

The AZ-LZ



Welcome to a New Year- 2015



Vietnam Veterans of America is on the grow. A lot of people are finding out about VVA as a result of people like you and I telling them about this organization that only gauges itself to Vietnam Veterans.



Lets' make the year 2015 a great year for building all of the State Council's throughout America to cause all of us to get healthy, to get healthy, to keep our perspective about the Vietnam War.



Also, seriously consider telling your children and grandchildren and those great-grandchildren about what you did while you were in the service.

We all have a lot of memories which we should pass on as if we don't or can't, what then?

As has been mentioned, we are all getting a lot older and faster than we ever thought and our health is at risk with many different issues. Take care of the one and only body you will ever have. Seek the doctor regularly and exit all of those "taboos" so you can see the

end of year 2015.

Use your gifts and talents for the good of God, you, your family, your close friends and VVA. We all have something we can contribute to the cause of the American military.

Support those that are under-privileged. Plenty of men and women are homeless. Buy some gift cards for them as you will know what the dollars are going towards. Help them get settled. Know and support them the best you can.

Most of all love God and America for time is changing for of us.

Create That Visual Keepsake

One of the best ways to be remembered or to pass onto your family is to create that "Visual keepsake" for your family.

What I mean is to create a shadow box for your grandchildren. Obtain copies of your badges and

medals, coins and other items you'd like to display for them and you purchase a shadow box and place them inside to illustrate what you did. Have small "name tags" inserted to show what all items mean and present it to to the family

as a "longing keepsake fro you to them". Family is what it is all about and having "YOU" the veteran, you have to make it happen. Make that a priority along with your "autobiography" this year as you have your great health.

Jan-Mar 2015

Special points of interest:

- World War I Commemoration
- World War II Hero's
- Vietnam 4th Annual Dinner-2014
- Hero's of the 20th Century
- The "WINTER" of our life. Brrr..Brrr
- An Alaskan World War II soldier
- Bigger Than Normandy?
- Audie Murphy Fan Club
- Vietnam Veterans Wall in Gilbert, Arizona
- Where Did This Come From?
- Thoughts From Other Countries

Inside this issue:

- Col . Jack Jacob's as Guest Speaker
- LTG Mick Kicklighter (50th Vietnam)
- Where is America Today ?
- WA SC 50th Commemoration Event
- WA Yuma-835 50th Commemoration Event
- AVVA Honored For Our Ladies
- Honoring a Three War (WWII-Korea-VN) Vet



“First Grade Something”

“It is pretty amazing how the little things in our life comes about after we have no idea what has happened to them. I dare say **ALL OF US** can say that when we have “lost track of that **VERY IMPORTANT** thing in our lives. Take a moment to think what that might have been...”

Ah, yes, I remember first grade pretty well. I was in this one room school house with eight rows of desks and ten to twelve kids in each row and the teacher stood at the front of each row and the teacher taught us every subject. The only problem was, that every row was “right next to us” could also hear her **VERY WELL** from row to row. So, we had to get used to that But, we learned and we still know more than what they do today.

Now for the image to the left below of this article. Can you determine the answer. Keep in mind, you reading this ARE beyond the lines and need to concentrate on this VERY CAREFULLY.

This is the first grade, so if you get it, the person “testing” you should gift you with a Starbucks drink, Venti size.

So you see the “parking slots, and there are six of them numbered quite “**ODDLY**” I might say. So what is the answer?

If you are Chinese and in first grade, you would likely know the answer already, but if you are an American and in your 60’s or 70’s, then Mmm, I doubt it unless you classify yourself to be the genius. Look for the answer somewhere in this newsletter. ☺



Let's see how smart you REALLY are:

1. Vietnam is in what hemisphere?
2. What was the former name of Vietnam?
3. What are the natives of Vietnam called?
4. What is the Vietnamese money called?
5. Three countries that made up French Indo-China were?
6. What is the capital of Vietnam today?

“Ever lost something before? You would usually say “**OF COURSE I HAVE**” and you would be right. Then you ask yourself, maybe a **LONG TIME LATER** that you just happen to find it. Mmm, think about “**HOW**” you found that **LONG LOST ITEM** and you might be very, very surprised. Am I right??”

The “Ant” And The “Contact Lens”

Brenda was a young woman who was invited to go rock climbing. Although she was very scared, she went with her group to a tremendous granite cliff. In spite of her fear, she put on the gear, took hold of the rope, and started up the face of the rock. Well, she got to a ledge where she could take a breather. As she was resting there, the safety rope snapped against Brenda’s eye and knocked out her contact lens. There she was, on a rock ledge, with hundreds of feet below her and hundreds of feet above her. Of course, she looked and looked and looked, hoping her contact lens had landed on the ledge, but it was just not there. Here she was, far from home, her sight was now blurry. Brenda was desperate and began to get upset. She prayed to the Lord to help her to find it. When she got to the top, a friend examined her eye and her clothing for the lens, but there was no contact lens to be found. Despondent, she sat down with some of the party waiting for them to make it up the face of the cliff. She looked out across the range of mountains and thought of the Bible verse that said: “For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth ...” II Chronicles 16:9.

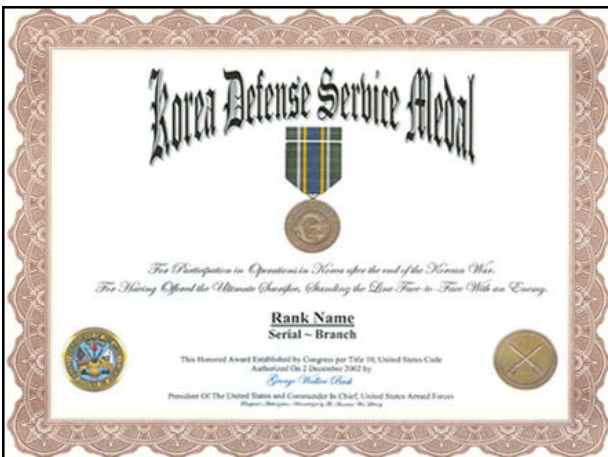
She thought “Lord, you can see these mountains. You know every stone and leaf and you know exactly where my contact lens is. Please help me. Finally, she walked down the trail to the bottom. A new party of climbers was just starting up the face of the cliff. One of them shouted out: “Hey guys! Anybody lose a contact lens?” Well, that would be startling enough, but do you know where the climber saw it? An ant was moving slowly across the face of the rock, carrying it on his back. The story gets better. Brenda’s father is a cartoonist. When she told him the incredible story of the ant, her prayer and the contact lens, he drew a picture of an ant lugging that contact lens with the words: “Lord, I don’t know why you want me to carry this thing. I can’t eat it, and it’s awfully heavy. But if that’s what you want me to do; I’ll carry it for you. I think it would do some of us good to occasionally say, “God, I don’t know why you want me to carry this load. I can’t see any good in it and it’s awfully heavy. But if you want me to carry it, I will.” You see, we all have a burden to carry and sometimes we don’t know why. It could be just because we are to be an example to someone else or by answered prayer by being humble before God.

Korean Ambassador Peace Medal



The Ambassador of Peace Medal is awarded to Canadian and Americans veterans who took part in the Korean Conflict in the 1950s. The medal was originally presented by the Korean War Veterans Association to deserving veterans who took part in a revisit program.

A small number of the medals were held back for veterans who were too frail or ill to travel all the way to Korea from all around the world this month. Surrounded by his family and 4th & 5th grade students from the Kemptville Public School, Mr. Kirkpatrick was pleased to have been singled out for the medal and was thrilled to realize that his efforts and the efforts of so many other young soldiers had not been forgotten. The Kemptville students were invited to be part of the ceremony because they were the same students who had chatted with Kirkpatrick on Remembrance Day in Kemptville last November. Rob Lachance is a teacher at Kemptville Public School, and he accompanied his class to the cenotaph on Remembrance Day. The Korean War is marking its 32nd anniversary this April. On Sunday, June 25, 1950, just before dawn 135,000 troops of the North Korean People's Army marched through the wetness of oncoming monsoon rains. The main invasion was through the Ch'orwon Valley, across the 38th parallel to the Oujongbu corridor, the direct route to Seoul, capital of the Republic of Korea (South Korea). When the war ended, six million Koreans from the north and south had died. Nearly half a million Communist Chinese fighting for north Korea were killed in action. The Americans who supplied the largest contingent for the United Nations Command had 103,284 wounded, 54,236 deaths including 33,629 killed in combat and 8,177 missing in action. Canada's casualties totaled 1,558. Of that number 516 died. The total number of UN Forces (including South Korea) killed, wounded or missing was 996,937.



The Korean War Veterans are most times the most forgotten, and we as Vietnam Veterans should remember them, as we are remembered.

Hold a ceremony for them and honor them in their VERY LAST years. It would mean a lot

Duane Olen House—Korean Veteran



“ We should never forget those who have served in Korea and never let them be forgotten in this war that could have changed Asia to a large degree.”



Korean Veterans are not forgotten. In fact, one at a time, will they be remembered. And that includes this man of 84 years.

Duane Olen House, 84, of Yuma, Arizona passed away Thursday 23 October 2014, surrounded by his family and friends. He was born in South Canaan, PA on October 22, 1930, where he lived on the family farm until he joined the US Army in 1948. He was proud of his service to his country and over his military career saw many parts of the world.

Duane survived combat in Korea, suffered frostbite in Greenland and served several stateside tours. In West Germany, he met and married Hermine Maria, his spouse of 55 years. Four years and two children later, the family was assigned to U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, where he retired in 1969. He then found employment with and retired in 1993 from the Imperial Irrigation District, River Division. He always enjoyed the great

outdoors and his family life revolved around hunting seasons and fishing. He belonged to various organizations over his life, including; Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club, Yuma Bassmasters, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, American Legion, and VFW. He loved meeting people, was kind to children and animals, and was always generous with those in need. He supported multiple favorite charities regularly. The later years of his life found him strolling and bird-watching. He had a big heart for little critters. He also developed a closer relationship with God, and encouraged others to do so as well. Preceding him in death are his parents, Douglas and Ruth House, sons Jonny and Steve, and brother Wes. Duane is survived by his wife Hermine; his daughter Manuela, his son Duane of Downingtown, PA and brother Carl of Lake Ariel, PA. He leaves behind his loving family



U.S. Army in Greenland



Memorial Service in Yuma, AZ



His Loving Family



His precious daughter Manuela House with Army photo

Family And Friends Of Our Fallen Hero



It's nice to have friends and family at your side at all times, but to be remembered for what you did on Earth for others, for God is extra special. Above left is Tom Molineax, Pastor Leftwich of United Methodist Church of Yuma, Manuela, her two cousins and an old family photo a few years before Duane (on the far right) passed on. Pictures, memories and a written biography of your life is the least one can do to leave behind.

The World War I Centennial Commemoration

From 2013 to 2019, the World War One Centennial Commission and its partners will commemorate the centennial of the Great War, when more than 4,000,000 men and women from the United States served in uniform during World War One, among them 2 future presidents, Harry S. Truman and Dwight D. Eisenhower. Two million individuals from the United States served overseas during World War One, including 200,000 naval personnel who served on the seas. The United States suffered 375,000 casualties during World War One, including 116,516 deaths. The centennial of World War One offers an opportunity for people in the United States to learn about and commemorate the sacrifices of their predecessors, and to understand how the events of 100 years ago have affected our nation, its people, and the world ever since.

"The world must be made safe for democracy. Its peace must be planted upon the tested foundations of political liberty. We have no selfish ends to serve. We desire no conquest, no dominion. We seek no indemnities for ourselves, no material compensation for the sacrifices we shall freely make. We are but one of the champions of the rights of mankind. We shall be satisfied when those rights have been made as secure as the faith and the freedom of nations can make them.... It is a fearful thing to lead this great peaceful people into war, into the most terrible and disastrous of all wars, civilization itself seeming to be in the balance. But the right is more precious than peace, and we shall fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts—for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations, for a universal dominion of right by such a concert of free peoples as shall bring peace and safety to all nations and make the world itself at last free."

President Woodrow Wilson, Address to Congress
2 April 1917



World War I was meant to be the last of the GREAT WAR's.

But then who knew that when World War II came along?

And then the Cold War and then the Global War On Terror. . .



World War I Centennial Commemoration (Cont'd)

World War One—called the "Great War" until the world learned that there would be more than one such war in the twentieth century—was the first total war of the modern period. The participants, unprepared for the long and bloody conflict that ensued after the summer of 1914, scrambled to mobilize their manpower and industry to prosecute the war. All searched for a decisive military victory. Instead, dramatic and largely unforeseen changes in warfare quickly followed one another, in the end altering both Europe and the larger Western culture that it represented. Although the bloody conflict finally ended with an armistice in November 1918, it cast a long politico-military shadow over the decades that followed.

The United States reluctantly entered Europe's "Great War" and tipped the balance to Allied victory. In part the nation was responding to threats to its own economic and diplomatic interests. But it also wanted, in the words of President Woodrow Wilson, to "make the world safe for democracy." The United States emerged from the war a significant, but reluctant, world power. Under unprecedented government direction, American industry mobilized to produce weapons, equipment, munitions, and supplies. Nearly one million women joined the workforce. Hundreds of thousands of African Americans from the South migrated north to work in factories.

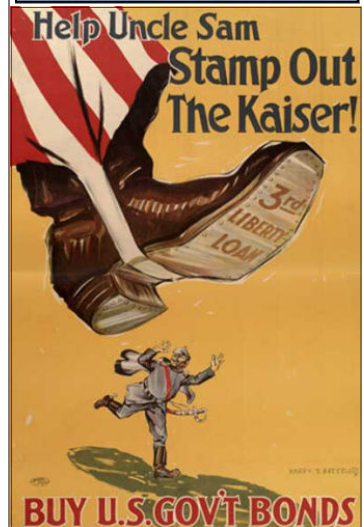
Two million Americans volunteered for the army, and nearly three million were drafted. More than 350,000 African Americans served, in segregated units. For the first time, women were in the ranks, nearly 13,000 in the navy as Yeoman (F) (for female) and in the marines. More than 20,000 women served in the Army and Navy Nurse Corps. The first contingent of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), commanded by General John J. Pershing reached France in June, but it took time to assemble, train, and equip a fighting force. By spring 1918, the AEF was ready, first blunting a German offensive at Belleau Wood. The Americans entered a war that was deadlocked. Opposing armies were dug in, facing each other in trenches that ran nearly 500 miles across northern France—the notorious western front. Almost three years of horrific fighting resulted in huge losses, but no discernable advantage for either side. American involvement in the war was decisive. Within eighteen months, the sheer number of American "doughboys" added to the lines ended more than three years of stalemate.

Germany agreed to an armistice on November 11, 1918. Two million men in the American Expeditionary Force went to France. Some 1,261 combat veterans—and their commander, General Pershing—were awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, the nation's second-highest award for extraordinary heroism. Sixty-nine American civilians also received the award.

The Commemoration

From 2017 through 2019, the World War One Centennial Commission will coordinate events and activities commemorating the Centennial of the Great War. The Commission has partnered with a broad range of organizations across the United States and around the world to spotlight events publications, productions, activities, programs, and sites that allow people in the United States to learn about the history of World War One, the United States involvement in that war, and the war's effects on the remainder of the 20th century, and to commemorate and honor the participation of the United States and its citizens in the war effort. The Commission will serve as a clearing house for the collection and dissemination of information about events and plans for the centennial of World War One. The Commission will also encourage private organizations and State and local governments to organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of World War One.

We need to know about World War I as the after affects are still lingering today. Are you wondering how? Read on the next couple of pages and you see that World War I is still going on, sort of. Some people back in the early 1900's have not forgotten about it, at all.

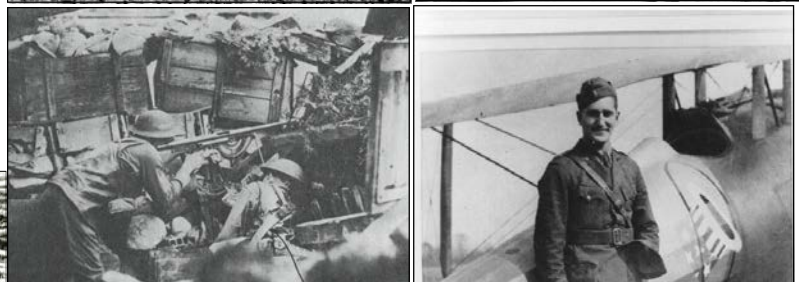


World War I – A 100 Year Commemoration

“Did you know that World War I led to the start of World War II?

In short the main reason being the rulers at the time did not want to give up their land or rule at that time.”

One could not ever know what this war would have meant to the world as it was the first one of this magnitude. The United States did its share of help in assuring that Germany would surrender on what we now call **VETERANS DAY** which was 11 November 1918 at 11:00 pm. They thought this would be the war that would end all wars. Little did they know that just 20 years later, it would start over again to the misery of the world.



Why Remember World War I?

World War I was one of the conflicts that many thought would end the world. After all, did you know that a lot of the ideology that “began back then in the early 1900’s”, is still hanging around today? Yes, Russia is having heart-burn over the fact they lost land, and a lot of Europe was transformed into what we see today. The Ottoman Empire, The Austro-Prussian empire is no

longer and there are scores of people in that area that were still smitten about how the larger “empires” changed life and countries back then.

We all likely have grandparents that fought in World War I and it would be wonderful to make a shadow box or write a story or make some remembrance about our grandfather’s who served in the Great War. If

nothing else, remember your children or grandchildren and cause them to be totally interested in World War I and their family members who were a part of that generation. How they lived, their backgrounds, jobs, birth of “your parents” and what they did for America back in the start of the 1900’s. This was a VERY Interesting time.

Thinking of the Men of World War I

World War I, known at the time as the Great War, was thought to be the war that would end all future wars. All sides suffered an incredibly high number of needless deaths and the war devastated an entire generation. In fact, the sheer amount of destruction and death has only been eclipsed by World War II. Since it ended, all countries involved have held memorials to remember their fallen dead who sacrificed their lives for the good of their country. This fact is all the more so in England, where nearly a million people lost their lives. What they've done to commemorate their fallen soldiers is truly beautiful, while also helping us understand the true scope of these soldiers' sacrifice. Even a hundred years later, we should not forget their incredible acts of heroism. The moat that surrounds the Tower of London has long stood empty and dry. But now, what may look like gushing blood from it's very walls, is something beautiful to behold.



This summer, the moat has been filled with 888,246 red ceramic poppies, one for each British and Colonial soldier who perished during World War I.



Each evening, the Last Post will be sounded and a selection of names of the dead read out loud. It's stunning and sobering commemoration that befits the Great War

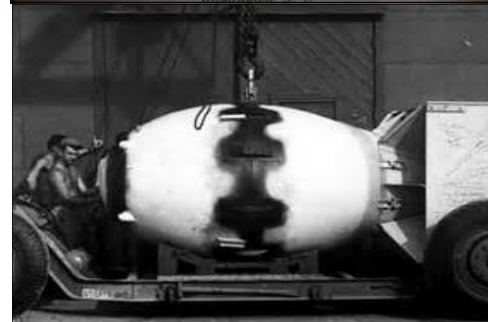
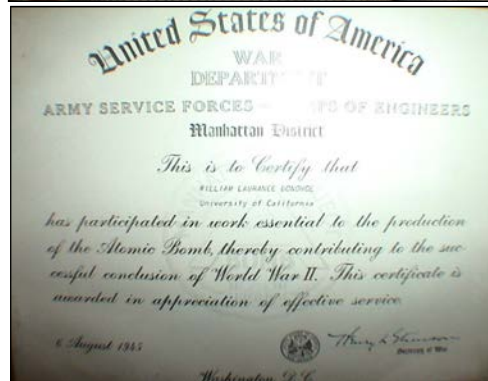


A Man Of The WWI Era Who Helped Save The World in WWII

Of all places, Yuma, Arizona has been home to a man who is quite frankly a genius in his own right. To give you a few details up front, he was born in in 1901 and lived and saw World War I from a distance, but was still involved in itto a point. Let's continue the story to really get to the point.

After World War I was over with, this man was involved with the U.S. Army and performing what is labeled "scientific" stuff". This man had by this time married and had two daughters and by the 1930's he met yet another man of "Science" around 1937 or 1938. They played golf together, hunted and became very good friends. Over the next few years, they parted company until World War II started in 1939 and the man

who grew up during WWI was visited by this now significant man of science who had an assignment from President Roosevelt to produce a large weapon that be the first of its kind in the world. After a short time, the boss named Robert Oppenheimer of the Manhattan Project obtained employment for the man called Larry Donohoe (right). Larry became an employee for the future Atomic bomb which his role was to be one of the electricians for the first and second one. He subsequently moved to Yuma, AZ and has been quite an active 100+ year old and only when he turned 100 did he ever let out that he had an active role with Mr. Oppenheimer and having an important part in saving the world right before the United States dropped the bomb.



"To some, they would consider themselves as destroyers of the world, but if they HAD NOT done what they did, we would likely never have become because of what might have happened if we had lost World War II."

An Invention As A Result Of World War I

It is not true that wristwatches were invented specifically for World War One - but it is true that their use by men took off dramatically. After the war, they were the usual way to tell the time. But until the late 19th and early 20th Centuries, men who needed to know the time and who had the money to afford a watch, kept it in their pocket on a chain. Women, for some reason, were the trailblazers - Elizabeth I had a small clock she could strap to her arm. But as timing in war became more important - so that artillery barrages, for example, could be synchronized - manufacturers developed watches which kept both hands free in the heat of battle. Wristwatches, in other words. Aviators also needed both hands free, so they too had to throw the old pocket watch overboard. Inventions are great but not at the expense of someone's life. Let's just first get along with one another and be gracious.



A Tribute To World War I and Beyond



At precisely 11:11 a.m. each Veterans Day (Nov. 11), the sun's rays pass through the ellipses of the five Armed Services pillars to form a perfect solar spotlight over a mosaic of The Great Seal of the United States.

The Anthem Veterans Memorial, located in Anthem, Arizona, is a monument dedicated to honoring the service and sacrifice of the United States armed forces. The pillar provides a place of honor and reflection for veterans, their family and friends, and those who want to show their respects to those service men and women who have and continue to courageously serve the United States.

The memorial was designed by Anthem resident Renee Palmer-Jones. The five marble pillars represent the five branches of the United States military. They are staggered in size (from 17 ft to 6 ft) and ordered in accordance with the Department of Defense prescribed precedence, ranging from the United States Army, the United States Marine Corps, the United States Navy, the United States Air Force and the United States Coast Guard.

Additionally, the brick pavers within the Circle of Honor are inscribed with the names of over 750 U.S. servicemen and women, symbolizing the 'support' for the Armed Forces. The pavers are red, the pillars are white, and the sky is blue to represent America's flag. The circle represents an unbreakable border. Anthem resident and chief engineer, Jim Martin was responsible for aligning the memorial accurately with the sun.

Awards

- Arizona Historic Landmark Designation 2012 – Arizona Historical Society
- Arizona Public Works Project of the Year Award 2012 – Arizona Chapter of the American Public Works Association
- ACEC 2012 Grand Award – Best Engineering and Environmental Consulting Project

Veterans Day is an official United States holiday that honors people who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, also known as veterans. It is a federal holiday that is observed on November 11. It coincides with other holidays such as Armistice Day and Remembrance Day, which are celebrated in other parts of the world and also mark the anniversary of the end of World War I (major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, when the Armistice with Germany went into effect).

The United States also originally observed Armistice Day; it then evolved into the current Veterans Day holiday in 1954. *Veterans Day* is not to be confused with *Memorial Day*; Veterans Day celebrates the service of all U.S. military veterans, while Memorial Day is a day of remembering the men and women who died while serving.



When You Get Old, Look Below

“It’s awfully nice
to get that 5, 10
or 15% or even
50% discount
when you
become almost
senile.....Mmm
Are you there
yet?” 😊



RESTAURANTS:

Applebee's: 15% off with Golden Apple Card (60+)
Arby's: 10% off (55 +)
Burger King: 10% off (60+)
Chick-Fil-A: 10% off or free small drink or coffee (55+)
Denny's: 10% off, 20% off for AARP members (55 +)
Golden Corral: 10% off (60+)
IHOP: 10% off (55+)
KFC: free small drink with any meal (55+)
McDonald's: discounts on coffee everyday (55+)
Subway: 10% off (60+)
Taco Bell : 5% off; free beverages for seniors (65+)
Wendy's: 10% off (55 +)

RETAIL & APPAREL :

Big Lots: 30% off
Kohl's: 15% off (60+location))

GROCERY

Albertson's: 10% off first Wednesday of each month (55 +)
Fry's Supermarket: free Fry's VIP Club Membership & 10% off every Monday (55 +)
Kroger: 10% off (date varies by location)

Airlines:

Alaska Airlines: 50% off (65+)
American Airlines: various discounts for 50% off non-peak periods (Tuesdays - Thursdays) (62+)and up (call before booking for discount)
Southwest Airlines: various discounts for 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
United Airlines: various discounts for 65 and up (call before booking for discount)
U.S. Airways: various discounts for ages 65 and up (call before booking for discount)

Rail: Amtrak: 15% off (62+)

Bus: Greyhound: 15% off (62+) and Trail Ways: various discounts for ages 50+

Car Rental:

Alamo Car Rental: up to 25% off for AARP members
Avis: up to 25% off for AARP members
Budget Rental Cars: 40% off; up to 50% off for AARP members (50+)
Dollar Rent-A-Car: 10% off (50+)

Overnight Accommodations:

Holiday Inn: 20-40% off depending on location (62+)
Best Western: 40% off (55+)
Cambria Suites: 20%-30% off (60+) Suite (55 +)
Clarion Motels: 20%-30% off (60+)
Comfort Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
Comfort Suites: 20%-30% off (60+)
Econo-Lodge: 40% off (60+)
Hampton Inns & Suites: 40% off when booked 72 hours in advance
Hyatt Hotels: 25%-50% off (62+)
InterContinental Hotels Group: various discounts at all hotels (65+)
Marriott Hotels: 25% off (62+)
Motel 6: Stay Free Sunday nights (60+)
Myrtle Beach Resort: 30% off (55 +)
Quality Inn: 40%-50% off (60+)
Rodeway Inn: 20%-30% off (60+)
Sleep Inn: 40% off (60+)

Cell Phone Discounts:

AT&T: Special Senior Nation 200 Plan \$19.99/month (65+)
Jitterbug: \$10/month cell phone service (50 +)
Verizon Wireless: Verizon Nationwide 65 Plus Plan \$29.99/month (65+).

H.R 5484—Toxic Research Exposure Act

VVA supports H.R. 5484 the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014

Vietnam Veterans of America — Legislative Alert – Ask your Representative to Support H.R. 5484 the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014.

Representative Dan Benishek, (MI-1), has introduced H.R. 5484, the Toxic Exposure Research of 2014 formerly H.R. 4816, the Toxic Exposure Research and Military Family Support Act of 2014, VVA strongly supports this bill, which reflects positively on one of our foremost legislative goals. Not only would it help achieve a measure of justice for the innocent victims of the use of toxic substances in times of war, but it offers unlimited possibilities for scientific research into the effects of these toxic chemicals.

This comprehensive legislation will construct a common mechanism and procedures that will encompass all past and future toxic wounds, as needed.

VVA urges you to go to our Legislative Action Center site at <http://capwiz.com/vva/home/> and Take Action NOW by entering your zip code and sending the prepared letter to your U.S. Representative, asking them to please join their colleagues Brownley, (CA-26), Conyers, (MI-13) Honda (CA-17) and Rahall (WV-3) to co-sponsor H.R. 5484, the Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2014.

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the nation's only congressional chartered veterans service organization dedicated to the needs of Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA's founding principle is "Never again will one generation of Veterans abandon another."



“Agent Orange is a chemical most of us will never realize we have until much later in life and then it may take us to our grave”

VVA Membership Update

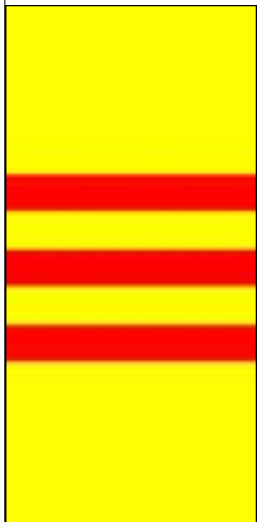
Membership Totals by Classification

<u>VVA</u>		<u>AVVA</u>		<u>New Members in October</u>
IND	24,754	AIND	4,576	VVA: 492
LMP	46,477	ALP	3,627	AVVA: 133
LMT	117	ALT	62	
IVI	2,210	AIVI	302	
VPHV	304			
TOTAL:	73,862	TOTAL:	8,567	
	<i>includes 1,099 Women Veterans</i>			

Deceased Members Reported in October

VVA: 67
AVVA: 9

DUAL MEMBERSHIPS: 338





**We ALL Get
Old And We
ALL Need To
Be Gracious
With One
Another**

The Winter Of "Our" Life

You know. . . Time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all the years went. I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... The winter of my life and it catches me by surprise...How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those older people were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

But, here it is...my friends are retired and getting grey...they move slower and I see an older person now. Some are in better and some worse shape than me...but, I see the great change...Not like the ones that I remember who were young and vibrant...but, like me, their age is beginning to show and we are now those older folks that we used to see and never thought we'd be. Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore ... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't of my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so...now I enter into this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last...this I know, that when it's over on this earth...it's over. A new adventure will begin! Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done...things I should have done, but indeed, there are many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet...let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can today, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not! You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life...so, live for today and say all the things that you want your loved ones to remember...and hope that they appreciate and love you for all the things that you have done for them in all the years past!! "Life" is a gift to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING: TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE SO - ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

Your kids are becoming you.....but your grandchildren are perfect!
Going out is good. Coming home is better! You forget names.... But it's OK because other people forgot they even knew you!!! You realize you're never going to be really good at anything.... Especially golf. The things you used to care to do, you no longer care to do, but you really do care that you don't care to do them anymore. You sleep better on a lounge chair with the TV blaring than in bed. It's called "pre-sleep". You miss the days when everything worked with just an "ON" and "OFF" switch. You tend to use more 4 letter words..."what?"..."when?"...? Now that you can afford expensive jewelry, it's not safe to wear it anywhere.

Everybody whispers. You have 3 sizes of clothes in your closet.... 2 of which you will never wear. But old is good in some things: Old Songs, Old movies, and best of all, OLD FRIENDS!! Stay well, "OLD FRIEND!" Send this on to other "Old Friends!" and let them laugh in agreement! It's not what you gather, but what you scatter that tells what kind of life you have lived!!!

VVA Recruitment Strategies

Recruitment and Retention Strategies

The following ideas were given to me at the Membership Seminar at the National leadership Conference in Wichita in August. Attendees were asked to write down their best strategies for recruiting and retaining members. Unfortunately, we ran out of time for a discussion but I hope these will be of help to you.

Recruitment Strategies

- Membership chair needs to know the VVA eligibility requirements
- Chapter offers membership discounts and picks up the difference
- Send the chapter newsletter to prospective members with a personalized note inviting the prospect to join
- When prospects attend a meeting make sure they are introduced to the membership
- Attend local fairs and events (show the large map of wartime Vietnam – contact Mary Bruzzese at National Office)
- Get permission to set up a VVA information table at VA clinics
- Pay first year membership for new members
- Have a chapter recruitment contest
- Have business cards with Chapter info for all members to carry for recruitment purposes
- Be involved in local community volunteer events – let the community see the Chapter as local resource

Retention Strategies

- Have food before or after the membership meeting
- Have a 50/50 drawing at every meeting with proceeds going to offer discounts for Life Memberships
- Display the map of wartime Vietnam at meetings
- Have fund raiser breakfasts or dinners at local restaurants (Applebee's was suggested)
- Have interesting guest speakers at meetings – VA staff, politicians (inviting them to speak to the Chapter does not constitute an endorsement), active and retired military members who can speak on topics of interest to the membership, VVA officers and board members, local community leaders, business owners with products or services of interest to the membership
- Get involved in local community volunteer events
- Make all meeting attendees feel welcomed at every meeting

Retaining Members

- Give them “jobs” that they can do in the VVA Chapter
- Provide them with the tools and guidelines they need to work
- Give them some choices of “what they might be capable of doing”
- Ask for their “talented” advice when you need some help
- Provide guidelines when necessary if they are in a position of importance
- Allow them to “teach you something”
- Every VVA member has 1-3 skills, use them
- Encourage them to do what they want and can do
- Rely on them for those most important things for the chapter or State Council.
- Allow them to prove themselves



Bigger Than Normandy??

In March 1945, 15 battleships, 29 carriers, 23 cruisers, 106 destroyers, and a train of oilers and supply ships sailed from "a Pacific base." What was this base? The mightiest force of naval Power ever assembled must have required a tremendous supporting establishment. Ulithi, the biggest and most active naval base in the world was indeed tremendous but it was unknown. Few civilians had heard of it at all. By the time security released the name, the remarkable base of Ulithi was a ghost. The war had moved on to the Japanese homeland, and the press was not printing ancient history about Ulithi which is 360 miles southwest of Guam, 850 miles east of the Philippines, 1300 miles South of Tokyo. It is a typical volcanic atoll with coral, white sand, and palm trees. The reef runs roughly twenty miles north and south by ten miles across enclosing a vast anchorage with an average depth of 80 to 100 feet - the only suitable anchorage within 800 miles. Three dozen little islands rise slightly above the sea, the largest only half a square mile in area.

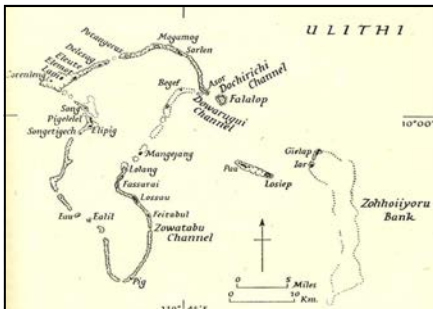
The U.S. Navy arrived in September 1944 and found resident about 400 natives, and three Japanese soldiers. The natives on the four largest islands were moved to smaller Fassarai, and every inch of these four was quickly put to use. Asor had room for a headquarters: port director, radio station, evaporator (rain is the only freshwater supply), tents, small boat pier, cemetery. Sorlen was set up as a shop for maintaining and repairing the 105 LCVPs and 45 LCMs that became beasts of all work in the absence of small boats. Mogmog was assigned to recreation. The big island, Falalop, was just wide enough for a 3500-foot airstrip for handling the R4Ds (Douglas DC-3s) and R5C Commandos, which would presently fly in from Guam 1269 passengers, 4565 sacks of mail and 262,251 pounds of air freight a week. Enter "the secret weapon," as Admiral Nimitz called Service Squadron Ten. Commodore Worrall R. Carter survived Pearl Harbor to devise the miraculous mobile service force that made it possible for the Navy to move toward Japan in great jumps instead of taking the slow and costly alternative of capturing a whole series of islands on which to build a string of land bases.

Within a month of the occupation of Ulithi, a whole floating base was in operation. Six thousand ship fitters, artificers, welders, carpenters, and electricians arrived aboard repair ships, destroyer tenders, floating dry docks. USS AJAX had an air-conditioned optical shop, a supply of base metals from which she could make any alloy to form any part needed. Many refrigerator and supply ships belonged to three-ship teams: the ship at Ulithi had cleaned out and relieved sister ship No. 2 which was on the way back to a rear base for more supplies while No. 3 was on the way out to relieve No. 1. Over half the ships were not self-propelled but were towed in. They then served as warehouses for a whole system of transports which unloaded stores on them for distribution. This kind of chain went all the way back to the United States.



“This is the **REASON** to read up on **HISTORY**.

Throughout our lifetime, we miss so very much that has happened and to pass onto **OTHERS!!**



The Story of a WWII Alaskan Army Soldier



“One never know where ANY OF OUR brave SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN, fearless MARINES, good MERCHANT MARINES and the COASTGUARD’S would ever spend their time during World War II. A quick study would never do WWII any great justice. One should find a topic and read a whole lot about it and pass it on to the children and grandchildren, which could be about your FATHER way back in the great 1940’s”

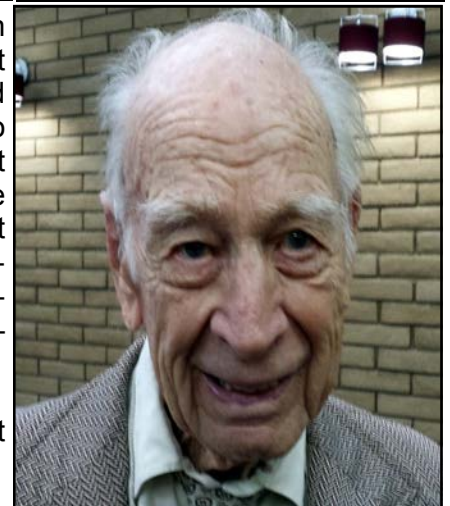
In the early 1940’s this brave young man by the name of Glen McKinnon joined the US Army with the expectation of going to Hawaii, but when he was issued cold weather boots,, warm jacket, he knew differently that he would spend his time on a different set of islands. McKinnon was 17 years old with his parents permission to join in 1942. They entered the Army without any training and were assigned to the 207th Port Company in Alaska. They were sent there to build airfields and they did that very thing between the bombings from Japan, The Japanese occupied the islands for more than a year and with the help of the Russians with coal, they were kept warm for sometime,

The average person does not know how close they were to being invaded and always in touch with the Japanese invaders for such a long time.. During on of the harshest winters, in a tent city, winds of 115 miles per hour came by and destroyed the entire “city”, therefore, they spent months on ships and had to go onto land to do their work everyday which became harsh at best. According to McKinnon, they nearly froze to death. Later they went to Adak Island where they were issued new clothing



which was a big help. Glen served his country without thinking about it and loved doing it all the time. He is to be honored for doing his part to save America and the world from an ideology that would have changed everything for the next generations growing up. Just imagine the impact today.

This is Glen on the right at 90+ years old.



- 1 **JUNE 3, 1942:** Japanese bombers attack U.S. military base on Dutch Harbor on the island of Unalaska.
- 2 **JUNE 6, 1942:** Japanese forces invade the islands of Attu taking most of the native Aleut prisoner.
- 3 **JUNE 7, 1942:** Japanese forces invade the islands of Attu.
- MAY 11, 1943:** Operation to recapture Attu begins.
- 4 **MAY 29, 1943:** Japanese forces mount a barzai attack near Massacre Bay on Attu. Fierce hand-to-hand combat results in almost all of the nearly 2,500 Japanese soldiers being killed.
- 5 **AUGUST 1943:** United States establishes an air base on Adak and begins bombing Japanese positions on Kiska.
- 6 **AUG. 7, 1943:** Invasion force of more than 30,000 U.S. soldiers and 5,300 Canadian soldiers lands on Kiska. Troops find the Japanese forces have already evacuated that island.
- 7 **MARCH 27, 1943:** Battle of Komadorski Islands. Outnumbered two-to-one, U.S. naval forces turn away Japan's attempt to get supplies to garrisons still on the islands.

My Relationship With “WWII Hero” – Audie Murphy

It isn't often that you become friends with the most famous World War II veteran and the one that was decorated more than anyone in the world for his action in that war. Well, we happen to know someone who has spoken to Audie many times, met him and started a “fan club” when they were very common back in the day. Listen to this:

When I was sixteen years old I saw my first Audie Murphy movie “Guns of Fort Petticoat”. I fell in love with him immediately. I am a research fanatic and decided to find out everything about him I could. I found out he was a married, had two boys Terry and Skipper. To my surprise, a hero.

At some point I decided he needed a fan club. It seemed a bit pretentious of me to start one without his permission. I knew he had been under contract with Universal for many years and if anyone could find him, they could. I wrote him a letter care of them and they would, I hoped, forward it to him. One day my friend and I were working on a project at her house and my sister, came to the door out of breath, saying I had a phone call and she thought it was Audie Murphy! I was all “sure it is what kind of a joke are you trying to play on me?” She said it was no joke to hurry home. So, I ran down the street grabbed the phone from my mother, and yes it was him!

He talked and I said “uh-huh” a lot and I don't remember what else, but he did say he had no fan clubs! I was in true disbelief, how could that be? He said that “if we wanted to start one, he'd be honored and touched”. I still cannot believe that he had no other fan club but our little one which included me, my mother, my sister and my friend.

I spoke to him on the phone several times before we met; and only met in person twice. He seemed to be a lot like I thought he'd be. He did not write the movie--**To Hell and Back**, it was a ghost writer, “Spec” McClure; he related some stories to him and he filled in the rest with fantasy. I thought the person I spoke with didn't speak the way the author of the book did. He didn't finish high school, but was self educated in a way. At the end of his life he was running a film company with a director he enjoyed working with. He left me the phone number of his company, so if I wanted to talk to him.. I did, go back up in a few months to have lunch with him and we visited and he told me a few things that I didn't know. When he began the cowboy movies, he mentioned he was one of the partners that started the Tucson Movie Studio and there were about ten men in the original partnership to include John Wayne, Lee Marvin, James Arness, Ben Johnson, and Dale Robertson.

I went to college in 1971 to be a Forensic Investigator. But May 28th, took the wind out of my sails. When his plane went down and he was killed, I tried to study and stay in school but I just didn't have the energy. I made up my mind in 1974 to try to go in the service, which one I couldn't decide. I called a friend and asked her what he would have thought about me going into the armed services. She said she thought Audie would be very proud of me if I went into the Army. I actually went to Basic Training on June 25, 1975. After I was at Fort Jackson, South Carolina for 4 days, they marched us into a big room and re-swore us into the United States Army, we were no longer WACs, and we were now Enlisted Women or EW's.

This was the first year I started to send yellow roses to his grave on June 20th (his birthday). The first year I called Arlington to make sure they had been placed on his grave. The lady who was in charge of that at the time told me that Mr. James Cagney and I had been the only two people who sent him flowers for his birthday.

As far as Audie Murphy is concerned, he would have been proud that I served. Looking back, I am glad I got to know the man that had a lot to do with winning World War II. Not many have or have had that opportunity to meet a real war hero and have a relationship with him. In fact, all of these years later, that same fan club that was started by me back in the late 1960's still exists.

Relationships is a lot of this life is all about and we should all take advantage of the things that is put before us and mine was with Audie Murphy.

Carla Ivey



“Relationships are important—and we should all take advantage of those who come into our lives and make the most of it, for one day, they will not be around any longer”



The Life of Mitchell Paige—Medal of Honor Recipient

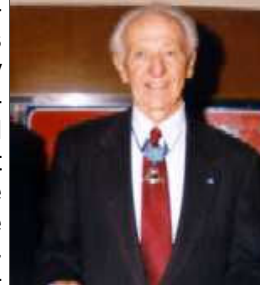
On Nov. 15, 2003, an 85-year-old retired Marine Corps Colonel died of congestive heart failure at his home in La Quinta, Calif., southeast of Palm Springs. He was a combat veteran of World War II. Reason enough to honor him. But this Marine was a little different. This Marine was Mitchell Paige. It's hard today to envision - or, for the dwindling few, to remember - what the world looked like on 26 Oct 1942. The U.S. Navy was not the most powerful fighting force in the Pacific. Not by a long shot. So the Navy basically dumped a few thousand Marines on the beach at Guadalcanal.

As Platoon Sgt. Mitchell Paige and his 33 riflemen set about carefully emplacing their four water-cooled .30-caliber Browning machine guns, manning their section of the thin khaki line which was expected to defend Henderson Field against the assault of the night of 25 Oct 1942, it's unlikely anyone thought they were about to provide the definitive answer to that most desperate of questions: How many able-bodied U.S. Marines does it take to hold a hill against 2,000 desperate and motivated Japanese attackers? Nor did the commanders of the Japanese Army, who had swept everything before them for decades, expect their advance to be halted on some jungle ridge manned by one thin line of Marines in October of 1942. But by the time the night was over, The Japanese 29th Infantry Regiment has lost 553 killed or missing and 479 wounded among its 2,554 men, historian David Lippman reports. The Japanese 16th Regiment's losses are uncounted, but the [US] 164th's burial parties handled 975 Japanese bodies. . The American estimate of 2,200 Japanese dead is probably too low. Among the 90 American dead and seriously wounded that night were all the men in Mitchell Paige's platoon; every one. As the night of endless attacks wore on, Paige moved up and down his line, pulling his dead and wounded comrades back into their fox-holes and firing a few bursts from each of the four Brownings in turn, convincing the Japanese forces down the hill that the positions were still manned.

The citation for Paige's Medal of Honor Citation defines the event: "When the enemy broke through the line directly in front of his position, P/Sgt. Paige, commanding a machinegun section with fearless determination, continued to direct the fire of his gunners until all his men were either killed or wounded. Alone, against the deadly hail of Japanese shells, he fought with his gun and when it was destroyed, took over another, moving from gun to gun, never ceasing his withering fire." In the end, Sgt. Paige picked up the last of the 40-pound, belt-fed Brownings (the same design which John M. Browning fired for a continuous 25 minutes until it ran out of ammunition, glowing cherry red, at its first U.S. Army demonstration) and did something for which the weapon was never designed. Sgt. Paige walked down the hill toward the place where he could hear the last Japanese survivors rallying to move around his flank, the belt-fed gun cradled under his arm, firing as he went. The weapon did not fail. At dawn, battalion executive officer Major Odell M. Conoley was first to discover the answer to our question: How many able-bodied Marines does it take to hold a hill against two regiments of motivated, combat-hardened Japanese infantrymen who have never known defeat? On a hill where the bodies were piled like cordwood, Mitchell Paige alone sat upright behind his 30-caliber Browning, waiting to see what the dawn would bring. One hill: one Marine. But "In the early morning light, the enemy could be seen a few yards off, and vapor from the barrels of their machine guns was clearly visible," reports historian Lippman. "It was decided to try to rush the position."

For the task, Major Conoley gathered together "three enlisted communication personnel, several riflemen, a few company runners who were at the point, together with a cook and a few mess men who had brought food to the position the evening before." Joined by Paige, this ad hoc force of 17 Marines counterattacked at 5:40a.m., discovering that this extremely short range allowed the optimum use of grenades. They cleared the ridge. And that's where the previously unstoppable wave of Japanese conquests finally broke and began to recede. On an unnamed jungle ridge on an insignificant island no one had ever heard of, called Guadalcanal. But who remembers, today, how close-run a thing it was, the ridge held by a single Marine, in the autumn of 1942?

Some time after, when the Hasbro Toy Co. telephoned asking permission to put the retired Colonel's face on some kid's doll, Mitchell Paige thought they must be joking. But they weren't. That's his face on the little Marine they call "G.I. Joe."



Question is:

“Are we good looking or good enough to have a toy made after the looks of us?”





“The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier” is something to be revered and honored as long we are in the military”



The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier” is known ONLY to God.

No Matter How Old We Get, We Can Still Learn Something

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was "How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns?" All three contestants missed it! This is really an awesome sight to watch if you've never had the chance. Fascinating.
Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1.

How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps:

It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2.

How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds for the same reason as answer number 1

3.

Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4.

Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5.

How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6.

What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10' and 6' 2' tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform.

Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred.

VA and Walgreens Sharing Data

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced that it will join forces with retailer Walgreens to provide greater access to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recommended vaccinations to Veterans across the country. This partnership grew out of a successful pilot program that began in Florida to provide flu vaccines to Veterans throughout the state. Based on those results, VA is expanding the pilot nation-wide. Through its nearly 8,200 locations nationwide, Walgreens will offer flu and other recommended vaccinations to Veterans. Pharmacists can administer vaccinations to Veterans and will leverage eHealth Exchange, through its Walgreens Cloud Electronic Health Records platform, to securely share immunization records with VA to help ensure complete patient medical records. Vaccinations are available daily during all pharmacy hours with no appointment necessary and are subject to availability. “VA is proud to partner with Walgreens to provide needed vaccines to our nation’s Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “This partnership is a great example of how government and the private sector can work together to effectively and efficiently provide Veterans the care and benefits that they’ve earned.” “Walgreens is committed to supporting our Veterans, and we are proud to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide convenient access to vaccines,” said Walgreens President and Chief Executive Officer Greg Wasson. “This is an excellent opportunity for our pharmacists to help VA educate Veterans about the importance of vaccinations, to improve immunization rates through greater access and to contribute to helping veterans get, stay and live well.” “The VA-Walgreens partnership gives Veterans greater choice in time and location for getting their flu shots without having to complete any other VA forms,” said Interim Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Carolyn Clancy. “With this program, the Veteran patient’s record is integrated, and VA maintains a complete immunization record that allows us to more effectively provide patient-centered care.” Vaccines are subject to availability. Age, state and health related restrictions may apply. Many immunizations may be covered by commercial insurance plans, Medicare Part B or Medicare Part D. As part of this launch and under the agreement, VA funding can provide approximately 75,000 flu shots for enrolled veterans. Patients are encouraged to check with their health plan for specific coverage details. To find the nearest Walgreens, veterans can call 1-800-WALGREENS.

Vietnam Veterans Wall in Gilbert Arizona

The Arizona Wall Project is being designed and soon to be built in Gilbert Arizona. Designed by Mia Lin, this stark looking wall will serve as reminder for what it should. There are no branch indications, as it should. The wall is the first permanent wall west of the Mississippi River and is the first wall built within a 100 miles radius with 60 feet long and 100 feet high. The project site is on a 7 acre site.

Three main concepts to emphasize with the wall.

- #1--As visitors walk the wall, the apex show the larger portion of it,
- #2--It will be educational and see the respect of the veterans.
- #3--It is a healing as friends; buddies see the wall they can be touched emotionally.

They are seeking input and ideas for programs at the wall, possibly educational programs, flag raising, Mother’s Day, etc. There will be a concept of the “Sons and Daughters In Touch with the Wall” to discuss their parents who served. The South Vietnamese community wanted to help with the project and have been tremendous at creative thinking and ideas to be put into place.. There are over 35,000 Vietnamese people in the community and are willing to be apart of it. Many of them fought with the American’s and now live in Arizona. Some remained in Vietnam and went thru the educational camps and then came over. The American Legion’s, Rick Romley, Cory Remsburg and Jenn Daniels, are on the board as well.. They are thankful to Mike Marks, Chapter 1011 for their input. The first phase I to cost \$1.5M. The land was donated and dedicated on September 23rd 2014. The construction team will primarily be from former military. The police and fire departments of Gilbert recommended the 7 acres right next door to the Police department.

Web site: <http://www.azwallproject.com> email: info@operationwelcomehomeaz.com

Their address: 9349 1760 E. Pecos Rd, #344, Gilbert, AZ85295, and the POC’s are: Roger Pollard, Lisa Rigler, and Amy Rigler.



“ TO see the beauty of the world, all one must do is to **LOOK** for it. It is there, but the **HEART** must be open to look for it and see what it has to offer”

The first bridges were made by nature itself—as simple as a log fallen across a stream or stones in the river. The first bridges made by humans were probably spans of cut wooden logs or planks eventually stones, using a simple support and crossbeam arrangement. Some early Americans used trees or bamboo poles to cross small caverns or wells to get from one place to another. A common form of lashing sticks, logs, and deciduous branches together involved the use of long reeds or other harvested fibers woven together to form a connective rope capable of binding and holding together the materials used in early bridges.

Bridges From Around the World



Hungary



Germany



Vietnam



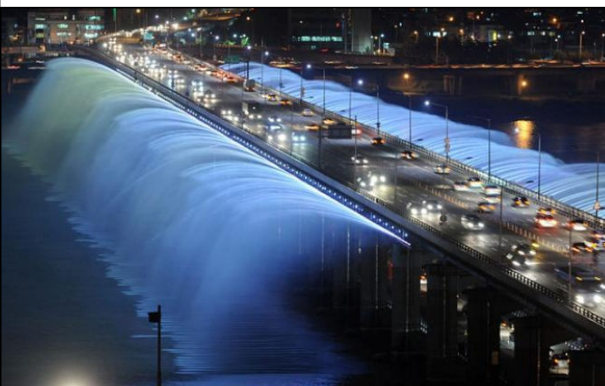
Czech Republic



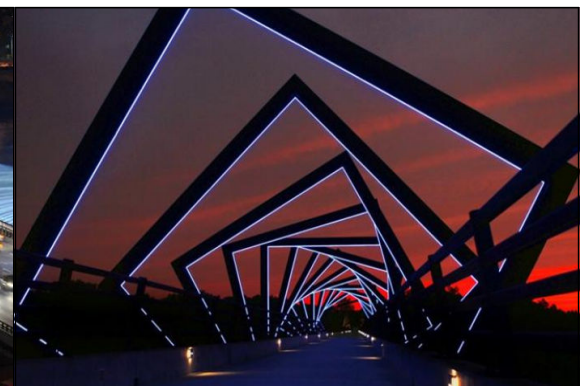
Holland



Taiwan



South Korea



United States of America

Where Did “This Come From?”

recollections from the attic



SINCE BOYHOOD, Mike Thompson has wondered about the origins of his lucky button (inset). He once carried the brass treasure in his pocket, but these days it remains on his desk among other special keepsakes.

KEPT IT

Piece of the Past

A lost brass button became my window into history.

BY MIKE THOMPSON • SAN ANGELO, TX

My family is full of arrowhead collectors who are always scanning the ground for interesting finds, so I became a treasure hunter when I was very young. One day in the early 1950s, when I was about 7, I was walking through the prairie just outside Mandan, North Dakota, when something small and round caught my eye.

It was an old brass button, but on closer inspection, I realized it was more than just that. It

was an Army uniform button, most likely from the Indian Wars. After all, the place I found it was close to Fort Lincoln, the Army post where Gen. George Armstrong Custer and the 7th Cavalry had been stationed years ago.

I kept my find in a cigar box filled with boyhood treasures until the summer of 1964, when I appeared in a play about Custer. I carried the little brass button in the pocket of my yellow-striped cavalry pants that summer, occasionally rubbing it for good luck.

The amphitheater where we performed was at the edge of the fort, just off the road Custer and his men took to their fateful battle at Little Big Horn in 1876. Had the keepsake I held in my hand been worn by a 7th Cavalry soldier?

Two years later, the button, worn smooth from jostling against the coins in my pockets, went all the way to Vietnam with me. As an Army medic, I was stationed on a small mountain near Phu Cat with about 60 Korean soldiers doing malaria research. Once in a while I would take out my talisman, rub it for luck and wonder how many battles it had been through.

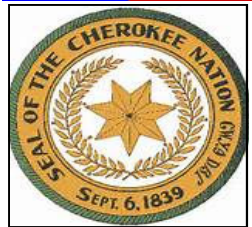
Recently I walked across the porch of Custer's house, rebuilt on the same ground where it had stood more than a century before, and reflected on the possibility that my lucky brass button had once been at this exact spot.



“It isn’t until the end of our time that we think about “what we can do for our children or grand-children”. SO if you have not yet thought about that special thing you can do like a trip “somewhere” with you or that special keepsake that you have treasured for sixty plus years or that nice monetary gift you’d like to give to your very special and loving grandchildren, well this is the time, because, you want to make it very, very special for you and them.”

Editor’s Note: Mike Thompson had a lot of his life in Yuma, Arizona where he worked at Yuma Proving Ground, AZ as a Test Engineer and later he founded and created a most wonderful Heritage Library, a museum having all forms of items, relics, etc from World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the wars after that. He was also a member of VVA-835. Mike created quite the interest in museum science and his museum is still alive today after more than two decades of use. All of us have those little intricate items from a family member of those little things that you happen to find on the ground and you have NO IDEA where it came from. May we recommend that you try to locate the details or history of those little things in your possession and pass them onto your grandchildren? Needless to say, they would love and cherish those items that meant so much to you over these past several decades. You will be glad you did that.

Tuba City Clinic Opens For Indian Veterans



A new veterans administration clinic in the city of Tuba City, AZ will enhance access to healthcare for Native Americans veterans who live in remote areas on the Navajo and Hopi reservations. The opening date was Sept. 23, 2014 at the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation in that city.

A wonderful partnership with the Veterans Affairs Office of Rural Health in northern Arizona, the VA Healthcare System and the local hospital, took three years in the making, a workable agreement was worked out and penned earlier this year.

Mr. Rod Sepulveda, the rural health program coordinator for the Northern Arizona VA Health Care System, said the agreement allows VA staff to provide services to eligible Indian veterans on the Tuba City campus.

It is believed by all that it is very important as a lot of Indian Veterans do not have access to reliable transportation or any means to actually and physically make the journey to a distant city such as Prescott or Flagstaff. Having local access, the Indians are encouraged to come in as soon as they start feeling ill and that can help prevent the disease or illness process moving forward."

Because of the space and resource sharing agreement, veterans are now able to schedule primary care appointments with VA providers at the Tuba City VA clinic, get lab work done, receive medications and see available specialty services in the same facility. Other CBOC's such as Yuma provides much of the same type of processing and care as this one does.

Veterans who want to be seen by the VA providers must be signed up with the VA. But veterans do have a choice. They can be seen though the Tuba City Regional Health Care Corporation and the VA reimburses the hospital for the services it provides those veterans, which means it increases revenue and the operation budget for the hospital so that it can provide more services.

"The Indian Nation is one to be PRESERVED for the good of the ir people and the people of the United States that migrated here"





“Would ANY of you consider writing a nice compliment like about America. After all, I dare say you were born here, but if not, you live here and fought for America and Vietnam”



What Do Other Countries “Think” Of the United States?

America: The Good Neighbor — It is not often that the United States gets a compliment

Widespread but only partial news coverage was given recently to a remarkable editorial broadcast from Toronto by Gordon Sinclair, a Canadian television commentator. What follows is the full text of his trenchant remarks as printed in the Congressional For The Record:

"This Canadian thinks it is time to speak up for the Americans as the most generous and possibly the least appreciated people on all the earth.

Germany, Japan and, to a lesser extent, Britain and Italy were lifted out of the debris of war by the Americans who poured in billions of dollars and forgave other billions in debts. None of these countries is today paying even the interest on its remaining debts to the United States.

When France was in danger of collapsing in 1956, it was the Americans who propped it up, and their reward was to be insulted and swindled on the streets of Paris. I was there. I saw it.

When earthquakes hit distant cities, it is the United States that hurries in to help. This spring, 59 American communities were flattened by tornadoes. Nobody helped.

The Marshall Plan and the Truman Policy pumped billions of dollars into discouraged countries. Now newspapers in those countries are writing about the decadent, warmongering Americans.

I'd like to see just one of those countries that is gloating over the erosion of the United States dollar build its own airplane. Does any other country in the world have a plane to equal the Boeing Jumbo Jet, the Lockheed Tri-Star, or the Douglas DC10? If so, why don't they fly them? Why do all the International lines except Russia fly American Planes?

Why does no other land on earth even consider putting a man or woman on the moon? You talk about Japanese technocracy, and you get radios. You talk about German technocracy, and you get automobiles. You talk about American technocracy, and you find men on the moon - not once, but several times - and safely home again.

You talk about scandals, and the Americans put theirs right in the store window for everybody to look at. Even their draft-dodgers are not pursued and hounded. They are here on our streets, and most of them, unless they are breaking Canadian laws, are getting American dollars from ma and pa at home to spend here.

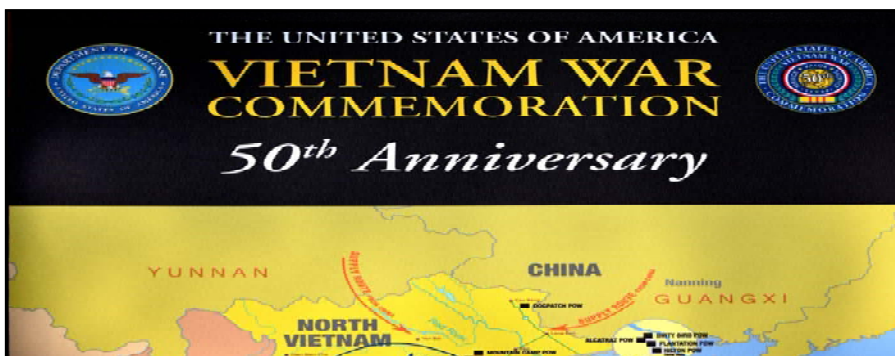
When the railways of France, Germany and India were breaking down through age, it was the Americans who rebuilt them. When the Pennsylvania Railroad and the New York Central went broke, nobody loaned them an old caboose. Both are still broke or gone.

I can name you 5000 times when the Americans raced to the help of other people in trouble. Can you name me even one time when someone else raced to the Americans in trouble? I don't think there was outside help even during the San Francisco earthquake.

Our neighbors have faced it alone, and I'm one Canadian who is tired of hearing them get kicked around. They will come out of this thing with their flag high. And when they do, they are entitled to thumb their nose at the lands that are gloating over their present troubles. I hope Canada is not one of those."

Stand very proud, America!
And wear it very proudly

The 4th Annual Vietnam Veterans Dinner—4 October 2014





Fourth Annual Dinner in Honor of Arizona Viet Nam Veterans



“Riders on the Storm” by Joe Kline



**Scottsdale Plaza Resort
7200 North Scottsdale Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253
October 4, 2014**

America's Vietnamese Allies



Misconceptions about South Vietnamese Armed Forces

It is not surprising that some American troops sent to Southeast Asia -- mostly young, indifferently educated, and molded by a society with too much self-esteem and too little understanding of other cultures -- found it hard to empathize with South Vietnam's soldiers. Unfortunately, many veterans of the Vietnam War joined radical agitators, draft dodgers and smoke-screen politicians to besmirch the honor of an army that could no longer defend itself. Some have mistakenly or intentionally said that South Vietnam's soldiers were incompetent, treacherous, and cowardly. Of course, the South Vietnamese forces were imperfect. They had their share of bad leaders, cowardly troops, blundering and brutality—just as some American forces had in Southeast Asia.

Some of South Vietnam's armed forces' organization, logistics, staff work and leadership lagged behind U.S. forces, but South Vietnam was a developing nation and was suddenly plunged into a war to the death against a powerful enemy supplied by the Communist bloc.

Many of the weaknesses exhibited by the South Vietnamese forces were identical to the ones the U.S. armed forces had during the American War of Independence, even though late 18th-century America had several advantages:

1. the whole scale of the Revolutionary War was smaller and easier to manage;
2. America's colonial experience had fostered local self-government and permitted the country to develop some truly outstanding leaders unlike Vietnam;
3. the British were less persistent than the North Vietnamese; and
4. French allies did not abandon young America the way the U.S. government abandoned South Vietnam.

But the issue of organization, logistics, staff work and even leadership are not the basis of the slandering of the South Vietnamese forces.

Two questions touch on the real issue. First: Were South Vietnamese fighting men so lacking in character, courage, toughness and patriotism that Americans are justified in slandering them and assigning them all blame for the defeat of freedom in Southeast Asia? Second: Were U.S. soldiers so much better than their allies that Americans can afford to treat the South Vietnamese with contempt? The answer to both questions is a resounding "No!"

The Truth About South Vietnamese Troops' Performance

The Tet Offensive of 1968 was supposed to crack South Vietnam's will to resist. Instead, South Vietnamese forces fought ferociously and effectively: no unit collapsed or ran. Even the police fought, turning their pistols against heavily armed enemy regulars. Afterward the number of South Vietnamese enlistments rose so high, according to reports at the time

Vietnam Veterans Reception—3 October 2014



This became a nice evening to meet new people and get a “sneak peek” at our guest speaker and catch up with old friends that you usually don’t see for a year.

About thirty-five to forty people showed up to the reception on Friday, the 3rd of October to have sort of a meet-and-greet time.

Joe Abodeely, our host for the evening set this reception event up for people to re-

connect with some new folks and reconnect with others. Below you will see Joe and Col. Jacobs with Joey Strickland and the Colonel. The Schumacher’s with Col. Jacobs among many others.

A nice evening to say the least to make some new friends and acquaintances.



“Close friends and family is one of the best things we can have in this world. Make the most of it everyday.”



The Weapons We Used

“See the AK-47 rifle to the right?”

What does the “47” within the name of the rifle mean?

How many of us could remember how to fire some of the weapons we used close to or over 50 years ago?

How about cleaning it or reloading it? That is a lot to think about and then there is some weapons we’ve never used before such as the AK-47 or possibly the M-60 machine gun?

Here is something to recall...



A Number One Location

For the second year in a row, the Scottsdale Plaza Resort has done it up right. By hosting our annual 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War Event, the setting, the people, the meal and the guest speakers and honoring those who went to Vietnam, it always turns out to be a nice setting for the entire evening. This once a year time is something all of us look forward to with great anticipation and knowing each year it is always different with great speakers and VIP's and seeing those "old faces" on an annual basis, the evening is simply wonderful.

We so appreciate Joe Abodeely who works very hard all year long to put this into place for hundreds of people to see and partake of year after year. He is certainly a blessing and all of us certainly admire him for taking the huge responsibility on making it great for all of us.



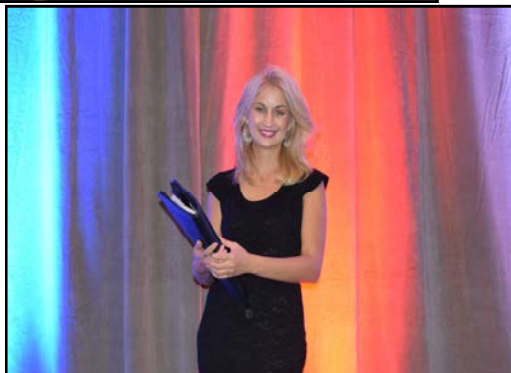
"With some events, it is all about location, location and location and the Scottsdale Plaza Resort did it #1"

A Wonderful Setting

The Scottsdale Plaza Resort provided a superb setting and delicious meal and dessert for over 325 of us to enjoy on an annual basis and as always, it was simply wonderful and we thank them for a nice evening that we will likely always remember at least for a year. We appreciate the effort they made for all of us.



Needless to say, this young lady to the right is the one that made it all happen for more than two years in a row. This event is one of the largest in the entire state of Arizona And it is put on in such a way that all are very pleased with her "touch" to do it not her way, but the right way. We would like to say **THANK YOU** and **THANK YOU AGAIN** to this lady we call Jennifer who has worked at the resort for several years and is unfortunately leaving to return to her home state. Everything you see in this newsletter and the movie is a result of her efforts in making this a **VERY MEMORABLE** event for all of us to enjoy. Jennifer, to you, we once again, thank you so much.



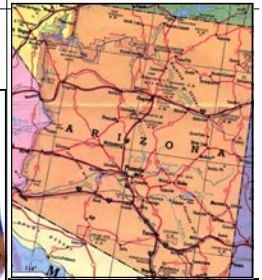
This Event Was a TRIBUTE To ALL Vietnam Veterans

Between the Arizona Department of Military Affairs headed up by Ted Vogt and the Joe Abodeely who manages the Arizona Military Museum, everyone was simply amazed over the entire evening of the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War Dinner. This was the 4th annual event and it simply out did the others by a lot. With over 350 people in attendance on Saturday, the 4th of October 2014 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, the evening was none other than "FABULOUS" and awe inspiring for an event that gets repeated on an annual basis.

First, the thought and preparation that goes into an event like this is simply amazing. COL. Joe Abodeely out does himself each year by thoughtfully preparing the event, obtaining the right personnel to speak, the evening right away becomes a "professional" evening, then a "delicious" one with a wonderful dinner and then a very "personal" one with a gift prepared for each and every one of us.

Frankly, the author of this newsletter truly looks forward to it with expectation of seeing something different each time. It is an evening that we can visit with our old friends sometimes from the previous year, or sometimes with those we have not seen for a while, but all in all, we get that opportunity to "dress up", take our wives out for an evening that neither you nor her will forget for a long time and you have that 50th coin to remember it by.

So, we thank **Director Ted Vogt and COL. Joe Abodeely** for a wonderful and unforgettable evening that will last us for a long, long time. **To both of you, thank you again.**



“How many of us have ever been back to our native country where our parents or grandparents came from? Maybe, we should consider a trip with our children and show them our original home?” It may cause them to have interest in the family history.”

These Vietnamese Kids Got A Real Treat

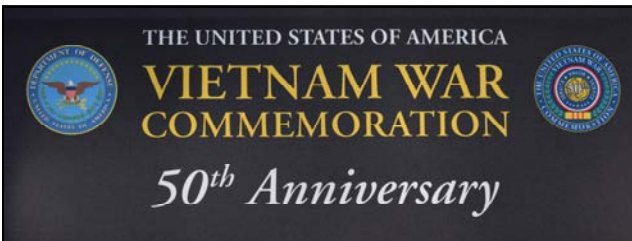
A real gentleman by the name of Lam Bui provided a table for about ten Vietnamese kids that would likely have never been to one of our annual dinners. Due to the fact that he could not be here on the 4th of October, he made the gesture to pay for a table for the kids to see the “other side of the coin” from adult Americans who fought for their parents and grandparents back in the 1960’s and 1970’s. As it turned out, some of them were born in Vietnam, but

had not been back to their home country since they left and did not know a lot about it. We so appreciate Lam Bui who also prints the presentation documents for this dinner and event for all of us to enjoy and have as a “keepsake”.

To the right is “Miss Vietnam and a group of Vietnamese young people who attended this event for the first time. Some were born in their country and others right here in the United States of America.



The 50th Commemoration of Vietnam Directorate Was Present



The 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War Program Directorate was on hand for this event and we so appreciated their efforts to support all of the “Commemorative Partner” events such as this to take place on an annual basis. Below you will see LTC (Ret) Mark Franklin who takes care of the History and Education of the Vietnam War. Then we have LTC Mario McBride and of course the leader of this fine group is LTG (Ret) Mick Kicklighter who heads up this entire program throughout the United States.





Looking Back - - A Little Bit

One could not have had a better time on October 4, 2014 at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort with nearly 350+ Vietnam Veterans and their wives. The program, the guest speakers, the videos and of course the meal was simply one “never to forget”. It is events like this that make these types of occasions worthwhile coming to and they bring a true sense of camaraderie alive amongst all of us that were present. For this gathering that will always create and keep a lot of memories for all of us to enjoy as our years pass by.

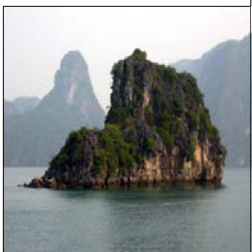
“A lot of men have gone back to Vietnam and discovered their enemies and made friends with them after all of these years”.

You know that friendship and being friendly is one thing that this world is all about”

As we get older in years, it is Vietnam Events such as this that help keep us going knowing we will experience the fellowship and enjoyable friendship that we might not often enjoy over the year.

It is important to remember those events in our older years that make our younger years that much more special. We should choose to remember the good times of our lives as opposed to recalling the bad times. I dare say, most of us have had wonderful times in all of ours tours of duty.

It might be important for ALL for us, that we take a break from anything except the good memories of our tour in Vietnam. If we were able to ask our Fathers about World War II or our grandfathers about World War I, I can firmly relate they had plenty of good things to say about their tour in their service time in any country but that of the war zones they were in. Oh, sure, not every day was wonderful, but for ALL of us, we all can remember and fully recall some great times. Have you considered returning for a great trip with your kids??



Is This Really Saigon? Yes It Is!!

Saigon or the official name Ho Chi Minh City is really transformed city from when some of us remember it almost fifty years ago. What you are seeing here is downtown Saigon and it is changed city from what we can recall from some of it being part of a village to this huge metropolitan complex within Southeast Asia on the China Sea. It is modern, clean, efficient and all of the food, water, drink, etc is superb. They obtained a lot of the expertise in building from architects in Australia and it is there for them in many respects. That tells me the Aussie’s have moved on.



The Danny Kealey Band

The Danny Kealey Band has been the traditional ensemble for many years for this type of event playing the traditional and very pleasant music that we may have listened to during our time in the military. We so appreciate them playing the South Vietnamese National Anthem as well as the American National Anthem and the all of the military service songs. They are a great

part of this event and always look forward to seeing them on an annual basis.

Their music is melodious and are soothing to recall the soft tunes of yester-year at least for most of us.

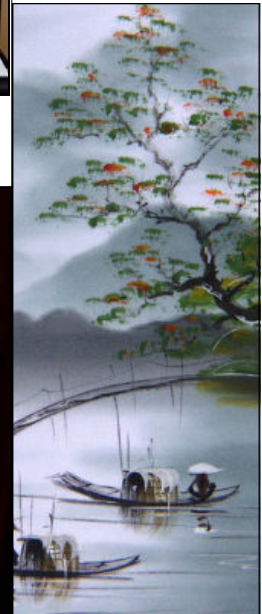
The playing of the tunes has to be ingrained in their memory and fingers to do such a fabulous job. We thank you Danny and the gang



Vietnam Art Work

One would be surprised to see someone else's art work as it "can" remind us of being somewhere else in Vietnam. IT is amazing how a lot of places resemble other places as, at that time Vietnam looked like anywhere else in that country. I am amazed for the men and women that took the time to reflect

what the country, the people, the war, the land, anything was like back then to them. All of us can look at any piece and say: "Hey, that looks like so-and-so" and frankly it really could as Vietnam resembles everywhere else in their country. It certainly has a lot of beauty all of its own on.



Getting To Know One Another At The Reception

These once a year events can be real nice, but seeing that person on an annual basis, the first to go is not the hair, but the memory. So, this is the time one catches up with that person from 2013 or 2012 and find out about their life for the previous twenty-four months and see how the grandchildren are, the great grandchildren and those special ones in our life.

It is always good to see the current and former military here, those that served in many different places throughout the world. Having the Vietnamese community on hand is always a special treat and them seeing as how they have made America their new home.

This is what America is all about. When you look back from World I forward, the Germans, Italians, the English, the French, the Koreans and the South Vietnamese have always see a better place in the world and that is the United States of America. Let us ALWAYS remember what America has done for us who were born here and that is it gave us life unlike anywhere else and anywhere in time.



The South Vietnamese Color Guard



The **South Vietnamese Color Guard** is always on hand to perform their duties in an honorable way. The way they honor the South Vietnam flag and the American flag is a real respect for them.

As they sing the anthems of their country, they of course know the words and the same follows true for when the Star Spangled Banner is sung, the words—"**Say Can You See...**" comes from their lips.

Esteemed Guests and VIP's

Joe Abodeely, our esteemed host provided a wonderful program for the hundreds in attendance this evening. His charisma, speech style always provides a smile on our face. His choice of speakers and guests is simply wonderful and we owe Joe a host of thanks for always- "**A JOB WELL DONE**"



LTG Mick Kicklighter, the man that makes all of this happen for the Vietnam Veteran throughout America. He heads up the DOD 50th Commemoration Program Directorate in Washington DC and works with the Commemorative Partners and Congress to ensure that all of the partners get what they need to honor all of those Vietnam Veterans across this country of America. We so appreciate this man for his truly long and extensive and honorable career and still in his eighties honoring veterans from all branches of service and from all wars whether he served in them or not.

MG Michael McGuire and his wife attend this event each year and enjoy themselves each year. He is head of the Arizona National Guard who oversees any military action or assistance for the state of Arizona.

We appreciate his efforts in overseeing the National Guard and the people in Arizona and look up to him where we see he has a huge job with all that he does for us living in Arizona.

A “50th Vietnam Dinner” To Remember—“Superb”



Dinner at any of the gala events is always a nice treat when you sit with friends and in some cases family.

These Vietnam Veteran event sometimes just don't happen often enough for us to remember, but this one was certainly ONE OF THE BEST and may I say ever

We so appreciate the Scottsdale Plaza Resort for putting on such a gala occasion for us that the memories of the location, the room, the service, the friends, the VIP's and guest speakers make it all worth while.

But, being human, we need our three squares a day and this meal was by far one of the best we have enjoyed all year long. And the meal they served of beef and chicken with a serving of delicious sides made our mouths water and then when dessert made its way, that was all she wrote.

Thank you Scottsdale Plaza Resort for making our evening a ful-
"filling"

One with a appetizing meal that we certainly all enjoyed that evening.

As you look at the photos, we are all intrigued at all of the guests who truly appear to be enjoying themselves. We sometimes do not have enough of these dress-up-affairs but should more often. We can recall (I think), back in the 50's and 60's when our folks used to dress up just to go shopping and church. Well, that is something we should teach our grandchildren to do and that is "LOOK YOUR BEST at all times, for you NEVER KNOW who will be around the corner.

Col. Jack Jacobs—Vietnam - Medal of Honor Recipient

People can make a BIG difference in your lives, but as a military man, how many Medal of Honor recipients have you ever met in your life? In my case—one. And this is the man that I and I dare say many or most of us said to someone else or yourself, made a difference in how you think of things. Sometimes it is that person you randomly meet such as this evening or someone you would love to meet and may never be able to.

Col. Jack Jacobs was certainly the man you want to meet and talk to about a myriad of many things.

His talk was extremely informative and inspirational about where DOD and our military leaders are standing today. Our world is in such a sad state of affairs, that we will have a true World War III upon sooner than we think and we need to have that topic he spoke of as **“knowing and following the objective”** to be in front of their faces to follow it to the hilt.

We thank Col. Jacobs for being the inspiration and example we can all follow for our military careers.



Colonel Jack Jacobs, USA (Retired)

Jack Jacobs was born in Brooklyn, New York. He holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Rutgers University. He entered the U.S. Army in 1966 as a Second Lieutenant through the ROTC program. He served as a platoon leader in the 82nd Airborne Division, executive officer of an infantry battalion in the 7th Infantry Division, and commanded the 4th Battalion 10th Infantry in Panama. A member of the faculty of the US Military Academy, Jacobs taught international relations and comparative politics, and he was a member of the faculty of the National War College in Washington, DC.

Jacobs was in Vietnam twice, both times as an advisor to Vietnamese infantry battalions, earning three Bronze Stars, two Silver Stars and the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest combat decoration. Jacobs retired as a Colonel in 1987.

Also, Jacobs was a founder and Chief Operating Officer of AutoFinance Group Inc, one of the firms to pioneer the securitization of debt instruments; the firm was subsequently sold to Key Bank. He was a Managing Director of Bankers Trust, where he ran foreign exchange options worldwide and was a partner in the institutional hedge fund business, raising more than \$2 Billion. Jacobs subsequently founded a similar business for Lehman Brothers and retired again in 1995 to pursue investments.

In addition, Jacobs is a principal of The Fitzroy Group, a firm that specializes in the development of residential real estate in London and invests both for its own account and in joint ventures with other institutions. He serves on a number of charitable boards of directors and is the Vice Chairman of the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation.

He holds the McDermott Chair of Humanities and Public Affairs at the US Military Academy and is an on-air analyst for NBC News, where he was an Emmy nominee in 2010 and 2011 and a recipient of the 2011 Murrow Award for his work on the Nightly News segment "Iraq: The Long Way Out." Colonel Jacobs is also the author of the Colby Award-winning memoir, *If Not Now, When?* published by Penguin in October 2008. His second work of non-fiction, *Basic*, was released by St. Martin's Press in 2012.



Medal of Honor

The President, in the name of Congress, awards the Medal of Honor to the individual who, while as an active member of the Army, distinguishes himself or herself conspicuously, at the risk of his or her life above and beyond the call of duty, by courage and intrepidity. The act justifying award of the medal must be performed while fighting an enemy of the United States, or while involved in conflict with an opposing/foreign force or while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in combat against an opposing military in which the United States is not a belligerent party. The act or acts of heroism must have required a risk of life and the individual have displayed personal bravery or self-sacrifice so extraordinary as to set the individual apart from his or her comrades. Incontestable proof of the act will be required and each recommendation for the Medal of Honor is considered on the standard of extraordinary merit.

It was on March 9, 1968, in the Province of Kien Phong, in the Republic of Vietnam, that Jacobs' actions in combat were beyond the call of duty and at the risk of his life. At the time, Jacobs was a first lieutenant serving as assistant battalion adviser, Second Battalion, 16th Infantry, 9th Army Infantry during an operation in the Kien Phong area. The Second Battalion was advancing to make contact with the enemy when it came under intense heavy machine gun and mortar fire from a Viet Cong battalion positioned in well-fortified bunkers. American casualties were high as they became disorganized. Jacobs was with the command element of the lead company. He called for and directed air strikes against the enemy positions so that the Americans could hope to regroup for a renewed attack.

The enemy continued to shower them with mortars and machine gun fire. Jacobs had to take command since the senior officers were either dead or seriously wounded. He had been wounded in the head by a mortar fragment and was bleeding profusely. His vision was impaired by the flow of blood from his head. He saw a wounded man out in the open. Despite his wounds and poor vision, he went out to bring the man in under intense enemy fire. His administration of first aid saved a man's life. Jacobs then went out again to bring in the wounded company commander. He made repeated trips into the field to bring in the wounded and weapons while the enemy continued to rake the area with mortar and machine gun fire. On three separate occasions, he contacted and drove off the enemy patrols that were looking for the allied wounded and weapons. Jacobs single-handedly killed three Viet Cong soldiers and wounded many more.

Jacob's Medal of Honor citation tells the rest of the story:

His gallant actions and extraordinary heroism saved the lives of one U.S. adviser and 13 allied soldiers. Through his efforts, the allied company was restored to an effective fighting unit and prevented defeat of the friendly forces by a strong and determined enemy. Jacobs, by his conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action is in the highest traditions of the military service, and has reflected great credit upon himself, his unit and the United States Army.



“This coin that we receive at our age should be a real challenge to give to some of your grand children as a token for them to do the VERY BEST JOB they can in life. We all only have that one life and to do it other than the best is not the right attitude”.

Make it a very special occasion for them to enjoy as a nice keepsake.

The 2014 Challenge Coin for Vietnam Veterans

That particular challenge coin is something you always **KNOW ALL THE HISTORY** about. Each time you receive one, you know the who, the what, the when and the why and the where. When you glance at them again the next time, you'll mentally recall the details of receiving it and this time is no different.

At least, I will recall that LTG Kicklighter and Col Jacobs awarded me mine at the 4th Annual Vietnam Commemoration Dinner on October 4, 2014 in Scottsdale, Arizona. This particular coin as you know has the year “2014” on it and YOU are the recipient of it to enjoy and look back on to know that you did the best you could to have this presented to you. Now, pass that on to the others in your life..



The Story of the Challenge Coin

The story of the challenge coin is age old and they were fed and back to World War I received some rest by when the French, English and Americans had this “coin” in their pocket when they got lost and when they would use it when they were “**challenged**” by friendly forces to see if they were friendly or not. And then in the 1980’s, IF they gave the right

password, all was okay and they were fed and the friendly folks. This tradition lived on until the early 1920’s with the U.S. Army and then they tried to re-create it during World War II, but it didn’t seem to work. And then in the 1980’s, the government revived

it with “**challenging government workers**” to do the BEST JOB they can. With that, the challenge coin has made its way across all form of businesses and the civil government and the military. It can be a real honor to receive a challenge coin from a high ranking official so it is **ALWAYS BEST** to do the best job you can in all you do as you never know. . .

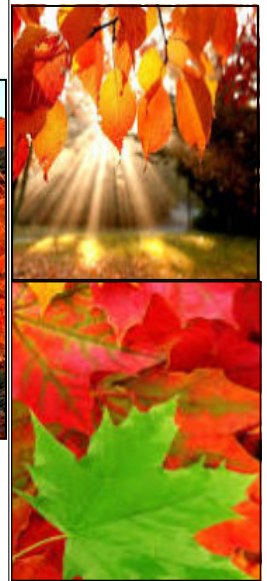


Replica of a WW I Challenge Coin

Beauty In Vermont and Arizona



Out of the 50 photos of every state taken this Autumn 2014, I located two photos that have a close resemblance to each other. One would expect Vermont (left) to look the way it does, but not so in Arizona. But the beauty of the colors are simply outstanding.



VVA Growth By Region and Top 25

Membership Totals by Region

	<u>VVA</u>	+/-	<u>AVVA</u>	+/-		<u>VVA</u>	+/-	<u>AVVA</u>	+/-
Region I	3,831	+12	264	0	Region VI	7,821	+7	797	-17
Region II	13,420	+76	1,554	+6	Region VII	6,932	+25	831	-3
Region III	13,035	+101	1,947	+17	Region VIII	3,109	+24	307	+2
Region IV	7,294	+52	673	+12	Region IX	8,228	+43	1,029	+1
Region V	10,136	+28	1,155	+26	Living outside the US	56	-1	10	0

Top 25 VVA Chapters in Membership

	ST	Chapter #	Total Members		ST	Chapter #	Total Members
1.	MD	0172	1,055	14.	MO	0317	399
2.	TN	0203	720	15.	NY	0082	329
3.	PA	0862	694	16.	SD	1054	326
4.	MI	0154	639	17.	WV	0628	306
5.	MD	0451	618	18.	NJ	0012	302
6.	NY	0077	596	19.	CA	0223	285
7.	NY	0020	585	20.	NJ	0800	283
8.	CA	0391	499	21.	NY	0049	275
9.	FL	1036	450	22.	CA	0047	266
10.	NY	0011	448	23.	MI	0528	261
11.	TX	0137	435	24.	MI	0267	260
12.	IL	0299	414	25.	WI	0224	259
13.	OK	0751	408				



VVA State Council—Arizona's 50th Commemorative Event

Vietnam Veterans of America, Arizona State Council provided its first 50th Commemorative Event on the 25th of October 2014. The substance of the event was to honor current and past officers and selected directors from the inception of the Arizona State Council back in the late 1980's. Each was provided with a certificate honoring some of their accomplishments of their "**VVA-tour**". It was a real privilege to bless them for their accomplishments over the years. VVA-Arizona is going to make a vital attempt to create these events for the honor of the men and women of all of the armed forces. All did something, no matter whether you were in Vietnam or on Guam or

in Thailand or even in Germany or the United States and did not get deployed to Vietnam.

We count it an honor to be a represented veteran of the Vietnam War and all of the wars and conflicts that the United States has been involved in in the last four centuries from the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, Mexican-American War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Bosnian Conflict, the Gulf War and the Global War on Terror. God Bless America Always.



"One way to keep men doing a fine job as these men have done, is to occasionally **RECOGNIZE** them for what they have done for the good of the organization we call Vietnam Veterans of America"



AVVA Ladies Being Honored



It is ALWAYS an honor to honor your wife who has been with you for several decades of life as she is the truly the one who holds the family together when we were at home or not.

We were delighted to honor the wives with their own special challenge coin as a remembrance towards them of what they mean to us all of these years.

It is always a blessing to be with them and honor them on a daily basis and outwardly let them know what **THEY MEAN TO US**. In one word, I would not be out of line to say that they mean **EVERYTHING** to us, so this little coin is a nice reminder of this time and this event.



Together Always



The Ladies Of Our Lives

One never knows what we would do with the loves of our lives. The ones that are always there for us. The ones that take good care of us. The ones that keep us company. The ones that cheer us up and keep us happy when we are down.

Those are the ones that stood by us during our tough times while we were in the service and especially in Vietnam. Oh, I

remember the letters from my wife and the packages of broken cookies (but they were good anyway. The occasional surprises from time to time. But most of all, since we have ETS'd from our service branch, they are still there for us and doing a better job for us than we did for them. So, gentlemen it should not take a lot to do something nice for them at least once a month. They have been our helpmate for decades and honoring them with a coin as you see here or that special trip they have been wanting to go on for half of their life, they deserve it.

Ladies to you, we thank you for ALL you do for us. We would never, never know what to do without you for even five minutes.



VVA Chapter 835—50th Commemorative Event

VVA-Chapter 835 coordinated with the Arizona State Council to hold the first Chapter event in Arizona. President Andy Noriega and the 50th Chairman Walt Schumacher coordinated this event to honor all of the veterans and members and some potential members that were in the Vietnam War. A superb dinner was prepared by Charlie Santini and hosted by the American Legion, Post 19 in Yuma, AZ. We so appreciate Rich Perez and others in the American Legion that made this possible for all of us.

Our guest speaker was former mayor Al Krieger who spoke on our **“Our**

Stories and Our Remembrances of our “Vietnam Tour” and our military life in our branch of service and what it means to pass onto the others in our lives and families to provide some sweet memories in writing or in some fashion to cause our “little ones” to remember us while we are still here.

It is important that we leave our families **“something of us”** so down the road in time that our grandchildren will know exactly who we are and even our great grandchildren will also know exactly who we are.

I can vividly recall my Dad telling me all sorts of stories of World War II and my grandfather speaking to me about World War I and therefore I too have a good recollection of both of those wars and exactly what my dad and Grandfather did during that time frame. If you have not yet started this process, make that a commitment for 2015 and don't stop until it is done.

The Reason We Honor

To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as POW or listed as MIA, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the U.S. and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.

To highlight the service of the **Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal Agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations** that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.

To pay tribute to the contributions made on the **home front** by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.

To highlight the **advances in technology, science, and medicine** related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.

To recognize the **contributions and sacrifices made by the Allies** of the United States during the Vietnam War. (Thailand, Philippines, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand)



Honoring the Vietnam Veterans and a WWII–Korea-Vietnam Veteran

VVA Chapter 835 has the honor of having a World War II, Korea and Vietnam Veteran in its membership. His name is Ivan Swanson and while Ivan is in his 90's, we were disappointed not to have him in our presence for this particular evening as he would have received the coins to the right. Unfortunately Ivan was not available that evening of remembrance, but we remember him in all he has done for the United States in serving in three wars and can still live and talk about it. We ask that all pray for his health as he is failing in that area. But we remember him to be the man we all should be. And that is **KIND, SENSITIVE, CARING and MAKING A DIFFERENCE.**



“What Comes Around Goes Around”

His name was Fleming, and he was a poor Scottish farmer. One day, while trying to make a living for his family, he heard a cry for help coming from a nearby bog. He dropped his tools and ran to the bog.

There, mired to his waist in black muck, was a terrified boy, screaming and struggling to free himself. Farmer Fleming saved the lad from what could have been a slow and terrifying death.

The next day, a fancy carriage pulled up to the Scotsman's sparse surroundings. An elegantly dressed nobleman stepped out and introduced himself as the father of the boy Farmer Fleming had saved.

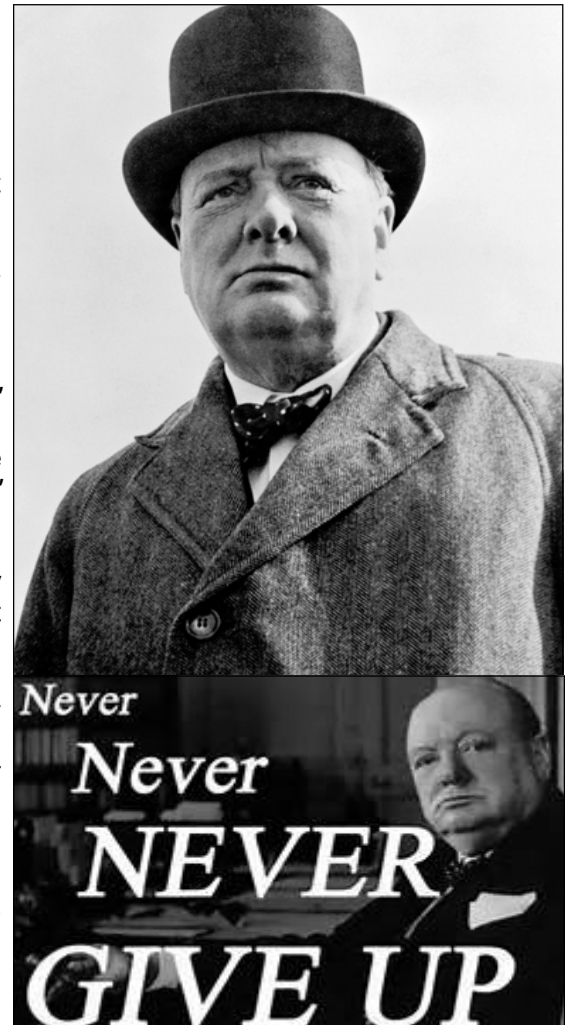
'I want to repay you,' said the nobleman. *'You saved my son's life.'* *'No, I can't accept payment for what I did,'* the Scottish farmer replied waving off the offer. At that moment, the farmer's own son came to the door of the family hovel. *'Is that your son?'* the nobleman asked. *'Yes,'* the farmer replied proudly.

'I'll make you a deal. Let me provide him with the level of education my own son will enjoy. If the lad is anything like his father, he'll no doubt grow to be a man we both will be proud of.' And that he did.

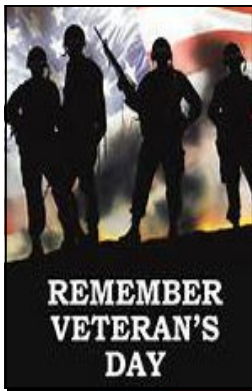
Farmer Fleming's son attended the very best schools and in time, graduated from St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, and went on to become known throughout the world as the noted Sir Alexander Fleming, the discoverer of Penicillin.

Years afterward, the same nobleman's son who was saved from the bog was stricken with pneumonia. What saved his life this time? Penicillin. The name of the nobleman? Lord Randolph Churchill ... His son's name?

Sir Winston Churchill



VVA-835 Yuma in Veterans Day Parade For 2014



Thank you, Veterans!



Yuma has a thing about parades and getting the public to recognize those that have fought for them from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and onto Iraq and Afghanistan. The people of this city have always been patriotic. They stand for the flag, they “yell” when they see someone they know on a float and most of all they teach their children what it means to be a proud citizen of this city and that in itself is important. We should all have a big hand in things like this so America stays American and keeps that “Main Street” attitude that it needs to have.

VVA-835 thanks all of the hosts that put this event together and made it just as impor-

tant for us as much as it was for everyone else in the parade. It was nice to see the turnout of maybe 3,000 people that came out to see us all.

It was a real blessing to have the city of Yuma recognize all of the veterans of all wars, but especially those of the Vietnam War for that long period of 1960 to 1975.

Some of the personnel riding on the vehicle of the Grand Marshall were those that had awarded Purple Hearts.

We thank all of those that attended and participated in this gala event.



Upgraded To DD214 Honorable Status

The image shows a DD Form 149, 'Application for Correction of Military Records'. A large, bold, red stamp with the word 'UPGRADED' is placed diagonally across the center of the form. The form itself is filled with text and checkboxes, including fields for name, service number, dates of service, and discharge status. The stamp is the most prominent feature, indicating a successful upgrade of the veteran's discharge status.

Vietnam-era soldiers who faced punitive discharges because they suffered from post-traumatic stress are to be given liberal consideration to requests for discharge upgrades. Secretary of the Army John McHugh issued this directive to the Army Review Boards Agency, the service's highest level of administrative review for personnel actions. McHugh's Nov. 3 directive was prompted by an earlier order from Former Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel which acknowledged that thousands of soldiers may have been kicked out of service because of behavior problems related to post-traumatic stress. Upgraded discharges for soldiers who received a less than honorable discharge could lead to the award of previously denied benefits, such as disability pay, separation pay and GI Bill eligibility. The ARBA is comprised of several boards for considering the claims of soldiers and former soldiers who appeal the filing of unfavorable information in their personnel records.

PTSD was not recognized as a potential behavior altering medical condition until 1980, which means that disability claims and discharge upgrades based on claims of the condition routinely were denied by government agencies, to include the Army review boards. Hagel's September instruction to the services followed by several months a federal court class action suit filed by a group veterans and the Vietnam Veterans of America that claims the military systematically denied discharge upgrade applications based on claims of PTSD. The suit estimated that about one-third of the 250,000 other-than-honorable discharges issued to Vietnam era veterans may have been PTSD-related. Components of the ARBA include:

Army Board for Correction of Military Records, a panel that can recommend, to the secretary of the Army, the removal of erroneous or unjust information in their military records after all lower level administrative remedies have been exhausted. It also reviews the discharges of former soldiers that were granted more than 15 years ago, and those that were given as a sentence of a general court-martial. Soldiers, veterans and their legal representatives can submit an appeal [online](#) or by mail, on a DD Form 149 (Application for Correction of Military Records).

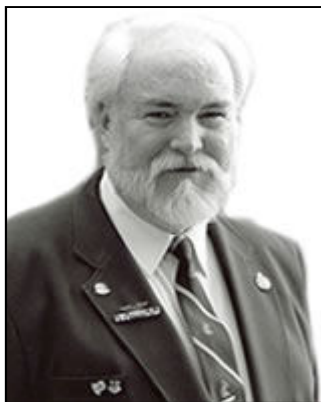
Army Discharge Review Board, reviews the discharges of former soldiers who left service within the past 15 years, except soldiers who were discharged as a result of a general court-martial. The board determines if a discharge was proper and equitable. Soldiers, veterans and their legal representatives can request a review online or by mail using DD Form 293 (Application for Review of a Discharge or Dismissal from the Armed Forces of the U.S.).

Army Grade Determination Review Board, makes decisions on advancing retired enlisted soldiers and warrant officers to the highest grade held satisfactorily after a total of 30 years' time on active duty and on the retired list. Application must be made by letter to the board. Hagel, a former Army sergeant who holds a Purple Heart with oak leaf cluster for service during the Vietnam War, directed that the military review boards "fully and carefully consider every petition based on PTSD brought by each veteran" and that such reviews will include "all materials and evidence provided by the petitioner." Because Vietnam-era medical and personnel files will not refer to PTSD as a debilitating medical condition, McHugh has directed that the Office of the Army Surgeon General provide expert guidance to the review boards on the clinical manifestations of PTSD, and the behavior indicators that will help the boards assess the presence of PTSD and its mitigating effects.

Hagel also directed that when service records or any document from a veteran's period of service "substantiate the existence of one or more symptoms of what is now recognized as PTSD or a PTSD-related condition during the time of service, liberal consideration will be given to finding that PTSD existed at the time of service," and may have led to the misconduct that caused the other-than-honorable discharge. The new guidance primarily focuses on administrative discharges for minor misconduct, not serious court-martial offenses that resulted in punitive bad conduct or dishonorable discharges. Mail applications for the various boards of the Army Review Board Agency should be sent to 251 18th Street South, Suite 385, Arlington, VA 22202-3531. For online applications, access <http://arba.army.pentagon.mil/>.



News From the President Of VVA-Arizona



Gene,

“Wish everyone a Merry Christmas, Happy. Chanukah, and a Happy New Year and an enjoyable holiday season whatever they celebrate.”

Thanks, John
President of VVA



VVA CHAPTER

#095

P.O. Box 1343
Prescott, AZ 86302

VVA CHAPTER

#106

P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, AZ
85713

VVA CHAPTER

#432

P.O. Box 10363
Phoenix, AZ 85064

VVA CHAPTER

#835

P.O. Box 6281
Yuma, AZ 85366

VVA CHAPTER

#975

P.O. Box 184
Kingman, AZ
86402

VVA CHAPTER

#1011

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

VVA CHAPTER

#1043

P.O. Box 1043
Sun City, AZ 85372

VVA Chapter

#1093

2871 Palmer Dr
Sierra Vista, AZ
85650

To All VVA Members:

The Arizona State Council has invited President John Rowan of VVA to our meeting on 17 January 2015. The meeting will start at 10:00 am as usual with lunch at noon. In addition, Dick Southern of Region 9 is also attending as this will be a special event. Please be on hand to show your support for these people. This is sure to be a wonderful event as we continue our **“50th Commemoration Series”**.



In addition, we have a new year (2015) before us and to get started, we all need to focus on some primary items that I mentioned at our last meeting and they include:

-Veterans Service Officers are a top priority. We need them funded and the program sound. I will continue working on this and finding new ways to fund the program.

-Membership and New Chapters: a) Finding ways to bring back former members, b) keeping current members, c) increasing interest and volunteers, d) adding new members and chapters to increase growth in Arizona.

-Communication: a) Use Media (TV, Radio, Newspapers) to our fullest advantage, b) Put VVA and AVVA out there so every veteran, citizen, and elected official knows who we are, what we do, and give them the opportunity to join us, c) Keep current on the best ways to communicate by computer, phone, and other high tech means. This will improve State–Chapter communications.

-Grants and Grant writing. Household Goods (HHG) is getting smaller. We need to look at alternatives to boosting our income. Investigate new ideas for fund-raising events.

-Attend many **State events and meetings** throughout the year. We **ALL** need to get involved as much as we can as we are not getting any younger. Let’s all work together to make VVA “everywhere” a huge success and leave a legacy to our grandchildren and great grandchildren. It will make a difference for them.

This online and printed newsletter entitled the **“AZ-LZ”** is the publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America–Arizona State Council and is published quarterly throughout every given year.

We Have A New Year Before Us—Make It Count

May Jesus Light
shine on you all year long.



NEVER take offense at anything, because we too always offend and can

I'll not willingly offend,
Nor be easily offended;
What's amiss I'll strive to mend,
And endure what can't be mended.

It is a GREAT time to start again, but keep on going n the right direction for your life and those around you. Love everyone everywhere.



May God have MERCY on America and us as we go thru this next year 2015. This might be our last one.



January 1st is the first day of the REST of your life. May we all do the right thing every day for the Lord Jesus.



The new year is a new beginning in life I wish you a good start I wish you a love enriched heart.

*Every good gift
and every perfect gift
is from above*
James 1:17

May **GOD** be with you through **NEW YEAR** and fill your life with **COMFORT, LOVE** and **CHEER**. May this day and the days ahead, Hold many **BLESSINGS** for you and yours.