

The "AZ-LZ"

Vietnam Veterans off America - Arizona - Phoenix

September—December 2015

Vol 7, Issue 3

"Vietnam's 40th Anniversary" - 1975-2015



Vietnam "THEN" and "NOW"

The 40th Anniversary of Vietnam is here. April 2015 made the date and for those of us that were in Vietnam at that particular time would likely have some wonderful memories to pass onto our children and to your grandchildren. And even, those of us who were there in an earlier time would still have some phenomenal memoir's in your head and heart to recall those times in that small Southeast Asian country few had heard about in the 1950's. And to think, we would be there within a few years not knowing the outcome of the War.

Some men felt badly as they were some of the last ones to leave Vietnam on April 30, 1975. Here is what they had to say about it:

"We felt guilty as Vietnam veterans coming home. And American's don't walk away. We finish what we start. And when the Case-Church Amendment cut the legs of the Vietnamese, we looked at each other and said, 'No, that is not the way this should end,'" said this E-6 Navy man. What was so sad is that the United State broke the accord with the South Vietnamese, not living up to their obligation. After all, it was the US's commitment to take care of this effort. Many have had the chance to visit Vietnam and help build playgrounds and orphanages. Those that went say they felt "it was the right thing to do and would do it again".

"Your Thinking" On The 40th Year

I asked some folks about their thinking of the 40th anniversary of Vietnam and I got some mixed answers, but on the whole, fairly positive. The bulk of the men I spoke with were overall glad they went and several had this to say:

John: "It's a shame we could not have had some victory."

Mark: "We did the best we could knowing what we had to work with"

Bill: "It was a long time ago and I choose to remember the good rather than the bad".

Philip: "We did quite a bit of good considering what some seem to think. It wasn't a perfect time, but looking at what "truly happened and we prevented, we did very well".

Charles: "Knowing what we know now, we should have done more in a different way".

Joe: "At first all was well, but then they became stronger and smarter than we were".

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Special points of interest:

- World War II
- Christmas
- The "Garden of Eatin'"
- Doing a little something for someone else
- 2016- What do you think it will be like?
- Wisdom, how much do you have?
- The 5th Vietnam Commemoration Dinner-2015

The "AZ-LZ"

America's Perspective on the 40th



The United States has **ALWAYS** been there for the world and those of you reading this know that to be very true.

Yes, the U.S. has made some mistakes in ways of dealing with the enemy, but looking back at Vietnam, the Communists' goal was to encompass all of S.E. Asia, Oceania, and Australia in the Pacific Ocean and where ever else they could. The bottom line is our involvement in Vietnam prevented any more spread of this ideology across the Eastern Hemisphere, so did we win? I would say yes.

Vietnam's Perspective On The 40th



Every country has its perspective on winning and Vietnam is no different than anyone else.

A lot of us look back on our days in the 1960's in a country we knew nothing about and many of us have returned to "re-meet the enemy" and make friends and simply enjoy the company of the Vietnamese people who have always welcomed the Americans and other people from around the world. Having seen American and European women travel by themselves, they are completely safe and they have openly welcome the American's who have fought in Vietnam.

For those of you have been to this country, the people are gracious and kind and know, this might be an opportunity to have you and your family return for a trip over there. It may be one of the best trips you have ever taken.

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Vietnam Veterans of America
17th National Convention
Springfield, IL

21-25 July 2015



The "AZ-LZ"

The VVA 17th National Convention—2015



There is so much to say about this 17th National Convention, that it has to start somewhere and we will start with it in Illinois. The city of Springfield is such a wonderful place to hold quite a wonderful event. This, to me is what I would call "AMERICANA". The way life



used to be back in the 1930's through the 1950's. One would leave their house doors open, allow a homeless person inside and you would (without thought) feed them with couple of meals and one to go. The



milkman would deliver those bottles of fresh pasteurized milk that we always enjoyed. Kids would be playing outside with each other in a nice and respectful way. And Springfield still has that look to it of the way AMERICA" should be. The setting for the event was well planned and thought out to bring some business to this city in the Mid-West and some enjoyment and camaraderie to those of us who have not been around a lot of Vietnam Veterans for sometime to come.

And it always just so happens that you once in a great while run across that person or persons that you have spoken with on the tele-



phone and have "no idea" what they look like (in person) but have always enjoyed them over the telephone or through email. Then, by happen-



chance, there is that guy that just so happened to be in your unit in Vietnam and while you



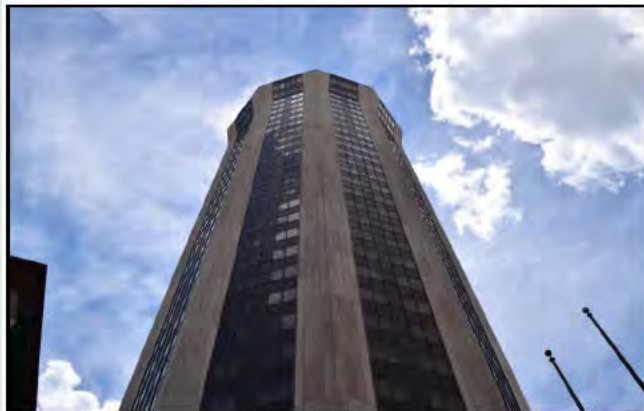
"somewhat recognize them", they like you have a few more wrinkles, have put on a few pounds, slightly shorter, but are still recognizable and you are able reminisce

with them about things that occurred almost fifty years ago, but seemed like yesterday. This is one of the best times of our life as we can recall great events of fifty years ago and be with those that we admire, like, love and want to be around in our later years. Thank you all.



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What Was Around Us? - A Capital City...



The Hilton Hotel in Springfield, Illinois



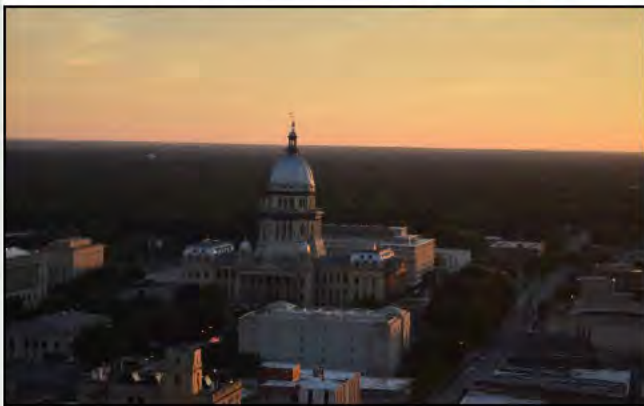
The Vietnam Veterans of America logo on the Street



The Convention Center in Springfield, Illinois



Patriotism was everywhere in this great capital city



A sunset look at Springfield, Illinois



This is Americana of The United States of America



If only we could all be like Lincoln, honest, truthful, kind, generous, able to listen to good advice, be that friend that tells a another friend what he needs to know, always do the right thing in life for others The person that is willing to do something, anything, everything for his country rather than letting greed & pride get the best of us. **If** only, we could be like . . .

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Who Was There? - *Everyone!*



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Visiting the VVA Mall



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What Officers Were Elected?



John Rowan-President



Marsha Four-Vice Pres.



Wayne Reynolds-Treasurer



Bill Meeks-Secretary



The elected officers of VVA National for two years, until July 2017. These are the men and women that will make a lot of difference in our lives, so *"let's give them the support"* they need to *"do their job"*, *"help them where we can"*, *"be creative with new ideas"*, *"do our job the best we can"*, *"don't complain, nobody is perfect, not even you"*, and *"look forward to the next two years and create that opportunity to go to New Orleans"* and be a blessing to VVA, the organization we all love to be with.



The "AZ-LZ"

What Took Place? - A lot!!



The Beginnings of VVA



The beginning of an organization is extremely important to fully document, so the personnel that are there in later years are aware of its beginnings and the details that surround how it got started and those who influenced it.

Having watched this movie at the convention, there is a lot of great detail and labor to Vietnam Veterans of America was initially formed, thought out and established for the good of the Vietnam Veteran. Sure, there were some struggles, but they were determined to make it work and be a positive influence today, all these years later. The man that made all of the difference in the world and gave it is all is the man to the left. His name is **John**

Giannini, producer of *Spaghetti Farm Productions* and we owe to him and his crew a "thank you" for making the movie "**FINALLY A VOICE**" possible as VVA has its history started in video and we can all see the in's-and-out's of the beginning of a great organization that should be a part of all Vietnam Veterans and always pass that history onto our grandchildren and our great-grand-children. At our age, being in the "**4th Quarter of Life**", if we are considering doing something for VVA, our families and so forth, **now** is the time to do it, because none of us knows our tomorrows. Thank you again John. This will be a treat for a long time to come in our lives and something great to pass on.



Finally a Voice

The Birth of Vietnam Veterans of America

This film documents the founding of the Vietnam Veterans of America and examines whether the organization has stayed true to its founding principle that "never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."

Watch the trailer online: nvbdc.org/dvd.html

Visit: nvbdc.org to order online or order by mailing a check with "DVD" in the memo line and the order form below to:
NVBDC, 325 E. Crescent Lane, Detroit, MI 48207

This movie will be made possible by donations from Patriots like yourself and from these outstanding people and organizations:

Dr. Millard Hall, Charles Hall, Dr. Thomas Hall, Samuel Hall, David M. Hall, Sandie Wilson • VVA Chapter 223

Pre-order the film:
due to be released July 2015
1-24 copies: \$15 each
25 copies: \$337.50 | 50 copies: \$600
(prices include shipping)
For quantities larger than 50, please e-mail
kking@nvbdc.org for discount pricing options.



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Who Was Honored? - 3 Great People!



Well, one could go on all day long about this topic, but let me say a few words about those "unassuming people" that do a great behind the scenes. May I mention **Michael Keating**, the Editor of the "THE VETERAN". Now there is a guy who earns his pay. Every two months, this publication comes out like clock-work and is a real piece of work, in fact an excellent piece of work. Thank you Michael. And then how about two ladies that work at VVA National named **Amber Chaney** and **Mokie Porter**. Well, these two get around and do more than six of us at any age. Keeping the web page in tip-top shape; alerting personnel at VVA National of other things of importance, photos, video and on and on, thank you so much ladies for all you do. I'd also like to mention Mokie's daughter (**Elizabeth**) for doing a great job in filming. These will be valuable one day for archive purpose. Posterity will become important in a short time.



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Who Else Was Honored? - Walter Anderson



Several people to say the least. One I'd like to pay attention to was a man named **Walter Anderson** whom I just happen to meet early on in the convention. He is a writer and journalist for much of his life. He was also editor the "Parade Magazine" which we usually find in our Sunday morning papers. Thank you for your efforts for the Vietnam War.



A special man who put his own life in danger and yet saved others at the same time was **Dr. Timothy Miller, MD**. A member of the Special Forces with the U.S. Army in 1965 and 1966 became a doctor who would wind up doing reconstructive surgery on the soldiers to get their bodies back to normal.



Dr. Timothy Miller, doctor of re-constructive surgery in the U.S. Army, Vietnam in 1965-1966 in Special Forces.

Burry Felton is the gentleman who over time collected the myriad of items left at the Vietnam Veterans Wall and eventually cataloged them later on. This will be a nice keepsake for those down the road that want to view the remembrances of those that want to remember those who fought in Southeastern Asia against Communism. Thank you Burry for this effort.



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Those Who Made A Difference



Linda "Nicki" Cranor



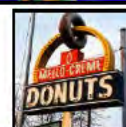
"Donut Dollies"



Jan Woods



It's always nice to be remembered with something as little as a donut, but the company Mel-O-Crème did it for many years and they should be commended for it, and they were. We thank the ladies and men who prepared them for all of us. Thank you **Kelly Grant**.



I think it is a forgone conclusion that the man on the above (**John Rowan**) was simply a marvelous host for this event. Having the experience that he does for all of VVA, the presentation of all of this was superb. **Wes Guidry** (left) and **Marc Leefson** were extraordinary hosts behind the scenes and in front of the camera to provide their audience with a wonderful show of support to those who went over above their duty to provide a splendid evening for all of us. We thank you very much all of you.

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Remembering The Donut Dollies



This is a special lady I had the opportunity to listen to, receive an award and her talk about her "life as a donut dolly" while in Vietnam. There are just some people you really enjoy and this lady named "Sam". Now, that is not her real name, but she was born **Jeanne Christie** who wanted to make a difference in the men of Vietnam and did for a long time.

Many of us found "Sam" to be one of the most open and friendly and zealous ladies to attend our event. Having been named "Sam" because she was wearing the shirt of a guy with that name, it stuck the entire time she was there and nearly fifty years later, she is still known as "SAM". These ladies provided a lot for us with their comfort, sweet personalities and always know that they too were doing some good for the Vietnam War. Thank you "Sam" for being in attendance for this nice event.

The Girl Who "Needed A Pin"

Well, it just happened that Laura Lynn (same as below) also needed some pins. Well, the gentleman to her right in the picture was the first one to go up and give her one and he wound up pinning it on her as well. But, then several other veterans also provided her with several as you can see in front of her. All in all, she may have received about fifty of them which was a real blessing to her. Laura, thank you for asking, it was a real joy for all of us to bless you.



The Donut Ladies



You know, it is not everyday that you get donuts and the flavors that are available and the taste that is out of this world. Well, these three did a wonderful job in making it possible for all of us "heavy-set guys and ladies" to add a few ounces to our waistline that was not needed. But, was it worth it? Well, most of us would like to say yes, until we tried to get on that dress or pair of pants that "used to fit us" and now it is a little questionable. To you three, we thank you for, what you did for us. Some of us got to meet the young lady on the far left. Her name is **Laura Lynn Weihmeir** who while being a teenager felt the need to be a part of the VVA Convention this year.

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Who Else Was Elected? *Many!!*

National Board of Directors -- At Large											
	Candidate	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	R 6	R 7	R 8	R 9	Totals
1	Stervoid, Dan	25	77	111	53	108	75	50	18	48	565
2	Hobbs, Charlie	24	65	132	80	128	25	54	18	44	550
3	Peterson, Pete	18	70	118	34	77	43	68	12	35	475
4	Barickman, Dottie	20	24	85	82	79	81	36	19	41	447
5	Stone, Kerwin	17	31	113	42	48	21	71	13	27	383
6	Simmons, Dave	14	59	91	27	67	19	37	12	25	351
7	Yanamoto, Jerry	18	48	23	53	71	26	31	15	58	343
8	Kristek, Joe	15	77	101	32	83	8	12	12	12	332
9	Wilson, Sandie	12	36	49	36	102	11	26	18	42	330
10	DeLong, Richard	16	34	32	51	87	5	53	14	29	321
11	Jennings, Joe	3	56	82	24	82	17	12	6	26	308
12	Face, Jim	9	62	23	27	90	5	42	12	37	307
13	Holybee, Ken	12	58	69	24	43	6	14	18	51	295
14	Worthington, Herb	22	77	20	30	46	18	23	10	19	285
15	Blankenship, Linda	18	6	24	61	71	19	20	9	33	281
16	Harvey, Allen	7	18	77	22	23	6	29	3	18	203
17	Newberry, Luther	3	3	26	25	54	5	57	7	15	195
18	Kiefer, Bill	7	15	34	29	38	4	43	3	19	190
19	Schetrompf, Carol	7	5	25	40	24	1	15	3	19	139
20	Penzien, Dan	3	7	9	43	36	8	5	1	6	116

National Board of Directors -- Regional		
	Candidate	Totals
Region 1	King, Michael	7
	Miner, John	22
Region 2	Wilkinson, Ted	63
Region 3	McVicker, Sara	133
Region 4	Humphries, Ben	33
	Torjes, Craig	90
Region 5	Burke, Tom	133
Region 6	Demske, Mke	73
Region 7	Manuel, Allen	35
	Andras, Dennis	41
Region 8	Morgan, Ron	12
	Owen, Tom	11
Region 9	Southern, Dick	59

National Officers											
Office	Candidate	R 1	R 2	R 3	R 4	R 5	R 6	R 7	R 8	R 9	Totals
President	John Rown	24	84	118	70	133	65	69	21	64	648
Vice President	Marsha Four	18	72	17	58	133	52	43	16	52	461
	Charlie Montgomery	11	14	128	29	10	29	32	8	21	282
Secretary	Bill Meeks	23	84	121	71	127	73	70	20	67	656
Treasurer	Wayne Reynolds	24	82	122	70	119	37	69	19	60	632



This is a man, one cannot say enough about. **Dick Southern** is one of those guys ,you want to talk to, compliment about, speak of to others and glad you are in the same region that he oversees. Oh, yes, he too got re-elected and the Region 9 State Councils are overjoyed about that. Dick, to you, thank you for being the kind of Director that VVA has on the pay roll.

The "AZ-LZ"

Who Was Awarded What? *Best Writers!!*

For the second time in two conventions, the Arizona State Council has won the award for the "Newsletter of the Year" entitled "The AZ-LZ". This prestigious newsletter has been deemed the best in the country out of 50 State Councils that produce them. This particular newsletter is mainly for the readership of Vietnam Veterans that are in the 4th quarter of their life. The purpose behind the newsletter is provide some "historical" things we may have forgotten, some "informational" items we may have never known and some "statistical" bits that could be important to our lives. But, all in all, it is critical that we pass onto our younger family members. It is estimated that around 33,000 people have the opportunity to read this newsletter four times annually and we trust it is enjoyed by all. From the author's heart, I would like to thank Gene Crego for the recommendation that wound up causing the award and that of Dick Southern, Region 9 Director that provided a follow-on recommendation for this very prestigious award. I count it an honor to write this newsletter for the State Council and a larger honor to be recognized and honored to receive the award for the second time in a row. I give God the credit for teaching me how to write and providing me with ideas.



The gentlemen to the left belongs to Chapter 196 in Lynchburg, Virginia the chapter won the "Best Chapter Newsletter of the Year" for VVA. Entitled "The Listening Post", We should sit down and "*listen*" to what these first rate newsletters have to say. But, our goal is to write, sit down and "*listen*" to see what the stories have to say to each of us as they are different to *listen to*.

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Who Came From Arizona?



There was Gene Crego, State President, then Terry Nolan and Chapter 1011 Michael Marks



Johnny and Annie Pancrazio along with Walt Schumacher and Lynn and Bill Wesp of Chapter 432



Then there was Chuck Byers, Larry Mitchell and Billee Culin, always good to see them around



Let's include Randy Shriver, Jennifer Wilson, Roger Pollard, John Dodge, Pat Farrell, Dennis Castrell, Lou Ann Huskisson who made it a point to be an important part of this event in Springfield, Illinois in 2015.

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And The Wreath Laying . . .



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What Was The Banquet Like? *Superb!*



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What Does VVA Look Like Today?

Membership Totals by Classification

<u>VVA</u>		<u>AVVA</u>		<u>New Members in July</u>	
IND	24,040	AIND	4,321	VVA:	356
LMP	48,743	ALP	3,859	AVVA:	106
LMT	33	ALT	26		
IVI	2,217	AIVI	375	Deceased Members	
VPHV	326	APHV	3	Reported in July	
				VVA:	63
TOTAL:	75,359	TOTAL:	8,584	AVVA:	3
	<small>includes 1,129 Women Veterans</small>				

Membership Totals by Region

	<u>VVA</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>AVVA</u>	<u>+/-</u>		<u>VVA</u>	<u>+/-</u>	<u>AVVA</u>	<u>+/-</u>
Region I	3,865	+8	263	+1	Region VI	7,975	-4	881	+31
Region II	13,538	-8	1,563	-10	Region VII	6,998	+5	811	-8
Region III	13,288	-3	1,826	-18	Region VIII	3,283	+3	331	+7
Region IV	7,618	+17	655	+3	Region IX	8,438	+25	1,051	-3
Region V	10,297	-21	1,190	-1	Living outside the US	59	0	10	0

Top 25 VVA Chapters in Membership

	ST	Chapter #	Total Members		ST	Chapter #	Total Members
1.	MD	0172	1,046	15.	AL	1067	348
2.	TN	0203	737	16.	NY	0082	331
3.	PA	0862	703		SD	1054	331
4.	MI	0154	672	17.	NJ	0012	311
5.	MD	0451	613	18.	WV	0628	297
6.	NY	0077	597	19.	CA	0223	279
7.	NY	0020	593	20.	NY	0049	275
8.	CA	0391	511	21.	NJ	0800	273
9.	FL	1036	463	22.	CA	0047	265
10.	NY	0011	451	23.	WI	0224	264
11.	TX	0137	447	24.	MI	0267	262
12.	IL	0299	411		MI	0528	262
13.	OK	0751	409	25.	WA	0165	258
14.	MO	0317	397				

At the convention, we spoke a lot about growth and we see to the left that 63 VVA Personnel passed on and 3 AVVA also died. Knowing that this is the July issue of 2015, we can only safely assume that there will be more personnel that will pass on. Do your best to inform others in your community that VVA Does exist, give them an application and if necessary , pay the initial year's fee for them and include them in the membership and inform them of what is going on with VVA. Ensure they know what the VSO's are and let them know one of our missions is to keep the Vietnam Spirit Alive.

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World War II Stories From The "Greatest Generation"



COME ON CANADA!



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America At War From 1775–2015

America has had its share of wars all the way from the beginning of time and we have gone to bat for countries that have truly needed our help. When you look at the money that has been spent over the amount of time and the lives that have been taken, what would you as an individual think about that?

Robert E. Lee said it was "**terrible**" and Eisenhower said of WWII that it was "**brutal, futile and very stupid**".

And in a few words what would "**YOU**" say all of these wars are for?

Look what we America could have done with that money, the effort, the lives. Look at the waste all this has caused and for what?

I have mentioned this before, it is all because of **PRIDE, GREED, POWER,** and not caring what happens to your fellow man, no matter what country they live in.

We can all have differences of opinion, but one must have some graciousness, flexibility and understanding instead of wreaking the kind of upheaval that we see to the right. A lot of us has lost family. Don't get into a war with anyone, please be gracious and think carefully before you act.

Name of War	Years	Deaths	Cost	Reason
Revolutionary	1775-1783	4435	\$101M	Because England wanted to absorb America as its own colony
Barbary Wars	1801-1805	35	\$1M	African pirates were forcing ransom on American ships
War of 1812	1812-1814	2260	\$90M	England wanted a 2nd chance to re-take America by a stronger force this time
Indian Wars	1813-1838	1000	\$Unk	America chose to relocate Indians in an another area of the United States
Mexican War	1846-1848	4152	\$71M	Mexico wanted to take back some of America over a border dispute
Civil War	1861-1865	516,000	\$3,18B	It was slavery over freedom and control versus unified
Spanish-Amer.	1898-1898	2446	\$283M	Tried to prevent Cuban independence
Philippines	1899-1901	4200	\$Unk	Philippine independence from Spain
Mexico	1914-1919	21	\$Unk	Mexico wanted German arms to get rid of the current leader of Mexico
World War I	1917-1918	116,516	\$4.7M	The "empires" of Europe in the 20th Century was beginning to fall apart
World War II	1941-1945	405,399	\$296B	Germany wanted the World along with Japan desiring Asia.
Cold War	1947-1991	—	\$4.65T	A "Silent Takeover" and maneuvering of "information to "watch each other"
Berlin Airlift	1948-1949	31	\$224M	Soviet Union was willing to starve Eastern Europeans and the US prevented it
Korean War	1950-1953	36,574	\$30B	N. Koreas wanted all of S. Korea for itself
Vietnam War	1960-1975	58,220	\$111B	China, Vietnam and USSR wanted Asia, Australia and Oceania to be communistic
Lebanon	1982-1984	265	\$Unk	USA provided a peacekeeping force
Grenada	1983-1983	19	\$Unk	Rescue Americans and stop Cuba with weapons to arm 10,000 soldiers
Panama	1989-1990	23	\$Unk	Stop a huge drug campaign
Gulf War	1990-1991	382	\$61B	Eject Iraq from Kuwait, protect Saudi Arabia
Somalia	1992-1994	43	\$2.2B	Apprehend clan leaders, rebuild and keep civilians safe
GWOT	2001-Pres	2355	Merged	Fight terror across the globe
Afghanistan	2001-Pres	2215	\$826B	Fight the Taliban and Al Qaida
Iraq	2003-2011	4491	\$820B	Rid Weapons of mass destruction and fight terrorists
Inherent Resolve	2014-Pres		\$8.4M Daily	This war will last for a life time

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World War II In Color



Supreme Allied Commander American General Eisenhower, his deputy, British Chief Marshal Tedder, and the principal commander of Allied ground forces in Europe, Gen Bernard Montgomery, stand in a US armored vehicle as they review a tank exercise, Salisbury, England, 1944.



The flight deck crew prepares planes for launch from the USS Lexington (CV-16), en-route to near New Guinea, early April, 1944. Life for the pilots in this era was a lot different than those there were in World War I.



A pair of American servicemen moving a large bomb at an ammunition dump in 1944. This dangerous job was particularly tough on the men as they had to handle the bombs carefully.



American troops unloading supplies on the shores of Guadalcanal Island in 1943. This was not always an easy job for them.



British and South African soldiers hold up Nazi trophy flag while combat engineers on bulldozers clear a path through the debris of the bombed out city of Cassino.



Flight and ground crews of a B-17 bomber named 'Honey Chile II' make adjustments to their plane prior to a mission, Polebrook, Northamptonshire, England.



An American gun crew in camouflaged emplacement awaiting orders to fire during the desert fighting between German and American forces in the El Guettar Valley in 1943.



At the El Guettar Valley in Tunisia in 1943. This mine-tracker is searching for German made mines deep underground and blowing them up.



An American soldier sits behind the wheel of a Willy's MB jeep, shortly before the United States joined World War II, 1941. This was a dangerous job then.

The "AZ-LZ"

The USAAC Are The WWII Hero's Sacrifice Remembered, Symbol Restored

By Mark Yost

The Greatest Generation" is a common moniker given to the men and women who served in World War II. But after seeing the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in this exhibit at Savannah, it will be clear that the airmen of this highly distinguished unit earned some superlatives all their own.

Most people probably know the story of the Eighth Air Force from "Twelve O'Clock High," the film and TV series based on the unit's missions. But visitors will learn that the Eighth Bomber Command (redesignated the



Eighth Air Force in February 1944) was activated at McCoy Hunter Army Airfield in January 1942 and almost immediately departed for England. Its primary mission: bombing industrial targets inside Nazi Germany. At its peak in 1944, the Eighth had some 200,000 men and on any given day from its airfields in East Anglia, England, could launch 2,000 four-engine bombers and 1,000 escort fighters on a single mission, making it the single largest air armada in history. But these missions came with a heavy price: Some 47,000 men from the Eighth were either killed, captured or reported missing in actions accounting for half of all the U.S. Army Air Corps casualties. One of the Eighth's units, the 100th Bombardment Group, earned the nickname "the Bloody Hundredth" for the casualties it suffered. In an October 1943 raid on Münster, Germany, for example, only one B-17 out of 14 made it back to the airfield at Thorpe Abbotts.

These are the facts and figures that are presented in the 90,000 square feet of space divided into three galleries that include artwork, diaries, maps, photos and documents, as well as the actual artifacts. The most recent addition among the honor jackets, caps, bullets, ball bearings and medals is a fully restored B-29 Flying Fortress, a gift from the National Air and Space Museum that was unveiled on Jan. 28 and now sits in the center of the museum's Donat Galleries. The project, which took six years, was important because some 3,700 B-29s were lost during the war. Afterward, most were destroyed and sold for scrap metal. Today, fewer than 50 B-29s remain, with only about a dozen restored to flying condition.

There is also "The Mission Experience," where visitors are given an overview of the Eighth Air Force, attend a mock pre-raid planning meeting, and then go into a theater for a film that tries to give them a sense of what it was like to be at 30,000 feet, with temperatures well below zero, flying for hours on oxygen, constantly harassed by German fighter planes and hit, the English abbreviation for *Flugabwehrkanone*, or "flak," the anti-aircraft defense gun.

But where the museum excels

is in telling the personal stories of the men and the missions of the Eighth Air Force. Among them, Robert Rosenthal, who a plaque tells us was the pilot of Royal Flush, that lone B-17 that returned from the raid on Münster. "With two engines out, a hole in the starboard wing, and three wounded crewmembers, Rosenthal maneuvered his stricken bomber like a fighter which forced the attacking Germans to seek an easier target."

The Eighth Air Force destroyed Germany's industrial might.

In a small gallery honoring Medal of Honor winners is the story of First Lt. Donald J. Gott, whose plane was heavily damaged and caught fire during a raid over Saarbrücken in November 1944. "Antiaircraft fire hit and severed the radio operator's arm causing him to lose consciousness," his plaque reads.

The newly awarded B-17G Flying Fortress at the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force (above); B-17 missions over England (above right) and Germany (right).

Because the radio operator was unconscious, Gott refused to give the order to bail out. Instead, he flew the plane on one engine to friendly territory. "He entered his crew to bail out while he and his co-pilot, William Metzger, Jr., attempted to land the aircraft with the wounded radio operator aboard. At only 100 feet above the ground, the aircraft exploded..."

The highly decorated unit's most devastating day might have been Oct. 14, 1943, known as Black Thursday, its second mission to take out the German ball-bearing plant at Schweinfurt. As one of the informative panels notes, the Allies did not have the air superiority they would enjoy some eight months later in Normandy for the 12-day landings. That morning 251 B-17s left England and by the time the subtle-armed, 60 bombers had been lost. An additional 12 subse-



They were the darkest days of World War II. The American airplane crews did fight their way to and from heavily defended the targets deep inside Fortress

Europe and the far reaches of the Pacific. These young men and women fought valiantly and many did not return, but they changed the direction of a terrible war, insuring victory and securing the freedom which we enjoy today. In its expansion during World War II, the AAF became the world's most powerful air force. From the Air Corps of 1939, with 20,000 men and 2,400 planes, to the nearly autonomous AAF of 1944, with almost 2.4 million personnel and 80,000 aircraft, was a remarkable expansion. Robert A. Lovett, the Assistant Secretary of War for Air, together with Arnold, presided over an increase greater than for either the ground Army or the Navy, while at the same time dispatching combat air forces to the battlefronts. We salute all of you for all you did for the cause of democracy.

quently had to be scrapped, and 121 needed extensive repairs. Worse yet, 600 airmen were lost over enemy territory, and those planes that did make it back carried the dead and 43 wounded. While much is made of the B-17—both here and in the history books—the museum also tells the story of the Second Air Division, a unit of the Eighth Air Force that included some 9,000 officers and 48,000 enlisted men who flew the slightly smaller B-24 Liberators on some 84,000 sorties during 400 missions from 1942 to 1945. And it has a section devoted to the VIII Fighter Command, the escort squadron of P-38 Lightnings, P-47 Thunderbolts and, later in the war, P-51 Mustangs that tried to keep German fighters from destroying the bombers before they could reach their targets.

The museum also doesn't shy from discussing the political tension between Eighth Air Force commanders and Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris of RAF Bomber Command, who criticized the daylight bombing tactics and openly underestimated the accuracy of the American's nocturnal bombing.

The man of the Eighth Air Force was only destroyed Germany's industrial might, but also inflicted far more civilian casualties than did British nighttime raids.

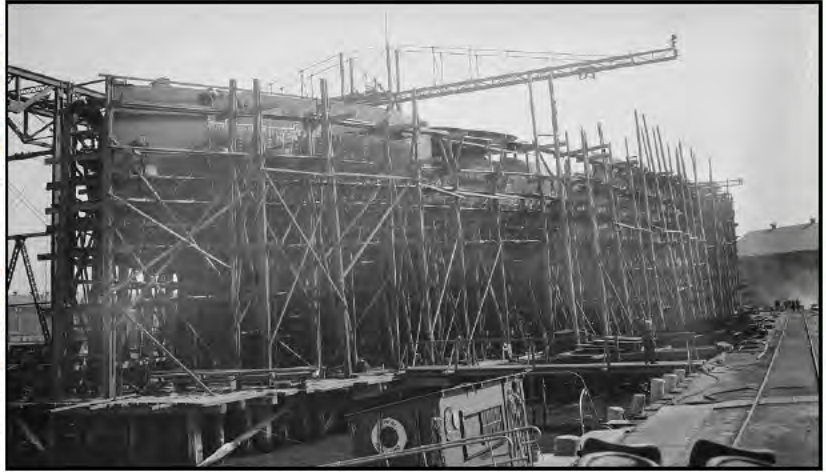
Mr. Yost is a writer in Halesport



The "AZ-LZ"

The U.S.S. Arizona From 1914 To 1942

USS *Arizona* was a *Pennsylvania*-class battleship built for and by the United States Navy in the mid-1910s. Named in honor of the 48th state's recent admission into the union, the ship was the second and last of the *Pennsylvania* class battleships. Although commissioned in 1916, the ship remained stateside during World War I. Shortly after the end of the war, *Arizona* was one of a number of American ships that briefly escorted President Woodrow Wilson to the Paris Peace Conference. The ship was sent to Turkey in 1919 at the beginning of the Greco-Turkish War to represent American interests for several months. Several years later, she was transferred to the Pacific Fleet and remained there for the rest of her career. During the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on 7 December 1941, *Arizona* was bombed. She exploded and sank, killing 1,177 crewmen.



April 1914—Under construction

Unlike many of the other ships sunk or damaged that day, *Arizona* could not be fully salvaged, though the Navy removed parts of the ship for reuse. The wreck is at the bottom of Pearl Harbor, and the



In 1931—in harbor for maintenance



In 1927—The USS Arizona on patrol



10 Dec 1941—Pearl Harbor Hawaii—Start of World War II

The "AZ-LZ"

The U.S. Army Air Corps — WWII



The United States Army Air Corps was the statutory administrative forerunner of the United States Air Force. Renamed from the earlier United States Army Air Service on 2 July 1926, it was part of the larger United States Army and the immediate predecessor of the United States Army Air Forces (USAAF), established on 20 June 1941. Although discontinued as an administrative echelon in 1942 during World War II, the Air Corps remained as one of the combat arms of the Army until 1947, when it was legally abolished by legislation establishing a United States Department of Defense consisting of a Department of the Army (formerly the War Department), Department of the Navy and Department of the Air Force. On 1 March 1935, still struggling with the issue of a separate air arm, the Army activated the General Headquarters Air Force for centralized control of aviation combat units within the continental United States, separate from but coordinate with the Air Corps. The separation of the Air Corps from control of its combat units caused problems of unity of command that became more acute as the Air Corps enlarged in preparation for World War II. This was resolved by the creation of the Army Air Forces, making both of the organizations to become subordinate to the new echelon Department of Defense in force today. New bomber types under development clearly outperformed new pursuit types, particularly in speed and altitude, then considered the primary defenses against interception. In both 1932 and 1933, large-scale maneuvers found fighters unable to climb to altitude quickly enough to intercept attacking Y1B-9 and the B-10 prototypes.



The "AZ-LZ"

The U.S. Marine Corps — WWII



The United States Marine Corps is a branch of the United States Armed Forces responsible for providing power projection from the sea, using the mobility of the U.S. Navy to rapidly deliver combined-arms task forces. The U.S. Marine Corps is one of the four branches in the U.S. Department of Defense as a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. It is one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. The Marine Corps has distinguished itself as it has served in the majority of American wars, from its inception to the modern era, and attained prominence in the 20th century when its theories and practices of amphibious warfare proved prescient and ultimately formed the cornerstone of the Pacific campaign of World War II. By the mid-20th century, the U.S. Marine Corps had become a major theorist and the dominant practitioner of amphibious warfare. Its ability to rapidly respond on short notice to expeditionary crises gives it a strong role in the implementation and execution of American foreign policy. The USMC has around 194,000 active duty members and just under 40,000 reserve Marines as of 2010.



The "AZ-LZ"

The U.S. Army—WWII



The U.S. joined World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. On the European front, U.S. Army troops formed a significant portion of the forces that captured North Africa and Sicily. On D-Day and in the subsequent liberation of Europe and defeat of Nazi Germany, millions of U.S. Army troops played a central role. In the Pacific, U.S. Army soldiers participated along side U.S. Marines in capturing the Pacific Islands from Japanese control. Following the Axis surrenders in May (Germany) and August (Japan) of 1945, army troops were deployed to Japan and Germany to occupy the two defeated nations. Two years after World War II, the Army Air Forces separated from the army to become the United States Air Force in September 1947 after decades of attempting to separate. Also, in 1948, the army was desegregated by order of President Harry S. Truman. The end of World War II set the stage for the East-West confrontation known as the Cold War. With the outbreak of the Korean War, concerns over the defense of Western Europe rose. Two corps, V and VII, were reactivated under Seventh United States Army in 1950 and American strength in Europe rose from one division to four. Hundreds of thousands of U.S. troops remained stationed in West Germany, with others in Belgium, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, until the 1990s in anticipation of a possible Soviet attack.

The “AZ-LZ”

The U.S. Navy—WWII

The United States Navy (USN) is the naval warfare service branch of the United States Armed Forces and one of the seven uniformed services of the United States. The U.S. Navy is the largest, most powerful navy in the world, with the highest combined battle fleet tonnage. The U.S. Navy has the world's largest aircraft carrier fleet, with ten nuclear carriers in service, with two under construction. The service has 325,143 personnel on active duty and 107,355 in the Navy Reserve. It has 272 deployable ships and more than 3,700 aircraft in service as of March 2015. The U.S. Navy traces its origins to the Continental Navy, which was established during the American Revolutionary War and was essentially disbanded as a separate entity shortly thereafter. It played a major role in the American Civil War by blockading the Confederacy and seizing control of its rivers. It played the central role in the World War II defeat of Japan. The 21st century U.S. Navy maintains a sizable global presence, deploying in such areas as East Asia, the Mediterranean, and the Middle East. It is a blue-water navy with the ability to project force onto the littoral regions of the world, engage in forward areas during peacetime, and rapidly respond to regional crises, making it an active player in U.S. foreign and defense policy. The Navy is administratively managed by the Department of the Navy, which is headed by the civilian Secretary of the Navy. The Department of the Navy is itself a division of the Department of Defense, which is headed by the Secretary of Defense. The Chief of Naval Operations (CNO) is a four-star admiral and the senior naval officer of the Department of the Navy. However, the CNO may not be the highest ranking naval officer in the armed forces if the Chairman or the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff are Navy officers, who by law, outrank the CNO.

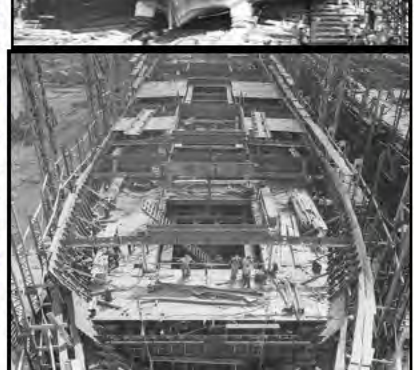


The "AZ-LZ"

The U.S. Merchant Marines — WWII



The United States Merchant Marine is the fleet of U.S. civilian-owned merchant vessels, operated by either the government or the private sector, that engage in commerce or transportation of goods and services in and out of the navigable waters of the United States. The Merchant Marine is responsible for transporting cargo and passengers during peacetime. In time of war, the Merchant Marine is capable of being an auxiliary to the Navy, and can be called upon to deliver military personnel and materiel for the military. The Merchant Marine, however, does not have a role in combat, although a merchant mariner has a responsibility to protect cargo carried aboard his ship. Merchant mariners move cargo and passengers between nations and within the United States, and operate and maintain deep-sea merchant ships, tugboats, towboats, ferries, dredges, excursion vessels, and other waterborne craft on the oceans, the Great Lakes, rivers, canals, harbors, and other waterways. As of 2006, the United States merchant fleet numbered 465 ships and approximately 100,000 people work on U.S. flag merchant ships. Seven hundred ships owned by American interests but registered, or flagged, in other countries are not included in this number. The federal government maintains fleets of merchant ships via organizations such as Military Sealift Command and the National Defense Reserve Fleet. In 2004, the federal government employed approximately 5% of all American water transportation workers. In the 19th and 20th centuries, various laws fundamentally changed the course of American merchant shipping. If we had not had the Merchant Marines, we would not have won World War II. Make it a point to honor them this year as they too, are getting up there in age. It would be a real blessing for them and you. After all, they deserve it.



The "AZ-LZ"

The U.S. Coast Guard — WWII



The history of the United States Coast Guard goes back to the United States Revenue Cutter Service, which was founded on 4 August 1790 as part of the Department of the Treasury. The Revenue Cutter Service and the United States Life-Saving Service were merged to become the Coast Guard per 14 U.S.C. § 1 which states: "The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." In 1939, the United States Lighthouse Service was merged into the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard itself was moved to the Department of Transportation in 1967, and on 25 February 2003 it became part of the Department of Homeland Security. However, under 14 U.S.C. § 3 as amended by section 211 of the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2006, upon the declaration of war and when Congress so directs in the declaration, or when the President directs, the Coast Guard used to operate as a service in the Department of the Navy.



The "AZ-LZ"

Honoring World War II Veterans

NOW is the time to honor World War II Veterans. Most are in their late 80's and early 90's and are close to not being here any longer, and that is all the more reason to honor them before we cannot any longer.

Many of them pass on a daily basis and if you know what they have done for America and the world, we would not hesitate in going to these homes that many of them are likely in and set up some sort of "Remembrance" for them to show them that we do care and "we most certainly thank them for saving our country".

You look at these pictures and there are hundreds that right in our city and state to make it a point to locate them and provide them a wonderful memory of what the younger generations think of them. Involve your children and your grandchildren in this event as well.



The "AZ-LZ"

Honoring Of A Special Veteran

I have known Hugh Myers for about fifteen to twenty years. This humble man is a special person to me. He lives in Yuma, Arizona and is friend to everyone. He is part of the "**GREATEST GENERATION**" and fought in World War II as a Radio Operator and Gunner on a B17 and B24 bomber over Germany. He and his crew were stationed in England and made thirty-five missions.

Hugh Myers was trained in the United States to be that special member of the United States Army Air Corps as an what we would call an RTO (Radio-Telephone Operator) on the B17 and B24 Bombers over Europe from 1942 to 1944. Having been stationed in USA for several months and then making their way to South America (Brazil) for their eventual flight to England by way of Africa. Once they approached the African continent, they had closed down two engines and at their landing on the runway, the remaining two engines actually ran out of fuel as they hit the runway.

Eventually, they made their way to the British Isles and began a campaign of bombing Germany on a daily basis for the number of missions required before they were allowed to go home or re-assigned. I consider a man like this to be a real hero as he has given life for America So to, Hugh Myers, thank you for giving your life for this country.



Who would have ever guessed this little boy would grow up to be a WWII B-24 "fighter" for the U.S. Army Air Corps as a Radio Operator and Gunner on the B-17 and B-24 bombers? Having over 35 missions, they were successful in getting back to base every time and we ultimately won the war in the end.



The “AZ-LZ”

New Director for Vietnam War Commemoration



Retired Army Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson started serving as the director for The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Monday. The previous director, retired Army Lt. Gen. Claude “Mick” Kicklighter retired after leading the Commemoration effort for nearly four years and almost 60 years of federal and military service to the United States, including 34 years in uniform.

“We are forever thankful for General Kicklighter and his tremendous work leading the Commemoration effort. His tenure saw the maturation of the Department’s plans for the Commemoration, the presentation of the Inaugural Event with the President and thousands of veterans at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Memorial Day 2012, and the foundational efforts that will resonate throughout this three-year main phase of the Commemoration,” said Michael Rhodes, the Director of Administration in the office of the Deputy Chief Management Officer, Department of Defense. Jackson, who retired from his distinguished 32-year Army career in 2003, has served as a senior advisor to the Commemoration since 2012. His command tours include the 1st Battalion 505th Parachute Infantry, the 3rd Ranger Battalion, the 75th Ranger Regiment, and the Military District of Washington.

“I am privileged to be entrusted with leading the noble mission of thanking and honoring our 7.2 million living Vietnam veterans and the families of the 9 million who served on behalf of the nation, and am humbled to follow Gen. Kicklighter,” said Jackson. “I am excited to build upon the significant foundation laid under his leadership, and I look forward to teaming with the talented men and women of the Commemoration as we continue this honorable endeavor.” As authorized by Congress and on behalf of the Nation, The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration does what should have been done 50 years ago: thank and honor our Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice, just as America did for the veterans of World War II and Korea.

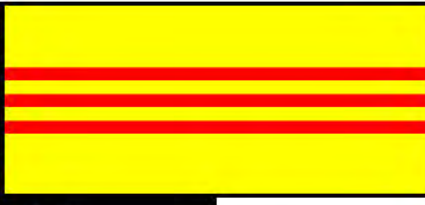
A New Saigon Skyline



Saigon will be having a new skyline in a short time. This facsimile of a tower in Saigon is representative of a new city in a new country. Slated to be completed in a few years, Vietnam is quickly becoming a strong ally of the United States and desiring to work with us on the Asian problem.

The "AZ-LZ"

5th Vietnam Commemoration Dinner—2015



50th Commemoration
of the Vietnam War Dinner and
Honoring Event



The "AZ-LZ"

50th Vietnam Event Schedule—2015



Schedule of Events

Master of Ceremonies
Colonel Joseph E. Abodeely, USA (Ret.)

1730 Check in--Social Hour (No host bar; Ensemble by DK Orchestra)

1830 Seating of attendees

1840 Vietnamese Color Guard and National Anthems

A special prayer by Brother Tim Tomczak, O.S.C. Crosier Fathers and Brothers

1850 Welcome and Recognition of Dignitaries and Vietnam Veterans

1900 Welcome by Colonel Wanda A. Wright, AZ ANG (Ret)
Director, Arizona Department of Veterans Services

1910 Comments by MG James T. Jackson, U.S. Army (Retired)
Director, Commemoration of the Vietnam War

1920 Comments by (Vietnamese Military Veteran)

1925 Dinner is served

2000 Video presentation

2030 Missing Man Ceremony and Toast to KIAs and MIAs and TAPS to be played by
SFC Vern West, USA (Ret)

2040 Keynote speaker, Joe Galloway

Ensemble plays the military service songs
Recognition and presentation to Vietnam veterans

The "AZ-LZ"

50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War Dinner

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and the Arizona Military Museum as Official Partners of the Commemoration of the Vietnam War are pleased to co-host the 5th Annual Event Honoring Arizona's Vietnam Veterans. The objective is:

To thank and honor veterans who served in the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.



We are honored to have as our very Special Guest Speaker, Mr. Joseph "Joe" Galloway, Joe Galloway, one of America's premier war and foreign correspondents for half a century, recently retired as the senior military correspondent for Knight Ridder Newspapers. Before that he held an assignment as a special consultant to General Colin Powell at the State Department. During the Vietnam War, he often worked alongside the troops he covered and was awarded a Bronze Star for carrying wounded men to safety during the battle of Ia Drang.

DATE/TIME: **October 31, 2015.** Sign in 5:30 pm for table seating. No-host bar 5:30 to 6:30.

PROGRAM: Seating at 6:30. **Program begins at 7:00pm.**

LOCATION: **Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85253.**

SEATING: Seating (table of ten) will be assigned to those who respond by RSVP first.

ATTIRE: **Business/casual or Army Class A** or service equivalent, military decorations.

COST: **\$50.00/person.**

Checks payable to **Arizona Vietnam Veterans' Dinner, 9014 North Wealth Road, Maricopa, Arizona 85139**

This special experience includes a Vietnamese Color Guard, a wonderful dinner, good music, short speeches, videos, TAPS, and a special presentation to Vietnam Veterans. These events are outstanding patriotic/military events honoring our largest group of veterans who deserve to be honored. We look forward to seeing many Vietnam veterans, their families, and friends to honor those who honorably served in the Vietnam War.

Tickets are not issued, so we need your RSVP registration and check to confirm your attendance at this wonderful event. Scottsdale Plaza Resort rooms are set aside for your convenience at only \$125.00 per night plus tax to stay at this beautiful resort, particularly if you're travelling from outside the Phoenix area. Just call the hotel for room reservations at (480) 948-5000 or 1-800-832-2025. For other questions call 520-868-6777.

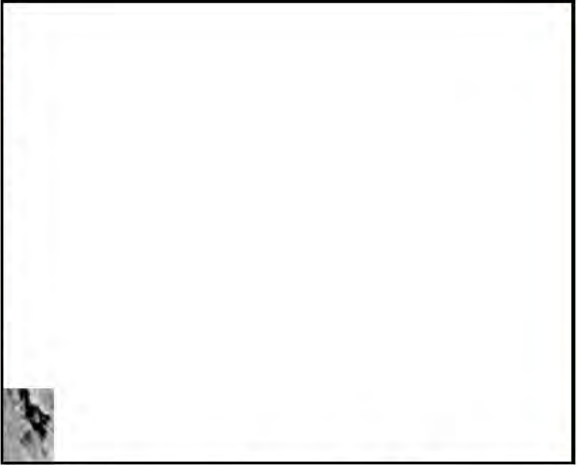
Military Museum Photos



The “AZ-LZ”

The “la Drang Battle”

In the first major engagement of the war between regular U.S. and North Vietnamese forces, elements of the 3rd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile) fight a pitched battle with Communist main-force units in the la Drang Valley of the Central Highlands. The 1st Cavalry division, or the 1st Air Cav, as was often called, was the first airmobile division of the U.S. Army. Its troops and equipment were transported on the battlefield primarily by helicopter. The Air Cav “troopers” air assaulted into battle from helicopters often with fire support from its own artillery brought into position by helicopters. On this morning, Lt. Col. Harold G. Moore’s 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry conducted an air assault by helicopter into Landing Zone X-Ray near the Chu Pong hills. Around noon, the North Vietnamese 33rd Regiment attacked the U.S. troopers. The fight continued all day and into the night. American soldiers received support from nearby artillery units and tactical air strikes. The next morning, the North Vietnamese 66th Regiment joined the attack against the U.S. unit. The fighting was bitter, but the tactical air strikes and artillery support took their toll on the enemy and enabled the 1st Cavalry troopers to hold on against repeated assaults.

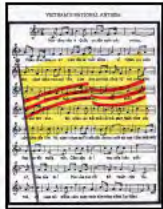


At around noon, two reinforcing companies arrived and Colonel Moore put them to good use to support his beleaguered soldiers. By the third day of the battle, the Americans had gained the upper hand. The three-day battle resulted in 834 North Vietnamese soldiers confirmed killed, and another 1,000 communist casualties were assumed. In a related action during the same battle, 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, was ambushed by North Vietnamese forces as it moved overland to Landing Zone Albany. Of the 500 men in the original column, 150 were killed and only 84 were able to return to immediate duty; Company “C” suffered 93 percent casualties, half of them deaths.

Senior American officials in Saigon declared the Battle of the la Drang Valley a great victory. The battle was extremely important because it was the first significant contact between U.S. troops and North Vietnamese forces. It validated the “airmobile” concept implemented by the 1st Cavalry—the airmobile division, but the action demonstrated that the North Vietnamese were prepared to stand and fight major battles even though they might take serious casualties. Senior American military leaders concluded that U.S. forces could wreak significant damage on the communists in such battles, and this tactic lead to a war of attrition by the U.S. forces against the communists. The North Vietnamese also learned that by keeping their combat troops physically close to U.S. positions, U.S. troops could not use artillery or air strikes without risking injury to American troops. The extensive U.S. bombing of North Vietnam forced the Communists to sign a peace treaty in 1973 ending U.S. involvement in the war. In May 1973, the U.S. Congress also voted to end logistical support to South Vietnam, and two years later the North overwhelmed the South who actually ran out of ammunition on the battlefield.

The "AZ-LZ"

A "Quick Look" At The Dinner In 2014



After a "meet and greet", we sing the National Anthem and the Vietnamese Anthem. We also get a chance to mingle with Vietnamese who migrated to America years ago.. We then have the Color Guard present the colors for the evening which is very special time for all of us.



Salad and then dinner is then served which encompasses a wonderful meal and a nice dessert. A superb dinner..



We then enjoyed a nice video of Vietnam and it will bring back some remembrances of our tour in Vietnam focusing on the 1st Cavalry Division.



People are what this world is all about and we will recognize a person such as this. She is "Miss Vietnam of 2014 and this lovely lady will grow up in a much better environment than possibly where she came from. This is certainly what the U.S.A. is all about.



The Danny Kealy Band brings us nice memorable music such songs from the military, the Anthems and music from the era in which we grew up in.



These are folks among the 400+ people that show up every year which has always become quite memorable for those of us that have attended since 2011.



You'll likely meet officers that manage the Vietnam Commemoration Program Directorate as a well as Medal of Honor recipient. In fact, you may even see that long lost buddy from your tour back in the 1960's. So, don't allow yourself to miss this..

Many of us discuss being remembered for our time in service and **THIS EVENT** is the one to do it. I cannot state how important this dinner and event as you will recall it for a long time to come. So, please sign up today and bring your loved one to enjoy it with you. A wonderful time.

Lam Bui and his wife are some of those Vietnamese folks that made the United States of America their home.



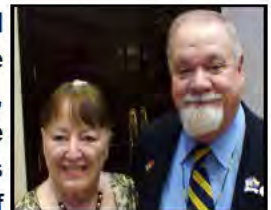
The two men below are GEN Kicklighter (L) Pgm Mgr of the 50th Directorate and Joe Abodeely who puts on this wonderful extravaganza



for all of us to enjoy. This a remembrance that we shan't forget for a long time. The purpose is to honor the Vietnam Veteran. There are some wonderful guest speakers, and a gift for each of us.

There will be great fellowship and conversation and the opportunity to meet new people that "possibly" you knew before. This is a once a year event that you will be sorry you missed unless you make the attempt to come. At our age, we all need to take advantage of every opportunity to be honored for our time in Vietnam as we have honored those before us such as the WWII and Korean War veterans.

Then there will be people like this couple, Gene and Sue Crego. He is the president of Vietnam Veterans of America, State Council of Arizona. He oversees over 1,000 Vietnam Veterans in Arizona.



The "AZ-LZ"

Teaching Students In School

We always say that our students of today don't know anything. Well, in some ways that is true, but we as Vietnam Veterans can make a difference in our schools to those kids in 7th or 8th grade to cause them to think about the Vietnam War just we thought about and learned about World War II.

To the right is a "cheat sheet" that one or more veterans could use in schools to "start teaching" them what Vietnam was all about. There is whole lot more than this.

VVA has downloaded actual documents from various web-sites, mostly VVA National and the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War web site that has accurate documents that you can teach from. In addition, there are some posters and excellent information that would be extremely helpful in "your learning about Vietnam" more than you know now.

There are many sites and we recommend that you locate what you want and put into a bound book and use it for teaching our students of today.



Vietnam War Dates: 1959-1975, 1960-1975, 1961-1975

Countries: USA, S. Vietnam Philippines, Canada, Thailand, Australia, Korea, New Zealand

Versus: N. Vietnam, China and Russia (Indirectly)

Fought: NVA and VC

Divisions or Units: 36

Personnel

-9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the **Vietnam Era** (5 August 1965-7 May 1975)

-8,744,000 personnel were on **active duty everywhere** during the war (5 August 1964-28 March 1973)

-3,403,100 (including 514,300 offshore) personnel served in the **SE Asia Theater** (Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, flight crews based in Thailand and sailors in adjacent South China Sea waters).

-2,594,000 personnel served **within the borders of South Vietnam** (1 Jan 65-28 Mar 73)

-50,000 men served in Vietnam between 1960 and 1964

-Of the 2.6 million, between 1-1.6 million fought in combat

-7,484 **women** served in Vietnam, of whom 6,250 or 83.5% were nurses.

Peak troop strength in Vietnam was 543,482, on 30 April 1969.

Casualties:

Hostile deaths: 47,359 and Non-hostile deaths: 10,797

Total: 58,156 (including men formerly classified as MIA and Mayaguez casualties).

Highest state death rate: **West Virginia—84.1**.

WIA: 303,704 - 153,329 required hospitalization, 50,375 who did not.

Severely disabled: 75,000, 23,214 were classified 100% disabled.

Limbs, 1,081 sustained multiple amputations. Amputation or crippling wounds to the lower extremities were 300% higher than in WWII and 70% higher than in Korea. Multiple amputations occurred at the rate of 18.4% compared to 5.7% in WWII.

MIA: 2,338, less than that now

POW: 766, of whom 114 died in captivity.

Draftees vs. volunteers: 25% (648,500) of total forces in country were draftees. (66% of U.S. armed forces members were drafted during WWII)

Draftees accounted for 30.4% (17,725) of combat deaths in Vietnam.

Reservists KIA: 5,977

National Guard: 6,140 served; 101 died.

The First Battle of Vietnam was in November 1965 with the 7th Air Cavalry Division.

Building of Air Bases, Army and Marine Base Camps throughout Vietnam

Building Helicopter bases (largest one in An Khe, Vietnam 1st Cavalry Division)

Object: To rid S. Vietnam of NVA and VC troops, create an independent country separate from N. Vietnam, similar today to N. and S. Korea

Good Friends For Nearly 50 Years

Everyone has a different life, especially when it comes to looks. Yes, some of us had more hair and a different color at least then. This is a good friend of mine (Joe Bozman) whom I first met in Basic Training at Fort Ord, CA in January 1967. We served together through the "grueling" 10 weeks of "getting to know the Army" for the next few years and have remains friends for the next 48+ years. Now that it is 2015, there is not a lot of difference between us. Oh, yes, some gray hair or no hair as the case may be. We look a few years older, but not much. We have grown children. All in all, we have maintained that good friendship for well more than four decades and I will always treasure it for many years to come. Thank you Joe.



The "AZ-LZ"

VVA Honors Molly Lange – KYMA Television

It isn't often when you get to pull a fast one on someone that deserves recognition. Well that someone was **Molly Lange** who is an anchor and multi-media report for KYMA, a television station in Yuma, Arizona.

This is the third story she has done involving Vietnam Veterans of America and we quickly discovered that she is a very efficient person in her job. She has a lovely personality and puts together an excellent story for all of us to watch at the 5 pm or 10pm time frame.

In any event, we "**set-up**" a story on Memorial Day at the Armed Forces Park in Yuma, Arizona and she interviewed Chuck Le Drew (member) and myself and then at the end of the interviews, we took full advantage of presenting her with a VVA Certificate of Commendation and a challenge coin.

Needless to say, she was **surprised and glad at the same time**. And it was a blessing for us to enjoy doing that for her.

We have been privileged to do things like this for others as well and we are always delighted to do it for someone else just like Molly. We at VVA, think it is important to honor those that have done something for us.



Molly Lange receiving her Vietnam Veterans of America certificate from Walt Schumacher as a token of our appreciation for her great work on reporting on Veteran stories throughout the year here in the Southwest of Yuma, Arizona. This was a first for any television station employee in our fair city of Yuma, AZ

Molly Lange, a wonderful and very talented anchor and reporter for KYMA television station "**was a little surprised**" by herself getting an award from Vietnam Veterans of America, one of the many fraternal organizations in Yuma, Arizona. A lovely lady and very unassuming in her person, to me, one that us humble and I appreciate that in her.



Chuck Le Drew presenting Molly Lange with a Challenge coin for "**doing great work on behalf of the Veterans in Yuma**" and particularly that of Vietnam Veterans of America, A well deserved honor for her to enjoy and keep. This was a real treat for her as she had never seen one before and the first to get one from any fraternal organization.

With the excitement all over with, Molly Lange is enjoying one last photograph of "**HER**", rather than the people she would "normally interview" on any given day. Molly, to you, we thank you for who you and what you do and the way you do it. You are real blessing. We thank her, the spirit and her compassion for doing great stories for VVA



The "AZ-LZ"

VVA's Agent Orange Town Hall

We could not have asked for a better meeting to discuss a topic that has engrained all of the United States when it comes to Veterans of the Vietnam War.

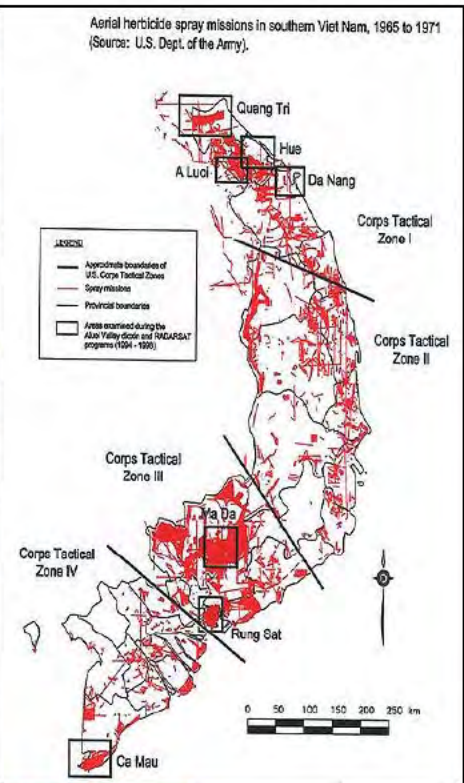
"Agent Orange" was one America's best kept secrets and sadly to the demise of the armed forces during the time of Vietnam. The purpose of Agent Orange was to rid the jungles of Vietnam so we could "see" the enemy better than before. With the rain and quick growth of Vietnam's vegetation it became impossible from time to time to get through the jungle much less "find the enemy". We initially started out with "Rome Plows" and upon that not working advanced to a more detrimental method of killing the jungle.

Chemical called Agent Orange with Dioxin within it which worked in some good ways and some bad ways. The affects of Agent Orange have not been good for many DOD personnel as well as Vietnamese civilians.

Unfortunately later on in life is when it seems most of the affects have occurred and we have "little time" to deal with it and then attempting to prove it to the VA is yet another battle with 40+ years behind us. Upon that, we also have to be concerned about it affecting our children and grandchildren and possibly and likely the later generations after that.

The meeting held on May 11, 2015 lasted over three hours and we had 75+ personnel in attendance to learn about the affects of AO. Our guest speakers were Larry Mitchell and Chuck Byers from VVA state council who are both experts on Agent Orange and VSO matters for claims.

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



The "AZ-LZ"

Memorial Day in Yuma—2015

VVA had a busy on Memorial Day—2015 in Yuma with six events on this day that can bring tears to those lost due to war.

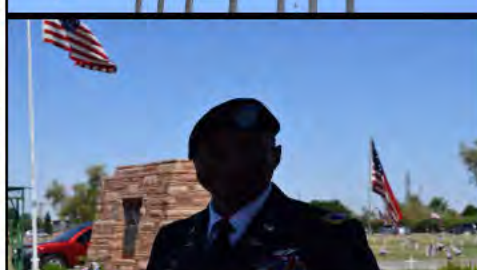
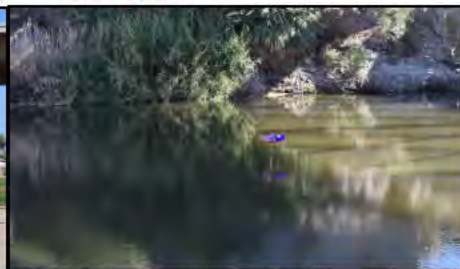
The first event was at Gateway Park for the Ocean to Ocean Bridge sailing of the Wreath for those lost at sea.

Second was the Desert Lawn Cemetery where YPG Commander, COL. Murray spoke about those lost Veterans with a 21 gun salute.

Out to the Foothills Sunset Vista Cemetery where VVA-835 had a guest speaker (Andy Noriega) and Greg Gardner (Yuma Jaycees). Glynn Pettway sang songs for the good of America.

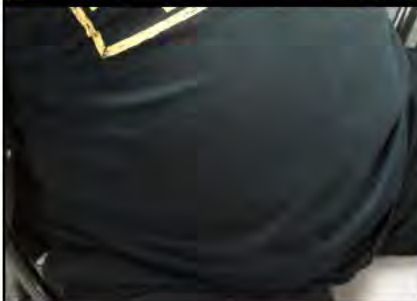
The LZ Grill hosted VVA for the raising of an American Flag and a 21 gun salute and providing a nice lunch afterwards.

VVA would also like to thank the Yuma television stations of KYMA, KECY and KSWT stations for their great coverage of these events to shed light on the veterans that have lost their lives in war or other circumstances. I would particularly like to thank Ella Sogomonian of the ABC station, Eduardo Santiago of KSWT and Molly Lange of KYMA for their coverage of the Memorial Day news for the families on Memorial Day this, May 25, 2015.



The “AZ-LZ”

The Garden of Eatin’



The one thing us “older folks” like to do is eat. You’d think, we never got enough when we were a kid. But, we know that is not true, as we did grow up. Then, there was the days of Vietnam when we ate those 2000 calorie C-ration meals that tasted “eh, okay” from time to time.

And now with all of that time behind us, it should be vital that we take better care of ourselves and lose a little bit weight. They may not make stretchers solid enough to carry us if we needed to be taken to the hospital. *Thank you for laughing.*

But, by and large a lot of us are like this and after returning from the Springfield Illinois VVA Convention, it was not hard to miss that the vast majority of people that were seen were vastly overweight. While it personally does not bother me, it bothers me from a stand point that our over-weightness is a detriment to our health and will likely shorten our lives. And for what, because we can afford to have that extra Starbucks or the second helping of potatoes or slices of bread, you name it. Needless to say, we have all done it, but let’s stop and think about our life, as I have mentioned a few times before, we are all in the “Winter of our Life” and we would all likely like to stay there for a while and enjoy a few more “snow-storms” and “Thanksgivings” and “Christmas” and “New Years”, not to mention “Birthdays”. To all of “US”, eat less, exercise, live longer. It will be the best thing we can do for our children and grand-children.

Arizona State Council Meeting—May 2015

VVA State Council honored and thanked these personnel for their involvement in helping veterans and being a blessing in all they do for America.

Pat Ferrell is thanking Kelly Anne Beck for her involvement in helping veterans.

Dennis St. Germaine thanks Jennifer Wilson for her devotion to the Town Hall on Agent Orange in Tucson, AZ.

Gene Crego, thanks Dr. Sisley for her research on the use of marijuana for helping selected personnel before it is out for any form of use.

Gene Crego presents Dick Southern with an Agent Orange book put together by VVA State Council, Arizona



The "AZ-LZ"

Thanksgiving and Christmas Seasons

Everyone looks forward to the Christmas season with a Thanksgiving a few weeks before hand, but there is ONE THING most don't look forward to and that is their Thanksgiving meal that they would usually have on this day. Thus, a bowl of cereal or less is what many will enjoy this coming. The picture below is a REAL photo of a family that could not afford anything, so give if you can. Anything will help. So, please consider this.



As we look at the world today from our own eyes, we see a lot of grief in the world. It certainly was not like this in the 1940's when we were born. Oh, yes, we just finished a war of the greatest magnitude ever, but it was "considered a gentlemen's war" and while a lot of grief was created for millions of people, let's fast forward to 2015 (70 years later) and much of the same thing is still going on, but the two things that can be resolved is the giving of your heart. And within your heart is the need for your fellow man by providing them with a nice holiday season of food, fellowship, a future relationship and possibly some gifts of needs.

We all have needs such as clothes, food and a place to lay our head and that is what God expects from us to do for the people that we don't even know.

After all, what If you or me were in that situation? It could happen. If nothing else, remember the children who cannot fend for themselves. Make this a season they will not forget because of you and what you in your heart decides to do for them.



Fellowship and Relationships

When we gather around the table for Thanksgiving, we usually have quite a large gathering, even to include more than one table. And then there might be some "inconvenience" to ourselves especially when family is included and to stay a night or two is simply wonderful. But, all that is perfectly okay, because family is what our world is all about. We need to be gracious with all of those that have traveled to your home to spend the time with you. At our age, life goes by very fast and we all need to take advantage of the things that God has given us and always remember that being gracious and understanding is one of the best things we can do for family. After all, we are all the same, just slightly different, but all the same, and you'd want that for you wouldn't you?



The "AZ-LZ"

Thanksgiving — 2015

This year's Thanksgiving is going to be a great one. If you are like me, you've already asked about "where" and "With whom" you are spending the day or the weekend with. I know I have. Especially when there are in-laws (of which you are one), you may want to alternate with the other families involved.

But, there might be another consideration. And that is if there are military in your neighborhood or city, how about asking them (entire family) to come over for the day and enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving Day with you and yours. That in itself would be a real blessing.



As a little kid, I can remember wonderful Thanksgivings with the food you normally don't get throughout the year. And then, as the holiday draws near, we are "seeing" the favorite foods on display at the store, in your home, always remember who gave you all of this. There is only One Person that can provide you with life that is the Lord Himself, enjoy Him too.



God has given America so much and many of us from our inception as a country and we as a nation have not taught some of the people what it means to be thankful. We always say we are, but do we act it out everyday or nearly every day? It is something we should always pass on to those that know nothing about it as it is important for what we don't know we'll never know unless it is told or taught to us. Let us be generous this year and **THINK and ACT** about others who have little or nothing. Open your heart to help another family that does not have as much as you do, especially this time of year. You know, we have no idea how others eat or live or manage their expenses unless we get involved in their lives. If you go to church, make it habit to regularly (every two weeks, at least) invite a family that you feel does not have a lot in their lives. We can "always tell". So, *always place yourself in their position of "not having a lot and do as Christ did for the world".*

Every city of any size has the equivalent of a "Mission" where there are usually hundreds of homeless people. Why is that? Well, bad choices and decisions can do it, but life must go on, so helping that mission with \$100 of your riches is something we can all do at least once a year. Someone is always in need.



The meal in the above picture is sure tempting to enjoy, but how about giving up your meal and giving it to someone else? Would you do it? I would hope so. After all, if you look at some of us, we could stand to lose X-amount of weight, so skipping a "thankful meal", and giving it to a homeless person, would do us more good than not. **Buy someone a meal once in a while**, they'll enjoy it.

Help Me Thanksgiving Day Prayer

O God, when I have food,
help me to remember the hungry;
When I have work,
help me to remember the jobless;
When I have a home,
help me to remember those who have no home at all;
When I am without pain,
help me to remember those who suffer,
And remembering,
help me to destroy my complacency;
bestir my compassion,
and be concerned enough to help;
By word and deed,
those who cry out for what we take for granted.
Amen.

The "AZ-LZ"

Christmas—2015



You know, this is the last great holiday in our year and it puts us in touch with someone besides our self. It should put us in the thinking of others that have little to nothing and you and I are smart enough to know there are thousands upon thousands of families that will have a real-life next-to-nothing Christmas while we enjoy a set of wonderful and delicious tasting meals throughout the season, we'll also have some nice gifts (some of which we don't need or want). And then of course, we will have an abundance of friends and family in our presence. And all the while, we have not given thought of others in this process of about how they will not to enjoy the Christmas season. You know we "see people" all year long

That have very little in their lives and because of our "culture" or our "not wanting to be around people like that", we wind up neglecting those would like to have one nice Christmas. Let me mention that those Christmas gifts that we receive, have you ever given them away to someone else, or returned it for something else you may not have needed or wanted? Or the extra food at the huge Christmas gatherings, how much of it did you either throw or give away?

I want you all to enjoy Christmas, but please take the time to "find someone, you believe may not have enough resources to enjoy a nice one for themselves". While you are at it, it would be the BEST thing you could do to invite them to church and explain the Gospel to them, after all, "this is the season that Jesus was born". The timing is perfect, you're telling your new found friends a story about a perfect man and His life and you should also tell them about what He did for all of us.

Without Christ, we would be in a situation that would likely be most unsuitable for any of us. We may be that homeless or less fortunate person I have been talking about earlier. Pray about it and do something about it. You'll never regret this decision.



This is the way most of us spend our Christmas. Pretty nice huh?



What if one of these children were us? Kind of sad to think a family could not afford their kids. This is in the 1930's, but it is still a true event that happened more than we know. Do you have an extra \$50.00?



Personally, I love Christmas. This is the time to put a smile on someone's face, to let them know you care for them. To see that mankind is not as bad as they may think throughout the rest of the year when you don't have very much and you're wondering how you're going to make day by day. This is the time to give of yourself. When you go shopping, make it point to buy possibly 3-5 gifts for someone else, maybe that you don't know. Gift cards are always nice in that you know what they would likely be used for and it would go towards a gift for themselves or something fairly important. We should always place ourselves in that situation and wouldn't it be nice if someone did something like that for us, just to be nice.

The "AZ-LZ"

Happy New Year — 2016

The New Year seems to come around quite often and frankly quite fast. But then it seems like it always does. It also seems we are also getting older each year. A little heavier in our weight, our hair is turning a bit more gray, most of our whiskers are white as opposed to brown or black, we have to watch what we eat, and the medicine we have to take is, well. Becoming more and more frequent, I can't recall how much we take, but a lot. We are getting slower and slower, we are not able to do as much anymore except breathe and even that is becoming a "headache" for us. And we can go on and on, but why, we are supposed to get older, and frankly wiser too. Wisdom does not come by simply getting older, but getting smarter as well. We need to look at why we are here on Earth in the first place and in part to make a difference in people's lives.

Opportunity comes but once they used to say, but over time, it seems to come in buckets. God provides a lot of chances for us to succeed and we should do our best to skip the nonsense that this world offers to take advantage of the opportunities that He has for us to make a difference starting on January 1st of next year. For those of us in our late 60's and early 70's, the time is now to think carefully what the rest of our life might be like and fulfill our "opportunities" which only come once in a great while or often of the good of mankind. Start with you, your family, friends and people you have no idea who they are. And be that blessing that you would love to have others be for you. You'll love it.

Now and then we all need that boost to make us more responsible in our own lives. Think about next year. Not the bad stuff, but good stuff. What can you do for your grand children or the great-grand kids (if you have any). How about paying for a year of college for them, that trip that you'd love to go on and take them with you. It

Now more than ever the world needs a caring positive influence to help better humanity. Let's Be The Generation That Made A Difference!

would be a once in a life time opportunity you and yours would certainly enjoy and get something out of. What a teaching and learning experience that might be if you took your oldest grandchildren back to Vietnam for a visit. Wow, what a history and geography lesson that would be for both of you. Invest in your family, they are ALL you have for now, don't wait another year for that special something to happen, because it may not come to be that that opportunity be there for you.



You are looking at 12 months ahead of you to decide how you are going to live your life for the next year. You have choice of doing it **RIGHT** or **WRONG**. It is up to us to teach and be there for our children and our family in helping and doing for them ALL we can. Plan that special something, just one thing for each month of the year for your wife, children, parents and close relatives to show them just how much you care for them. *I learned a long time ago that action speaks louder than words.*

Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right.



The "AZ-LZ"

The Last Thing I'll Say

I have spoken of this before and I think it is important to mention it again. I recently heard this message from a man I highly respect and honor, and that is my Pastor. I see him several times a week and listen to him three to four times weekly on giving messages such as this, but I thought it important to pass this on.

You know, when you are a "certain age" (whatever that is), you are to pass on very important things to your family, your children, your grandchildren and those you care about and those that respect you. So therefore, to you readers, I have a lot of respect for you, so read on.

As we look back on life, we can only look back so far, the rest, we have to "imagine". We can only "see in our mind's eye" what it was like when our Fathers served in WWII, our grand fathers in WWI, and so on back to the Revolutionary War and so forth.

As you try to imagine the world way back in time, not to the Medieval Age, earlier than that, not to the Roman times, earlier than that, not to the time of Christ, before that. How about before the beginning of the world? What was it like and what do you think existed then? Actually, maybe more than

than that. Much more than that.

"What could have been around before time as we know it?"

There is **one word** that really and truly accounts for that and I'll tell you in few moments, but you need to read on get this word in your mind's eye to see if you have this and how much of it you think you might have.

As men (women as well) think we are smart and many of us are, no question, but often times we tend to boast about ourselves, maybe a bit more than we should. And as I think about this one word, I wonder, how much of this do we really, really have?

Wisdom is the principal thing;
Therefore get wisdom.
And in all your getting, get understanding

At our age in life, we should all have a lot of wisdom, but also at our age, we don't take advantage of things that give it to us, therefore, starting when you read this, read "wisdom" in the Bible and find out how to get more wisdom before January 1, 2016 gets here and see how much "wiser" you'll be right after New Year's Eve. You may be very surprised at yourself. You never know.

Proverbs 9:10 declares that, "the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding", that is a biblical definition of wisdom. How has this definition of wisdom compared with the definition of wisdom among your circle of friends? As a believer, is Proverbs 9:10 your definition of wisdom? If so how has it helped you in your decision making?

At a another level the terms "wisdom" and "wise" apply to men and women who represent a way of thinking and conduct that is orderly, socially sensitive, and morally upright. Thus, the major thrust of wisdom in the Old Testament was a code of moral conduct. This is especially represented by the Book of Proverbs, which gives instruction on personal behavior from the discipline of children (22:6) to the golden-rule treatment of one's neighbor (24:29). The goal of wisdom was to build an orderly and functional society that reflected the moral requirements of God as set forth in the law of Moses. Paul compares the wisdom of men to a "wisdom that has been hidden and that God destined for our glory before time began"; at verse 1 Cor 2:6-7. The "wisdom of men" was human understanding as compared with the "hidden wisdom of God",

We have a job to do with our families and that is to help them with wisdom so they will be prosperous in their life. Don't delay for them or yourselves, life is getting shorter everyday.



A Word From Our President



A Remembrance of the Convention

**VVA CHAPTER
#095**
P.O. Box 1343
Prescott, AZ 86302

This summer has been one of the very best in Vietnam Veterans of America history. And, I am referring to the VVA 17th Convention that fifteen of us went to. The trip to Springfield and seeing all there was to see was simply terrific. Being a part of an event like this made a lot of people's year by attending it basically for the first time. As you know many amendments and resolutions were passed.

**VVA CHAPTER
#106**
P.O. Box 40903
Tucson, AZ
85713

I had the pleasure of helping to honor Walt Schumacher of the VVA State Council receive his plaque for the #1 Newsletter in the country, we call the "AZ-LZ". It was a tremendous moment for me as well as well as him as this was our second time to receive it.

**VVA CHAPTER
#432**
P.O. Box 10363
Phoenix, AZ 85064

It was also a joy to have some new Arizona delegates come with to the Convention as they got a lot out of it and "saw what took place" at these kinds of events which is very important to the men and women of Vietnam Veterans of America nationwide.

**VVA CHAPTER
#835**
P.O. Box 6281
Yuma, AZ 85366

Seeing our Region 9 Director, **Dick Southern** get re-elected was also a blessing for us as he has been a wonderful man to "work for" and see our region of several State Councils "on the grow" for all of VVA National.

**VVA CHAPTER
#975**
P.O. Box 184
Kingman, AZ
86402

The various other honoring of men and women to not mention companies was a real to be apart of. This is the giving spirit of America.

**VVA CHAPTER
#1011**
1042 N Higley
P.O. Box 402
Mesa, AZ 85205

Seeing the people from various State Council's from around the United States was a blessing and seeing those who you have spoken with on the phone or you know through someone else and you finally get to meet them was a real treat.

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

One of the best times to be had was the Reception and Banquet. This Saturday evening event encompassed around 400-500 people who enjoyed a sumptuous salad, dinner and dessert. Following that was an honoring of many people to include **Walter Anderson**, an author, writer and journalist. The Donut Dollies, the ladies including **Jeanne Christie, Jan Woods** and **Linda Cranor**, whose company that made it possible to provide donuts to the veterans overseas, and simply enjoy conversation. Then the honoring of the man who made a real difference in those who lost limbs was **Dr. Timothy Miller** who happened to be in Special Forces and directed his work to helping the Vietnam Veterans.

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

And then the man who collected thousands of items from "The Wall". And they are now categorized and inventoried for later years' enjoyment. And we should all thank **Kelly Grant Jr**, CEO of Mel-O-Crème Donut company who provided an untold number of donuts for the troops in Vietnam. And of course with him was the "soldier" who initially asked for the donuts to start with and he got his wish for a time to come. To all of you, I hope it was a blessing to go to the Convention. May we all remember events like this and tell our children, grandchildren about them as they mean a lot to us and they would find it very interesting coming from us,

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