

Special points of  
interest:

- Looking at 2022
- The VVA Convention
- The Story of Chapter 106
- The Life of Chapter 835
- Officer of the AZ State Council
- 50th Commemoration
- The AZ-LZ is back
- 825 & 106 win awards

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# The "AZ-LZ"

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2022

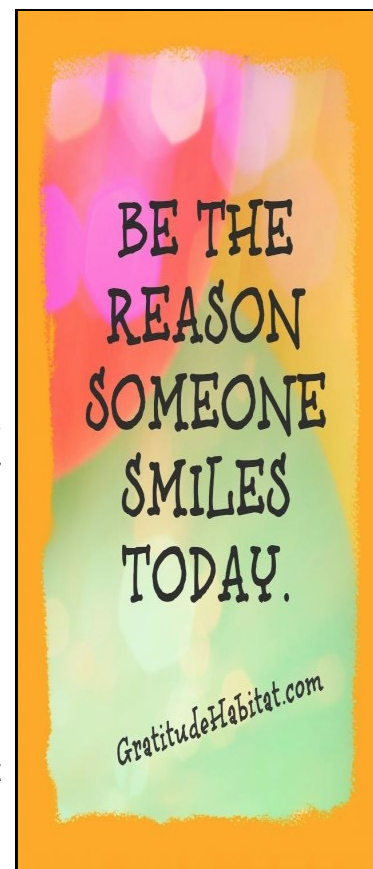
## Welcome to a NEW Timeframe in our World

The past couple of years have been very interesting in our lives and things may get to be yet a little different or a little worse. What we have to do is rely and trust and be the kind of person that we all should be and that is helpful, presentable, kind, loving and be there for others in any way that we can.

As adults, we sort of know things in our world will change, but sometimes to the degree that they do during these days is and can be somewhat startling. With that, we have to be "**STRONG**".

As you read this, we are all in our older age of 70+ years and life is about over for many of us if not all of us. I'm not trying to be pragmatic, just being honest as none of us have ever been this age before and the body starts to fall apart, the memory goes, the hair, well we won't talk much about that and then the brain feels like we are 15 years old and we have forgotten a lot of our life.

Soon, many of us may need a lot of help for our person, but **we need to make the most** of what we have in our life. Live well, live honest with truth and kindness and be there for people.



## What Can YOU Do For Someone?

You know whenever I see a homeless person, I ALWAYS think of myself being homeless. It stands to reason that all of you reading this are not homeless and we should always remember to be there for people as this world is about people. If you can, be somewhat involved in part of their life to help them get out of homelessness, find them a one room apartment, give them enough of a job to keep the afloat. Remember them on holidays when you have everyone in your life and they have no one. Seriously consider donating some of your money to a homeless shelter, the Salvation Army or buy gift cards to give away. Anything we can do for someone in bad shape shows we care about PEOPLE.

## Chapter 835 Wins “<199 Members for Newsletter”



Surprises NEVER end when a chapter that is about to close wins an award at a VVA National Convention. When I put in for the award for the “**BEST NEWSLETTER**” for <199 members back in January 2021, Chapter 835 was NOT, I repeat NOT in the stage of closing. In fact, we were (I thought) somewhat fairly firm, but then what did I know then? Well, as it turns out our President Randy Schriver was presented with an award for Chapter 835 which is now closed. What a surprise and a huge **THANK YOU** for all that saw this and paid their respects to me for the win. As you can tell, “I like to write” and I hope it means something to all of you reading this newsletter, It was a real blessing to hear of it and add to my collection of three others from 2013, 2015 and 2019 of winning national awards for the “THE AZ-LZ”. [Thank you ALL.](#)

## A Sample Of A VVA-35 Newsletter

### The VVA-835 News - July 2021

**We Welcome You**  
We would like to have ALL of you read this VVA-835 Newsletter as it will be the last one produced for the Yuma Chapter. It has a long haul, so take in all of this newsletter and the content and please remember the “GOOD ‘OL DAYS”, of when we were growing up, school, the service, family, kids, and now grandchildren and now retirement.

**Those Times of Yester-Year**

This is the same thing as “googling” on the web. Back in the day, we had to look up a topic on an index card and then go find the book that had our information.

Remember the 5¢ cokes and the great large sized sandwiches back in the day 60+ years ago, and it was a good time for all of us and gas was 10¢ a gallon. Those were the days of long gone.

The 25¢ milk shakes that were simply delicious and the gathering with your friends from grammar or high school and talking about anything and everything. Don't lose those thoughts as they are precious to you and your family members.

**VVA Convention in North Carolina-2021**

**20TH BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONVENTION**  
November 2-6, 2021 Greensboro, North Carolina

**Colorized Photos From WWII**  
We have all seen black and white photos from a long time ago, but's nice to see color photos when you really wonder what they look in reality. Can you even imagine being in WWII, much less seeing pictures a few years after we were born? I can't!!

**Chapter Count for VVA-Arizona**

Region	State	Chapter	Status	Mbrs
09	AZ	AZ0000	Active	389
09	AZ	AZ0095	Active	46
09	AZ	AZ0106	Active	223
09	AZ	AZ0432	Active	134
09	AZ	AZ0835	Active	54
09	AZ	AZ0975	Active	141
09	AZ	AZ1011	Active	177
09	AZ	AZ1043	Active	116
09	AZ	AZ1093	Active	113

**The Yuma Veterans Rest Home Almost Done**

Well, Veterans, for those of us that may not have a nice place to live for the rest of our life, the Yuma Veterans Home is nearly complete and it will be nice for those that need a place for a while.

When I write a newsletter , I look at three sub-topics to consider and that is something **INFORMATIVE**, something **HISTORICAL** and something **PERSONAL**.

So much in our lives have come and gone such as the low, low price of gas at .54¢ per gallon and the keys to a car and how about the file cabinet when you go to a library. Do you recall the ice cream counter in a typical Rexall drug store?

And then news about an upcoming VVA National Convention and the photos, elections, information being passed down to folks like us that will likely affect us later on in a few months.

And then, great news about someone within VVA or the death of a member whom we should remember because one day our name may be among them. Write for everyone and those in the future..

## Chapter 106 News Update

As far as membership we are at 230 and AVVA 27 for the year. As this year is coming close and we stop and look back over it to see what the Chapter has done as a Chapter we need to take a moment to look at the members we lost and have been very sick. We have lost some very good friends and have had a few that have been in the hospital very sick plus some wives and other family members and those we want to remember and our prayers.

I have been your Chapter President for the last six years and thankful for all that has supported me in all this time and those other Chapter Officer that have taken this Chapter to the best times over those six years and also those Board Member that have serviced too. Without these men and women this Chapter couldn't have gotten to where it is today.

This year 2021 started just about where 2020 end with [COVID](#) still with us as it is now. But we have battle it and still fighting through now just as we have fought in our wars and have not giving up hope. This one we will win with our faith in God and Country. We have helped many Veterans since COVID from 2020 and 2021 in their time of need in tune of thousands of dollars. If it hadn't been for Grands and Donation form State and Desert Diamond plus a few other smaller ones we would not been able to do this year in helping those Veterans that were in need.

## Partnering With Organizations

This year we have partner with these **Organizations** to help many more veterans because no one Org could pay out big rent and other bills that came to us or them.



## Chapter 106 News Update in Year 2021

We started this year 2021 by zoom meeting then in person meeting at the First Assembly of God thanks to Dan Ross a member there. We have had a pretty good turnout for these meetings. COVID has been for not to come but we understand this for health reasons for them and family.

We have had our Nam to Sand Jam meeting for planning our Car Show September 25 and Nam to Sand Jam October 23. We have gotten the Marines Reserves and Sahuarita High School JROTC on board for help with Nam to Sand Jam which was a big help.

April of this year the Chapter gave a JROTC award to NJROTC C/First Class Petty Officer Lynsey Varner of Schuarita High School. I believe this was the first for the Chapter.

There were a few changes made in our By-Laws to cover our virtual meeting we are having. Plus merging the Financial VP and Executive VP as a single Vice President.

Some may not know that the Chapter donated our big military tent 18x20 and our Simi Trailer to Esperanza En Escalante for their use as we no longer needed them because tent was too much to put up for us and was no longer in need. Total value of these was \$3600 donated to them.

In August Martin and me setup out at the Air Base DM to hand out flyers for car Show and Nam to Sand Jam and had Vietnam Poppies for donations plus Little Anthony Car Show for the same thing.

Jim Barnhart was able to get the Chapter a large donation form Tierra Antiqua Realty for \$5000 and a donation form Pioneer Title Agency for \$300 both for Sponsorship of Nam to Sand Jam. Terry was able to get another Sponsorship from Desert Diamond for a \$1000 for Nam to Sand Jam. We had some donation for (NSJ) come in with Raffle Tickets sale.

We have made donations to EEE / Women Warriors / Marine Crop Rev. for sponsorship of Tee golf tournament plus a donation to the Schuarita JROTC program because their help with Nam to Sand Jam. There was a donation the Marine Crop Rev for Toys for Tots for the same reason.

## Vietnam 50th Commemoration News



### THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION



“SITREP” 2021 – Issue 12

Wednesday, November 10

*Dear Commemorative Partners,*



*Veterans Day* ... born from the 1918 cease-fire of the **Great War** on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. Heroic declarations of **honor**, **service before self** and **sacrifice** resound as Americans venerate those who have worn a **military uniform in active service**, as well as **their families**.

More than **42 million** Americans have served in **times of war**; **19 million** are **living in America and abroad today**. Beginning in 1789, each of these **patriots** raised their right hand and solemnly affirmed they would ... *support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and ... bear true faith and allegiance to the same.*

Those who make this **declaration** ... this **commitment** ... this **solemn vow** ... are richly deserving of our abiding appreciation. Notably, **nearly one-third** of the **19 million** veterans alive today served on **active duty** between **Nov 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975**—the **Vietnam War period**. Our country and our communities owe you our **profound gratitude** and **humble respect**. Offer your hand, give a call, text a heartfelt thank you, or [share this powerful video](#) with family, friends and neighbors who served.

This year, **November 11** marks the **Centennial Anniversary** of the **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier**. This **sacred memorial site** serves as the “**heart**” of **Arlington National Cemetery (ANC)**. **Sentinels**—the elite of the elite from the **3d U.S. Infantry** (“The Old Guard”)—stand watch over the Tomb day and night. The Tomb provides a focal point around which the history of ANC can be woven. Its story is captured in a [compelling video](#) narrated by ANC’s Senior Historian, Allison Finkelstein.

On Memorial Day 1984, a **Vietnam War Unknown** was interred in a crypt west of the Tomb. In 1998, DNA testing allowed the remains to be identified as those of U.S. Air Force pilot 1st Lt. Michael Joseph Blassie, shot down in 1972. In accordance with his family’s wishes, Blassie was laid to rest at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in St. Louis, Missouri. This left the original crypt vacant. On September 17, 1999—National POW/MIA Recognition Day—it was **rededicated to honor all missing U.S. service members from the Vietnam War** (photo at right).



During this centennial remembrance, *please observe 11 minutes of silence at 11 a.m.* in honor of **more than 1 million** who have given their lives for our freedoms, and *let church bells ring* in your communities *as together we honor all our veterans!*

~ The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff ~

Note: The 2021 Veterans Day poster shown above is available to [download here](#), as well as four decades of previous Veterans Day posters.

*Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!*

vietnamwar50th.com

## VVA-AZ Officer and Delegate Update for 2022

### AZ State Council Board of Directors

- President: Randy Schriver [rlschriver-azsc@cox.net](mailto:rlschriver-azsc@cox.net)
- Vice President: Bill Beecher [safd47d@yahoo.com](mailto:safd47d@yahoo.com)
- Vice President: John Dodge [sjddodge@hotmail.com](mailto:sjddodge@hotmail.com)
- Sec/Treasurer: Paul Reichenbach [chiefreich911@msn.com](mailto:chiefreich911@msn.com)
- Past President: Gene Crego [genecrego@gmail.com](mailto:genecrego@gmail.com)
- Membership Director: Noel Stephens [iuguy@cox.net](mailto:iuguy@cox.net)
- State Chaplin: Dan Ross [danvett22@gmail.com](mailto:danvett22@gmail.com)
- Director at Large: Lou Ann Huskisson [azhuskisson@cox.net](mailto:azhuskisson@cox.net)
- Sergeant at Arms: Butch Morgan [butchmorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:butchmorgan@yahoo.com)

### Chapter Directors to State Council

- Chapter 95: Terry Nolan [tnolan.tn@gmail.com](mailto:tnolan.tn@gmail.com)
- Chapter 106: Butch Morgan [butchmorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:butchmorgan@yahoo.com)
- Chapter 432: Sue Wudy [lilsarge@mindspring.com](mailto:lilsarge@mindspring.com)
- Chapter 975: Mike Beard [president@vva975.vet](mailto:president@vva975.vet)
- Chapter 1011: John Dodge [sjddodge@hotmail.com](mailto:sjddodge@hotmail.com)
- Chapter 1093: Bill Colberg [recolberg@cox.net](mailto:recolberg@cox.net)

### Chapter Delegates to State Council

- Chapter 95: Mike Thoman      Tony Shaw
- Chapter 106: Butch Morgan      Jim Barnhart
- Chapter 432: Bill Messer      Jim Munoz
- Chapter 975: Mike Beard      Dave Stafford
- Chapter 1011: John Dodge      Dennis Gorman
- Chapter 1093: Larry Horton      William Colberg

## Chapter Information in VVA-AZ for 2022

### 95 Prescott

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P.O. Box 1343  
Prescott, AZ. 86302  
President: Terry Nolan  
[tnolan1.tn@gmail.com](mailto:tnolan1.tn@gmail.com)

### 106 Tucson

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P.O. Box 40903  
Tucson, AZ. 85717  
President: Butch Morgan  
[butchmorgan@yahoo.com](mailto:butchmorgan@yahoo.com)

### 432 Phoenix

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P.O. Box 10363  
Phoenix, AZ. 85064  
President: Paul Reichenbach  
[chiefreich911@msn.com](mailto:chiefreich911@msn.com)

### 975 Mohave County

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P.O. Box 184  
Kingman, AZ. 86402  
President: Mike Beard  
[president@vva975.vet](mailto:president@vva975.vet)

### 1011 Mesa, AZ

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P.O. Box 52587  
Mesa, AZ. 85208  
President: John Dodge  
[sjkdodge@hotmail.com](mailto:sjkdodge@hotmail.com)

### 1093 Sierra Vista

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P.O. Box 254  
Sierra Vista, AZ. 85636  
President: Bill Beecher  
[safd47d@yahoo.com](mailto:safd47d@yahoo.com)

Arizona's chapters are slightly being diminished as time goes on, so we (All VVA members) have to do what we can to keep the Vietnam Veterans Spirit alive while we can and pass it on to those that know nothing to little about the Vietnam War.

# The LAST Book You Might Write As A Chapter

## The Life of VVA Chapter 835 from 2000-2021

### Yuma, Arizona



This is the cover of the last and only book that Chapter 835 will ever have. It has a lot of history in with the names of all of the officers, directors, delegates, some members, etc. It also has photos of so many events that all of us were in from the beginning of time to nearly the last days of its existence. History and remembrances of life either personal, professional or social can be very critical. Many of us have already said: **"I wish I would have..."** and yes I have said the same thing over time. We all have family members that would like to see what life was like back in the day, oh let's say the mid-1900's when we were little and as the years "fly by". So, find one or two people in your group that like to write, take pictures, take videos, document, archive, et al. It will be more important than you think as we age and the Vietnam Veterans of America moves forward.



# Some "Last" Pictures of Chapter 835



## New VVA National Officers for 2022-2024



Jack McManus  
President



Tom Burke  
Vice President



Bill Meeks  
Secretary



Linda Spoonster Schwartz  
Treasurer

VVA National has a practically new group of officers to run the organization over the next two years and we all need to be there for them in supporting them and understanding what changes might take place from now until then. We **ALWAYS** need to support and be supportive for our leaders as **"IF WE WERE IN THEIR PLACE"**, what might we do that someone else may not understand or comprehend. Let's all be there for VVA National and Arizona.

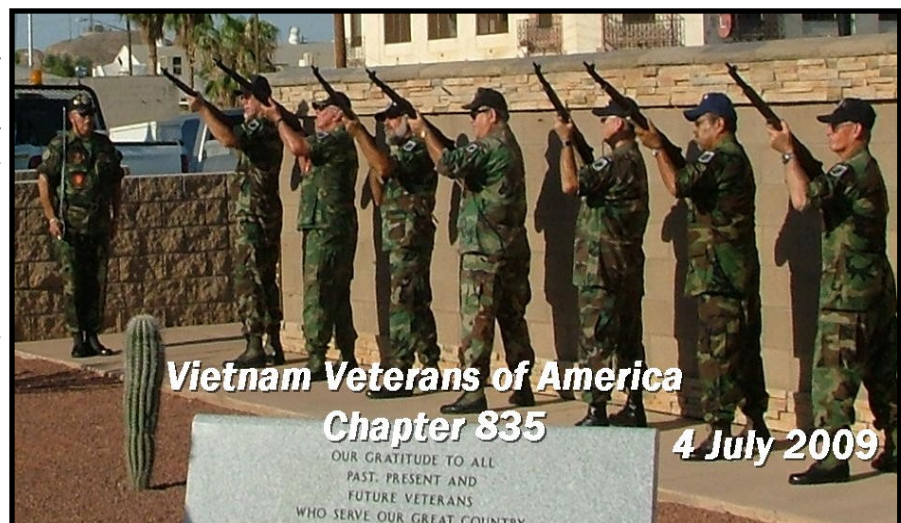
### A Look Back At Chapter 835 And A Look Forward

It has been just about twenty one years since Chapter 835 got started and it started out real well. We had a lot of interested and devoted members and then as time passes, things seem to wane. We all get older and physically and mentally, we may not be up to it any longer. The interest dies within us and everything regarding "things such as this" seem to go away as well.

For those of you that have a chapter doing well, such as Chapters 106, 432, 1011, 1093 and 975,, keep it going strong and be there for those Vietnam Veterans who have never heard of "VVA" and get the word out and keep the word out as one day, many of us will not be any longer. Create different events, take pictures, take videos, create those memories for all of you to remember what you did back in the early 2000's and later on. When we get up there in years, memories are all we have and we also need something to pass to our family members.

When it came to Chapter 835, we have nearly 50 videos celebrating different events throughout its time as a Chapter, thousands of pictures to create documents such as what you are reading, the 12"x12" Snapfish books, movies, you name it.

So, all of you presidents, find someone to document your chapter so it is available to everyone in your chapter. For Chapter 95, get a team together within your chapter to help build it back up. If you need help, please email the Vice President's to seek help to see what they might be able to do for you. After all, you, Chapter 95 were the first one within Arizona, so it is important to keep you around.



# How Much Do YOU Recall From Vietnam?

**Let's See What You Know (Chúng ta hãy xem những gì bạn biết)**



(Put an arrow to country of the word below)

- China
- Thailand
- Cambodia
- Japan
- Vietnam
- No. & So. Korea
- Philippines
- Papua New Guinea
- Indonesia
- India
- Taiwan (given to you) 😊



\_\_\_\_\_ ↗

\_\_\_\_\_ ↗

\_\_\_\_\_ ↗

Name this food

What is this city shown above?

These are called what?

## How Much Do YOU Recall From Vietnam? (Cont'd)



Current day COINS and current day CURRENCY

Currency back in the 1960's

The country of Vietnam (as we know it today began in China.

In the middle 1800's, it began as a colony by the country of \_\_\_\_\_.

As a matter of fact this unknown country absorbed 2 other countries with it and they were called \_\_\_\_\_.

With the three countries now under \_\_\_\_\_, it was called \_\_\_\_\_ and it remained a colony until 1954 when \_\_\_\_\_ lost their final battle with Vietnam and it became an independent nation.

After that, Vietnam wanted to spread an ideology called \_\_\_\_\_ throughout Southeast Asia and Oceania and they lost that battle.

Today Vietnam is a Communist State, run in a Socialism manner and operate as a Capitalistic nation. All in all, Vietnam lost the battle over a fifteen year war.

### ENGLISH      VIETNAMESE      PRONUNCIATION

#### GENERAL CONVERSATION

Hello, good-bye	Chào.	Chow.
Mr.	Ông.	Um.
Mrs.	Bà.	Bah.
Miss.	Cô.	Ko.
You (child).	Em.	Em.
How are you?	Ông (bà, cô, em) mạnh giỏi không?	Um mon yoy come?
I'm fine.	Tôi mạnh giỏi.	Toy mon yoy.
Thank you.	Cám ơn ông.	Come on um.
Please say it again.	Xin ông nói lại.	Sin um noy lie.
Excuse me, I don't understand.	Xin lỗi ông, tôi không hiểu.	Sin loy um, toy come hew.



The church on the left is in Saigon Vietnam while the church on the right is in Paris France and they are "basically the same church". What is the name of this church and why?

## VVA National News From the Convention—2021



**Jack McManus** was elected to serve as National President of Vietnam Veterans of America on November 6 at the organization's 20th National Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina. He was first elected VVA national treasurer in 1995 and was re-elected to the position in 1997 and 2019. Jack previously served as the VVA Michigan State Council President for six and a half years from 1989 to 1996, overseeing the largest state program in VVA. In 1997, he was awarded VVA's highest honor, the VVA Commendation Medal, for his extraordinary service to the organization, to all veterans, and to the community at large. He has also been recognized by the VVA New York State Council with its Commendation Medal.

Originally from New York City, Jack joined the Air Force in 1965, where he served until 1969. Between 1967 and 1968, he was assigned to Operation Ranch Hand in Vietnam. Jack received his B.A. in Business Management from New York University in 1973. He resides in North Carolina, with his wife Jackie. He is a recipient of numerous business and community awards. Jack is deeply committed to achieving justice and receiving answers for veterans and their families whose health has been impacted by their exposure to toxic substances during their military service.

**Thomas Burke** of New Philadelphia, Ohio, was re-elected to serve as Vice President; **Bill Meeks, Jr.**, of Woodlands, Texas, was re-elected as Secretary; and **Linda Schwartz** of Pawcatuck, Connecticut, was elected as VVA's Treasurer.

In addition, 19 National Board of Directors were elected: Ten At Large and nine Regional. The At-Large directors are Dottie Barickman (NE); Charlie Hobbs (TN); Gumersindo Gomez (MA); Dennis Howland (UT); Felix Peterson (OK); Richard Lindbeck (WI); Dan Stenvold (ND); Kerwin Stone (TX); Charlie Montgomery (VA); and Sandie Wilson (MI).

The nine regional directors elected to serve a 2021-2023 term are: Region 1, Skip Hochreich (MA); Region 2, Ted Wilkinson (NY); Region 3, Rossie Nance (NC); Region 4, Spence Davis (GA); Region 5, John Riling (MI); Region 6, John Margowski (WI); Region 7, Dennis Andras (LA); Region 8, Francisco Ivarra (WA); and **Region 9, Dick Southern (CA)**.

## VVA National Convention Count of Votes

VOTE TALLY SHEET - Nov 5, 2021										
	OFFICERS									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	Totals
<b>PRESIDENT</b>										
Jack McManus-MI	17	35	137	44	21	29	40	28	49	400
John Rowan-NY	12	55	24	35	101	16	12	1	22	278
<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>										
Tom Burke-OH	16	65	32	56	113	28	10	11	46	377
Jake Barsttini-PA	12	25	126	19	8	16	41	18	22	287
<b>SECRETARY</b>										
Bill Meeks-TX	22	77	116	68	108	37	50	16	52	546
<b>TREASURER</b>										
Linda Schwartz-CT	19	54	93	33	103	35	42	6	51	436
Wayne Reynolds-AL	10	37	65	43	19	10	11	23	19	237

VOTE TALLY SHEET - Nov 5, 2021										
	NATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS -- AT LARGE									
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R7	R8	R9	Totals
1 Dottie Barickman-NE	21	66	101	60	89	40	31	29	45	482
2 Charlie Hobbs-TN	10	44	135	55	80	15	48	28	28	443
3 Sandie Wilson-MI	21	37	103	37	85	17	27	22	37	386
4 Gumersindo Gomez-MA	19	60	43	61	103	16	11	14	20	347
5 Kerwin Stone-TX	12	51	67	47	61	19	51	7	31	346
6 Richard Lindbeck-WI	16	48	59	35	78	37	25	6	20	324
7 Dan Stenvold-ND	15	62	30	35	65	38	20	23	27	315
8 Charles Montgomery-VA	13	32	128	45	34	13	13	23	11	312
9 Dennis Howland-UT	18	31	61	30	48	15	39	21	44	307
10 Pete Peterson-OK	11	72	31	34	70	20	46	4	18	306
11 John McGinty-FL	10	30	87	62	18	6	34	17	11	275
12 James Maddox-CA	10	38	46	27	36	8	29	22	55	271
13 Joe Jennings-OH	12	22	69	29	36	10	34	6	41	259
14 Jay Kalmer-VA	8	31	61	33	39	6	20	18	16	232
15 Dean Dick-IL	18	38	39	29	56	5	8	8	13	214
16 Jack Mattingly-KY	12	16	53	30	47	1	24	16	14	213
17 Gene Crego-AZ	7	16	29	18	83	6	11	5	16	191
18 Steve Mackey-CA	5	11	13	12	13	5	6	7	40	112

## Will Russia Invade the Ukraine?



For the past several months, Russia has begun huge military exercises in the Crimea and along the border with Ukraine, using more than 100,000 troops, backed by heavy armor, airpower, and naval units in the Black Sea in what many feared was a prelude to an invasion of Ukraine. Then Russian President Putin announced he would pull back those troops.

Of course, no one knows if Russia will invade the Ukraine as the population is thrice in Russia vs. the Ukraine, but one knows what Russia's next move will be. If and I say if Russia were to invade, how likely would it be that it could "win"?

But, first a little background on the Ukraine. First, the Ukraine is the largest country in all of Europe and it has and still can be able to feed the entire continent of Europe and has done so multiple times. They have a very fertile soil and means of using 95% of their in a way that is not done anywhere else. The Ukraine has a very mountainous set of land and in some locations, it is very difficult to get around them. In the case of Russia's military, like its population, which is more than triple the size of Ukraine's. But should Russia order an invasion, he would not find it as easy as about seven years, when Russian special forces and local irregular militias seized control of Crimea and much of Ukraine's border with Russia without much resistance.

The reason? Ukraine now has seven years of experience fighting in the Russian-speaking breakaway republic of Donbass, with losses of nearly 10,000 troops in that period. It has also increased its spending and the modernization of its forces with the help of the US and NATO. Donbass was formally part of Ukraine until back in 2014. "Ukraine lost a lot of people fighting in Donbass and have learned a lot in that time period," said a NATO military intelligence officer who agreed to assess each side's capabilities in exchange for anonymity.

"They're brave and very patriotic. Ukrainians have no lack of motivation to fight Russians, and they've been fighting along that front for seven years," the NATO official said. "They have very much improved every aspect of what was in 2014 a rotten organization and can really support troops in the field. There's no more sneakers and homemade ammo pouches."

In 2014, Ukraine's underfunded and obsolete Soviet-era military was essentially unable to respond to the events in Donbass and Crimea, leaving Ukrainians to form self-styled and often locally supported militias. While several remain active on the front lines, Ukraine's military is now capable of holding its positions and would inflict heavy casualties on a Russian attack, said a former UK special forces soldier who has spent considerable time in Donbass providing security for media organizations.

In closing, why fight and why kill? It is all a result of **pride**, and you can do bad things and think you can get away with it, then you will do it. In time, it will come back to bite you. Another if that were to happen, that "could" start World War III.

## Planning For VVA-AZ in Year 2022

- 1) What does VVA-AZ want to do in the year 2022?
- 2) Who wants to be involved in this process for 2022?
- 3) Who has the talents to help it out this coming year?
- 4) Will we need any funds to do this for 2022?
- 5) What do we want to accomplish this year?
- 6) With the loss of two chapters, how do we grow the other ones?
- 7) What do we need to do “different” this year vs. previous years?
- 8) Can we communicate better to the members, if so, “how”?
- 9) Shall we consider leaving behind “VVA Remembrances”, if so “how”?
- 10) Have we considered leaving any of our personal funds for VVA-AZ this year for the good of the entire State Council of Arizona?
- 11) What about a 50th Commemoration sometime this year?
- 12) Have any chapters considered “Archiving” their chapters in one fashion or another? Think on it for the IMPORTANT items.
- 13) Should we collect names of those who have passed on lately?
- 14) Knowing most of us are in our +70's or later, what might we need to do for the chapter to make it more fit?
- 15) Do any of the chapters in VVA-AZ have a plan for the year 2022?
- 16) Are you thinking about honoring any members of your chapter or the State Council for “something” they may have done or accomplished in previous years?
- 17) When you all meet for a State Council, consider sharing your ideas with each other as “yours” might be the answer for someone else.
- 18) Have someone in the State Council collect all of the “gifts and talents” to be used BY the State Council to assist the President (Randy Schriver) and if you do not go to the meetings, consider an email to ALL members to see if they are willing to help State Council personnel with their time and talents.
- 19) How about sharing the Chapter minutes to see what is going on within your chapter for ideas and helps.
- 20) Have someone write a document as to “where” we are at on leaving VVA open with “last man standing”, “a merger” or “closing”.
- 21) If known, what timeframe are we when VVA National will eventually “be different” in x-number of years.
- 22) Consider taking videos and photos to place in a BIG movie of your chapter so “you” (all of you) are not forgotten.
- 23) Invite Dick Southern down to discuss “his plans for VVA, Region 9” which includes all of the State Council's within his realm and look at year 2022 and “what does he in mind” for the next twelve months?
- 24) Get your members together and speak about some of this as you see fit being necessary for the life of YOUR chapter.



## VVA-AZ State Council Meeting in January 2022

Good morning, all: Please read to the end as you will be asked to provide certain information.

1. All members who plan on attending this meeting **MUST** wear masks (unless lifted by the Governor and American Legion) and/or face shield to enter the Post..
2. All members must RSVP that they will attend the meeting by January 5<sup>th</sup>. Return this to me and copy Chiefreich911@msn.com.
3. All members must decide if they want a box lunch or not and respond accordingly. No response-no lunch. American legion is again making the box lunches during our meeting. See below for menu and cost. There are fast food places in the area, if you prefer.
4. We request the President, one Director, two Delegates and one other member of the Chapter's BOD (or visitors approved by the Chapter to attend this meeting. We could accept up to six per Chapter and still be below the maximum for the room, but please remember that AVVA will be sitting in our meeting after lunch.
5. This meeting is a regular meeting of the Arizona State Council. We will not have: BOD meeting, VSO meeting, or Finance Committee meeting prior to the Council meeting. We will have a written Treasurer's Report available. All Directors and Chapter Presidents should submit their written report to Chiefreich911@msn.com by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 in lieu of oral reports at the meeting. We will still accept some short oral reports found after the written reports were turned in. We will have the Council Officer's Reports along with Committee Reports.
6. American Legion Post # 1 is located at 364 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. in Phoenix. This is at the SW corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Polk Street, just north of Van Buren and Grand Ave. Meeting will begin at 0900 to 1300 or so. Again, we will have a setup similar to National Convention and have Chapter Name plates on the tables for seating-based on you response of attendance.
7. Box lunch for \$8.00 again consists of a sandwich with a bag of chips, potato salad and a sheet cake for dessert. Sandwich: Ham, Ham & Cheese, and Turkey. Please identify sandwich type when ordering a box lunch. We need one server to serve potato salad and cake-volunteers? We will supply water and soda and Chapter 1011 thank you for accepting will be providing coffee and donuts or?
8. Don't forget. RSVP for attendance and lunch by **January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2021**. All Reports due by **Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021**. Please notify your members that are interested in attending.
9. I am requesting any Agenda items to be in to Chiefreich911@msn.com by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021 to be included in the meeting. Thank you all for your time and effort in this matter. Stay safe and be well,

Randall Schriver,  
AZ St Council President

## Vietnam War Information To Pass On To Others

You would be surprised who does not know anything about Vietnam. Yes, it was a long time ago, but the generations both forwards and backwards do not a lot of the following:

1. When the war was <from-year to year>?
2. What the war was about?
3. What allied nations fought in it.
4. Who were the people directly involved inti from its beginning?
5. If, the war had been won, what part of the world would have been affected?
6. What year did the planning of the Vietnam War begin?
7. What do the colors on the Vietnam Service mean?
8. Was it worthwhile serving?
9. What did it change in our country?
10. And what is Vietnam like today in 2022?

Some things about Vietnam you may not have known.



Vietnam, a nation in Southeast Asia on the eastern edge of the Indochinese peninsula, had been under French colonial rule since the 19th century.

During World War II, Japanese forces invaded Vietnam. To fight off both Japanese occupiers and the French colonial administration, political leader Ho Chi Minh—inspired by Chinese and Soviet communism—formed the Viet Minh, or the League for the Independence of Vietnam.

Following its 1945 defeat in World War II, Japan withdrew its forces from Vietnam, leaving the French-educated Emperor Bao Dai in control. Seeing an opportunity to seize control, Ho's Viet Minh forces immediately rose up, taking over the northern city of Hanoi and declaring a Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) with Ho as president. Seeking to regain control of the region, France backed Emperor Bao and set up the state of Vietnam in July 1949, with the city of Saigon as its capital. Both sides wanted the same thing: a unified Vietnam. But while Ho and his supporters wanted a nation modeled after other communist countries, Bao and many others wanted a Vietnam with close economic and cultural ties to the West.

Vietnam is a very close ally to the United States and they supply of items to the world to include: coffee, cinnamon, other spices, clothing and most important to them is the "item" from the Me Kong Delta River that runs east and west with the product of "SAND". It is a safe country to travel and if you get the chance with COVID being gone, it is recommended that your travel there and see it all these years later.



# UNITED STATES ALLIES IN THE VIETNAM WAR

## INTRODUCTION (PART 1 OF 5)



American Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Airmen fought side by side with their counterparts from five allied nations in defense of the Republic of (South) Vietnam. The American people thank, honor, and commend the fighting forces of our allies in the Vietnam War for their service and sacrifice.

For the United States and its allies, the Vietnam War was a multinational effort to stem the tide of communist expansion—supported by America's Cold War rivals, the Soviet Union and China—in Southeast Asia. South Vietnam was a hot spot in a larger Cold War context. As in all conflicts, a complex web of motivating forces animated the combatants. Loyal ideals such as friendship, allegiance, and freedom spurred some to engage. Money, recognition, shared interests, and geo-political advantage played important roles in inciting action as well.

Did not. For many people in these nations, Communist revolutionaries represented a grave national threat. From their perspective, the war in Vietnam successfully halted that threat. To one degree or another, leaders in these countries acknowledge that the multi-decade American presence in Southeast Asia—and the Vietnam War in particular—was a positive factor in the prevention of communist domination in the region.

### More Flags

On April 23, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson for the first time publicly stated, "I would hope that we would see some other flag in [South Vietnam]... and that we could all unite in an attempt to stop the spread of communism in that area of the world, and the attempt to destroy freedom." His appeal became the basis of the American "More Flags" campaign, an endeavor to encourage wider international participation in the security of South Vietnam. The United States and the term "Free World" is its efforts to garner participation especially by Western Bloc and other non-communist countries. Bilateral diplomacy was also brought to bear.

### Free World Allies

The contributions of the Free World combat allies in Vietnam were significant, both from political and military standpoints. Historians and commentators differ in interpreting the motivations not only of the participating governments, but also of the individual participants. The South Koreans, Thai, and Filipinos received considerable American financial support to facilitate their military participation in South Vietnam. The Australians and New Zealanders, by contrast, served in Vietnam at their own expense. Negative or ambivalent political impressions notwithstanding, there was a general consensus among American military leadership at that time that the Free World allies fought well. Taken as a whole, the combat effectiveness of the Free World forces relieved significant pressure on American troops, and played a critical role in pacifying and securing their assigned areas of operation. Perhaps even more importantly from the American psychological perspective, every allied soldier, sailor, marine, or airman who served in Vietnam meant one less American Soldier, Sailor, Marine, or Airman who had to deploy. For that simple (if imperfect) calculus alone, Americans were grateful.



An American and Korean officer discuss with other American, Australian, and Vietnamese military personnel in Saigon. (National Archives)

Many nations provided assistance, both military and humanitarian, to the South Vietnamese people from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s. A total of six nations sent combat troops to fight in South Vietnam against North Vietnam and the southern-based Viet Cong insurgency in the 1960s and 1970s. These nations were the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Republic of (South) Korea, Thailand, and the Philippines.

In 1965, when the U.S. military moved en masse into South Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and the Philippines faced internal threats from armed communist insurgents, and the communist war progressed was still active in Singapore. ... America's action ... enabled non-communist South East Asia to put their own houses in order. By 1975, they were in better shape to stand up to the communists. Had there been no U.S. intervention, the will of these countries to raise their own would have melted and Southeast Asia would most likely have gone communist. The grassroots emerging market economies of ASEAN [the Association of South East Asian Nations] were nurtured during the Vietnam War years.

— Lee Kuan Yew, Prime Minister of Singapore

U.S. citizens and their allies continue to wrestle with the Vietnam War's legacy. While western nations mostly regard the war's outcome as a defeat of the United States and its allies, that is not the consensus everywhere. Thailand, for example, celebrates "the American War" as an unmitigated victory, and it is a viewpoint shared by others in Southeast Asia. While Laos, Cambodia, and South Vietnam came under Communist regimes, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Thailand



The inauguration ceremony marking the formal opening of the International Military Assistance Office Building (IMAO) of the Republic of Vietnam. The Gulf Guard represents South Vietnam, the United States the Republic of China (Taiwan), Australia, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), New Zealand, and Thailand. Chin, Vietnam, April 28, 1965 (National Archives)

### By the Numbers

A quick glance at the numbers provides an indication of the service and sacrifice of the Free World allies. The New Zealanders had the highest ratio of total casualties to participants at 2.18 percent, with the Americans a very close second at 2.15 percent. The South Koreans were next at 1.4 percent, and both the Thai and Australians were under 1 percent. Nine Filipinos were killed in the conflict. Of the allies, the Australians served in Vietnam for the longest period of time, but they deployed relatively few military personnel before 1965, and, as with the Americans, they were advisers rather than combatants before then. The first South Korean combat troops arrived shortly after the Americans escalated their involvement by deploying combat troops in 1965.

Allied Nation	Timeframe	Total Number of Military Participants	Total Number Killed
United States of America	1962–1971	2,700,000+	58,218
Republic of Korea	1963–1973	320,000+	4,407
Australia	1962–1972	81,000+	808
Thailand	1963–1972	40,000+	311
New Zealand	1964–1972	3,000+	25
Philippines	1966–1969	10,000	9



The Free World Military Assistance Center Headquarters building in Saigon. An American, New Zealand B-1H crew and three Vietnamese F-4E pilots (with their hijacked hijacker) are parked in the air park. (U.S. Department of the Army)

Allied Strength in Vietnam, 1964–1972						
Year	Australia	South Korea	New Zealand	Philippines	Thailand	
1964	200	200	30	30	—	
1965	1,900	26,428	120	70	28	
1966	4,930	23,376	340	1,040	248	
1967	6,820	47,816	830	1,280	2,128	
1968	7,880	38,008	920	1,190	6,008	
1969	7,670	44,376	830	390	11,176	
1970	6,880	48,348	640	70	11,176	
1971	2,880	40,708	300	30	6,008	
1972	130	38,748	30	30	48	

Source: The Department of the Vietnam War: A Political, Social, and Military History, edited by Gary T. Shiner



# UNITED STATES ALLIES IN THE VIETNAM WAR



## THE REPUBLIC OF (SOUTH) KOREA (PART 2 OF 5)



*Rokan Tiger Division (Incheon) superior Vietnamese soldiers on the rifle range, August 1968. (National Archives)*



*This is a former picture in South Korea. The words "공로" (Gongno) are written across the center means "On merit as the area." Above that is a photo name and an expression of being a veteran.*

*The Vietnam War was South Korea's first major military engagement since the signing of the Korean War armistice in 1953. All Korean troops in Vietnam were volunteers. The United States thanks and honors the Korean veterans who served in Vietnam.*

South Korean military participation in the Vietnam War began in the autumn of 1965 and did not end until the last American combat troops departed. The first Republic of Korea soldiers and marines (commonly referred to by American forces as ROKA, pronounced "rocker") began arriving several months after the first American combat troops arrived. Military observers asserted that the ROKs fought bravely; many said ferociously. Their tactics and techniques have often drawn criticism from some commentators as being unnecessarily brutal, but their bravery and discipline were not questioned, even by their enemies.

The success and contributions of Korean forces in Vietnam are to some degree among and underappreciated outside of military circles. Indeed, for many Americans who served with them, their fighting abilities were the stuff of legend. Korean troops recorded a high casualty ratio against Communist forces and captured a large number of prisoners and vast stores of weapons and war material. In so doing, they denied sanctuary to the monolithic insurgency and disrupted Viet Cong activity in their assigned areas of operation.

**ROK code of conduct in the Vietnam War:**  
To the enemy, be courageous and fearless.  
To the Vietnamese people, behave with kindness and warmth.  
To our allies, show them we are well disciplined and reliable.

Perhaps most importantly from the United States perspective, commentators believed Korean troops were as effective as their American counterparts in combat, which took the burden off U.S. troops in the Korean's area of operations. The United States subsidized Korean force participation, and in some ways the Vietnam War proved an economic boom for the fledgling nation.

From 1965 to 1973, more than 381,000 ROK soldiers and marines served in South Vietnam. That number is second only to U.S. and South Vietnamese service members, and more than all the rest of the allies combined. Nearly 5,000 Koreans sacrificed their lives in the war.

### ROK Areas of Operation

In March 1965, a CIA report described South Vietnam's principal problem thus: "The Viet Cong are continuing to make significant gains ... particularly along the low coastal regions. ... The [South Vietnamese] government is clearly on the defensive ... Pacification remains stalled and further deterioration of rural security is expected."



The response to the CGO statement arrived in the form of the ROK Army Capital "Tiger" Division and the ROK 2nd Marine "Blue Dragon" Brigade. These Korean units were primarily responsible for the pacification and



*Korean troops are clear to clear village region of Viet Cong body maps. (National Archives)*

security of the coastal provinces of Binh Dinh, Phu Yen, Khanh Hoa and Ninh Thuan in II Corps. They undertook the task with vigor. The coastal area, especially south of Qui Nhon down to Phan Rang, remained relatively secure from them onward under the watchful eye of the ROKs.

In September 1966, South Korea sent a second army division, the 9th "White Horse" Division, to take over operations in the southern part of II Corps coastal region. This freed up the ROK marines to move north to assist the U.S. Marines in Quang Nam province, in I Corps, a dangerous and volatile region aptly nicknamed "Marine Country" by American servicemen.

*An analysis of combat action by Korean Capital Division forces from January 1968 clearly illustrates the Korean technique. After contact with an enemy force near Phu Cat, the Koreans "reacted swiftly ... deployed six companies in an encircling maneuver and trapped the enemy force in their corridor. The Korean troops gradually tightened the circle, fighting the enemy during the day and maintaining their tight cordon at night, thus preventing the enemy's escape. At the conclusion of the sixth day of fighting, 278 NVA had been KIA with the loss of just 11 Koreans, a kill ratio of 25.3 to 1.*

*(Vietnam Studies: Allied Participation in Vietnam, by Lieutenant General Stanley Robert Larson & Brigadier General James Lawton Collins, Jr., US, Department of the Army)*

American military observers recorded that the ROK forces arrived with distinction and valor in Vietnam. Korean troops retained an almost mythic status among friends and foes alike, and some commentators also accused South Korean troops of using overly aggressive, even brutal tactics. Tales and legends abounded among U.S. service people of the ROKs' strict discipline, toughness, and military prowess. They were said to be especially efficient and effective in combat emergency warfare, small unit tactics and operations, and hand-to-hand combat.

One legend often related by American servicemen was particularly revealing. A typical version went something like this: "I've seen captured enemy



*A squad leader keeps in touch with other elements as he battles, Cavalry Regiment, ROK Tiger Division moves through dense Central Highlands near Binh Dinh in search of enemy, September 1969. (National Archives)*

documents that ordered NVA [North Vietnamese Army] units to avoid contact with ROKs at all cost, unless 100 percent certain of victory." While most of the apocryphal stories about which units the North Vietnamese truly feared (naturally included the 1st's own, nearly every) version of the tale included Korean troops.

An official U.S. Army study perhaps summed up the general feeling best: "Considered opinion was that it was good for the Koreans were 'friendly'."

*The Koreans went through in their planning and deliberate in their execution of a plan. They usually surrounded an area by stealth and quick movement. The enemy feared the Koreans both for their tactical innovation and for the soldier's tenacity. The Koreans might not suffer many casualties, might target too many of the enemy on an operation, but when they brought in twenty-five or a hundred weapons, the Americans wondered where in the world they got them. They appeared to have a natural sense for picking up enemy weapons that were, as far as the enemy thought, scarcely cached away.*

*(Vietnam Studies: Allied Participation in Vietnam, by Lieutenant General Stanley Robert Larson & Brigadier General James Lawton Collins, Jr., U.S. Department of the Army)*



*Vietnamese students practice the art of Taekwon Do under the supervision of 1st ROKA Incheon, August 1968. (National Archives)*



# UNITED STATES ALLIES IN THE VIETNAM WAR



## THAILAND (PART 3 OF 5)



Queen's Cobra arrived in the Republic of Vietnam, disembarking from U.S. Navy Troop Ship Navaris, September 1967. (National Archives)



Thai Queen's Cobras on a search and sweep mission near the village of Phuoc Tho, November 1967. (National Archives)



Queen's Cobras during a search and sweep mission in Phuoc Tho, November 1967. (National Archives)

Thirdly, Thailand's location was strategically optimal for air operations in both North and South Vietnam (and also over Laos and Cambodia). The U.S. Air Force began flying missions from bases in Thailand in 1961, and by the end of the war in 1975 it was operating out of all seven Royal Thai Air Force bases (Udon, Ubon, Korat, Takli, Nakhon Phanom, U-Tapao, and Don Mueang at Bangkok). The U.S. spent \$250 million on construction at these bases, part of the \$2 billion overall that was pumped into the Thai economy over the course of the war.

By October 1967, the first Thai combat troops had arrived in Vietnam to fight alongside the Australians, New Zealanders, and U.S. Soldiers stationed at Camp Bearcat, near Ben Hoa, in II Corps. They were the Royal Thai Volunteer Regiment (a.k.a. the Queen's Cobras). In 1968, the Queen's Cobras were replaced by the Royal Thai Army Expeditionary Division (a.k.a. the Black Panthers).



Most observers reported that Thai soldiers fought bravely and well in Vietnam. They were generally well-liked by American service people, who affectionately regarded them as the "lucky" soldiers in Vietnam. Many Thai troops attributed their legendary luck to the protective powers of their Buddhist amulets, which they profess to believe rendered them bulletproof. Some Americans claimed to share that belief, and were grateful that the Thais were quite willing to share the talismans of their good fortune.

A controversy surrounding Thai soldiers erupted in the United States when the international press took note of their delight in American material goods and their rumored association with the Saigon black market. That coupled with the realization that the U.S. was subsidizing their involvement in the war led some antiwar activists to argue that Thai troops were mercenaries.

The Thai government did receive more U.S. foreign aid during the Vietnam War than any other country in Southeast Asia save South Vietnam. Like South Vietnamese troops, Thai soldiers were trained and equipped by the United States, transported in U.S. ships and planes, and funded by American taxpayers.

Nonetheless, Thailand shouldered a significant burden in the wars in Southeast Asia, both in Vietnam and in Laos, where the United States was embroiled in a covert war against the Communist Pathet Lao insurgency. Though Laos did fall to a communist regime, the Thai strategy of containing the threat outside their own borders succeeded. Thai counterinsurgency skill and expertise helped stanch the spread of communism into their own country, which in turn furthered the U.S. goal of maintaining stable non-communist nations in Southeast Asia.

Between September 1967 and February 1972, nearly 40,000 Thai military personnel served in South Vietnam. Of those, 351 were killed and 1,258 were wounded. The United States remained grateful for their service and sacrifice.



Thai Soldiers, working on amulets of Buddhist amulets, maps and the route they believe will take for the day's operations near Phuoc Tho, October 1967. (National Archives)

Thailand was a staunch supporter of United States involvement in Vietnam from the outset. Thailand maintained that it sided with South Vietnam and the United States out of a desire to help the South Vietnamese and to halt the rise of communism in the region. Some have also pointed to the economic benefits they received from the U.S. for supporting the Saigon government as another motivating factor. Regardless, almost all agree that Thai participation benefited President Johnson's Free World alliance. The United States owes the Thai veterans of the Vietnam War a debt of gratitude.

From the American government's point of view, it was critical for American public support of the war that Thailand accepted shared responsibility for the defense of Southeast Asia. President Johnson's 1964 appeal to Thai Prime Minister Kitiakachon Thanon is telling:

*I am very much aware of and deeply appreciative of steady support you and your Government are providing. . . It is, nevertheless, my hope that Thailand will find ways of increasing the scale and scope of its assistance to Vietnam, as a renewed demonstration of Free World determination to work together to repel Communist aggression.*

Several distinguishing factors made Thailand an excellent U.S. ally in the region.

Firstly, the Thai government keenly believed that communism posed a danger not only to their own nation but also to all of Southeast Asia. They were determined to stifle this threat before it could destroy them, which dovetailed nicely with American goals in the region.

Secondly, unlike most of Thailand's neighbors, colonialism had not left a mark on the collective psyche of the Thai people. Thailand had never been ruled by a colonial power, and while they had experienced pressure from the British in Burma to the west, and the French in Indochina to the east, they had never given up their national sovereignty. As a result, most Thais harbored notably less antipathy toward and distrust of Europeans and Americans than did their fellow Southeast Asians.

*Thailand is situated near Vietnam and it will be the next target of communism, as they have already proclaimed. This is why Thailand realizes the necessity and necessity to help oppose communist aggression when it is still at a distance from our country. The government has therefore decided to send an expeditionary unit to battle on the spot, to take an active part in the fighting in South Vietnam in the near future.*

— Statement by the Thai government, January 3, 1967.





# UNITED STATES ALLIES IN THE VIETNAM WAR



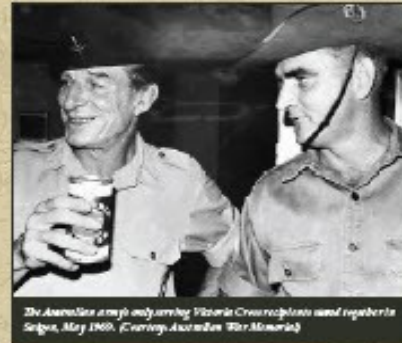
## ANZAC (PART 4 OF 5)



*Three Royal Australian Air Force Canberra aircraft arrive at Tan Son Nhut Air Base with crew and maintenance personnel in aid of the airfield support mission in South Vietnam, August 1965. (National Archives)*



*Members of the 1st Field Squadron of the Royal Australian Signals Corps search for mines on a road in South Vietnam, August 1969. (National Archives)*



*Two Australian troops enjoying Victoria Cross recipients award repatriate Saigon, May 1969. (Courtesy, Australian War Memorial)*

The coalition of Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) were valuable allies in the fight to prevent the spread of communism in Southeast Asia. While both countries faced growing antiwar sentiment at home, neither wavered in their commitment to the United States and to South Vietnam throughout the war. Most American soldiers who had contact with these service people from "down under" were impressed by their military professionalism and charmed by their bearing. The United States is grateful to the Australian and New Zealand veterans of the Vietnam War.

### ANZUS

In 1951, Australia, New Zealand and United States signed a Security Treaty (ANZUS), which was a trilateral agreement designed to protect the national interests in the Pacific. Though the treaty was not formally invoked for the Vietnam War effort, Australia and New Zealand nevertheless sent forces—at their own expense—to support the United States in defending South Vietnam.

### Australia

By 1961, the Australian government believed that deterring communism in South Vietnam was a matter both of principle and of self-defense, given the assumption that a communist-dominated Southeast Asia, just to Australian north, represented a threat. By the end of the summer of 1962 they had sent a team of 30 advisers, the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV), to assist in training the Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN). Two years later, the team more than doubled in size to 80 advisers embedded with ARVN field forces and six Royal Australian Air Force DRHC-4 Caribbea transport planes (with pilots). They also suffered their first fatal casualty.



When the United States escalated its support for the South Vietnamese by sending combat troops in 1965, the Australians immediately followed suit. They committed the 1st Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), plus support forces to serve under operational control of the US Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa. By the end of 1965, 1RAR had expanded to include an artillery battery, an engineer unit, an army aviation reconnaissance flight, and logistic support elements.

*The takeover of South Vietnam would be a direct military threat to Australia and all the countries of South and South-East Asia. It must be seen as part of a threat by Communist China between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.*  
— Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, Howard, 29 April 1965

Though the American and Australian cooperated and fought well together, the Australian command structure did not always fully endorse American tactics, or American rules of engagement, which they sometimes perceived to be unnecessarily restrictive and counterproductive. They wanted to fight their own way. So when, in 1966, the Australian government increased its troop commitment to a task force of two battalions with combat logistic support, the 1st Australian Task Force (1ATF), they took the opportunity to separate from the 173rd Airborne and become an independent command, with its own area of operations in Phuoc Tuy Province, based at Nui Dat. The 1st Australian Logistic Support Group (1ALSG) was established nearby at the portside airfield facility of Yang Tau.

The Australian "diggers" (a term widely used to describe ANZAC troops since the Gallipoli campaign in World War I) were effective and capable soldiers. The Battle of Long Tan (18 August 1968) was a testament to their skill.



On August 15, 1966, Delta Company, 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment—totaling about 185 men—retired to search and clear enemy forces from Binh Ba, an old French rubber plantation not far from Saigon. They were met by a combined Communist force of more than 1,500 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops.

In the first serious exchange of gunfire, face to face with the enemy, the Australians refused most of the casualties they would suffer all day. Following their initial encounter, since Delta Company had set up a defense perimeter, the Australian troops fought off multiple waves of attacks over the next four hours in a heavy rainstorm. They were supported by artillery fire, supplied by two Royal Australian Air Force UH-1 "Huey" Iroquois helicopter crews, and reinforced by another Australian company that arrived at nightfall in



*Platoon ambush and rifle operators of the 7th Battalion, C Company, 7th Royal Australian Regiment during an ambush patrol in the Nui Tam 180 Area, February 1967. (National Archives)*



*Members of Royal New Zealand Artillery carry out a gun exercise. (National Archives)*

armored personnel carriers with 50-caliber machine guns. In the end, the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong broke off contact. The Austrians killed 24 and wounded, while enemy casualties were officially estimated at some 245 dead and 358 wounded.

Between 1962 and 1973, nearly 68,800 Australian Army, Air Force and Navy personnel served in South Vietnam. At their peak, there were more than 8,248 Australian in-country at a time. More than 3,000 were wounded and 521 were killed during the course of the war.

### New Zealand

Like Australia, New Zealand's government was a reliable ally in the war in Southeast Asia. As early as 1963, they provided concrete support to the South Vietnamese people by sending a civilian surgical team to provide medical assistance in Qui Nhon. By the summer of 1964, they had sent 25 Army engineers to assist with infrastructure reconstruction projects. In the summer of 1965, they sent combat forces.

The 161st Battery of the Royal New Zealand Artillery arrived at Bien Hoa in July 1965, initially to serve with the Austrians under command of the US Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade. They later moved with the Australian task force in Nui Dat, where they served with Royal Australian Artillery field regiments until May 1971.

In 1967, New Zealand further committed two rifle companies from the 1st Battalion of the Royal New Zealand Infantry Regiment, who fought side-by-side with the Australians in the 1ATF.

The nation also provided a second New Zealand Royal Air Force UH-1 Iroquois helicopter pilots and, in 1969, sent a small troop of the New Zealand Special Air Service who were also attached to their Australian counterparts.

Between 1964 and 1973, about 5,500 New Zealand military personnel served in South Vietnam, though no more than 550 were in-country at any given time. They suffered 187 wounded and 37 dead during that timeframe.

*The [Australian] army took over a stretch of Back Beach at Yang Tau, on the coast near Saigon, and during the war ran its own fortified recreation centre complete with netball courts, sailing boats, water skiing and go-karts, plus bars, a swimming pool, a concert stage and mini-golf beside the beachfront clubhouse. The one odd of recognition that a war was actually going on was there in the barbed wire and machinegun emplacements. At the Peter Dinklage surf club, named after an Australian Victoria Cross winner, the soldiers could store their weapons, have a hot shower, change into civilian clothes, enjoy a meat pie and a beer.*  
— Stuart Scott, Charlie Don't Surf, But Austies Do



# UNITED STATES ALLIES IN THE VIETNAM WAR



## PHILIPPINES (PART 5 OF 5)



PHILCAG-V provided medical care to Vietnamese families throughout 30y Ninh Province, September 1968. (National Archives)



PHILCAG-V brigadier general and Army of Republic of Vietnam Colonel Felix major general discuss the civic action program being conducted in the hamlet of Ben Dinh, near Tay Ninh, September 1968. (National Archives)



The Philippines provided effective support to the United States and its allies in South Vietnam, initially with the Philippines Contingent (PHILCON) and later the Philippines Civic Action Group-Vietnam (PHILCAG-V). Most of the Filipinos who volunteered and were sent to serve in Vietnam did their duty with honor and dignity. And they achieved excellent results. The United States thanks and honors the Filipino veterans who served in Vietnam.

Note on civic action groups from an Australian observer:

"Results [of civil aid programs] were also forthcoming from the military point of view... Villagers reacting civic action stated these activities were one of the major factors in helping them decide to return to the Government. One villager commented that projects were being completed which the Viet Cong had previously said they had never carried out."

—Ian McNeil, *The Australian Army and the Vietnam War 1925-1965*

Instead, the Philippine house and senate approved an appropriation for civic assistance. In August 1964, the Philippines sent a contingent of 16 doctors, nurses, technicians, and civic action officers from the Philippines armed forces to assist "in the advisory effort directed toward psychological warfare and civil affairs in III Corps," according to the U.S. Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) Command History (1964). The group was called PHILCON (the Philippines Contingent).

### Philippines Civic Action Group-Vietnam

In 1964, the Vietnamese government requested increased aid from the Philippines, including combat troops. In response, the Philippines sent a new detachment to South Vietnam to replace PHILCON. The Philippines Civic Action Group-Vietnam (PHILCAG-V) included an engineer construction battalion, medical and rural community development teams, a security battalion, and a logistics and headquarters element. They set up base in Tay Ninh, 45 miles northwest of Saigon, in the summer of 1964. Over the next 41 months, PHILCAG-V performed a variety of civic action tasks, primarily in public works construction, rural development, and food and medical relief.



Notably, Philippine senator Ferdinand Marcos had led the country's refusal in 1964 to authorize combat troops to support the South Vietnamese war effort. Once he became president, however, he changed his position and agreed to provide a combat engineering battalion as part of an increased aid package.

### "Philutan"

PHILCAG-V was an effective agent of humanitarian aid and civic action, and was appreciated by the South Vietnamese. Several members of the first PHILCAG-V remember that the South Vietnamese had a special nickname for the Filipinos: "Everywhere they went, they were called 'Philutan!' It means 'Filipinos are Number One.'" Apparently Filipinos were remembered fondly by many Vietnamese people. Operation Brotherhood had left its mark.

### Air and Naval Bases

Perhaps the greatest contribution by the Philippine government to the U.S. war effort in Vietnam was the willingness to allow U.S. forces to continue operations out of Naval Base Subic Bay in Zambales and Clark Air Base in Angeles City in Luzon, both in the Philippines.

### Operation Brotherhood

In 1954, after Vietnam had been divided into a communist North and a non-communist South, thousands of northern Vietnamese fled south. Oscar Ardians, president of the Manila chapter of the Philippines Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees) saw it as a humanitarian crisis and called the support of Philippine President Ramon Maguiness who responded that "We have been invited in our hour of need by generous friends, shall we then deny our help to our neighbors when they are in need of it? Human misery knows no national boundaries. By all means, help them. And if there is anything that I and this government can do to help, please feel free to come to me." Over the next two years, in what Filipinos designated Operation Brotherhood, the Jaycees, with the cooperation of the Philippine government, sent 235 doctors, nurses, social workers, dentists, and other workers, who treated some 738,000 patients in medical facilities throughout South Vietnam.

### Philippines Contingent

In 1964, in response to U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson's "More Flags" campaign, Philippine President Diosdado Macapagal sought funds from the Philippine congress to send combat troops to South Vietnam.



Filipino medical flight in help a U.S. Special Forces sergeant after he is wounded in Vietnam in 1965. (Mike Masley, Stars and Stripes)



PHILCAG-V nurses treat a 3-day-old baby born while her mother holds her during the civic action program in the hamlet of Ben Dinh, September 1968. (National Archives)

While made up of 2,068 Filipino soldiers at its peak, PHILCAG-V was a humanitarian mission, not a combat force. The PHILCAG-V motto came up the elbow: To build, not destroy; to bring happiness, not sorrow; to develop good will, not hatred. Nevertheless, the Filipino soldiers sacrificed 9 dead and 94 wounded during their time in South Vietnam. PHILCAG-V was fully redeployed back to the Philippines by December 1968.



Cutters of Coast Guard Squadron One (CGSWSO) depart for Vietnam after being refitted for combat service at Subic Bay, Philippines, 1965. (USCG)

## Honoring The Global War On Terror Soldiers

### Congress Gives Thumbs Up to Global War on the Terrorism Memorial on National Mall



Congress has created exceptions to the law to authorize a choice spot on the National Mall for a Global War on Terror Memorial to honor those who served in the nation's longest conflict, which is symbolically started on September 11, 2001, attacks and the disastrous fall of Kabul, Afghanistan, in August. The authorization was only the opening move in a 24-step process, including approvals from the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Park Service, and other agencies before the monument can be built. It is so important to be remembered and “KNOW” about events like this as the next generations including the one before us right now will NOT know anything about them. If they are not remembered toward their loved ones, who could have been in the various conflicts or even died in them various battles throughout that twenty year war?

It is tragic that all personnel throughout the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard are NOT remembered and honored. But people, later on need to know the details of why the war was fought and details about it. Consider putting together a lesson plan and teach it in schools where your chapter is located. It might lead to something good for them.



## 2022 is HERE, What Are We Doing In It?



Yes, **2022 is HERE** and the USA has had a lot of changes in its time along with VVA—Arizona. We've lost two chapters (835 and 1043) and hopefully the rest of them are still on tap with the future. The COVID19 Delta and Omnicron variants is still here as well and creating havoc throughout the world.

Regardless of any of this, “WE” in Vietnam Veterans of America need to come up with a way to keep the State Council of Arizona open and going. There are enough brains and thought processes in the entire State Council including the six chapters to determine the BEST WAY to keep all of the remain chapters going in full speed.

Please consider at your next two or three State Council and Chapter meetings that the State Council Officers and those willing to be a part of it, along with the Chapter Presidents and its officers to come up with methods to stay alert, stay in good health, keep the chapter going full speed.

We all realize that there will be closure and the ending of the Vietnam Veterans of America within the United States, but let's not hurry it up. Most of us are in our seventies and a few in their eighties, but we all can do “SOMETHING” for the good of VVA-Arizona.

Create a list of things that are DOABLE and that MAKE SENSE to your chapter and the State Council and work hand in glove on this necessary project.

VIETNAM VETERANS OF  
AMERICA  
STATE OF ARIZONA  
STATE COUNCIL  
PO BOX 42264  
PHOENIX, AZ 85203

CHAPTER 95  
PO BOX 1343  
PRESCOTT, AZ 85713

CHAPTER 106  
PO BOX 40903  
TUCSON, AZ 85713

CHAPTER 432  
PO BOX 10363  
PHOENIX, AZ 85064

CHAPTER 975  
PO BOX 184  
KINGMAN, AZ 86402

CHAPTER 1011  
PO BOX 402  
MESA, AZ 85205

CHAPTER 1093  
2871 N, PALMER DR  
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85650

50TH COMMEMORATION  
OF THE VIETNAM WAR  
ATTN: W. SCHUMACHER  
2271 W. 12TH LANE

Veterans Day is a ways off in the year 2022, but now, may be the time to think about what YOUR chapter is going to do on this up and coming Veterans Day. You might consider a special coin for those vets never having received one. Or maybe a gift for some special personnel within your chapter having not received that gift from your Chapter. Maybe go to the VA Hospital to honor those that may be on their "last legs". What a blessing that might be. Put some thought into and decide on SOMETHING.



## THANK Veterans You KNOW and DON'T KNOW

WE DON'T KNOW THEM ALL  
BUT WE OWE THEM ALL!  
**THANK YOU**

You know, **SO** many people in the USA do not know a veteran when they see one. They don't comment to them, they don't say hello, they don't do much. So what can your chapter do?

Come up with a plan or an event in a school to cause the kids there to **honor**, to say **hello**, to **comment** to a veteran and **thank** them for **WHAT THEY DID** in any conflict. It could make a big difference to everyone involved.

