

The “AZ-LZ”

Where Is America Headed? Hopefully To An Awakening



When you look at this flag you should think of AMERICA and only AMERICA. It was only founded on the principles of GOD and nothing else. England wanted us as another territory and nothing else. Although it had the KJV Bible in 1617, the people that risked their lives to found AMERICA based on the Bible gave their all, just like the United States Armed Forces did. And then when the U.S. Military came into being, then “they” became the ones to protect AMERICA. We are losing AMERICA, fast.

Nearly 100% of us reading this publication knows what the America was like back when we were little boys and girls. You might say, it was the “*Father Knows Best*” series perhaps in our own home. Dad went to work, provided an income. Mom stayed home, raised the children, prepared the meals. Dad and Mom together raised the family to be God fearing people. But, that was not because we were in the middle of the throws of Communism waiting for the first hydrogen or atomic bomb to fall on our country. It was because, our grandparents and our great-grandparents instilled in us the way you might say this was how “*America was born.*”

We all grew up going to public or private schools. Maybe a few of us had to work extra hard on the farm, but then looking back, that was the way life was. Then there was helping Dad where we needed to, with getting up at 4:00am, then going to school at 7am and then coming home at 3pm and once again helping Mom and Dad.

Mentally, fast forward a couple of decades and we see World War II finally over with. By the way did you know, we almost lost that war? And then in 1950 Korea broke out for three years and this “was start of another Communism”. Well, it was over with as soon as it started, but then, Karl Marx’ story raised

his ugly head in S.E. Asia where Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, PNG, and possibly some of Oceania would become under wraps of that Communistic “theology that has still gripped a lot of our world”, even today. That said, we are now in “*your lifetime*” as an adult and you have joined or been drafted, off to BCT, then AIT, then to the country, few of us knew about, ever.

Some “*came home*” and some “*went home.*” But, for those of us who came home, once again fast forward ~50 years and “*what do you see?*” I see a mess in the world, but I also see a mess in this country. Interested? I hope so, read on. . . .

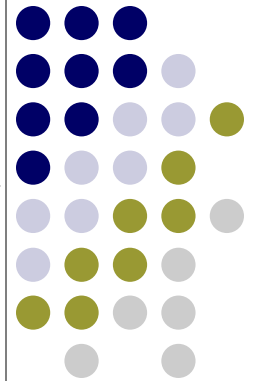
What If America Had Never Been?

Had you ever thought “*What if Our America Had Never Been Formed?*”

Based on what ANY of us knows about history, it is likely, and I say likely that either Portugal, Spain, possibly Italy, maybe England might have absorbed the country into its own country and “we” would

have been of some other nationality. The language would have been different for sure. The life style most likely would have been absolutely different. The foods, jobs, living, etc would not have been the same nor would the luxuries that we have on a daily basis. But then the free-

dom that we currently enjoy along with the education, life style, religion, friends, having the “best of all worlds would not, I say would not be before us. How about those ideologies that have ultimately (in our life time) changed the world from a “relatively safe place”, to a place where ±25% of the world is at war and many of them do not mind “taking your head off”. How about the former wars of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Gulf and the never-ending Global War on Terror (GWOT). If America had never been God help us. And right now we need to have God help us.



The “AZ-LZ”

May-Aug 2015

Special points of interest:

- Worst Invention
- Canadians in Vietnam War
- 50th Commemoration Events
- Agent Orange
- The 40–8
- Remembrances
- Only in Israel
- World Winters
- Dick Southern
- W.I.C.O.E,

Inside this issue:

America??	1
History & Us	4
Influence	6
A Loss	1
Amazon	25
Good Story	26
POW	29

Where Is America Headed? Hopefully To An Awakening (Cont'd)

"We need to remember that God created this vast and glorious world for us to live in, freely, but also at great sacrifice. Let us never forget, from the Revolutionary War to the current Global War on Terrorism and all the wars in-between, the sacrifices that are made for our freedom. Remember to pray for this great Country of ours and also pray for those still in murderous unrest around the world. STOP and thank God for being alive and our military for being free...all at someone else's sacrifice."

I feel honored that I am able to continue relationships with many...however saddened as each year passes because one or two pass as well. "We must never forget them for their valor and sacrifices. This older generation survived and time welcomed them to a life where reflection had a place. At the end of their enlistment, they maintained their values throughout life. The legacy of leadership this generation leaves behind makes for big shoes for many to fill. They like so many others continue to reckon with their wartime traumas. Any suffering they experience can only be redeemed by recognition of service at every opportunity. Then as these warriors near their end they have peace".

We'll never know our time until it is here and then we still may never know or understand it. It will sneak up on us like a thief in the night, so let's always be ready for anything in our life.

Trust LITTLE Deeds ...

Moses had a staff., David had a sling.
Samson had a jawbone, Rahab had a string.
Mary had some ointment, Aaron had a rod
Dorcas had a needle, All were used by God.
What do you have?

God inhabits the tiny seed, empowers the tiny deed. He cures the common life by giving no common life, by offering no common gifts. "Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." Don't discount the smallness of your deeds.

In God We Trust

This is by a daughter of a murdered couple in Raytown, MO, who had a Bible and Bookstore on 63rd street. She says: When I had to testify at the murder trial of my parents a week ago, I was asked to raise my right hand ... The bailiff started out "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth?"

I stood there and waited but she said nothing She said "Do you?"
I was so stunned I blurted out "What happened to so help me God?"
She came back with "Do you?" I replied yes, but I was perplexed.

Then the judge said. "You can say that if you want to."

I stopped, raised my right hand, and finished with: "So help me God!"

I told my son and daughter that when it came time for them to testify, do it too.

The Next Generation — ??

Samuel was a man who stood head and shoulders above most we read of in the Bible. There were two people who were very influential in Samuel's life, Hannah and Eli. The contrast between these two mentors is quite striking. Hannah was a woman with very little power. Eli had great power. Hannah was a mother. Eli was a father, but he was also a high priest. Hannah gave her son to God. Eli, apparently, gave his sons to a feeling of entitlement.

A lot of our kids and some young adults are serving themselves. God said that He would judge Eli's house and ours forever for their iniquity. We may be a good man who serves God, but we must also, I repeat also have our children serve God as well.

We must also be an example to the next generation. In so many ways Samuel was a grand example. Obviously, our son's will be accountable for their actions, however, us as Father's we are accountable for not restraining our sons and one has to wonder how these sons could be serving themselves if they had been given the guidance that God intends through a father and mother. That is where we come in. Think!!.

We lose ground if we conquer new territory but don't win our own children each new generation. Perhaps there is territory that God would have His people to win in days ahead, victories to be won, people to be saved, ministries that God could use. If we would just keep the kids we ourselves have, then we would be far better off than we are right now. It is not that there is a choice between winning the world and winning our home. It's that winning our home first helps us to better win the world. The world is coming to an end very soon and we need to get our families in line with what we should do, not what we think.

The Worst Invention Ever

The world has seen a lot of inventions in its day, but there is one that has made the world what it is today. It has become the detriment of mankind since its time of invention and has taken more lives over the centuries than any other thought or idea that has ever come into being.

When you think of the types of things that mankind has thought about and when the idea came into that man's head and he (or she) worked out the first prototype and then perfected it and then worked out the 2nd go-around and then the 3rd, 4th and 5th you think of the word as far back as the timeframe that the world has been in war, fighting and killing each other. And then, let's fast forward into the 21st century with all of the plain mean and nasty people who regard humans as expendable "objects" and you take their life because you can, it's pretty sick.

That is how our world has become. Of course, you see it in movies and television and of course you know it is fake there, but, in real life, it is not fake. It is REAL and our generation, the next generation and our grand children's generation and the next and the next will grow up with this thought that so many people "should not be on Earth" and it is okay to kill them without a thought going through your heart and head. We should never wonder why our country is the way it is, because we have to change our mindset and hearts about whom we have become. in America. Many of those that

have made their way into this country desire to come to our ways and over the 200+ year of America's existence, we have seen our country of fighting men and women in foreign countries attempts to overthrow our country.

We have lost millions of Americans to being killed, injured, diseased, maimed and so forth to this one invention that this particular one will never be un-invented. Have any of you figured it out as yet.

After it became a "thing to use" in warfare, the inventor himself was so sorry that he even got the idea and persecuted himself over it for the rest of his life. What we need to do is prevent our children from ever having access to this item unless they know exactly what to do and that they solemnly swear on the Bible they will never use it unless their life or lives of their family are threatened.

This invention has taken more lives than any other in its history. Literally, millions of people have been killed over one of a few things and they are:

Too much **PRIDE** and lack of **TRUST** and a huge desire for **POWER**.

Here is the story of this invention that has ruined entire countries and may eventually ruin the world as we know it today.

The man as we know him is from the Middle Ages was known as: **Berthold Schwarz** may have been as also known as *Berthold the Black*, was a legendary German in the late 14th century. He was credited with the invention of **gunpowder** by 15th-through the 19th-centuries.

The purported period of Schwarz' activity in the late 14th century and falls between the first reports of gunpowder in Europe in the late 13th century and the development of effective applications in artillery by the mid 15th century.

Others identify him with one Konstantin Angeleisen who was persecuted. It is also possible that Schwarz is not a historical person at all, but a symbolic inventor figure taking his name from that of *Schwarzpulver* "black powder", the German term for gunpowder. This historical Berthold, who would not have invented gunpowder *ex nihilo*, (which means "OUT OF NOTHING"), but who would rather have developed an effective recipe initiating a development of gunpowder warfare during the 15th century.

By and large, this one invention has taken the lives of millions upon millions of people for little to no reason, and he was so sorry he even thought of it.



Berthold Schwarz



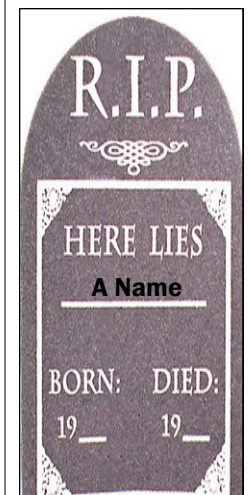
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HISTORY and US



If you look closely at the image above, you will notice one thing and that is “what countries have done to each other” when it comes to WAR.

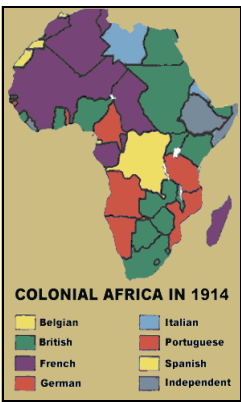
England has been at war with many countries along with the country of France who has desired to take over all of Europe in Medieval times. Of course we cannot forget Germany who twice attempted to rid a lot of the Europe as we know it today. BUT, IT ALL STARTED WITH CAESAR IN ROME WHO TRULY WANTED THE ENTIRE WORLD IN ANCIENT TIMES AND THERE AFTER. **AND THEN RUSSIA WHO HAS HAD THEIR EMPIRE FOR MANY DECADES.** And now we are faced with the Middle East attempting to destroy their own countries and those everywhere else. And then there is America has been there for the entire world at one time or another and still is. Let us NOT give up on this country YOU have fought for and live in with your children. Come back to how this country was founded and it will work for ALL of us.

Namibia

Namibia is a small country that used to be a German colony back in the 1800's. It was created to forestall England from gaining any more land in Africa.

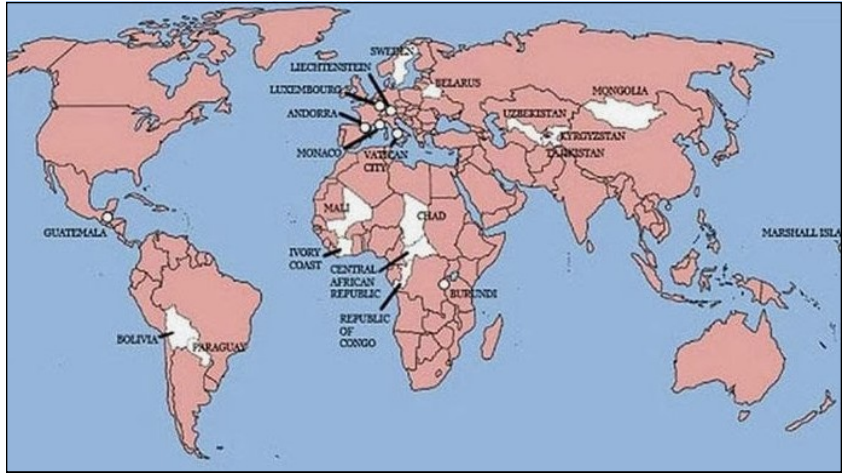
To this day, Namibia people speak German and 85% of their roads are sand

Namibia has a population of 2.1 million people and their industry is gold, silver and diamonds and gems.



Did You Know?

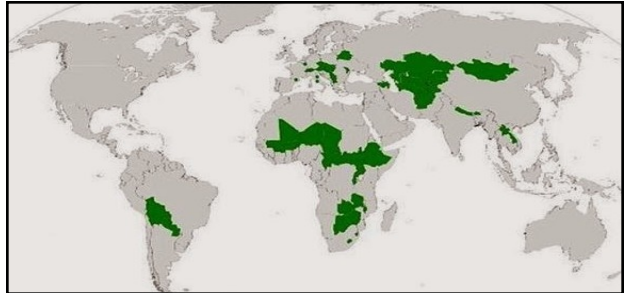
England has tried to do a lot in this world and one thing is take over ALL it could. Look at the map to the right and all of the countries in that "pink" color are all of the countries it has tried to takeover or invade. The white ones are the ones it has not attempted to invade or takeover. I rest my case on the "need" for power, trust and pride. We all



have it, but some of us have more of it. But it should never be used for personal gain in any situation.



This map illustrates the only countries that do not use the Metric System.



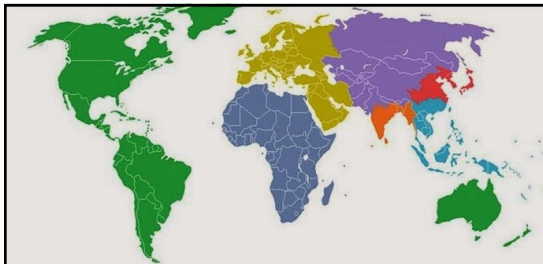
This map illustrates all of the countries that are landlocked in the world.



And this is what the world would look like if all the countries with coast lines sank..



This map shows how much space the United States would occupy on the moon.



This map shows the world divided into 7 sections each containing 1 billion people.



It may not come as a surprise but more people live inside the circle than outside of it

Influence Can Be Dangerous



Influence can be a big thing in anyone's life. It makes no difference how old a person ever gets to be, it can have a life changing effect on you for the rest of your life. The influence of just one person can make a change from the time you are let's say in your teens to a ripe old age.

In this day and age the wrong crowd can make a mess of your family. Just one person who has a motive for

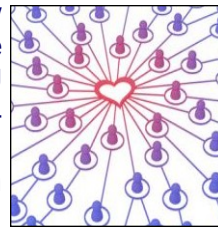


crime and to "make money" for the wrong reason has become a devastating event in a lot of families in America. Why? Because America has become for a century or more the place to make money and get something for nothing.

The road in life to take is not easy, but it is made of **choices**. The choice has to be the person we are talking about which can be anyone (including us), but to have a first or second generation family member from us, needs to be done with care and strong and strict guidance you don't pick the wrong road. Sometimes we may think we have an alternative to do it "several" different ways, but that is not true. It is either right or wrong or the wide road or narrow path. We are all part of the great generation, the ones out of World War II and it is up to us to be that guiding light for our children, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Let us always be involved in our families no matter where they live and "see" what is going on in their lives and re-direct them if necessary and help them guide to do the RIGHT thing and not have them fall into the path of crime or bad influences of this world because we are not here to make money but to please God in our life.

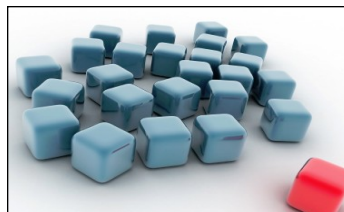


Well, here we are in the world and we don't know very much, but we don't want to be influenced by the wrong people, so pick one or two people that YOU can be accountable to for all of your actions. Sometimes it is okay to have a few people "carry you along" for a while until you become adjusted to in your life.



Because later on, you may be the one that others look up to and that can be important especially if YOU have looked to others that are Godly people and always did the right thing in accordance with what they suggested for you. But we all have to **learn right first and stay consistent.**

If for some reason, you would like to be part of the group that takes an interest in you or vice versa, and you can clearly see that they are not living or doing right, then single yourself out and be strong and steer clear of their influences and rely on the Lord and those that you trust. Remember, you will NOT be sorry for doing things the right way with your life.



{in·flu·ence} v.
 1. to affect the nature, development, or condition of;

DEFINITION

".. the capacity to have an effect on the character, development, or behavior of someone or something, or the effect itself"

"... The capacity or power of persons or things to be a compelling force on or produce effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of others".

"...The action or process of producing effects on the actions, behavior, opinions, etc., of another or others"

"We all want to be surrounded by strong, inspirational, and influential role models in our lives. Do you want to be one of those people? You can learn to develop your character, your interpersonal skills, and your level of esteem to have respect of others and influence them the **RIGHT WAY**

The Life Of A Special Person—Billee Culin

It isn't every day that you meet someone and have known them for a long time and then want to do a story about them. There are those that you can "relate to" better than others, but this lady is one that is loved by a lot of different folks in her life and that to include her "VVA life".

I guess we will start at the beginning. On February 19, 1946 at 6:30 am, I was born at Ft Sam Houston, Texas. My given/maiden name is Helene F. Kiefert. Now, where did the Billee come from. When I was about 2 years old, my daddy was walking down the sidewalk to the home where we lived on post. He found me flicking off the flowers from the stems of my mommy's plants known as Sweet William. Daddy started calling me Sweet William, which was shortened to Billee and my mother came up with the spelling of BILLEE.

I guess you could say that I followed in my dad's footsteps. Answer is yes and no. Being a child of the 60's and the war in Vietnam, I thought that if I joined the Army, I could help stop the war. NAH!! I was a naïve young woman, and I would learn a lot in the military.

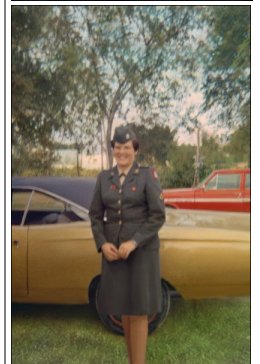
I was originally trained to be a teletype operator at Ft Gordon, GA. After AIT I was sent to Ft Riley, KS, the home of the Big Red One. I hated my job. I was a gofer for a colonel in the 138th Engineer Group, and my job was boring. I requested to go for additional AIT for Stenography at Ft Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, IN. I graduated in the top of my class, But I was sent back to Ft Riley KS to the same boring job.

I was back from AIT at Ft Ben when I was called into the CO's office. I was walking up the stairs to my room in the barracks and hear my name called out of the loud speaker – "Specialist Kiefer" report to the CO's Office now! All I could think of was "What did I do now?" Well, our commander asked to me to sit down, but I declined. I just wanted this over quickly whatever it was. The commander told me that I had been called down to The Pentagon, Washington, DC to be Gen Westmoreland's private secretary. She asked me if I wanted to the job. My answer was "When do I leave?" Her answer was "You have ten days to clear post." And on top of it, I was considered TDY and was paid an additional \$6 for going where I would rather be. I loved being stationed in DC. It was a great duty, and I worked with wonderful people including Westmoreland. I finished out my duty in The Pentagon in 1971 and went on home.

One month and 8 days later, I met my future husband to be Taylor Culin. We were married on March 17, 1971 and we have been having the time of our lives together. I went to college at night using the GI Bill and worked during the day. I worked full time and was a student full time. In my second year of college I gave birth to our first born son – Kristopher Larsen, 360 days later I gave birth to our second born son and first born daughter – Peter Solomon and Sharee Lynn. Now I worked full time, went to school full time and was a mother full time. I graduated college in 4 yrs 4 months with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. I worked in the insurance industry for 36 years. I was a Certified Insurance Counselor and I still carry this designation. Then retirement came. HOORAY! Taylor and I bought a home in Sun City ,Arizona.

In the mid 90's I joined Vietnam Veteran of America. In the early 80's an underwriter at an insurance company our office represented suggested that I join VVA. I told him not now – I was a young mother. In June 2001 I was elected Vice President of the Connecticut State Council, but in September 2001 the current president upped and quit just like that! Drat what do I do? Well, I guess that I did okay because I was CT VVA State Council president until 2010 when we moved to Arizona.

When we got to Arizona, I told Bill Messer in June 2010 that he would have the application for a new chapter to take with him to National and I would have our charter by October. October 26, 2010 West Valley Chapter 1043 was chartered. We grew from 25 starting members to 90 current. Not too bad Before I left Connecticut, I told the Veterans Service Officer who handled my case that if I could I would become a service officer. Well, I did. On August 1, 2012 I became an Accredited Service Officer. Editor: This is the kind of person I like. One that has made the most of her life and documented it all for us. She has served her country well, and VVA too.



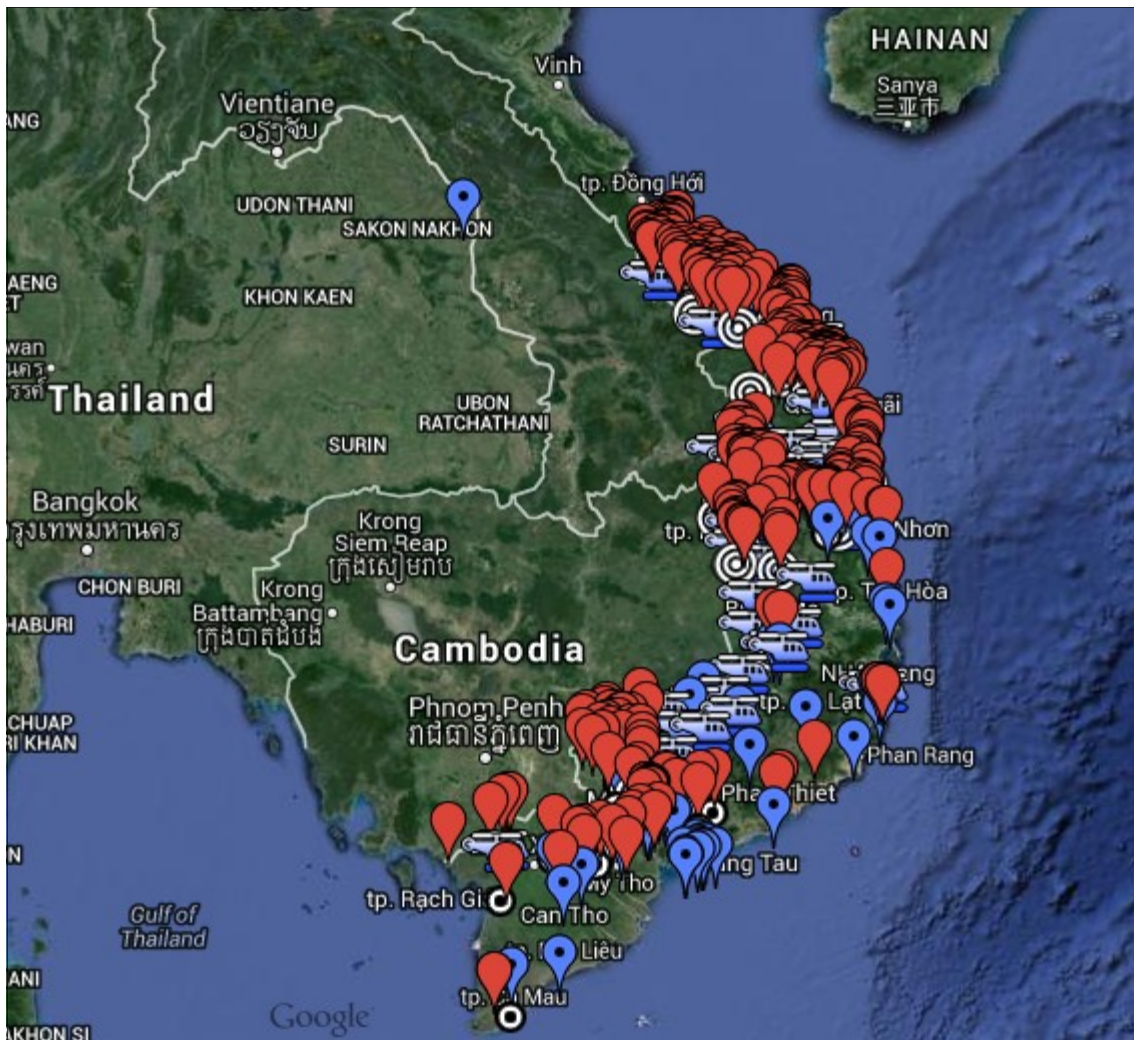
"Document your life for your children and grandchildren so they will have it for their families and themselves otherwise, no story, no written life. It's very important to pass on to them"



Vietnam News and History



“Vietnam is fast becoming” the “NEW WORLD WAR II” Vets as we are becoming those veterans a fast rate. It is so very important to spread the word about Vietnam so this is not forgotten. We may now know what the KOREAN veterans are thinking when they look back to 1950-1953 timeframe



The map above represents the number of firebases, landing zones, base camps, air bases and every other kind of facility that the United States Armed Forces would have had. When you look at it and all of these years later, it might appear that we overdid it when it comes to the number of facilities as you compare it to Germany in WWII and possibly Iraq and Afghanistan today. I agree to be prepared, but possibly we spent more effort and money than we needed to.

Why Did Canadians Join The U.S. In Vietnam?

During the Vietnam era, more than 30,000 Canadians served in the US Armed Forces; 110 Canadians died in Vietnam and seven (7) are listed as missing in action. According to military historian, Fred Graffen (Canadian War Museum), approximately 12,000 of these personnel actually served in Vietnam. The military of Canada did not officially participate in the war effort, as it was appointed to the UN Truce Commission and thus had to remain officially neutral in the conflict.

The North Wall, also known as the Canadian Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, is a war memorial located in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. The monument was erected on July 2, 1995 in honor of the Canadian veterans who were KIA, made POW, or declared MIA during the Vietnam War.

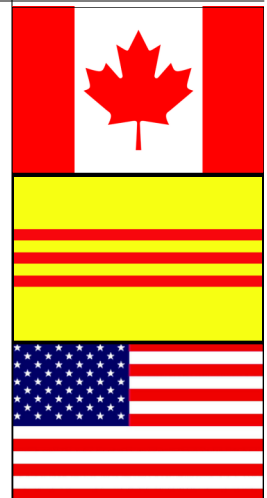
Inscribed on the monument: "As long as we live, you shall live. As long as we live, you shall be remembered. As long as we live, you shall be loved."

L'Association Quebecoise des Veterans du Vietnam (Canadian Vietnam Veterans of Quebec). CVVQ has a monument located in Meloucheville, Quebec, erected in 1994.

While Canada as a nation was not involved, Canadians themselves formed the largest foreign contingent in the US military during the Vietnam era. Conservative estimates show that their numbers far surpassed the more than 20,000 American draft dodgers and 12,000 deserters who fled to Canada to avoid military service during the war. Like many of their American counterparts, Canadian Vietnam veterans who returned home discovered that their efforts were not appreciated. In fact, there was a great deal of anti-war hostility in cities such as Vancouver and Toronto where a considerable number of draft dodgers had settled.

The isolation of Vietnam veterans is much greater in Canada than in the US. Remembrance Day on November 11 (Canada's version of Veterans' Day), is only for those killed in the service of Canada. The Royal Canadian Legion used to exclude Vietnam veterans from participating in its national observances.

In 1986, Canadian Vietnam veterans began to form groups in the major cities across Canada. There are now groups in Halifax, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver, and Whitehorse.



“What other country has come to the aid of America in modern times?”
None that I can think of. And keep in mind that all Communism is nothing to fool around with at any time.



Military Affairs Committee Report On Membership



"We need to recruit as many of the VIETNAM VETERANS as we can into VVA so they will have and create their own memories and pass them onto to their families. Their children and grand children need that."



MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MAC) MONTHLY REPORT MARCH 2015

Membership Totals by Classification

VVA	AVVA	New Members in March
IND 24,464	AIND 4,436	VVA: 423
LMP 47,786	ALP 3,761	AVVA: 126
LMT 66	ALT 37	Deceased Members Reported in March
IVI 2,179	AIVI 325	VVA: 82
VPHV 319	APHV 3	AVVA: 4
TOTAL: 74,814 <small>includes 1,125 Women Veterans</small>	TOTAL: 8,562	

DUAL MEMBERSHIPS: 355

IND: Individual	AIND: Associate Individual
LMP: Life Member	ALP: Associate Life
LMT: Life Member Time Payment	ALT: Associate Life Time Payment
IVI: Incarcerated Veteran	AIVI: Associate Incarcerated Veteran
VPHV: Permanently Hospitalized Veteran	APHV: Associate Permanently Hospitalized Veteran

Membership Totals by Region

Region	VVA +/-	AVVA +/-	Region	VVA +/-	AVVA +/-
Region I	3,858 -3	251 -3	Region VI	7,921 +16	831 +25
Region II	13,492 -8	1,570 +3	Region VII	6,973 -8	843 +12
Region III	13,230 +19	1,864 +32	Region VIII	3,182 +16	317 +1
Region IV	7,444 +40	660 -1	Region IX	8,372 +21	1,043 +15
Region V	10,284 +16	1,170 +3	Living outside the US	56 0	10 0

YEARLY & MONTHLY GROWTH PERCENTAGES

VVA				AVVA			
Yearly Growth:	Mar '14	Mar '15	% +/-	Yearly Growth:	Mar '14	Mar '15	% +/-
	72,072	74,814	+3.7%		8,277	8,562	+3.4%
Monthly Growth:	Feb '15	Mar '15	% +/-	Monthly Growth:	Feb '15	Mar '15	% +/-
	74,705	74,814	+0.2%		8,474	8,562	+1.1%

Top 25 VVA Chapters in Membership

ST	Chapter #	Total Members	ST	Chapter #	Total Members
1. MD	0172	1,046	14. NY	0082	334
2. TN	0203	745	15. SD	1054	330
3. PA	0862	699	16. NJ	0012	307
4. MI	0154	649	17. WV	0628	296
5. MD	0451	617	18. AL	1067	283
6. NY	0077	602	19. CA	0223	278
7. NY	0020	589	20. NJ	0800	277
8. CA	0391	507	21. NY	0049	276
9. FL	1036	467	22. MI	0528	264
10. NY	0011	453	23. CA	0047	262
11. IL	0299	422	24. MI	0267	258
12. OK	0751	410	25. VA	0227	255
13. MO	0317	391			

MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AND VARIANCES BY STATE

ST	VVA	±	AWA	±	ST	VVA	±	AWA	±
AK	172	0	16	0	MT	560	-1	46	-1
AL	1,475	+10	99	-1	NC	2,045	+15	201	+1
AR	383	-2	51	+5	ND	564	-4	121	+8
AZ	1,099	+7	112	+11	NE	292	-1	19	0
CA	4,715	-10	667	-2	NH	369	-1	45	-4
CN	5	0	0	0	NJ	3,339	-3	378	+1
CO	441	-1	30	-4	NM	544	+5	30	0
CT	620	-2	33	+1	NV	944	+3	106	0
DC	85	0	5	0	NY	5,686	-1	590	-3
DE	476	-1	42	+2	OH	2,941	-9	258	-1
FL	3,875	+21	373	+1	OK	1,141	-16	85	-4
GA	1,331	+10	139	0	OR	1,116	+1	173	+5
GU	125	-2	28	+1	OS	53	0	10	0
HI	147	-1	12	0	PA	3,991	-3	560	+3
IA	1,055	-3	61	+1	PI	119	-4	11	0
ID	300	+1	28	0	PR	311	-1	11	0
IL	1,841	+3	190	+3	RJ	412	-1	40	0
IN	1,160	+1	92	+1	SC	871	+3	78	+5
KS	573	-1	51	-1	SD	529	-4	38	+1
KY	822	-1	89	+2	TN	2,818	+15	428	-1
LA	1,008	0	181	0	TX	4,441	+10	526	+6
MA	1,484	-2	69	+1	UT	238	+14	47	+1
MD	3,164	-5	271	+3	VA	1,999	-3	260	+4
ME	343	-2	29	0	VI	18	0	0	0
MI	4,342	+3	630	+3	VT	630	+1	35	0
MN	1,249	+7	75	0	WA	965	+17	52	0
MO	1,612	+8	199	+11	WI	2,047	+3	267	+5
MS	434	0	38	-1	WV	1,426	-5	532	+8
					WY	69	-2	2	0

MARCH 2015 TOP STATES IN MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

	#1	#2	#3	#4	#5
VVA:	FL +21	WA +17	NC +15	UT +14	AL +10
			TN +15	GA +10	TX +10
AVVA:	WV +19	AZ +11	ND +8	SC +5	CO +4
		MO +11	TX +8	WI +5	VA +4



VVA—Arizona 50th Commemoration Events

You know, I have mentioned In previous "AZ-LZ's" that it does not take a lot to honor someone. First start with a "little thought". Work it out in your head as to "what" you want to do. Then determine "how" you are going to "work it up and present it". But, before that, figure out "why" you intend to present it and illustrate that when actually do the presentation. The cost is minimal, the thought of doing it should be the most important. Likely, it is because of what "YOU THINK OF THAT PERSON".



Vietnam Veterans Day—2015

Today marks March 29, 1973 the last day of the combat troops leaving South Vietnam. Arizona has set aside by law by the Governor and Arizona State Legislature as Vietnam Veterans Day, Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans. The Arizona State Council of Vietnam Veterans of America thank All veterans that served during the Vietnam War both in country, around the world, and in the United States of America.

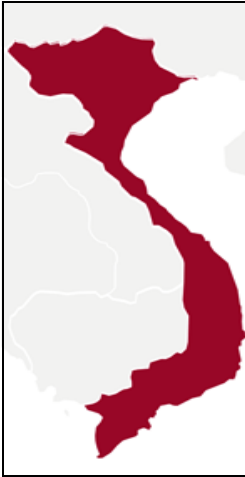
Vietnam Wall "Facts"

- A little history most people will never know. This is the time to teach your grandchildren about VIETNAM
- Interesting Veterans Statistics off the Vietnam Memorial Wall.
- There are 58,267 names now listed on that polished black wall, including those added in 2010.
- The names are arranged in the order in which they were taken from us by date and within each date the names are alphabetized. It is hard to believe it is 57 years since the first casualty.
- The first known casualty was Richard B. Fitzgibbon, of North Weymouth, Mass. Listed by the U.S. Department of Defense as having been killed on June 8, 1956. His name is listed on the Wall with that of his son, Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Richard B. Fitzgibbon III, who was killed on Sept. 7, 1965.
- There are three sets of fathers and sons on the Wall.
- 39,996 on the Wall were just 22 or younger.
- 8,283 were just 19 years old.
- The largest age group, 33,103 were 18 years old.
- 12 soldiers on the Wall were 17 years old.
- 5 soldiers on the Wall were 16 years old.
- One soldier, PFC Dan Bullock was 15 years old.
- 997 soldiers were killed on their first day in Vietnam ..
- 1,448 soldiers were killed on their last day in Vietnam ..
- 31 sets of brothers are on the Wall.
- Thirty one sets of parents lost two of their sons.
- 54 soldiers attended Thomas Edison High School in Philadelphia . I wonder why so many from one school.
- 8 Women are on the Wall, Nursing the wounded.
- 44 soldiers were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War; 153 of them are on the Wall.
- Beallsville, Ohio with a population of 475 lost 6 of her sons.
- West Virginia had the highest casualty rate per capita in the nation. There are 711 West Virginians on the Wall.
- The Marines of Morenci - They led some of the scrappiest high school football and basketball teams that the little Arizona copper town of Morenci (pop. 5,058) had ever known and cheered. They enjoyed roaring beer busts. In quieter moments, they rode horses along the Coronado Trail, stalked deer in the Apache National Forest . And in the patriotic camaraderie typical of Morenci's mining families, the nine graduates of Morenci High enlisted as a group in the Marine Corps. Their service began on Independence Day, 1966. Only 3 returned home.
- The Buddies of Midvale - LeRoy Tafoya, Jimmy Martinez, Tom Gonzales were all boyhood friends and lived on three consecutive streets in Midvale, Utah on Fifth, Sixth and Seventh avenues. They lived only a few yards apart. They played ball at the adjacent sandlot ball field. And they all went to Vietnam . In a span of 16 dark days in late 1967, all three would be killed. LeRoy was killed on Wednesday, Nov. 22, the fourth anniversary of John F. Kennedy's assassination. Jimmy died less than 24 hours later on Thanksgiving Day. Tom was shot dead assaulting the enemy on Dec. 7th, Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- The most casualty deaths for a single day was on January 31, 1968 ~ 245 deaths.
- The most casualty deaths for a single month was May 1968 - 2,415 casualties were incurred.



Why do we speak of this now and then? Well, a lot of Vietnam Veterans have forgotten the facts, our children likely don't know much about it and our grandchildren probably don't know where Vietnam is or what or when happened there.

Please consider getting a huge laminated map of Vietnam about 4-5 feet tall and explain the country, where it is, the happenings up to 1954, the start of the war in 1959-1960 and provide them a detailed (nicely done) history of your tour in Vietnam. If you don't tell them, they will never know and oh we are one foot closer to the grave. So, this is the time to start that auto-biography, the history of your tour in Vietnam, make a movie, write that book, anything to leave something to your children and grandchildren.



"We, Vietnam Veterans are quickly becoming the World War II Veterans"



Remembering Vietnam Veterans

Vietnam Veterans Commemorate Vietnam Remembrance Day

In-Country Vietnam Veterans, in partnership with the Vietnamese Community of Arizona, VVA 432, and many other Veterans Organizations, held their 21st Annual Vietnam Remembrance Day, on Sunday, April 26, 2015, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., ceremony at 9:00AM, at the Vietnam Memorial, Wesley Bolin Plaza, 17th Avenue & Jefferson. 2015 will commemorate the 40th Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon. An Anniversary that is very important to our Vietnamese Brothers & Sisters and their families.

Keynote Speaker – Col. Joey Strickland, Vietnam Veteran U.S. Army Retired.

Special Guest Speaker: Ms. Linda West, Author of Beyond The Rice Paddies

Arizona Vietnamese Community. Mr. Kevin Dang, President of the Vietnamese Community will speak for the Vietnamese.

The 108th Army Band of the National Guard under the Direction of WOI Steven Brining will provide their usual stirring marches and patriotic music, and the color guards from many of the valley and State Veterans organizations will post their colors. The monument area will be a blaze of color with dozens of US and South Vietnamese flags.

A massing of the colors, and flag raisings of the US and South Vietnamese flags by both the American and Vietnamese Veteran communities.

"Charlie Chopper" 1969 Hughes OH-6A Cayuse Helicopter will be on display in the Rotunda below the Vietnam Memorial as well as Military Vehicles provided by Bill Simon of Desert Warriors. Members of all civilian and Veterans communities, their friends and families are invited to attend. Donations to off set the cost of the event are appreciated.

Remember the Vietnam Veteran That Is Alive

It is our duty to remember the Vietnam Veterans that gave their lives in S.E. Asia, for they gave their maybe in some cases for us and we may not have even known it.

But then there are those of us (reading this), we ought to remember those who served and may be in a rest home or all alone. We likely know someone like that. We simply have to go to a local base, check the rest homes or simply ask someone who may know of some men or



women who are "lost" and without anyone in their lives. Wouldn't it be nice to remember them with a nice lunch on a monthly basis and give them a thank you in the form of a challenge coin, I know I'd like it.



Florenci Othon (Lencho)



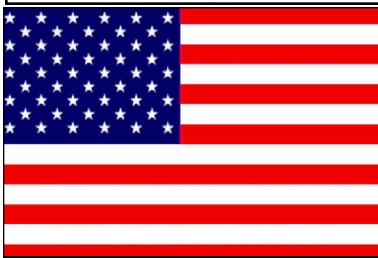
(1919-2014) Born in Phoenix, Arizona, in 1919. Served in U.S. Army in WWII. Former Arizona Department Commander, American Legion: led membership attainment to exceed 3 million members in 1988-89. Past chairman, Unified Arizona Veterans. Helped lead effort to bring about funding and land acquisition for Arizona State Veterans Home and continues volunteer support to Home. Has over 20 years of service to the Arizona State Fair Veterans Recognition Committee and over 15 years to the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona Support Committee. As a long time Lions Club member, leads fundraising to support Del Webb Hospital, Peoria Little League, a camp for children with special needs in Lakeside, AZ, and other charitable and community programs. Continues to volunteer one day a week patrolling the Sun City area with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse.



Continues to volunteer one day a week patrolling the Sun City area with the Maricopa County Sheriff's Posse.

The Loss Of A Friend And Brother

I wanted to mention this man Tony Brockington because he was man everyone looked up to. I remember him from 1977 when I first started working at Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) in Yuma, Arizona and he always had a smile on his face, and I wondered about that. He always had nice things to say, and I always did a good job in his work, but I did not wonder about that, because Tony was a man of character. He was always a blessing to everyone, always had nice thing to say about anyone and everyone and was there for anyone. He supported a lot of programs at YPG, but he made a big difference when he became YPG's 1st Officer for the Vietnam War's 50th Commemoration Program in 2013. He was there for COL. Reed Young (former Commander) to hold their first event and support everything for all of the Commanders during his time of working. Tony was a man who could be counted on, never had a bad word to say, complimented people for doing their job and was a blessing all of the time I knew him. I mention all of this to remind us reading this to have all of us do the same thing.



In Loving Memory

Of

Anthony (Tony)

Luther Brockington

Sunrise

January 22, 1943

Sunset

March 4, 2015

VVA-Arizona 50th Commemoration Event—January 2015

We at VVA-Arizona took the time and made the effort to honor some folks within our State Council, the eight chapters in the state and one very important man in Region 9. Let me start with Dick Southern who has been our Region 9 Director for some time and been a real blessing to all of us for many years. He is very supportive and looks upon us in keeping us informed, up-to-date with VVA Events, policies, "actions to come" all to benefit the Vietnam Veterans of America. It was the honor of Walt

Schumacher, State Secretary of VVA-AZ to provide Dick Southern with a "50th Keepsake" for him from 2013 through 2015. It is Schumacher's policy to archive valuable and important documents for the years to come and in that are "written manuscripts" about VVA in general and specifically and videos which provide a "visual look" at what took place at that event. He feels, this is important for later generations to see not to

mention those of us "with short memories". After all if you don't record it now, it will **NEVER, NEVER** get done any time soon. And what do you leave those here after you're gone. And, not to mention, leaving a legacy of "your life of the military, Vietnam, etc" of your own life. Our grandparents and parents did it for us, why can't we do it for our family? It is an important gesture we could do for them and we have little time to do it.



Honoring Chapter 1043 Members

Billie Culin knows how to do it right when she wants to remember some members of her Chapter. These two gentlemen are Michael Woods (below right) and Karl Seitz who have been long standing and extremely reliable members of the West Valley Phoenix Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America 1043. With Billie's health on the mend, she wanted to ensure she was on hand to provide these two men a heart felt reward both in word and in print of what she feels about them. She told Mike—"Your untiring dedication to our organization is felt by all the members including myself as chapter president. You are always there with a helping hand and extend yourself unselfishly ... For Karl, as he is relatively new to the chapter—"accepting to fill the position of Vice President of West Valley Chapter 1043 and Sergeant of Arms making sure our colors are at all chapter functions to include fundraisers. Your constant dedication and sustainment is always appreciated by all the members including myself as chapter president. You are always there with a helping hand." **Kind words** do not cost a thing and it is great that she was able to reward them as she did.



The recipients have this glad and appreciated look on their face for them receiving a nice reward from their local Chapter President. It was rewarding what the Chapter Presidents did for their VVA personnel.



Together Always



Vietnam Veterans of America
50th Commemoration of the
Vietnam War
Arizona State Council

Presents to
KARL SEITZ

This Certificate of Appreciation for Karl is for accepting to fill the position of Vice President of West Valley Chapter 1043 and Sergeant of Arms making sure our colors are at all chapter functions to include fundraisers. Your untiring dedication and support is felt and appreciated by all the members including myself as chapter president. You are always there with a helping hand and extend yourself unselfishly to assure that the motto of Vietnam Veterans of America - **Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another - is NEVER FORGOTTEN.**

BILLEE CULIN
President, Chapter 1043
Date: 17 January 2015

Vietnam Veterans of America
50th Commemoration of the
Vietnam War
Arizona State Council

Presents to
MICHAEL WOODS

This Certificate of Appreciation for Michael is for stepping up to the plate and being a true friend, officer, member and advocate of West Valley Chapter 1043 of Vietnam Veterans of America. Your untiring dedication to our organization is felt by all the members including myself as chapter president. You are always there with a helping hand and extend yourself unselfishly to assure that the motto of Vietnam Veterans of America - **Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another - is NEVER FORGOTTEN.**

BILLEE CULIN
President, Chapter 1043
Date: 17 January 2015

Honoring A GREAT Man—Dick Southern



It is not everyday, you have the Region 9 Director in front of you telling him what a "GREAT MAN" he is. Therefore, you have to plan it, invite him and surprise him. And that is what the State Council of Arizona did when we presented him with something he has never seen or had before. As the State Council embarks on fulfilling "50th Events", we are taking every opportunity to create a nice remembrance for the person we are honoring at the same time. We presented Dick Southern with two books of "VVA 50th Related Tributes of the Vietnam War". Nearly three years of AZ-LZ Newsletters and seven DVD movies of those particular events. No other chapter or State Council to our determining has done this before, so this is a first. We so appreciate Dick for all he does for Region 9 and our State Council. Dick, thank you for being there for us as a membership of your Region and VVA.

Chapter 432 Honors Its Members

Bill Messer, President of VVA Chapter 432 in Phoenix takes the time to honor two of his men in his chapter on this day. He spoke highly of Lionel Sanchez. Lionel has been involved in many a project and setting to include being one of the State Council's officers on governmental affairs. He has been that familiar face to all of us for more than a decade. Thank you Lionel for all you do for VVA, your family and your country.



Arizona State Council—50th Commemorations

If you are a Chapter in Arizona or a State Council in any state of the country it is easy to sign up to be 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War member and simply hold two events per year within your state. It's pretty simple to guide your way through the effort of holding an event honoring one man or a group of them.

For example in Yuma, we have a Pastor who elected to volunteer to do just that and he is following through with a new coin and a great celebration on Veterans Day 2015. You find many Pastor's willing to do that, but this one did and I certainly appreciate him for his effort of the expense and providing a nice remembrance for the likely 50-75 veterans that will be on hand for that Sunday, just prior to Veterans Day itself. The entire service provide a nice tribute to these men and women from World War II to Korea to Vietnam to the Gulf War to the Global War on Terror and the coin especially made just for that year (2015) and the follow on year (2016) the next November.

The average coin costs \$200.00 to design (just one side) and then an average of about \$6.50-6.75 per coin, however, you must purchase at least fifty (50) of them and delivery is about six (6) weeks as they are made in China, and I might add, by hand. It is always for a worthy cause for the men and women that devoted their lives to fight for all of us.



"It costs nearly **"NOTHING"** to get up and say some kind words that are true to someone who deserves it"



VVA-Arizona 50th Commemoration Event—January 2015

We at VVA-Arizona took the time and made the effort to honor some folks within our State Council, the eight chapters in the state and one very important man in Region 9. Let me start with Dick Southern who has been our Region 9 Director for some time and been a real blessing to all of us for many years. He is very supportive and looks upon us in keeping us informed, up-to-date with VVA Events, policies, "actions to come" all to benefit the Vietnam Veterans of America. It was the honor of Walt

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Honoring the President of VVA National

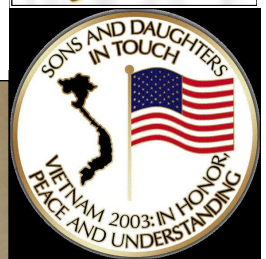


Gene Crego, President of VVA-Arizona is doing the right thing with the National President John Rowan. And that is "providing a nice gift to the man that runs this organization that we all belong to.

I've mentioned in other articles that it does not take a lot to put a smile on someone's face when you do something really "MEANINGFUL" for them. Believe me, they will not forget it for a long time, you would not either.

President of VVA National Honoring Others

Presentation of Honorary Life Membership in VVA for Tony and Wayne Cordero, founder of Sons and Daughter in Touch. Sons and Daughters In Touch was formed in 1990 to 'locate, unite and support the children of American servicemen who were lost, or remain missing as a result of the Vietnam War.' They have established contact with more than 3000 of these now-grown children. Beginning in 1992, the organization began holding national Father's Day reunions at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (1992-1997, 2000, 2005 and 2010).



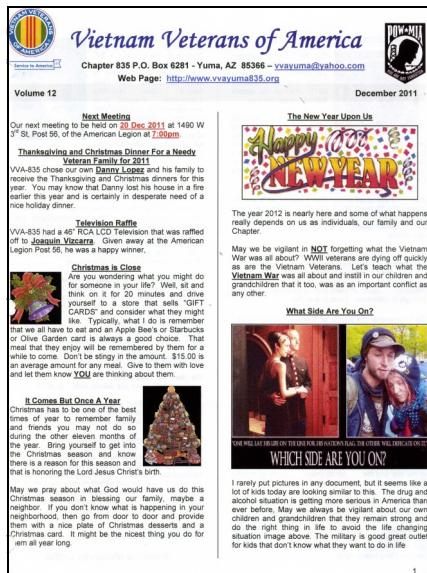
*I am a parent dear Lord
 I ask nothing from you for me.
 I pray only that in your mercy
 You would grant my children their needs
 May their lives be long and healthy
 May they achieve all their dreams
 May they always live in a world that is free
 May they be who they were born to be
 And may they know to their last days
 that they were deeply loved by me.
 Amen*

Vietnam Veterans of America Convention-2015

VVA Chapter of the Year and State Council of the Year

Submissions for these two awards are by self-nomination. For VVA Chapter of the Year, the official nomination form must be submitted by the Chapter president and must contain his or her signature, as well as that of the State Council president (if one exists) and the regional director. Both the state president and the regional director must attach letters of support for the nomination. For VVA State Council of the Year, the nomination form must come from the State president and must contain the signatures of and a letter of support from the State Council president and the Regional Director.

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



Chapter and State Council Newspaper and the E-Mail Newspaper of the Year

For the State Council Newspaper and E-Mail Newspaper of the Year award nominations must be submitted by the state president and contain his or her signature, as well as that of the newspaper editor and the regional director. The regional director also must include a letter of support.

A nomination for the newsletter or newspaper award must include the official nomination form, along with five copies of the three most recent editions of the publication. Publications will be judged on editorial content, readability, organization and clarity of expression, layout, and graphics. Any State Council or Chapter News-

letter should be engraved with good Vietnam Information as well as some historical guidance for the readers no matter how old or how young they are



VVA Chapter of the Year and State Council Websites of the Year

The submission process for the Website of the Year is by self-nomination. Nominations should be submitted by the Chapter or State Council president and contain his or her signature, as well as that of the webmaster. The State Council president also must attach a letter of support to the nomination form. If no State Council president exists, the nomination form with signature and letter of support should be submitted by the regional director.

To be eligible for an award, the Website (1) must be published by a VVA Chapter or State Council that is tax-exempt under Section 501(C)(19) (war veterans organizations) of the Internal Revenue Code; (2) must have a publisher who is an officer or director of a VVA Chapter or State Council; (3) must say that it is the website of a VVA Chapter or State Council; and must not be the work of a contracted professional. A Website that is published by an organization that is tax-exempt under Section (501)(c)(3) (religious, charitable, scientific, or educational organizations) is not eligible for an award.



VVA National Convention



GUEST SPEAKER

While serving as a crew chief aboard a U.S. Air Force Rescue helicopter, Airman First Class **Bill Robinson** was shot down and captured in North Vietnam, on September 20, 1965. After a brief time in the Hanoi Hilton, he spent more than seven-and-a-half years in a series of other brutal North Vietnamese POW camps. He was by far the longest-held enlist-

Walter Anderson, the former long-time Chairman, CEO, and Editor-in-Chief of *Parade* magazine, will receive the VVA Excellence in the Arts award at the Saturday night banquet. Anderson, who served in the Vietnam War in the U.S. Marine Corps, is the author of five books, including his memoir, *Meant To Be*, and a Vietnam-War-themed play, "Almost Home."



An active advocate for literacy efforts, Anderson has served as a board member of the National Center for Family Literacy. He also was a presidentially appointed member of the U.S. National Commission on Libraries and Information Science for four years. He is a recipient of the Literacy Volunteers of America's Stars in Literacy Award, the John H. Russell Leadership Award from the Marine Corps University Foundation, the Marine for Life Award, and the Horatio Alger Award.



Kelly Grant Jr., the Chairman of the Board of Mel-O-Cream Donuts International in Springfield, Illinois, will be honored at Vietnam Veterans of America's National Convention, for his support of the troops in Vietnam. During the war, one of Mel-O-Cream's employees was drafted into the Army and sent to Vietnam. He wrote back home to ask if Mel-O-Cream would ship doughnuts to him in the war zone. So Mr. Grant—who is 82 years old—had a few boxes packed up and sent to Vietnam. After the G.I. asked for more, the company wound up sending some 4,000 individually wrapped doughnuts to the troops in the next four years. "The response from people was very positive," Mr. Grant told a local newspaper recently. "Hardly a year goes by that a veteran tells us they got some of those doughnuts." VVA will honor Kelly Grant, Jr. with the President's Award for Supporting the Troops in Vietnam on Saturday, July 25, 2015.

Gifts for the guest coming to the Convention

"Donut Dollies" Then and Now

VVA Awards Banquet

Spring mix salad with sliced tomato and mozzarella cheese with a choice of balsamic vinaigrette and ranch dressing
 6 oz. filet with a wild mushroom demi glaze
 Rosemary redskin mashed potatoes with a hint of garlic
 Green beans with red pepper
 Chocolate cake with a raspberry sauce or Champagne cake (Alternating)
 Coffee, Tea and Decaf

Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings



How much do you know about Agent Orange?

Why did they pick "ORANGE" to be the color?

Are there other colors as well?

What might it affect on you?

What about your children or grandchildren?

Have you been tested for Agent Orange Exposure?

Do you have any symptoms?

Do you know where to go or to look for help?

Agent Orange Update

Over the years one of VVA members and a former Chairman of the Agent Orange Committee put together a database of studies related to "Agent Orange/Dioxin" exposures and their impact. George Claxton wants to share this information with his fellow veterans. We are grateful for George's hard work and dedication in working on these important issues. Below are disease references as you see below.

1. Analytical
2. Soft tissue Sarcoma
3. Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma
4. Hodgkin's Lymphoma
5. Leukemia and Multiple Myeloma
6. Respiratory Cancer
7. Prostate Cancer
8. Liver Cancer
9. Skin Cancer
10. Nasal/Pharyngeal and Brain Cancer
11. Other Cancers
12. Mechanism of Toxicity
13. Developmental and Reproductive
14. Mutagenic Damage
15. Animal Toxicity
16. Immune System Toxicity
17. There is no #17 database
18. Human Toxicity
19. Neurological Damage
20. Desert Storm Toxicity/Biological Warfare



"AGENT ORANGE" is nothing to mess with. If, you were on the ground, then you were on the ground in Vietnam, then **Agent Orange** has or maybe yet will affect you somehow. Go to the VA and see about it. It is likely the most serious thing you could get".

AGENT ORANGE: Painful legacy

Agent Orange, a combination of herbicides and defoliants, was used by the U.S. military, particularly during the Vietnam War. The substance caused extensive medical problems, including cancers and birth defects, among people exposed to it.

In 1991, the **Agent Orange Act** made veterans exposed to the chemical eligible for compensation and medical care. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs recognizes a "presumptive" link between Agent Orange and a range of illnesses:

- Type II diabetes
- Hodgkin's disease
- Soft-tissue sarcoma
- Peripheral neuropathy
- Spina bifida in children of veterans
- Various other forms of cancer, including prostate and respiratory cases

Added to the list in August 2010:

- B-cell leukemias
- Parkinson's disease
- Ischemic heart disease



Agent Orange Town Hall Meetings



Veterans and Agent Orange Series of Reports

From 1962 to 1971, US military sprayed herbicides over Vietnam to strip the thick jungle canopy that could conceal opposition forces, to destroy crops that those forces might depend on, and to clear tall grasses and bushes from the perimeters of US base camps and outlying fire-support bases. Because of continuing uncertainty about the long-term health effects of the sprayed herbicides on Vietnam veterans, Congress passed the Agent Orange Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-4). The legislation directed the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) to request the Institute of Medicine to perform a comprehensive evaluation of scientific and medical information regarding the health effects of exposure to Agent Orange and other herbicides used in Vietnam. The reports were intended to provide scientific information for the Secretary of VA to consider as VA exercises its responsibilities to Vietnam veterans. In mid-2014, an IOM committee began work on Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014, the tenth Congressionally mandated biennial update to integrate new biomedical evidence into the findings of the first comprehensive report published in 1994. The Veterans and Agent Orange: Update 2014 committee will hold meetings through the spring of 2015 and their final report will be released in late 2015 or early 2016.

The Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam Veterans of Exposure to Herbicides

The Institute of Medicine (IOM) announces a public meeting for a candid discussion about health effects in veterans associated with the herbicides sprayed during the Vietnam War. The report from this committee will be provided to the Department of Veterans Affairs to help advise officials on policy decisions regarding compensation to veterans for service-related illnesses.


The primary purpose of this meeting is to hear from Vietnam veterans about their health concerns. All Vietnam veterans or other interested parties are welcome, and anyone wishing to share a personal experience with the committee may reserve a time on the agenda or submit a written statement. This conversation will inform the IOM's Committee to Review the Health Effects in Vietnam of Exposure to Herbicides (Tenth Biennial Update) in its review

of the scientific evidence regarding the link between exposure to the herbicides used in Vietnam and adverse health outcomes.

You may view the report for the most recent update in the Veterans and Agent Orange series for free online at: <http://www.nap.edu/catalog/18395/veterans-and-agent-orange-update-2012>. If you would like to attend (with or without making a statement), please let us know by registering this online at site <http://iom.VAO.sgizmo.com/s3/>.

If you are receiving this information off-line and are interested in registering, please contact Nicole Freid at 202-334-1751 or nfreid@nas.edu.

For project information and a committee roster, please visit: <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/cp/projectview.aspx?key=49630>



Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106

PRESENTS

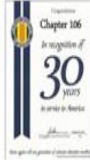
TOWNHALL

AGENT ORANGE/TOXIC EXPOSURE

CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN OF VIETNAM VETERANS

We need you to attend and tell your story.

February 28, 2015
9 am – Noon
VFW Post 549
8424 E. Old Spanish Trail • Tucson, AZ 85710



Agent Orange After Action Report—Tucson Chapter 106

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 106 —Tucson, Arizona Agent Orange/Toxic Exposure Town Hall — February 28, 2015



The health effects of Agent Orange and other toxic substances on military personnel is well known and studied. Unfortunately, there is increasing evidence that the impact of these substances does not stop with the veteran, but continues on to the veteran's children and grandchildren. Even though this evidence continues to mount, with the exception of spina bifida, little is done to recognize and compensate dependents for the damage to their health as a result of these toxic exposures. It is with this backdrop, that the Tucson Chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA Chapter 106) held a town hall to further explore this issue.

On February 28, more than 50 people gathered at the VFW Post 549 in Tucson for a town hall focusing on the effects of Agent Orange and Toxic Exposure on the children and grandchildren of Vietnam veterans. This town hall was moderated by Ken Holybee and Kate O'Hare-Palmer, both having extensive experience with health issues in veterans and/or their dependents. Juan "Sarge" Rodriguez served as Emcee. Three service officers also participated; Dan Ross (VVA), Barry Mosman (American Legion), and Frank Skopp (VFW).



The Town Hall began with a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence for those who remain Missing in Action and those who have died from Agent Orange and other Toxic Exposures. After a welcome from Dennis St. Germaine, Chapter President, "Sarge" Rodriguez introduced two video clips from You Tube relevant to the Town Hall. The first of these was a "Film of U.S. Soldiers Spraying Agent Orange" and the second was remarks made by Sen. Moran (R) Kansas, on legislation needed to establish a Center at one of the VA medical centers that will research the relationship between these toxic exposures and health issues in veterans and in children and grandchildren of military veterans. In addition, he calls for the VA

to provide health care services to those affected by this exposure. He sees this Center also providing education for both veterans and the American public as to this problem. Both "Sarge" Rodriguez and Dennis St. Germaine told their stories of how they and their families have been affected by Agent Orange. They then asked those in attendance to share their stories of how their families were affected. While a number of those attending told their story of how they have been affected by Agent Orange and the difficulties with health care, most of the stories focused on the children. The stories were many and were gripping in the extent of the pain and cost to the families. Stories of disorders such as Multiple Sclerosis, connective tissue disorders, cancers, auto-immune diseases, bone deformities, spinal bifida, learning disabilities, thyroid problems, sterility and spontaneous abortions were told and repeated. Of these, only spinal bifida is recognized by the VA as related to Agent Orange exposure, and the VA does not cover conditions that are not considered to be permanent physical or mental disorders.. (A fuller listing of disorders associated with Agent Orange exposure can be found in the document, *The VVA Self-Help Guide to Service-Connected Disability Compensation for Exposure to Agent Orange for Veterans and their Families*, copies of which were distributed to each person in attendance. Copies of this publication are available from VVA and can be viewed online at VVA.org.



The three service officers emphasized that those whose families have been affected by toxic exposures should file a claim on behalf of their dependents. Claims are submitted to an office in Denver rather than through regular channels to avoid slowing the system of claims processing. It is understood that the claims for dependent exposure will not be approved at this time. However, it is essential that they be filed so that the extent of the effects be known and better understood. It was also emphasized that should there be an award, it would be retroactive to the date of filing the claim.

Unfortunately, no representatives or staff from any of the congressional offices were able to attend. None-the-less, it is important that veterans with dependents affected by that veteran's toxic exposure file claims for compensation through the VA. All those present were urged to contact their elected representatives to encourage their co-sponsorship of upcoming legislation designed to provide research and relief for the devastating health effects incurred by toxic exposure while in military service. Contact information for elected Congressional representatives and local service officers was made available as a handout for Town Hall attendees. VVA Chapter 106 thanks the State Council for the financial assistance given to help defray the costs of this Town Hall.

Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting—Lake Havasu City, AZ—VVA 975

The AVVA's Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting in Lake Havasu today was more than we had hoped for! 96 veterans signed in, and almost all stayed until the very end. Larry Mitchell, member of VVA 432 of Phoenix, told of the multiple cancers he has contracted as a result of his exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam. Chuck Byers, VSO for VVA, talked about the problems with the VA when veterans file claims for disability because of Agent Orange. Many questions were answered for the audience, and after the meeting veterans were encouraged to sit and talk with one of several VSO's in attendance on March 12, 2015



Presumes Are Related to Exposure to Herbicides

On October 13, 2009, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that three new conditions would be added to the list of diseases presumptively associated with exposure to certain herbicide agents: hairy cell and other B-cell leukemias, Parkinson's disease, and ischemic heart disease. This web site was created to provide general information about filing claims for service connection for these conditions. VA began adjudicating these claims on October 30, 2010.

The questions and information on this website will ensure a Veteran or surviving family member understands the criteria for service connection and the evidence that is required to submit a complete claim. Additional Agent Orange information can be found at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/benefits.asp> A completed list of Complete list of current Veterans' diseases associated with Agent Orange Exposure is available on line.

Town Hall—Agent Orange – VVA 1043

VVA Chapter 1043 had a Town Hall Meeting on Agent Orange. It was held on May 2, 2015 in conjunction with the American Legion Post 94. The meeting was held from 9-12 with a lot of information about the deadly disease of Agent Orange. They have the same goal in mind as the other chapters by having trained and very informed personnel to come and talk to the audience that NEED to know what is going on with this Agent Orange problem among the Vietnam Veterans in America. Our generation is almost gone, but there two others right behind us and are being affected.



Town Hall Agent Orange – VVA 835



VVA Chapter 835 and The Disabled American Veterans Chapter 11 in Yuma, Arizona hosted an Agent Orange Town Hall Meeting on May 11, 2015.

The purpose of this meeting is threefold:

- Inform those attending exactly what Agent Orange is and what it has done to the Veterans of Vietnam through conversation and a movie.
- Provide as much information to the audience of Veterans and wives so they may become informed and file a claim or get some help
- Ask questions about Agent Orange, their symptoms and how to file a claim with an on hand Veterans Service Officer (VSO) to the VA and see if your family is at risk with this disease. It's better to know too much than not enough.



AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL

Learn from national experts about the genetic legacy resulting from exposure to Agent Orange.

- * Are you a Vietnam Veteran or a child or grandchild of a Vietnam veteran?
- * Does your child or grandchild have a birth defect or suffer from a childhood illnesses?
- * Do you suffer from multiple illnesses as a Vietnam veteran?

Sponsored by: VVA Chapter 835 and the DAV Chapter 11
 Date/Time: Monday, May 11, 2015 - 6-9pm
 Location: 954 S. 13th Avenue - Yuma

Information : prov2007@yahoo.com - FREE admission

VIETNAM VETERANS AGENT ORANGE/DIOXIN KILLS CHILDREN

928-580-5180
 928-783-6661
 928-920-0907

We have a guest speaker with information about Agent Orange and a VSO on hand to discuss claims to the VA.

VVA Arizona Foundation – "Amazon Smile"

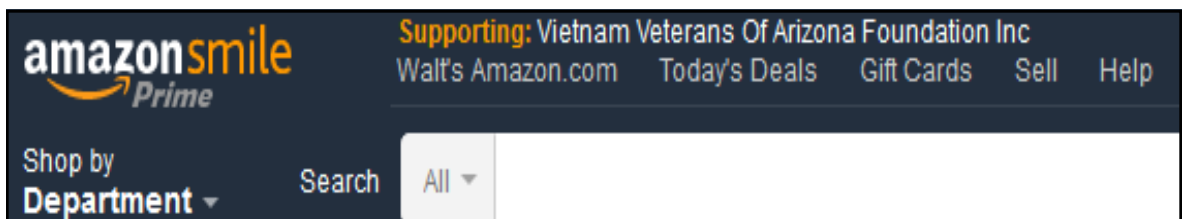
Some of you know that we have a foundation within the VVA of Arizona. It's name is VVAF aka the Arizona Foundation and it has been discovered that we (all of us) can donate .05% of what we purchase on Amazon.com. Amazon has a new non-profit donation program. which reaps **0.5%** of the sales if people choose the charity to donate to. So, how do you get there, well: Use this URL of: <http://smile.amazon.com> and you select the charity of the following image and it takes you to your normal "AMAZON" page.



The following screen is what you will see:

Bill Wesp is in charge of this effort, so please if you have questions for him, his email is vvazfoundation@gmail.com. **This will help the Vietnam Veterans of**

Arizona Foundation, so please use it as often as you can. Please support Vietnam Veterans as much as possible.



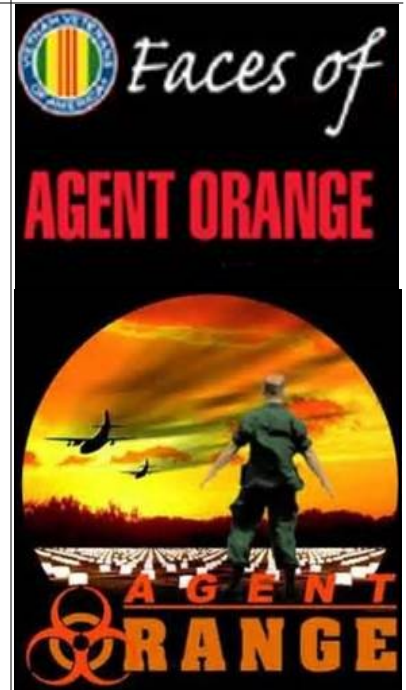
A Good Agent Orange Story

Don't Wait For An Army To Die, By Mokie Pratt Porter, VVA

Significant numbers of Vietnam veterans have children and grandchildren with birth defects related to exposure to Agent Orange. A Ford Foundation public relations campaign to win the sympathy of the American people for the plight of Agent Orange victims in Vietnam does not plan to address the plight of Agent Orange victims in America. On June 2, the Ford Foundation announced that it and the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin are hoping to mobilize resources to raise awareness about the ongoing health consequences of dioxin contamination in Vietnam resulting from the wartime spraying of Agent Orange. The end goal is to gain the support of Congress, American business, and the American people. When VVA representatives asked at the meeting whether American veterans and their Offspring also would be part of the public relations campaign, the chair of the Working Group replied: "We have given you the report." A June 1st report, "U.S. Vietnam Veterans and Agent Orange: Understanding the Impact 40 Years Later," by the National Organization on Disability with funding from the Ford Foundation, concludes that it is not "too late to correct the lapses in the nation's treatment of veterans who were exposed to dioxin during the Vietnam War," and that "one lesson of the Agent Orange experience has been that the consequences of such chemicals are rarely easy to predict, and that the burdens they impose may well be borne for generations." The report includes five detailed recommendations: **1)** outreach to all affected veterans and their families; **2)** outreach to health practitioners and disability-related service agencies; **3)** medical care for affected children and grandchildren; **4)** a fresh approach to research; and **5)** direct service to veterans and their families. VVA recognizes the work and commitment of the Ford Foundation Special Initiative on Agent Orange/Dioxin and the U.S.-Vietnam Dialogue Group on Agent Orange/Dioxin. Moreover, the June 1st report provides highly useful recommendations related to the unfinished business of Agent Orange/Dioxin for Vietnam veterans and their progeny. But if the Ford Foundation's publicity campaign will focus exclusively on the plight of Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange, then Vietnam veterans need to launch their own grass-roots publicity campaign.

THE TASK AHEAD

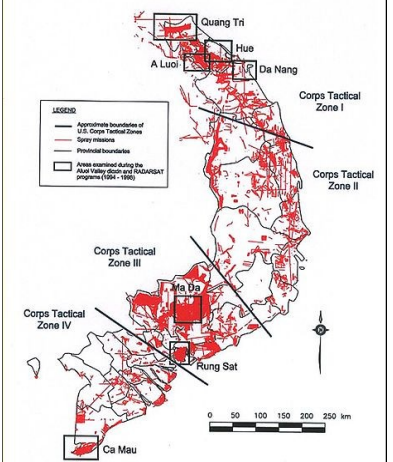
This is not just a VVA issue. VVA members, chapters, and state councils need to reach out and work with other veterans' organizations in their communities. We cannot allow veterans to find out about their A/O exposure from the perspective of the Vietnamese victims. This is not about animosity toward Vietnamese victims of Agent Orange; it is a response to telling only one side of the story. We need real stories about real people. We are in the process of gathering these stories. If you wish to share your family's second- and third-generation health struggles from what you believe to be due to exposure to Agent Orange/Dioxin, please send an email to mporter@vva.org or call 301-585-4000, ext. 146. Some have suggested holding veterans' health forums at the chapter and state council levels. That's a good way to get local media attention and a perfect forum to discuss the issue of A/O, as well as the host of illnesses and maladies associated with military service. It is useful to have a nuts-and-bolts, how-to plan for this type of health forum. What we need is something that could be shared with other states and chapters, such as a checklist for organizers of local health forums, or a document that has tips for putting on a high interest, high-attendance, high-media-coverage veterans' health forum. This is not just about the Vietnam War and Agent Orange; it is about all toxic exposures in all theaters of our recent wars, whether in Thailand, Eglin Air Force Base, Guam, Puerto Rico, Texas, the Gulf, Iraq, or Afghanistan. The larger lesson continues to be that the cost of war doesn't end when the guns are silent. In fact, it takes a generational toll. This effort is just getting started. What works in one area may not work in another area. But sharing ideas, info, intel, and good stories is needed. Local initiative, local creativity, and local enthusiasm and ener-



"Agent Orange is catching up with us and unless we act to it now, it may too late for our children and grand children and beyond."



Aerial herbicide spray missions in southern Viet Nam, 1965 to 1971 (Source: U.S. Dept. of the Army).





April 14, 2015

New Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015

No. 15-4

Contact: Mokie Porter
301-996-0901

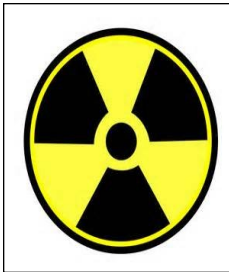
Senators Moran and Blumenthal, Representatives Benishek and Honda Introduce New Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015

Read up on
Agent Orange
now, because,
your future
family could be
connected to the
disease passed
on through you
and your
children.

(Washington, DC) – “It’s bad enough that veterans have had to bear the cross of exposure to toxic agents during our military service,” said Vietnam Veterans of America National President John Rowan. “It is worse to see our children and grandchildren afflicted with health conditions we suspect have derived from our exposure, and to think we are the cause of their hurt and pain. Today, however, we see real light at the end of a long, grim tunnel with the introduction of the ‘Toxic Exposure Research Act of 2015.’ This legislation, when enacted, will establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a national center for research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of the descendants of veterans exposed to toxic substances during their service,” Rowan said

“VVA is gratified that this is a bipartisan effort in both houses of Congress,” Rowan emphasized. “We applaud Senators Jerry Moran (R-KS) and Dick Blumenthal (D-CT), and Representatives Dan Benishek (R-MI) and Mike Honda (D-CA) – and their energetic and committed staffs – for introducing S. 901 and H.R. 1769. We will pull out all the stops to work with them in seeking additional co-sponsors for this very necessary legislation. And we will work with our fellow veterans service organizations, military organizations and associations, and others to move these bills through the legislative process and into black-letter law.”

This bill isn’t only about the herbicide Agent Orange and other chemicals used in South Vietnam,” Rowan pointed out, “It’s about exposures to chemical agents for all who have served in our Armed Forces, including those exposed to the toxic fumes released by the U.S. Demolition Operations at the Khamisiyah Pit and those exposed to the toxic fires from burn pits across Afghanistan and Iraq during Operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn” Rowan noted that a key part of this legislation is the establishment of an advisory board that will oversee and assess the work of the center, to determine health conditions in a veteran’s offspring that likely result from the veteran’s exposure, and to study and evaluate cases of exposure.



Compensation for Agent Orange

Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange

Veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service may be eligible for a variety of VA benefits, including disability compensation for diseases associated with exposure. Your dependents and survivors also may be eligible for benefits. "Agent Orange" refers to a blend of tactical herbicides the U.S. military sprayed in the jungles of Vietnam and around the Korean demilitarized zone to remove trees and dense tropical foliage that provided enemy cover. Herbicides were also used by the U.S. military to defoliate military facilities in the U.S. and in other countries as far back as the 1950s. VA and federal law presumes that certain diseases are a result of exposure to these herbicides. This "presumptive policy" simplifies the process for receiving compensation for these diseases since VA foregoes the normal requirements of proving that an illness began during or was worsened by your military service. A Veteran who believes he or she has a disease caused by Agent Orange exposure that **is not** one of the conditions listed below must show an actual connection between the disease and herbicide exposure during military service.

Eligibility - Service in Vietnam or Korea

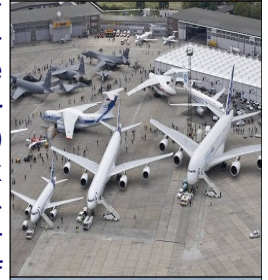
VA presumes that Veterans were exposed to Agent Orange or other herbicides if they served: In Vietnam anytime between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975, including brief visits ashore or service aboard a ship that operated on the inland waterways of Vietnam in or near the Korean demilitarized zone anytime between April 1, 1968 and August 31, 1971. If you fall into either category listed above, you do not have to show that you were exposed to Agent Orange to be eligible for disability compensation for diseases VA presumes are associated with it. Check the list of U.S. Navy and Coast Guard ships that operated in Vietnam to confirm whether your service aboard a ship allows VA to concede you were exposed to Agent Orange..

The World's Largest

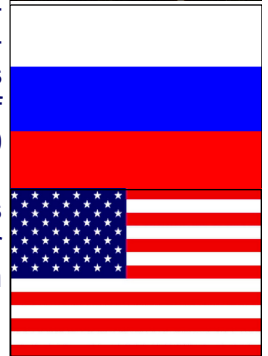
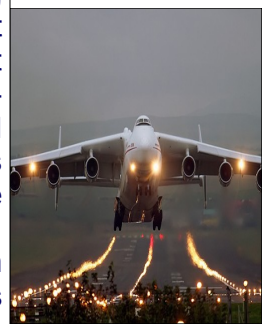


The Antonov An-225 *Mriya* (Ukrainian: Антонов АН-225 *Мрія*, Russian: Антонов АН-225 *Мрия*, *Dream*, NATO reporting name: "Cossack") is a strategic airlift cargo aircraft that was designed by the Soviet Union's Antonov Design Bureau in the 1980s. The An-225's name, *Mriya* means Dreams or (Inspiration) in Ukrainian. It is powered by six turbofan engines and is the longest and heaviest airplane ever built, with a maximum takeoff weight of 640 tons. It also has the largest wingspan of any aircraft in operational service. The single example built has the Ukrainian civil registration UR-82060. A second airframe was partially built; its completion was halted because of lack of funding and interest.

The Antonov An-225, initially developed for the task of transporting the Buran space plane, was an enlargement of the successful Antonov An-124. The first and only An-225 was completed in 1988. After successfully fulfilling its Soviet military missions, it was mothballed for eight years. It was then refurbished and reintroduced, and is in commercial operation with Antonov Airlines carrying oversized payloads. The airlifter holds the absolute world records for an airlifted single item payload of 189,980 kilograms (418,834 pounds), and an airlifted total payload of 253,820 kilograms (559,577 pounds). It has also transported a payload of 247,000 kilograms (545,000 pounds) on a commercial flight. Many countries hire it for travels of their own aircraft and other equipment too big for their own planes.



"Man's inventions of travels can take them far and wide but only to where they are only allowed."



New POW-MIA Agency Formed

SUMMARY

As reported on January 9 by Richard Sisk for *Military.com*, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel has announced the formation of a new agency to coordinate disparate efforts at accounting for and recovering the missing and dead from the nation's wars. The new agency within the Defense Department, which has yet to be given a name or a home headquarters, would merge the Defense POW/MIA Office (DPMO), the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command (JPAC), and several forensic laboratories under a new director to be appointed by President Obama. Navy Rear Adm. Mike Franken, the former vice director for strategy at U.S. Central Command, will lead the new agency as interim director during the consolidation until a permanent director is named when the agency is fully operational next year. More than 80,000 service members have been listed as missing since World War II, including more than 7,800 from Korea, and Hagel had been under pressure to meet a Congressional mandate that the Defense Department identify the remains of at least 200 MIAs annually by 2015. In 2014 the country had accounted for 71 service members from World War II, Korea and Vietnam, compared to 61 in 2013.

WWII

World War II ended in a clear-cut victory giving the U.S. access to the battlefields so extensive searches for fallen service members could be conducted. Nevertheless, many U.S. personnel were never recovered and so the U.S. government continues its effort to its comrades lost during WWII. In recent operations, remains have been recovered from WWII crash and gravesites in Europe and the Pacific, returned to Hawaii and identified by the Central Identification Laboratory (CIL). Additionally, teams have conducted excavations in Panama, Okinawa, the Solomon Islands, Makin Island, Wake Island, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, China and other locations. More than 73,000 Americans are unaccounted-for from World War II. (Others were lost at sea or entombed in sunken vessels.) JPAC is dedicated to those lost in World War II and deploys teams world-wide approximately five times a year with missions lasting 35 to 60 days depending on the location,

KOREA

PAC is dedicated to finding those lost in the Korean War. With more than 8,100 American servicemen from the Korean War that have not yet been accounted for, the task is daunting. From 1954 to 1990 the U.S. sought, to no avail, to account for Americans missing in North Korea. Then, between 1990-1994, North Korea unilaterally excavated and returned more than 200 sets of remains to the U.S. Due to co-mingling of the remains and complicating factors, few have been identified

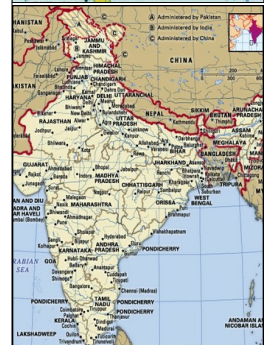
VIETNAM

The U.S. Government aggressively pursues POW/MIA issues with the governments of Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, China, and Russia in an effort to achieve the fullest possible accounting of Americans who did not return from the war in Southeast Asia. As our diplomatic relations with Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia have improved, so has access to archival information and on-site investigations relative to unaccounted-for Americans. Although the pace at times can be agonizingly slow, and much remains to be done, especially unilateral efforts by foreign governments, we are keeping our promise to both the missing Americans who served their country so proudly, and their families who await answers.

COLD WAR

In the past, JPAC received some remains from Russia through the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Person Office that were allegedly tied to a Cold War loss of an American whose plane went down somewhere in the vicinity of the Sea of Japan and Vladivostok. Unfortunately, mitochondrial DNA testing demonstrated that these remains were not related to that loss.

While this was disappointing, it points to the difficulty we have with Cold War cases (these cases tend to be in more obscure locations, there is often little information to go on, and there are fewer cases). JPAC will continue research and analysis work in partnership with DPMO to try and resolve these tough cases.



- Vietnam
- South Korea
- China
- Papua New Guinea
- Solomon Islands
- Indonesia
- India
- Burma
- Netherlands
- Europe

The 40 and 8



Child Welfare

The Voyageurs Militaire (Military Travelers) founded a Child Welfare Program in 1923 to ease the pain and suffering of those children whose fathers never returned or who were unable to care for their needs after the "Big War." Today, this program has grown to include all children with emergent needs, and our efforts amount to over eight million dollars annually.

Americanism

By virtue of being veterans who have served their country in its time of greatest need, the fun-loving, hard-working Voyageurs Militaire maintain a strong commitment to the American way of life. Americanism projects, respect for the flag, Constitution, Law and Order and the proven willingness to defend these principles is evident in the day-to-day activities of members of our society.

POW-MIA

The **40 & 8** program is known as the "POW/MIA Survivor Scholarship Fund" which is in memory of Lance Corporal John Killen who was declared Missing in Action in S. Vietnam. Scholarships are available to the Spouse, Children, Grandchildren, Great-grandchildren, and Widows of verified POW/MIA. In remembrance of them that they are not forgotten. Support the ongoing effort to find and repatriate the remains. Sources of income are pins and donations

La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux is an independent, by invitation, honor organization of male and female U. S. veterans, more commonly known as the "**Forty & Eight**".

The **Forty & Eight** is committed to charitable and patriotic aims. Our purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution, to promote the well being of veterans and their widows and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors, which include programs that promote child welfare and nurse's training.

The titles and symbols of the **Forty & Eight** reflect its First World War origins. Americans were transported to the battle front on French trains within boxcars stenciled with a "**40/8**", denoting its capacity to hold either **forty men or eight horses**. This uncomfortable mode of transportation was familiar to all who fought in the trenches; a common small misery among American soldiers who thereafter found "**40/8**" a lighthearted symbol of the deeper service, sacrifice and unspoken horrors of war that bind all who have borne the battle.

The **Forty & Eight** was founded in 1920 by American veterans returning from France. Originally an arm of The American Legion, the **Forty & Eight** became an independent and separately incorporated veteran's organization in 1960. Membership is by invitation of honorably discharged veterans and honorably serving members of the United States Armed Forces.

The legacy of the **Forty & Eight's Child Welfare** program was founded in 1923. In the 1930's, we lead a national effort to inoculate every American child against diphtheria. Other long-standing charitable programs of the **Forty & Eight** include the *Ardery Child Welfare Trust*, our unique *Nurses Training Program* that has graduated over 30,000 nurses, the *Boland Scholarship Trust*, *Carville Medical Research*, *Veterans Voluntary Service*, *Youth Sports*, *Americanism*, *Flags*, and *POW/MIA scholarships*. Many **Forty & Eight** units (Voitures) have *Parade Trains* and *Hobo Clowns* that delight children and promote patriotism. The **Forty & Eight** has recently championed **The Military Chaplain's Fund** that provides clothes and necessities for Armed Forces members injured in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Special Awards

The **40 & 8** "Voyageur of the Year Award" (Locale, Grande and Nationale winners) The "Hero of the Year Award" adopted in 1991 for the purpose of recognizing and paying tribute to a person who with out hesitation performed a heroic deed and demonstrated an unselfish desire to aid others. "Law Officer of the Year Award" is to recognize and pay tribute to a Law Officer who has done an outstanding job of performing his or her duties both passed and present. The "City or Town of the Year Award" was adopted in 2001 to recognize and honor a City or Town which has or is doing something significant for Veteran's in that City or Town.



A Secret Hobby By A Grandfather

His family never knew what he did with his free time, but this grandfather had a secret hobby. He had been spending hours hand carving wooden creations that are so detailed and perfect, it's hard to believe they're even real. **All of these machines were crafted by hand.** Would not it had been nice have the grandfather give them to this grandchildren instead of him passing on and they find them by-happen-chance?



This is the time to **INVOLVE** yourself with those grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Take them on a wonderful vacation that your family may not be able to afford. Show them how to do woodworking, fixing a car, cut the lawn, do dishes, etc.

The blessings of life are people and that most especially include **FAMILY**, your family. So involve yourself in them every day if you can or at least once weekly. Write your story about the military. I dare say, the most of it was "pretty good". Okay, so you didn't like Vietnam. Have you "EVER" thought of going back and take one of your grandchildren with you? Before you say no, get with some one who "HAS" been there as of late and ask them their opinion and "YOU" check on it yourself. Inside "THE VETERAN" in which VVA puts out are tours to Vietnam, they don't cost a lot, but are worthwhile to consider. May you could go back to your home country where ancestors came from and your grandkids might enjoy a trip where back your great grandfather came from. Think on it.

Random Thoughts As We Age . . .

Wouldn't it be great if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes; come out wrinkle-free!

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet!

I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks!

I don't need anger management. I need people to stop irritating me

Old age is coming at a really bad time!

When I was a child I thought Nap Time was a punishment ... now, as a grown up, it just feels like a vacation!

The biggest lie I tell myself is ... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair. I have "wisdom highlights". I'm just very wise.

My people skills are just fine. It's my tolerance to idiots that needs work.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".

I'm going to retire and live off of my savings. Not sure what I'll do that second week.

Even duct tape can't fix stupid ... but it can muffle the sound!

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just gonna transfer me to someone I can't understand anyway?

Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

Oops! Did I just roll my eyes out loud? At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and

WICOE is proud to announce the opening of its

W.I.C.O.E.—Women in Charge of Everything

EVENING CLASSES FOR MEN! - OPEN TO MEN ONLY and ALL ARE WELCOME

DAY ONE

TOILET ROLLS- DO THEY GROW ON THE HOLDERS? Roundtable discussion

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LAUNDRY BASKET & FLOOR Practicing with hamper

DISHES & SILVERWARE; DO THEY FLY TO KITCHEN SINK OR DISHWASHER BY THEMSELVES? - Debate with a panel of experts.

REMOTE CONTROL- Losing the remote control - How to survive. Help line and support groups

LEARNING HOW TO FIND THINGS—Starting with looking in the right place instead of turning the house upside down

DAY TWO

EMPTY MILK CARTONS; DO THEY BELONG IN THE FRIDGE OR THE BIN? Group discussion

HEALTH WATCH; BRINGING HER FLOWERS IS NOT HARMFUL TO YOUR HEALTH

REAL MEN ASK FOR DIRECTIONS WHEN LOST—Testimonial from the one man who did

IS IT GENETICALLY IMPOSSIBLE TO SIT QUIETLY AS SHE PARALLEL PARKS? - Driving simulation

LIVING WITH ADULTS; BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN YOUR MOTHER AND WIFE—Online and role playing

HOW TO BE THE IDEAL SHOPPING COMPANION—Relaxation, meditation and breathing techniques

REMEMBERING IMPORTANT DATES & CALLING WHEN YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE—Bring your calendar to class

DAY 3

GETTING OVER IT; LEARNING HOW TO LIVE WITH BEING WRONG ALL THE TIME—Individual counselors available and remembering what "you" came in there for.

But keep in mind ladies, we are the best thing that ever happened to you.... and mmm you to us men

Winter In 2014-2015

The past winter of 2014 and 2015 was one of the worst in human history. But if you look at it from another point of view such as the beauty of the land in different locations, you may have a different outlook about it. When you get right down to it, the world is a beautiful place in Spring, Summer and Fall, so let's look at the Winter of just last year.



Serafus, Austria



Rothenberg, Germany



Lucerne, Switzerland



New Zealand



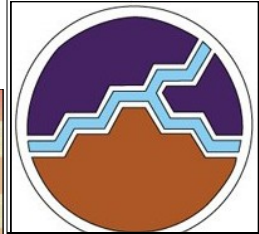
Amsterdam, Holland



Fussen, Germany

Yuma Military Appreciation Days—2015

Military Appreciation Days in Yuma is an annual event providing the opportunity to get to know all of the "military organizations" within Yuma. It also has vendors from one kind or another and brings the winter visitors from near and afar. Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA-835) along with Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), the American Legion (AL), Military Order of the Purple Heart and others such as YPG and MCAS bring their equipment and information to the citizens of Yuma to show the public. The poster to the right pretty much explains it all and is a nice remembrance for all of us on an annual basis to see it.



Southern Arizona Veterans Park

Somerton, Arizona. – In order to honor and recognize residents of South Yuma County who have served the country during the tough times of war, The Regional Center for Border Health, Inc. (RCBH) is asking the public to help locating those brave men and women who dedicated their lives while enlisted with the Military. To remember every service member of South Yuma County who has sacrificed to protect the American way of life, our liberties and the pursuit of happiness, the RCBH will build a Veterans' Memorial Park and will pay tribute placing individual plaques memorializing their service.

The non-profit organization is committed to serving those men and women of South Yuma County who have ever worn our nation's uniform, and anticipates this announcement will prompt proud veterans and family members and their friends to make contact and share their story.

Since October 2014 the RCBH is working with the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, and that collaboration has been instrumental for the RCBH project since more than 90 veterans that could live in this area have been identified.

According to Amanda Aguirre, President and CEO of the RCBH, the Veterans' Memorial Park would be a place where the names and stories of those veterans can be known and receive the knowledge and respect they deserve. Some residents could have a neighbor for a long time and maybe won't ever know they served the country, added Ms. Aguirre, which is why the agency is reaching out to the community in Yuma County. The Veterans' Memorial Park will also be a place for kids and families to enjoy their time in a healthy environment, and also they will have an opportunity to celebrate Patriotic Holidays and keep learning their history through the Veterans. Any information regarding names and stories of veterans is welcome to be shared by contacting Mariajose Almazan, Executive Assistant to the President via e-mail at mrincon@rcfbh.org.

**"SOMERTON—
The fastest
and best
growing city
in Arizona"**



Iwo Jima Memorial



The 70th anniversary of Iwo Jima will be observed in Sacaton the weekend of Feb. 21. The observances are sponsored by Ira Hayes American Legion Post 84 on the Gila River Reservation. Organizations that want to take part in the parade, which consists of units throughout the U.S., should contact 520-562-8484 or www.iraahayespost84.org. There are also many other activities after the parade and over the weekend, and after the parade, lunch is served by the Post Auxiliary. May we as a people remember things such as this to pass on to our grand children

and great-grandchildren. We NEVER want memorials like this to "die in the wind"



Memorial Day—2015

It is a celebration of remembrance for the brave service of men and women who gave their lives for their country. Originally, Memorial Day honored those who had died in the Civil War. Now, it honors those who died in the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam and Desert Storm. Memorial Day was declared a federal holiday in 1971. We now, designate this day to remember loved ones who have passed on, as well as remembering our service men and women of this country. We should honor them who have given their lives to us.



Independence Day—2015



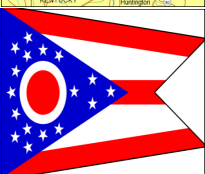
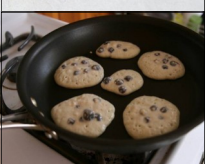
Take a moment and think if we did not have Independence Day each year. Do your grand children realize what it means to have that? Perhaps a short explanation about it might spur their interest in history. After all, America, just like any other country is all built on that single word—HISTORY. Take a moment and think of some of the freedoms or things or family or life you have. In 1775, people in New England began fighting the British for their independence. On July 2, 1776, the Congress secretly voted for independence from Great Britain. The Declaration of Independence was first published two days later on July 4, 1776. The first public reading of the Declaration of Independence was on

July 8, 1776. Delegates began to sign the Declaration of Independence on August 2, 1776. In 1870, Independence Day was made an unpaid holiday for federal employees. In 1941, it became a paid holiday for them.

The first description of how Independence Day would be celebrated was in a letter from John Adams to his wife Abigail on July 3, 1776. He described "pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations" throughout the United States. However, the term "Independence Day" was not used until 1791.



Classy Things About One State—OHIO



1. Fifty percent of the United States population lives within a 500-mile radius of Columbus , Ohio .
2. Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, was from Wapakoneta , Ohio
3. It is illegal to fish for whales on a Sunday in Ohio ... not that there's any place to do that. Well, at least you can fish for them every other day of the week.
4. Thomas A. Edison, the inventor of the incandescent light bulb, the phonograph, and the early motion picture camera, was from Milan.
5. Akron was the first city to use police cars.
6. Ohio has the largest Amish population of any state in the nation.
7. John Lambert of Ohio City made America 's first automobile in 1891.
8. The first full-time automobile service station opened in 1899 in Ohio .
9. Oberlin College , founded in 1833, was the first interracial and coeducational college in the US. .
10. Seven United States presidents were born in Ohio : Ulysses S. Grant, Rutherford B. Hayes, James A. Garfield, Benjamin Harrison, William McKinley, William H. Taft, and Warren G. Harding. Must be something in the water.
11. There is an alley dedicated to drummer Dave Grohl in his hometown of Warren , Ohio .
12. The largest drum sticks in the world are in David Grohl Alley, each measuring 23 feet long and weighing a half-ton.
13. The Pro Football Hall of Fame is located in Canton .
14. Women are prohibited from wearing patent leather shoes in public in Ohio . The reasoning? So that men can't see reflections of the women's underwear in their shoes.
15. Life Savers candy was invented by Clarence Crane of Garrettsville , Ohio in 1912. They were touted as a "summer candy" since they didn't melt like chocolate.
16. Some well-known personalities were born in Ohio . Among them are Steven Spielberg, Paul Newman, Annie Oakley and Clark Gable.
17. It is illegal for more than five women to live in one house in Ohio .
18. The world's largest horseshoe crab is more than 55 feet long, and lives in Blanchester.
19. Ohio 's state flag is not a rectangle like other flags—it's a pennant design, and it's the only state flag in the United States with that design.
20. By state law, no one may be arrested on a Sunday or on the Fourth of July in Ohio
21. Roy J. Plunkett of New Carlisle, Ohio invented Teflon in 1938.
22. You can take tours of a house made entirely of trash, affectionately referred to as 'House of Trash'
23. There's a mysterious rolling sphere in the Marion Cemetery . The 5,200-pound sphere of granite has been revolving on its base since it was placed there in the late 1800s. "Ripley's Believe It or Not!" featured it in 1929. It's still moving at an average of two inches per year.
24. The first airplane was invented by Dayton natives the Wright Brothers.
25. The Great Serpent Mound, the largest serpent effigy in the world at a half mile long, is on a plateau overlooking Brush Creek Valley in Adams County .
26. There is a shrine called the ' Temple of Tolerance ' in Wapakoneta, that looks like it should be somewhere sacred, but it's in Jim Bowsher's backyard. He's the temple master
27. The very first mechanical cash register was invented in Dayton .
28. The first concrete street in America , which is still in use today, was poured in 1891 near the Logan County Courthouse in Bellefontaine.
29. If a restaurant wants to serve horse meat in Ohio , they must display a sign that says, "Horse Meat Served Here". Thank goodness for that.
30. There is a double Futuro House, aka UFO House, in Carlisle .
31. The first capital city of Ohio wasn't Columbus —it was Chillicothe
32. In 1879, Cleveland became the first city to be lighted by electricity.
33. Akron is the rubber capital of the world.
34. It is unlawful to leave chewing gum in public places in Cleveland .
35. "Hang On Sloopy" is the official state rock song.
36. Ohio is the leading producer of greenhouse and nursery plants.
37. For many years the patrons of Maid-Rite Sandwich Shop in Greenville have been sticking their gum outside the walls. Three of the building's four walls are covered in gum, creating the infamous 'Wall of Gum'.
38. The Glacial Grooves on the north side of Kelley's Island are the largest and most easily accessible great ice sheet grooves in the world.

Only In Israel

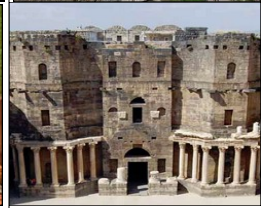
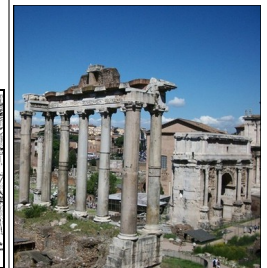
There are only some things you will EVER find in a country overseas. The USA is typical from coast to coast when it comes to what I'll call everyday things. But, take a look at and see if you'd ever see a parking spot filled with a **CAMEL**. Did you know that more women fly **F-16's** than drive cars? And **BABYSITTING** is included on the job with the Israeli military. No **Z-11's** have ever been robbed in Israel. National **HOLOCAUST DAY** at 10am comes to a halt respecting those who lost their lives. Israel is one of the only countries where the sun sets into the **MEDITERRANEAN SEA**. Yom Kippur is expressed with **NO CARS** on the road for 24 hours. **GENERATIONS** "talk" by way of a number because of the hatred of people. Ever see any **SIGNS** like this anywhere in America? Israel is a unique country and it is a country that will be a formidable center point in the near future with the rest of the Middle East. Whatever happened to being gracious and working with people over their differences?



What Did Ancient Romans Eat??

History is ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT things of what we treasure, And believe it or not, some Vietnam Veterans are unsure about things they should have known. But in this case, we likely all ate "C-Rations". But, what did those guys eat in World War I, World War II, Korea and even now? The thing that struck me when writing this article was, "How about the Romans"? They had what they had and it likely was not much, or was it. Well, the toilet and the sewer will likely tell the entire story. Let's see. There is a saying, "We are what we eat". Mmm, there is a lot of truth in that, and it shows by the

size of our person, which is noticed in our belly and rear-end. According to most drawings of both rich and poor alike, you saw very few heavy-set or fat people. But today it is a different thing in that we eat what we want when we want, how much we want and at the wrong times. And how the poor? Today and back then, they had the poor which only got the crumbs. How about giving a gift card to McDonald's to some poor man who truly needs a meal while we might not? Maybe we should start eating like a Roman?



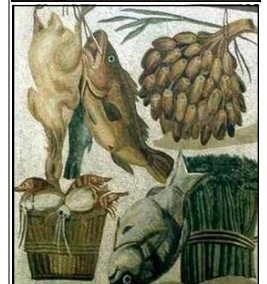
This Is What Roman Soldiers Ate

How do you find things of yesterday that you are just so interested in that you have to dig six to eight feet for? This appetizing article will show you that in ancient times (during the 1st Century A.D.) about the diet of the Roman people and the Roman soldiers. All in all, they ate fairly well. In fact, in many ways, they ate better than the G.I. back in World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

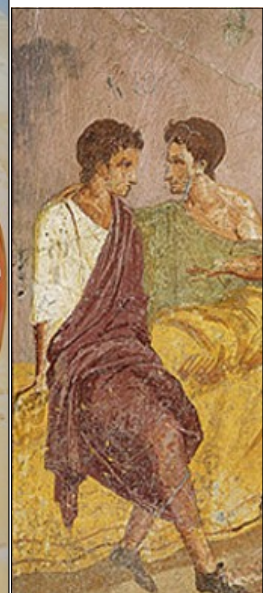
The problem is, how did they get this information? Well, the average person can probably figure out they had to go to the sewers, latrines and cesspools (which were public then). In the area of Pompeii. They located very "interesting" clues about a diet that some of us would "kill for". Just like us, they too, did not everything on their plate and left it not for the poor but the dump. So, where did it go, well to the dump. The same place our food goes when we are full or being cantankerous. They discovered fish bones, pork bones, eggshells from geese or duck and chickens

which were considered delicacies. Pork seems to be the big "meat meal" at that time and was considered a delicacy and still is today. And how do they know this, well the abundance of bones that are buried layer after layer in the dumps and everywhere else. How about the Mollusk known as Telline were also popular on the tables in the "old days" So, what is Telline? Well, an seafood sauce like what we would use on our fish today. So, what was the "most common" food? Well, it looks like chicken eggs seemed to be eaten by the wealthy and the poor alike, based on the number egg shells located everywhere. And for dessert, well it appears that they too liked their "cake" as crumbs and a lot of leftover (hardened) cake was left over and seemed to be everywhere. The question is, how and

why did it last so long in a state that, we 20+ centuries later can still determine what it was that was eaten much earlier in time? It must have been the slaves in the kitchen trying to get back at their masters by placing some "ingredients" in it that perhaps might shorten their life at some point.



"Roman Soldiers Ate HEALTHIER" than we did in Vietnam"





"You know, some
you us "**COULD
BE**" that "Teddy"
Theodore
Roosevelt in
someone's life.
Start with a
grandchild in your
life who you see
that has the
potential"

1. What is the relation of these two men pictured above?
2. What great thing did Teddy do for the park system?
2. What war was he in?
2. Who did he succeed?

Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt

Roosevelt came from a wealthy New York family, but he didn't take an easy path through life. Born on October 27, 1858 in Manhattan, New York. Roosevelt survived the tragedy of losing his wife and his own mother to illness on the same day in 1884, an assassination attempt in 1912, and an extremely dangerous military charge in Cuba in 1898. The former President passed away in 1919 at the age 60 from a blood clot that had lodged in his heart. He had been in declining health for several years. Here are some interesting facts about the most dynamic of American Presidents.

1. **As a child, Roosevelt witnessed the Abraham Lincoln funeral procession.** There is a photo of the young Roosevelt perched in a window watching the procession in New York City in April 1865 that surfaced in the 1950s. Young TR and this brother were at his grandfather's mansion.

2. **Theodore Roosevelt had a really, really good memory.** Roosevelt claimed he had a photographic memory, but it is a statement that can't be easily proven today. But biographer and historian Edmund Morris cited several documented cases where Roosevelt was able to recite obscure poetry and other content well over a decade after he read the documents.

3. **What's the deal with how the Roosevelt's were related?** Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt were fifth cousins. Eleanor Roosevelt was Theodore's niece. And Uncle Theodore presented the bride at Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt's wedding.

4. **The Republican leaders really didn't want Roosevelt as President.** As a young Bull Moose Republican in politics, TR had angered top GOP honchos by refusing to appoint Republicans to bureaucratic positions. Party bosses Mark Hanna and Thomas Platt were able to "kick Roosevelt upstairs" as the vice presidential nominee in 1900 for the incumbent President, William McKinley. Roosevelt was thinking of running for President in 1904 and No one thought that he would take over for McKinley in 1901.

5. **Roosevelt was the first President to win a Nobel Peace Prize.** As President, Roosevelt adopted an aggressive foreign policy, but he also saw America as deserving a role as a global peace-maker. In 1906, he convinced Japan and Russia to attend a peace conference in Portsmouth, New Hampshire to end their conflict. TR was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts. Roosevelt also settled a dispute between France and Germany over the division of Morocco.

6. **Roosevelt was a prolific writer.** Aided by his excellent memory and his always-high energy level, TR wrote about 35 books in his lifetime and an estimated 150,000 letters. And he did write an autobiography!

7. **He was also the father of the modern U.S. Navy.** To say Roosevelt was obsessed with naval power would be an understatement. As an undergrad at Harvard, Roosevelt's scholarship on the U.S. Navy during the War of 1812 is still cited today. He also served as the Undersecretary of the Navy as the conflict started with Cuba in 1898, and he sent the American navy on a worldwide tour in 1907 as a show of strength. And then there was his ultimate naval power achievement: the Panama Canal.

8. **Roosevelt was a grad college dropout.** While Roosevelt graduated from Harvard, he left law school at Columbia without receiving a degree. Roosevelt had become focused on local politics and lost interest in a legal career.

9. **Roosevelt was blind in one eye after a boxing injury in the White House.** The President continued with his hobby of boxing well into his presidency. He suffered a detached retina in a bout in 1908, and stopped fighting.

10. **What is the deal with the Teddy Bear?** While on a hunting trip was President, guides in Mississippi had arranged for Roosevelt to shoot an old bear they had tied to a tree. Roosevelt refused to do so, on sporting grounds. (Instead, he had someone else shoot the bear.) The first part of the incident became a newspaper cartoon, which then inspired a shopkeeper to sell stuffed bears, with Roosevelt's permission.



News From The President of VVA-SC Arizona

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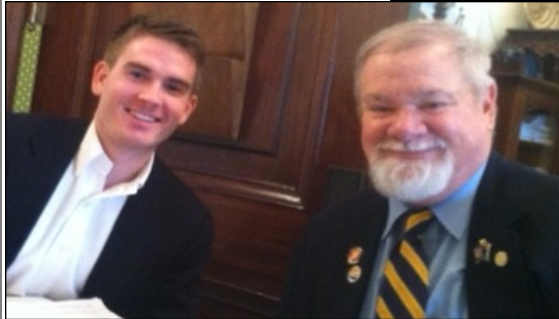
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This issue deals with my visit back to Washington D.C. to visit the Veterans Affairs Secretary, the nine House of Representatives and the two Senators from Arizona. (McCain and Flake). I wound up meeting with most of the individuals along with some VA Personnel as well. A side note, please pray for the Frizelle family from 975 as Ken passed on in April. They have had two losses in the last couple of years with their son also being killed in an accident.



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