. Veterans assigned to this clinic will receive Primary Care, Mental Health and other specialty care delivered through tele-health.

VA And Female Veterans Health

The Department of Veterans Affairs has called more than 1.2 million female veterans nationwide to describe their benefits and provide information on health services available at the VA department, a part of an effort to close the gap between male and female veterans. A women veterans call center was established six years ago to provide information to those female callers on services available to female veterans at the VA. In the past seven months, it has received nearly eighty thousand calls for information.

VA's chief consultant for women's health services states the VA must do more to bring female veterans through the doors. Female veterans continue to use VA health facilities at significantly lower rates than men. It's not just about more money. It's making sure we are getting the right folks in there so we have people in there, providers really taking care of the women. Many reasons women don't go to the VA for health care are many, but VA research shows the primary explanations are that women don't know they are eligible and they also don't realize the department provides women's health services. Some specialty services are not available at every VA medical facility nationwide, but every VA health system has two Women's Health Primary Care Providers.

Nearly 140 VA medical centers have an on-site gynecologist, and every VA medical center provides mental and physical health treatment for conditions related to military sexual trauma. Much of the increase in VA health care utilization among women has come in the mental health services, according to the VA. The department has seen a 154% increase in the past 10 years of women seeking behavioral health services, and more than 40% of women have been diagnosed with a mental illness.



The Yeomanette's of World War I



The First World War has been described as the first “modern” war. The term generally refers to mechanized warfare in the form of tanks and airplanes. The increasing manpower demands on the part of all the combatant powers in World War I made it easier for women to make official contributions, though few would fight. Women signed up as ambulance drivers, telephone operators, munitions workers, members of service auxiliaries and in the United States, the Navy’s “Yeomanettes” and the

Army’s “Hello Girls” were the first American women to openly serve in the military. And, though they served in the same war for the same nation, their experiences differed greatly. Serious manpower shortages in the upcoming war of 1917. Then the, Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels took advantage of an ambiguity in the Naval Act of 1916, which didn’t specify that just men could enlist. In early 1917, he took a step of enlisting women in the Navy as yeomen. Hundreds of women between the ages of 18-35 headed to recruiting stations. By April 6, 1917, 2,000 women had enlisted as “Yeoman (F).” By the end of the war, the number of female yeomen had increased to 11,000 which became a real tribute for the women of America.

There was no intent for female yeoman’s to serve in battle and the Navy initially recruited women to take over clerical duties, thereby freeing men to fight. Most female yeomen were indeed assigned to clerical jobs, but the list of jobs the Navy considered suitable for women grew as the war went on. Women also worked as radio and telegraph operators, supervisors for naval shipments, commissary stewards, fingerprint experts, draftsmen, pharmacists, torpedo assemblers and camouflage designers. Once the navy realized young women in uniform were good publicity, it trained female yeomen to march and perform military drills so they could parade in support of war bond drives, troop send-offs and other events where goodwill was valuable.

In My Father's Footsteps



We all need to remember our father. He was the one that gave us life. He was the one that raised us. He was the one that was there for us. He was the one that gave us allowance for doing anything. He was the one that taught us. He was the one that showed us all kinds of things. He was the one that showed you how to love people, especially your Mom. He was the one that likely paid for your college. He was the one that helped you get a job. He was the one who gave you a car, whether you liked it or not. He was the one that taught you how to take care of your younger sisters or brothers. He was the one who taught you how to take out the trash. He was the one who taught you how to re-member your Mother on her birthday, Christmas and just because. He was the one that taught you how to be with a girl and do the right thing with her. He was the one that taught you how to live life and he was the one that taught you to live for God.

VA And ROBO Calls



The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) continue to team up to combat illegal robo-calls targeting Americans, including Veterans and their families. Each year, the FCC receives more than 200,000 complaints about unwanted calls. While this may seem like a big number, it pales in comparison to the millions of robo-calls being made each day. The calls interrupt dinners and family time; they flood landline and mobile phones. Scam calls frequently solicit money for fake charities, including ones claiming to support

America's Veterans - some even claiming to be VA representatives. We know that scam activity increases during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season, so the FCC and VA urge you to be vigilant. We offer the following tips to help you avoid unwanted calls and scams.

- Don't answer calls from unknown numbers. Scammers may spoof their caller ID to display a fake number that appears to be local. If you answer such a call, hang up immediately.
- Never give out personal information such as account numbers, Social Security numbers, mother's maiden names, or passwords in response to unexpected or suspicious calls.
- Be sure to set a password for all voice mail accounts to avoid being hacked.

Register your number on the [Do Not Call List](#) to block calls from legitimate telemarketers.

- Ask your phone company about call-blocking tools and services for your landline phone, and check for helpful apps that you can download to your mobile phone. Please help spread the word about robo-call fraud among those who may need assistance particularly those who are frequently targeted by phone scams. For more information, visit: fcc.gov/robocalls.

VA Health Programming

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently launched its first [Health Application Programming Interface \(API\)](#) that will power the next generation of Blue Button features by enabling Veterans to interact with their own personal health data within innovative mobile and web-based apps. Sponsored by the White House Office of American Innovation, the forum brought together senior health care leaders from both the public and private sectors. Health APIs will also support new clinician-focused applications, and can also serve as a foundation for data sharing between health systems to support Veteran care.

“We are excited to announce this advancement in the way we deliver services,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Healthcare data interoperability plays a key role in all four of VA’s top priorities, from implementing the [MISSION Act](#) and modernizing our electronic health record, to transforming our business systems and delivering better customer service. VA is proud to serve as a leader and example in this field.” Consistent with VA’s Open API Pledge, the Health API conforms to the Argonaut Fast Healthcare Interoperability Resources (FHIR) API standards. VA believes that open FHIR-based APIs are an essential component in a modern interoperability strategy, and that government and industry must collaborate to expand available FHIR resources and its use.

RUOK? “And Mean It”



In Hebrew, the word for love is *ahava*, which comes from the root word, “*hav*” or “to give.” In Judaism, to love is to give. Giving to others forms the connection that enables us to love one another. In Proverbs we read: “*Even in laughter the heart may ache, and rejoicing may end in grief.*” The traditional understanding of this teaching is that we shouldn’t confuse fun with fulfillment or being at a party with being at peace. While we may be attracted to activities that look like fun, they won’t necessarily fill our heart and soul. The material world can be enjoyable, but left unchecked, it can lead a person to an empty life, or even a self-destructive lifestyle. However, I think that there is an additional lesson to be learned from this verse, one very relevant

today. Scripture is not just teaching us something about ourselves, but something we need to know about others. Just because someone is laughing, doesn’t mean they are happy. Just because someone appears to be enjoying life, doesn’t mean they are “OK”.

We need to ask the question “Are you ok?” and really mean it or RUOK? A lot of people need help, but don’t ask for it. A lot of people look fine, but are not ok at all. By asking this one simple question, future tragedies could be averted. The Bible teaches us: “Don’t just stand by when your neighbor’s life is in danger” (Leviticus 19:16 and then immediately after that comes the command to “love your neighbor as yourself” (Leviticus 19:18). We are commanded to love others — and love means not being indifferent to another person’s pain. Unfortunately, we have come to learn as a society that when a person feels unwell emotionally, their life might be in danger. We are not allowed to stand idly by when someone’s life is at stake, and so we must do what we can to ensure the emotional well-being of others, as well as their physical safety. We need to read between the lines and most of the time we are capable of that

Today, pick one or two people to check up on. Ask “Are you ok?” and really mean it. Listen deeply when others speak to you and look them in the eye. Most of all, come from a place of love and concern. If we take the time to sincerely ask this simple question, we could change a life — or even save one. We see people every day, you may not know them, but get to know them and see what is going on with them and theirs.

1. **SHOW COMPASSION.** Rachel was the model for compassion toward others, during her lifetime and beyond. Look for ways you can model compassion in your life. (Psalm 145:8-9)
2. **TAKE LESS, GIVE MORE.** Just as Rachel made sacrifices for others, we are also called to give up things like money, time, or the spotlight for the sake of others. Consider what you might sacrifice today for someone you love. (Genesis 44:33; John 15:13)
3. **SHOW APPRECIATION.** So many people have given up something for our sake – teachers, parents, family, friends, co-workers, and so on. Let them know you notice and that you are grateful. (Deuteronomy 24:13; Philippians 1:3)
4. **LISTEN LOVINGLY.** Visitors often take their difficulties to Rachel’s Tomb and pour out their hearts. Sometimes the greatest gift you can give someone is listening to his or her problems in a loving way. (Job 21:2; Luke 8:18)
5. **ENJOY YOUR JOURNEY.** Sometimes we are so caught up in reaching our goals that we fail to appreciate the process of getting there. As they say, “Life’s a journey, not a destination.” (Ecclesiastes 9:9; 1 Timothy 6:17)

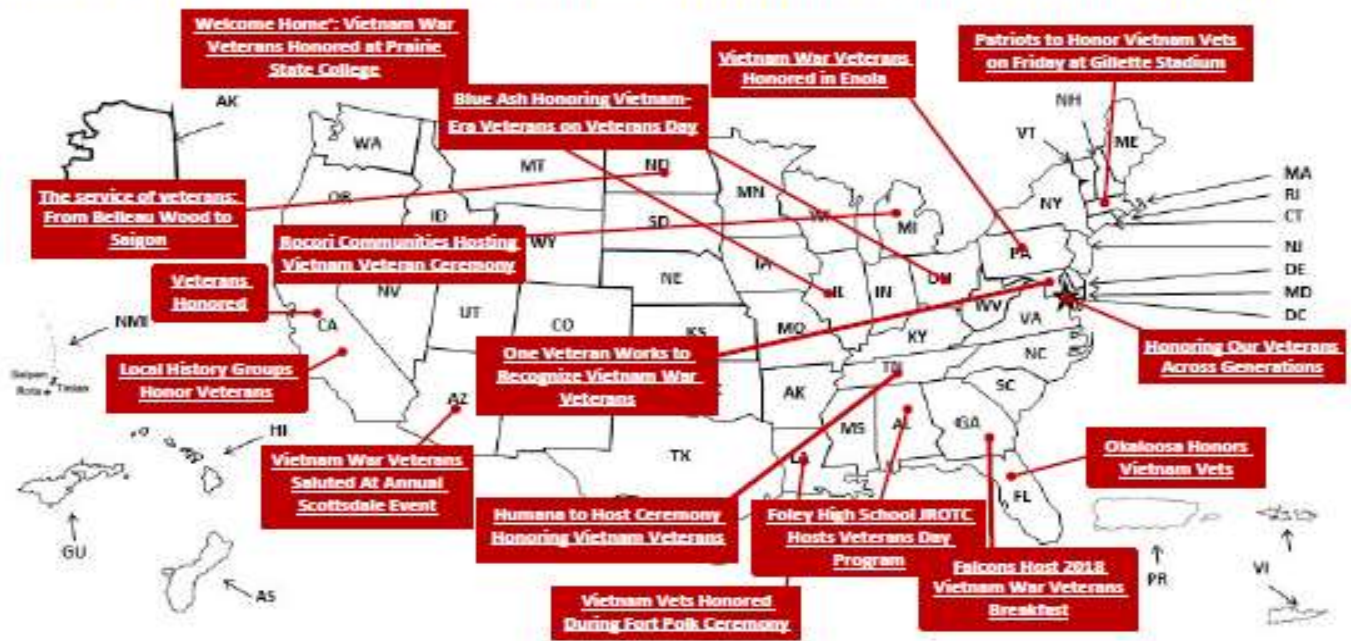
SITREP From The DOD 50th Commemoration



Friday, November 30

Dear Commemorative Partners,

Veterans Day weekend 2018 was amazing! Over 300 events were held nationwide in which we provided over 30, 211 Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins and 1,663 Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse Lapel Pins to thank and honor our warriors and their families. Here are just a few highlights:



Above & Beyond
Collier-Lee Honor Flight
 The Collier-Lee Honor Flight held a pinning ceremony in Ft. Meyer, FL on November 12 in observance of Veterans Day. An astounding 641 Vietnam Veterans were presented the Lapel Pin! Please [click here](#) to view the article and amazing photos!
Thank you, Collier-Lee Honor Flight!

Another major day for the Commemoration is *March 29*, recognized as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. As you make plans to host events on this day, it's not too early to submit eligible family members (parents, spouses, siblings and children) of those listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—including those listed as missing in action by the Department of Defense—for the [Certificate of Honor Program](#). To date, the program has honored over 4,100 family members and 444 Former POWs. These certificates and accompanying lapel pins are available to our Partners via the [Partner Portal](#) on our website. Also, don't forget to complete the "After Action Report" in the portal and *share your stories* with us on Facebook and Twitter ... we love to talk about the great work that you all are doing!

We're grateful to you, our Partners, for being a ... *Proud Partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!*

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Why We (Vietnam Veterans) Like Retirement

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Two hours after falling asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees does it take to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal.

Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?

Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.

Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

And, my very favorite...

Question: What do you do all week?

Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING. Saturday & Sunday, I rest.

ADVS Military and Veteran Women's Summit

SAVE THE DATE!

ADVS MILITARY & VETERAN WOMEN'S SUMMIT

*"PLUG IN TO YOUR
VETERAN NETWORK"*



Friday, June 14, 2019

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m

Saturday, June 15, 2019

7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m

Tempe Mission Palms
Hotel & Conference Center
3658, 60 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281

More details coming soon!



Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

For Arizona veterans and those who care for them.

Women's Healing of Memories

Healing of
Memories
Workshop

For

Women
Veterans
Only

Announcing another Healing of Memories Workshop for Women Veterans. It was held at Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center in Carefree, AZ on April 5-7, 2019. The workshop is devoted to women vets only and will provided them with a safe experiential and interactive way to address anger, loss, grief and guilt. The workshop is free of charge to any woman service member or veteran, including all meals and two nights lodging. It begins with dinner at 6pm on Friday, April 5 and ends at 2pm on Sunday, April 7. People who have attended this workshop say that it was a major step in their healing from their psychological and spiritual wounds. Transportation will be provided to those who need it.

The Healing of Memories Workshop was created by Father Michael Lapsley, an Anglican missionary priest, who in 1990 suffered the loss of his hands and the sight in one eye from a letter bomb that was sent to him in Zimbabwe by a sup-



porter of the pro-apartheid government in South Africa. After a long recovery from the bombing, Father Lapsley decided to dedicate his life to helping victims of emotional, psychological and spiritual wounds inflicted by war, human rights abuses and other traumatic circumstances. Any woman service member or veteran who is interested in the workshop may find out more information or register free for the workshop by contacting Cyndy at the Spirit in the Desert Retreat Center at 480-488-5218 or Mike Wold, a Navy veteran, at 651-687-9767. <https://spiritinthedesert.org/event/healing-memories-workshop-women-veterans-2-2/>.



Plus hundreds of Individuals, Churches, Small Business ... people who care and want healing for our Veterans & 1st Responders!

War, And Whom We Have Had Disagreements With

The United States wasn't the most dominant country on Earth from the get-go. For most of our nearly 240+-year history, in fact, we have sort of lived by the skin of our teeth. The **BIG** question is **WHY** do **WE** and the rest of the **WORLD** have so much **WAR**? Looking **backwards**, let's see how much.



Terrorists-Radical terrorism is nothing new. Just like insurgent groups, extremists, and jihad's attacking Americans in the name of their gods, other militants have been picking at the U.S. for centuries. ISIS and al-Qaeda are just the latest groups to come. Anarchists, organized labor, and other saboteurs were bombing American facilities well before Osama bin Laden thought of it. In my opinion, terrorism is going to be here for quite some time.



Soviet Union-They have had this notion that communism is the best thing for a country, but they maybe need to buy less guns and more food. The Cold War was a hot war. It killed millions of people worldwide and throw the American system into total disarray. It definitely had potential. Unfortunately, they were much better at killing their own people than killing Americans.



Mexico-When the only southern border wall was one made of gunpowder smoke, Mexico ranked higher on this list than our primary Cold War adversary, but before the United States could take on other countries, the threat from Mexico carried some weight. The Mexican-American War was a victory for the United States. Greater than 16% of Americans never came home.



China-The 19th-20th century didn't look good for China, but they turned things around. The Chinese fueled the Korean War, the war in Vietnam, and the ongoing struggle with Taiwan and they continue their current military buildup to be able to face threats from the U.S. They may be someday.



Japan-Japan had the might and the means to be able to take down the United States. Their only problem was poor planning and even worse execution. The problem started long before Pearl Harbor beat Russia and China one after the other turned them into a monster with its warrior culture that they became enamored with the process of being a warrior than winning the wars.



Germany-Germans were worse in real life during warfare. WWI Germany was vastly different from WWII who was bent on world domination and the interwar years were just as dangerous for the US and world. Some Americans, then really believed National Socialism was the way forward, even after the wars.



Great Britain-The United States would be difficult to invade, but what if your armed forces were already on American soil and all you had to do was just keep those colonists from revolting while still paying their taxes? The only way anyone could ever have killed off the fledgling United States would be to kill it in its cradle and the British came very, very close.

Bottom Line: The USA has had its share of wars, conflicts, loss of people and everything that goes with it. Look at the loss within the world and for what? **Powerful people did it and still do it as a result of one word and that is PRIDE. It's all built into all of us, but we better watch it carefully as it might the death of us as well.**

The Last Word(s) On the Last Page

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So far, it has been a very busy 2019. We are getting ready for the VVA National Convention July 16th - 20th in Spokane, Washington. Arizona should have at least 24 delegates to be able to attend.

The Region 8 & 9 Conference will be on Saturday, June 1st in Sparks, Nevada at the Nugget Casino and Resort. They will be preparing for the Convention by going over Amendments, Resolutions, Election of Officers, and At-Large Board of Director (BOD). Some of the upcoming candidates will be attending.

We have visited the Arizona State Capitol many times this 2019 and had meetings with the Arizona State Legislative Veterans Caucus in January, February and March have been fruitful. I will also attending State Senate and House Committee meetings pertaining to Veteran Bills and attending the U. S. Congress Veterans committee Meetings. I would like to thank State Council Legislative Chairman Terry Araman for keeping track of Bills and attending Committee Meetings.

March is the month to send in HHG Reports and the submission for the Veteran Service Officer Program Grant to VVA National and the VSO Grant for the 6th month Report to VVA National. I would like to thank the Veteran Service Officers for their dedicated hours of helping "ALL" veterans, their families, and caregivers. A special thank you to Ed Uzumekis. Chuck Byers Staff member of Congresswoman Debbie Lesko stays in touch on what is happening in Washington, D.C.

Wow, there are so many "thank you's", the State Council Vice Presidents Pat Farrell, Randy Schriver, and Bill Beecher for traveling and attending meetings within Arizona. And to Treasurer Paul Reichenbach for putting in many hours of work getting the 2018 & 2019 records, and reports together and sent out along with Noel Stephens ensuring the VVA National Membership list gets out to the Chapters, Color Guards of Chapters 432 and 1011 during many events separately and together, and to Walt Schumacher for keeping great minutes and creation of the "The AZ-LZ" Newsletter. "The AZ-LZ" newsletter is being put in for the E-Newspaper Award at the Convention in July 2019. Thanks also to Lou Ann Huskisson sending out information for Women Veterans. Jim Covarrubias as Minority Chair staying on top of events, bills, and working with U. S. Congress members and staff in Arizona. Thanks to AVVA for their lunches at the State Council Meetings. The food is really great. And to Regional 9 Director, Dick Southern for attending our State Council Meetings and giving "up-to-date" information from VVA National and his own regional area.

In April, I will be traveling to Silver Spring, Maryland. And on April 8-10, I will be visiting VA Headquarters and Capitol Hill for meetings with Congress and the Staff dealing with Veteran Bills and issues. And then on April 11-13, I will attending the Conference of State Council Presidents, Board of Directors meeting and Committee meetings.

There seems to be many events for veterans from January through July in Arizona. The summary of events are being sent out by email to the State Council and Chapter Presidents. I'd like to remind members teamwork is very important to have Arizona State Council as one of the leaders with VVA. Thank all of you for being a team player.

Please keep in your prayers our sisters and brothers that are having health issues, and lost loved ones.

