

# THE “AZ-LZ”

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA - PHOENIX, ARIZONA

JAN - APR 2016

VOL 8, ISSUE 4

## WHAT DOES YEAR 2016 BRING TO AMERICA?



AMERICA, NEEDLESS TO SAY IS FALLING APART, BUT IT DOES **NOT** HAVE TO. IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO VOTE, THEN YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW THAT OUR COUNTRY WHICH IS AMERICA, DEPENDING ON DEFINITION, IS ANYWHERE FROM 225 TO 500 YEARS OLD. THE CONTINENTS OF NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA WERE FIRST NAMED IN 1507, NAMED AFTER AMERIGO VESPUCCI, AN ITALIAN EXPLORER. THE COUNTRY OF AMERICA (UNITED STATES) OFFICIAL-

LY DECLARED INDEPENDENCE IN 1776, MAKING IT THE FIRST TIME THE NAME WAS USED FOR AN INDEPENDENT COUNTRY. WE ALL REALIZE THE THAT 1776 IS OUR OFFICIAL BEGINNING, BUT WHEN MIGHT ITS END BE? WE ARE ONE OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL COUNTRIES EVER IN THE WORLD AND WE ARE QUICKLY LOSING IT, IN FACT WE NEARLY HAVE, HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY?

THE AMERICA I KNEW DOES NOT EXIST ANY LONGER. I WOULD DARE SAY THAT MOST OF YOU WOULD LIKELY AGREE WITH ME, HOWEVER, WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT IT. AS I LOOK AT THE AGE GROUPS OF THE AMERICAN'S LIVING TODAY, I KNOW THAT MANY OF US WERE BORN IN THE EARLY 1940'S AND WE ARE STILL KNOWN AS THE "LAST GREAT GENERATION" OF THIS COUNTRY.

SO, I REPEAT, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? I REALIZE WE ALL HAVE OUR PERCEPTION OF THE COUNTRY, HOWEVER, MANY THINGS ARE BROKEN. THIS LATEST GENERATION (NOT ALL) HAVE LITTLE RESPECT, BELIEVE LIFE IS EXPENDABLE, ARE NOT INTERESTED IN WORKING OR LEARNING TO LIVE THEIR LIFE TO THE FULLEST.

WHERE AM I GOING WITH THIS? WE, AS THE LAST MEMBERS OF THE GREAT GENERATION AND THE BABY BOOMERS GENERATION NEED TO GUIDE THIS NEXT GENERATION INTO DOING THE RIGHT THING, **NOT** THEIR THING.

WE ALL HAVE GOALS OF DOING THE RIGHT THING IN A NEW YEAR AND OFTEN TIMES, IT NEVER COMES ABOUT OR WE DO IT FOR A WHILE AND THEN FORGET ABOUT IT OR LOSE INTEREST IN IT. THAT CANNOT BE THE CASE IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WE NEED TO TAKE THAT INTEREST WITH THE **NEXT GENERATION** AND SHOW THEM THE WAY AND HELP THEM GET THERE AND CAUTION THEM THAT THEY TOO **SHOULD CONSCIOUSLY LISTEN** TO THEIR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS TO HELP THEM MAKE A GOOD LIFE FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR FUTURE FAMILIES. THIS DAY AND AGE IS NOT GOOD, BUT "WE" CAN MAKE IT BETTER. PLEASE BE INVOLVED WITH THOSE LITTLE ONES FOR THE GOOD OF THEIR LIVES.

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## THE 2015-5TH ANNUAL DINNER



### Fifth Annual Dinner in Commemoration of the Vietnam War and in Honor of Arizona Viet Nam Veterans and Their Vietnamese Allies

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Ia Drang Battle  
40<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the Fall of Saigon



Resupply/medevac at Battle of Ia Drang Valley.  
November, 1965. (Photo: Joseph L. Galloway)



US and Republic of Vietnam  
troops working together.



Scottsdale Plaza Resort  
7200 North Scottsdale Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85253  
October 31, 2015

**MAY I HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU SERIOUSLY CONSIDER ATTENDING THIS EVENT IN 2016. YOU ARE MISSING THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE AS A VIETNAM VETERAN. THEY INCREASE WITH VALUE AND HONORING EVERY YEAR AS WE GET OLDER.**

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## A TIME THAT ONE WILL REMEMBER FOREVER



YOU KNOW THAT IT ONLY TAKES ONE OR TWO THINGS IN LIFE THAT CAUSES "ALL OF US" TO RECALL ALL OF OUR TIME, NO MATTER HOW OLD WE EVER GET IN OUR AGE.

THIS WAS OUR 5TH VIETNAM VETERANS 50TH EVENT HELD BY THE ARIZONA MILITARY MU-

SEUM AND THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND I DARE SAY, WE WILL ALL REMEMBER THIS DINNER AND CEREMONY FOR MANY YEARS TO COME.

NEEDLESS TO SAY, JOE ABODEELY (AZ MIL MUSEUM) AND DIRECTOR SANDRA WRIGHT (AZDVA) DID IT UP RIGHT FOR 2015. BETWEEN THE FELLOWSHIP, THE SPEAKERS, THE REMINISCENT MUSIC, THE FOOD, THE 50TH PERSONNEL THAT TOOK THE TIME AND MADE THE EFFORT TO COME TO PHOENIX AND THE COIN MADE THIS EVENING ONE THAT WE'LL ALL REMEMBER FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

AT OUR AGE, VIETNAM STILL SEEMS LIKE YESTERDAY, BUT THE EVENTS THAT WE ENJOY LEADING UP NOW ARE EVER PRESENT IN OUR HEART AND MIND TO KEEP FRESH IN OUR PERSON. THINGS LIKE THIS THIS ARE A REAL BLESSING TO REMIND US THAT OUR NATION CARES FOR THE VIETNAM VETERAN AND IT IS DONE YEAR AFTER YEAR. WE ALSO APPRECIATE JOE ABODEELY FOR MAKING THIS "A SUCCESS BEYOND SUCCESSES". WE ALSO LOOK UP TO DIRECTOR WANDA WRIGHT FOR MAKING IT HAPPEN ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF ARIZONA. GRANTED, SHE IS NOT A VIETNAM VETERAN, BUT SHE SAW "VETERANS" THAT HAD A DESIRE TO BE HONORED AND ALL OF US SO APPRECIATE AND HONOR HER FOR MAKING IT COME TRUE FOR "ALL OF US IN ARIZONA".

IT ALL BEGAN WITH AN INVITATION DURING THE SUMMER OF 2015 AND CAREFUL PLANNING AND A MAN THAT TRULY IS FOCUSED ON THE VIETNAM VETERAN.

THIS GUY IS SIMPLY AMAZING IN THE WAY HE PUTS ON THIS EVENT AND DOES IN SUCH A WAY THAT WE ALL CAN RECALL THE WONDERFUL MEMORIES THAT IT CAN BRING FOR THAT PARTICULAR YEAR.

JOE, TO YOU. THE 400+ PERSONNEL THAT ATTENDED THIS DINNER IN 2015 AND THE EVENT WAS SUPERB AND ONE THAT WE WILL NOT FORGET FOR A VERY LONG TIME.

YOU KNOW HOW TO CREATE THESE EVENTS AND WE SO APPRECIATE YOU AND YOUR ENDEAVOR TO WORK WITH AS MANY PEOPLE AS IT TAKES TO MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR THE GOOD OF THE VIETNAM VETERAN.

WE ALL LOOK FORWARD TO ANOTHER GREAT REMEMBRANCE IN OCTOBER 2016 TO CELEBRATE THE TIMES WE CAN WITH EACH OTHER AND REMEMBER THE GREAT TIMES OF OUR VIETNAM TOUR AND ALL OF THINGS THAT GO WITH IT. IF WE CAN REMEMBER AND WE ALL CAN, IT IS IN OUR HEART AND MIND "HOW WE REMEMBER" AND "WHAT WE CHOOSE TO REMEMBER" ABOUT VIETNAM AND THAT CERTAINLY UP TO US AND PASS ON THE GOOD TIMES AND GOOD THINGS TO OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN FOR WE SHOULD BE PROUD OF OUR "**TOUR OF DUTY**".



LET'S NOT FORGET DONNA, THE BETTER HALF OF THE ABODEELY'S WHO KEEPS JOE ON THE STRAIGHT & NARROW. THANKS DONNA.

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## THE MAGIC - 5TH COMMEMORATION DINNER



THE FIFTH ANNUAL DINNER HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS WAS HELD ON OCTOBER 31ST 2015. THE DINNER CONSISTED OF A DUAL ENTRE OF STEAK AND CHICKEN WITH THE FIXINGS). THIS GREAT EVENT WHICH HONORS OUR AMERICAN AND VIETNAMESE VIETNAM VETERANS WHICH WERE SO PATRIOTIC. JOE GALLOWAY (THE REPORTER IN “WE WERE SOLDIERS” WAS OUR GUEST SPEAKER, ALONG WITH HIS WIFE DR. GRACE GALLOWAY.

WE ARE ALSO HONORED TO HAVE MG JAMES T. JACKSON, U.S. ARMY (RETIRED), THE DIRECTOR, COMMEMORATION OF THE VIETNAM WAR AND HE GAVE A BRIEF UPDATE ABOUT THE 50TH COMMEMORATION OF THE VIETNAM WAR. WHILE NEW ON THE JOB AND THIS BEING HIS FIRST VISIT TO ARIZONA FOR AN EVENT SUCH AS THIS, HE WAS CERTAINLY A BLESSING FOR ALL HE HAS DONE AND WILL DO OVER THE YEARS FOR ALL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS IN AMERICA.



THE ADVS DIRECTOR WANDA WRIGHT PROVIDED A WONDERFUL TALK ABOUT THE MILITARY IN HER FAMILY AND “HER” BEING AN UNITED STATES AIR FORCE COLONEL IN THE ARIZONA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WHO IS NOW RETIRED LOOKED AT HER OWN FAMILY AND IS CERTAINLY PROUD AND FORTHRIGHT IN SEEING THE STRING OF FAMILY MEMBERS IN WORLD WAR II, KOREA, VIETNAM AND HERSELF IN THE GWOT-ERA. HER FATHER SERVED THREE TOURS IN VIETNAM. SHE CURRENTLY MANAGES THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERAN SERVICES FOR THE ENTIRE STATE OF ARIZONA AND PROVIDED A HUGE AMOUNT OF SUPPORT FOR THIS EVENT AND OTHERS SIMILAR TO IT.

KEVIN DANG, THE LEADER OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN ARIZONA GAVE BRIEF STATEMENTS TO THE ATTENDEES. THESE EVENTS ARE ATTENDED BY VIETNAM VETERANS AND THOSE WHO WISH TO HONOR VIETNAM VETERANS. THE WORD “HONOR” MEANS TO HOLD IN HIGH ESTEEM OR RESPECT. THAT IS WHAT THESE EVENTS ARE ABOUT. WANT TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THIS EVENT, IT WAS SIMPLY SUPERB THAT WE HAD THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE ON HAND TO HELP US REMEMBER WHY WE HELPED VIETNAM IN THE FIRST PLACE AND THEY WERE A BLESSING.



AND OF COURSE A VERY FAVORITE FRIEND AND THAT BEING JOEY STRICKLAND. JOEY HAS BEEN A FRIEND OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS FOR MANY A DECADE AND HAS PROVIDED SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO THE VERY BEGINNING OF THESE EVENTS. WE SO APPRECIATE HIM AND ALWAYS INCLUDE HIM ON THE “SPECIALTY OF FRIENDS” WHEN IT COMES TO HONORING VETERANS AS HE KNOWS HOW TO DO IT AND IS A COMRADE IN ARMS IN HELPING OTHERS GET IT DONE. HE IS ONE GUY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO HONOR.

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VETERANS AND FAMILIES WERE **ENTHRALLED**



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FELLOWSHIP – WONDERFUL



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## REMEMBRANCES ARE VITAL



SEEING THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE COLOR GUARD IS AN INTERESTING AND ENJOYABLE THING TO RECALL WHEN "WE DID THAT SORT OF ACT" IN OUR ACTIVE DUTY TIME. THEY ALWAYS DO A GREAT JOB. THANK YOU MEN, FOR DOING IT WELL.

SEEING THE M60, M16 AND OTHER VIETNAM-TYPE WEAPONS BROUGHT BACK MEMORIES OF OUR TIME IN VIETNAM AND THE "FIRST TIME, WE FIRED IT FOR REAL". WE GAINED A LOT OF EXPERIENCE REAL FAST. WE HAD TO. 😊



LISTENING TO THE DANNY KEALY BAND WHO HAS BEEN PLAYING FOR US FOR THE PAST FIVE YEARS IS ALWAYS A BLESSING AS WE LISTEN TO THOSE SONGS FROM THE 1960'S THAT WE CAN'T REMEMBER THE TITLE OF.



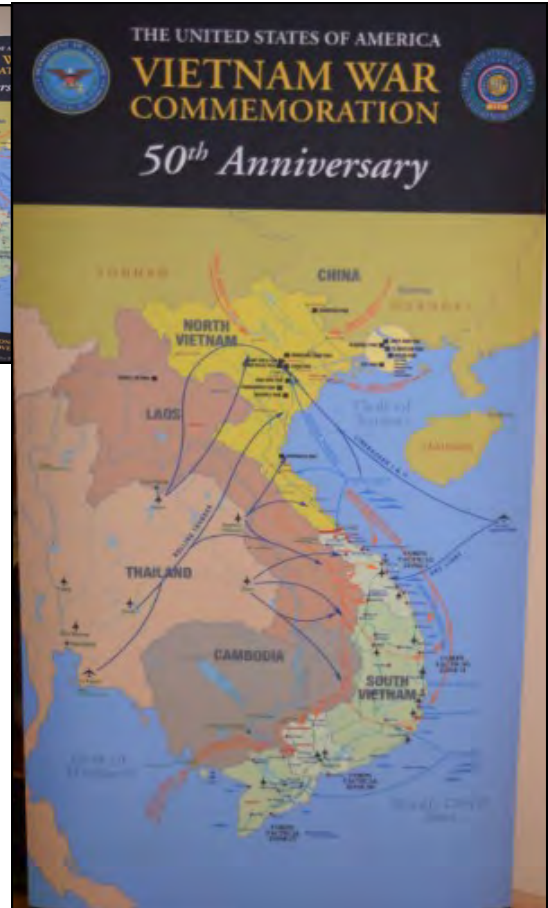
LOOKING AT PAINTINGS SUCH AS THESE BRINGS BACK OUR OWN PERSONAL MEMORIES AND REMEMBRANCES OF OUR "TOUR IN VIETNAM" DURING THE 1960'S AND 1970'S. MANY OF US EXPERIENCED JUST WHAT WE ARE LOOKING AT IN TERMS OF COMBAT, FLYING, AVOIDING GETTING HURT AND TRULY "RECALLING EXACTLY WHY WERE THERE TO START WITH". WE NEED TO THANK THE LORD FOR OUR SAFETY, AND GREAT TIMES IN OUR OLDER YEARS. ALL IN ALL, THE TIME, THE SEVERAL HOURS, THE PEOPLE, THE FELLOWSHIP, THE DINNER AND DESSERT, THE TALKS, THE GIFT TO EACH OF US, THE OVERALL NICE TIME WAS SIMPLY WONDERFUL. WE COULD NOT HAVE MATCHED THE TIME AT ANY OTHER TIME DURING THE YEAR 2015.

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## WHAT ARE WE TAKING AWAY?



WE ARE TAKING AWAY A LOT IF YOU CASUALLY THINK ABOUT IT AND THAT IS “THE MEMORY” OF VIETNAM, THIS ANNUAL DINNER AND EVENT, THE 50TH COMMEMORATION EVENT THAT THE ARIZONA MILITARY MUSEUM AND THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES PUTS ON EACH AND EVERY YEAR, THE EFFORT THAT GOES INTO THIS EVENT TO MAKE IT HAPPEN “JUST THE WAY WE EXPECT TO”. AND, IT TAKES A LOT TO PUT THIS EVENT ON AND MAKE IT WORK THIS WAY YEAR AFTER YEAR. BUT, LET’S LOOK AT THE 50TH COMMEMORATION OF VIETNAM PROGRAM DIRECTORATE THAT MAKES THIS ALL HAPPEN TO BEGIN WITH, ABOVE IS MARK FRANKLIN WHO TRAVELS TO EVENT LIKE THIS GREET US AND PROVIDES US ALL WITH GIFTS AND SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT OTHERS DOING THE SAME THING WE ARE IN ARIZONA.



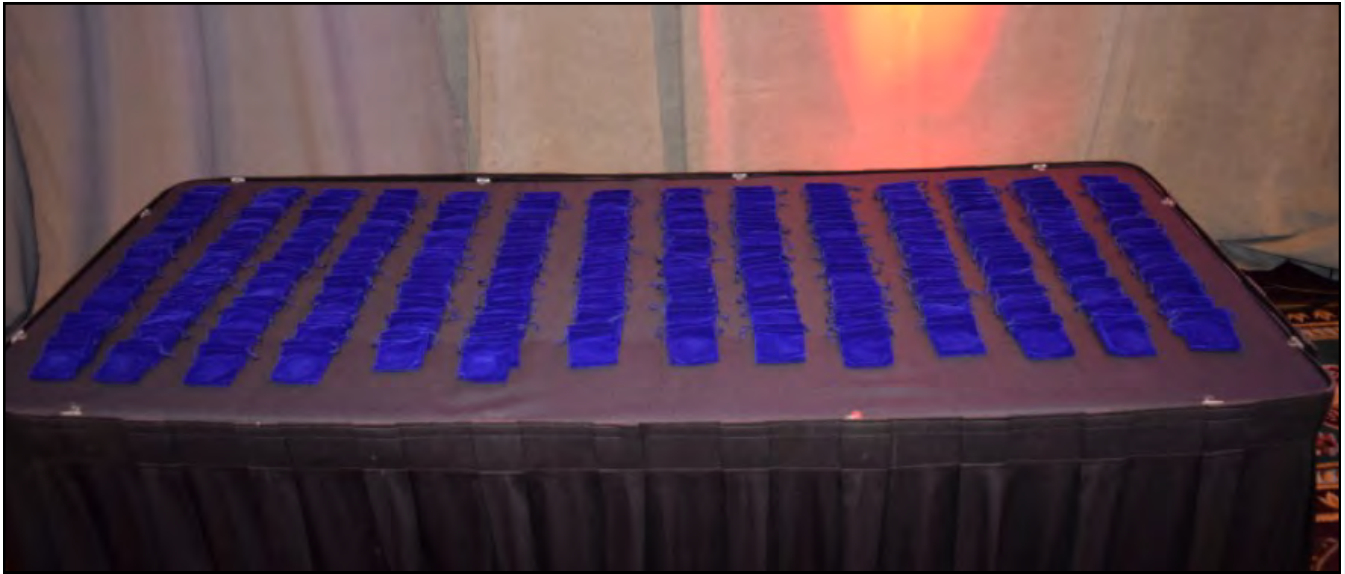
THE ONE THING WE BETTER ALL REMEMBER IS THOSE THAT GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR SOUTH VIETNAM, THOSE THAT LIVE IN EASTERN PART OF THE WORLD, OCEANIA AND COUNTRIES NEARBY. WE AND THE FIVE OTHER ALLIES THAT FOUGHT AGAINST COMMUNISM IN A SINGLE WORD: “WON”. ONLY VIETNAM HAS ESTABLISHED THEIR IDEOLOGY AND ONLY HALF WAY AND THE REST OF THAT REGION IS SAFELY UNDER (MOSTLY) A DEMOCRATIC TYPE OF GOVERNMENT THAT WE PRESERVED FOR THEM. WE SIMPLY NEED TO THANK THEM.

TO ALL OF “US”, WE ARE UP THERE IN YEARS AND NEED TO REMEMBER AND BE GRATEFUL FOR THE TYPE OF EVENTS THAT ARE BEING PUT ON FOR “US”. WE MAKE LITTLE EFFORT EXCEPT TO ATTEND AND SIMPLY AND FULLY ENJOY THE TIME, BUT OTHERS DO ALL OF THE WORK AND IN SO MANY WORDS WE TAKE THE CREDIT. A \$50 COST IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE MEMORIES AND THOUGHTS THAT WE TAKE WITH “US” AFTER A GREAT EVENING.



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## A GIFT OF ALL GIFTS



EACH YEAR, THIS 50TH EVENT ALWAYS PROVIDES A BEAUTIFUL COIN TO HAVE US TAKE HOME AS A PERSONAL TOKEN OF APPRECIATION FOR US SERVING IN VIETNAM. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK JOE ABODEELY FOR HIS PROFICIENCY IN PROVIDING US WITH A NICE CHALLENGE COIN FOR THIS YEAR'S DINNER AND EVENT. IT IS DIFFERENT, PERSONAL AND ENCOURAGING FOR ALL OF US.



AS YOU LOOK AT THESE FLAGS, WE WERE ALL BORN TO PROTECT. WAR HAS BEEN AROUND FOR ALMOST AS MUCH TIME AS THE WORLD IS OLD. WE SHOULD ALL PROTECT OUR COUNTRY (THE U.S.A.), THE STATE IN WHICH WE LIVE (ARIZONA) AND THOSE THAT ARE ALLIED TO AMERICA (S. VIETNAM). IN ADDITION, WE CHOSE TO JOIN THE BRANCH OF SERVICE WE PREFERRED, THE ARMY, NAVY, MARINE CORPS, MERCHANT MARINES, COAST GUARD, OR THE AIR FORCE. WE PERFORMED OUR DUTY AND DID A GOOD JOB. LET'S BRING THAT TRADITION TO OUR YOUNGER ONES TO DO THE SAME THING FOR THEIR GENERATION.

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PERSONALIZED FOR ALL OF US



IT IS ALWAYS WORTH THE WAIT AND ENJOY THE EVENING TO BE GIVEN THIS BEAUTIFUL COIN AT THE END OF A WONDERFUL, JOYOUS NIGHT ENJOYING THE FELLOWSHIP, LEARNING ABOUT VIETNAM HISTORY, ENJOYING A MEAL AND RECEIVING A GIFT AT THE END.

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## A VERY ENJOYABLE DINNER



YOU KNOW DINNER TIME IS A SPECIAL TIME AND EVENT FOR ALL OF US AS WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY AND WITH THOSE YOU SIMPLY DON'T KNOW. PERSONAL SITUATIONS LIKE THAT CAN BECOME LIFE-LONG RELATIONSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIP OFTEN FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES.

THE SCOTTSDALE PLAZA RESORT PROVIDED A DELICIOUS GATHERING FOR ALL OF US TO ENJOY FOR AN EVENING ONCE A YEAR AND WE THANK THEM FOR PROVIDING A SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EACH OF US EVEN IF IT ONLY A FEW HOURS LONG. MORE SO, IT IS A SWEET MEMORY AS WE ARE ALL IN THE WINTER OF OUR LIFE AND LIFE IS VERY SHORT FOR US.



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## AN UNBELIEVABLE STORY



AS I FILM AND PHOTOGRAPH THESE EVENTS EACH YEAR, I ALWAYS ASK THE YOUNGER VIETNAMESE YOUTH IF THEY'D LIKE A COPY OF THE VIDEO THAT IS PRODUCED FOR THEIR MEMORY. USUALLY, THE ANSWER IS NO, EXCEPT FOR THE YOUNG MAN YOU SEE PICTURED HERE, HE ASKED ME AT THE END OF THE EVENT IF I MIGHT MAIL HIM A DVD OF THAT EVENINGS PROGRAM. AFTER DOING SO, HE AND HIS PARENTS WATCHED IT AND HE FELT COMPELLED TO PROVIDE A STORY ABOUT HIS PARENTS AND HIM IN THE LAST DAYS OF VIETNAM. WHAT YOU ARE ABOUT TO READ IS COMPELLING (AT LEAST TO ME) AND EXTREMELY WELL SAID FOR THE LIFE THAT THEY HAD AND WHAT THEY HAVE NOW. THIS IS WHAT AMERICA IS ALL ABOUT AS THIS IS WHAT OUR COUNTRY HAS DONE FOR THEM-FREEDOM.

“MY MOTHER WAS BORN IN 1960 IN SAIGON. MY FATHER WAS BORN SOMEWHERE IN NORTH VIETNAM IN 1954 BUT HIS FAMILY MOVED TO SOUTH VIETNAM RIGHT BEFORE THEY CLOSED THE BORDER THAT DIVIDED NORTH FROM SOUTH VIETNAM LATER THAT YEAR. BACK THEN, ALL MALE STUDENTS WERE FORCED TO ENLIST WITH THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY AT THE AGE OF 18 IF YOU DIDN'T PASS A CERTAIN STANDARDIZED TEST IN HIGH SCHOOL. THEY MADE THE TEST EXTREMELY DIFFICULT SO THAT MOST STUDENTS WOULD HELP OUT IN THE WAR. HOWEVER, MY FATHER MANAGED TO PASS IT SO HE DID NOT HAVE TO FIGHT IN THE WAR. MY MATERNAL GRANDFATHER WAS A DOCTOR FOR SOUTH VIETNAM AND AFTER THE WAR, HE WAS FORCED IN THE REEDUCATION CAMP FOR MANY YEARS. TODAY, BOTH MY MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS ARE STILL ALIVE AND THEY LIVE HERE IN ARIZONA. MY PATERNAL GRANDFATHER PASSED AWAY WHEN MY DAD WAS 14. HE WAS A MAJOR OF THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE ARMY AND WAS KILLED BY MEMBERS OF THE VIET CONG IN 1969. BEING THE SECOND OLDEST IN THE FAMILY, MY FATHER HAD TO TAKE CARE OF HIS OTHER 4 YOUNGER SIBLINGS AT THE TIME. AFTER NORTH VIETNAM TOOK OVER IN 1975, MY DAD WAS FORCED TO FIGHT IN THE CAMBODIAN WAR FROM 1977 TO 1978. DURING HIS TIME IN THE ARMY, HE AND SEVERAL OTHERS WERE INFECTED WITH MALARIA. ALTHOUGH MANY DID NOT SURVIVE, MY DAD WAS REALLY LUCKY TO SURVIVE THE INFECTION. SOME TIME LATER, DURING ONE OF THE BATTLES WITH THE KHMER ROUGE, AN RPG WAS FIRED AND HIT A TREE BEHIND MY DAD AND HE WAS WOUNDED AND HE WAS SENT HOME. LUCKILY, MY DAD SURVIVED THAT AS WELL. IN 1982, MY PARENTS (WHO DID NOT KNOW EACH OTHER AT THE TIME), BECAME BOAT REFUGEES AND FLED VIETNAM. IT WAS ACTUALLY THERE ON THAT BOAT THAT MY PARENTS MET EACH OTHER. THREE DAYS INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND RUNNING OUT OF FOOD AND WATER, MY PARENT'S BOAT WAS VERY LUCKY TO BE SPOTTED BY A DUTCH CARGO SHIP IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN AND THEY WERE TAKEN TO HOLLAND. MY PARENTS MARRIED IN 1989 AND SO I WAS BORN IN HOLLAND. I CAN SPEAK DUTCH FLUENTLY. MY UNCLES AND AUNTS ON BOTH MY MOM AND DAD'S SIDE ACTUALLY MANAGED TO MOVE TO THE US STRAIGHT FROM VIETNAM AND THAT IS WHY WE DECIDED TO MOVE HERE AS WELL. WE MOVED TO ARIZONA IN 2005. I WOULD ACTUALLY REALLY LIKE TO VISIT VIETNAM SOMEDAY SINCE MY PARENTS HAVEN'T HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO BACK AND VISIT.”

THIS IS A STORY THAT I'LL LONG REMEMBER AS FEW OF US CAN SAY WE HAVE HAD A LIFE SIMILAR TO THIS. THE FREE WORLD HAS BEEN GOOD TO PEOPLE LIKE THIS AND HIS DESIRE TO SEE HIS HOMELAND OF VIETNAM IS VERY COMMENDABLE. COUNTRIES LIKE AMERICA, HOLLAND HAVE THE HEART TO CARE FOR PEOPLE.

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## JOSEPH L. GALLOWAY      MILITARY CORRESPONDENT



Joseph L. 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.

Early in 2013 he was sworn into service as a special consultant to the Vietnam War 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration project run by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. He is also permanent consultant to Ken Burns’ Florentine Films project to make a documentary history of the Vietnam War for broadcast in 2016 on PBS.

Galloway, a native of Refugio, Texas, spent 22 years as a foreign and war correspondent and bureau chief for United Press International, and 20 years as a senior editor and senior writer for U.S. News & World Report magazine. He joined Knight Ridder in the fall of 2002.

During the course of 15 years of foreign postings—including assignments in Japan, Indonesia, India, Singapore and three years as UPI bureau chief in Moscow in the former Soviet Union--Galloway served four tours as a war correspondent in Vietnam and also covered the 1971 India-Pakistan War and half a dozen other combat operations.

In 1990-1991 Galloway covered Desert Shield/Desert Storm, riding with the 24<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Mech) in the assault into Iraq. Galloway also covered the Haiti incursion and made trips to Iraq to cover the war there in 2003 and 2005-2006.

The late Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf who first met Galloway in South Vietnam when he was a brand new Army major, called the Texan “the finest combat correspondent of our generation---a soldier’s reporter and a soldier’s friend.”

He is co-author, with Lt. Gen. (ret) Hal Moore, of the national bestseller “We Were Soldiers Once-And Young” which has been made into a critically acclaimed movie, “We

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## **JOE GALLOWAY (CONT'D)**

Were Soldiers”, starring Mel Gibson. “We Were Soldiers Once-And Young” is presently in print in six different languages and more than 1.2 million copies have been sold.

Galloway also co-authored “Triumph without Victory: The History of the Persian Gulf War” for Times Books--- and he and Gen. Moore in 2008 published their sequel to We Were Soldiers, a work titled: “We Are Soldiers Still: A Journey Back to the Battlefields of Vietnam.”

Last year Military History magazine polled 50 leading historians to choose the Ten Greatest Books Ever Written on War. “We Were Soldiers Once...and Young” was among those ten books.

On May 1, 1998, Galloway was decorated with a Bronze Star Medal with V for rescuing wounded soldiers under fire in the Ia Drang Valley, in November 1965. His is the only medal of valor the U.S. Army awarded to a civilian for actions in combat during the entire Vietnam War.

Galloway received the National Magazine Award in 1991 for a U.S. News cover article on the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ia Drang Battles, and the National News Media Award of the U.S. Veterans of Foreign Wars in 1992 for coverage of the Gulf War. In 2000, he received the President’s Award for the Arts of the Vietnam Veterans Association of America. In 2001, he received the BG Robert L. Denig Award for Distinguished Service presented by the U.S. Marine Corps Combat Correspondents Association. In 2005, he received the Abraham Lincoln Award of the Union League Club of Philadelphia, and the John Reagan (Texas) McCrary Award of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Galloway was awarded the 2011 Doughboy Award, the highest honor the Army’s Infantry can bestow on an individual. Few civilians have ever received a Doughboy. On Veterans Day, 2011, he received the Legacy of Service Award of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Galloway is a member of the boards or advisory boards of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Association, the National Infantry Museum, the School of Social Studies of The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., the Museum of America’s Wars, and the Military Reporters and Editors Association.

Galloway is the recipient of honorary doctorate degrees from Norwich University and Mount St. Mary’s College of Newburgh, N.Y.

He now resides in Concord, N.C., with his wife, Dr. Grace Liem Galloway.

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## KEVIN DANG – VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY



“IT IS A GREAT HONOR AND A PRIVILEGE TO BE PRESENT HERE TONIGHT AT THE VIETNAM VETERANS COMMEMORATION DINNER EVENT. BEFORE I BEGIN, PLEASE ALLOW ME TO RECOGNIZE AND ACKNOWLEDGE ALL THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE VETERANS WHO ARE ALSO HERE WITH US TONIGHT. AS IMMIGRANTS FROM VIETNAM, MYSELF AND ALL OF THE MEMBERS FROM THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY ARE PROUD TO SAY “WE ARE AMERICANS”, AND WE ARE VERY PROUD TO BE CITIZENS OF THIS WONDERFUL LEADING NATION OF THE WORLD. LET ME ALSO SAY THAT WE, THE VIETNAMESE AMERICANS ARE GRATEFUL TO THE US VIETNAM VETERANS

WHO HAVE SERVED OUR NATION SO PROUDLY. FOR YOUR DEVOTION TO AMERICA, AND TO THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM, ON BEHALF OF THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY, WITH DEEPEST SINCERITY, I SALUTE AND THANK YOU ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE. IN 1973, ALL LOGISTICAL SUPPORTS FROM THE UNITED STATES TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT WERE HALTED AS PART OF THE SETTLEMENT IN THE PARIS PEACE TREATY ACCORDS. THE AMERICAN MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN RETURNED HOME, LEAVING BEHIND THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SOLDIERS FIGHTING AGAINST THE COMMUNIST FORCE IN SOLITUDE. FOLLOWING THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE AMERICAN TROOPS, THE VIOLATION OF THE PARIS PEACE AGREEMENT BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE HAD SUBSEQUENTLY LED TO THE COLLAPSE OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. ON APRIL 30, 1975, THE CAPTURE OF SAIGON BY THE NORTH VIETNAMESE ARMY MARKED THE END OF THE WAR. THE COMMUNIST’S TAKEOVER WAS HARSH AND BRUTAL WITH KILLINGS AND RE-EDUCATION CAMPS. THE UNBEARABLE OPPRESSION FROM COMMUNIST REGIME HAD FORCED NEARLY HALF A MILLION PEOPLE ESCAPED FROM VIETNAM IN QUEST FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. MANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE ESCAPED THE COUNTRY BY BOATS ACROSS THE VAST OPEN AND TREACHEROUS SOUTH CHINA SEA, AND SADLY, HUNDREDS OF THOUSAND LIVES WERE LOST DURING THE VOYAGE TO THE FREE WORLD. MY FATHER WAS ONE OF THE BOAT PEOPLE. IN 1981, HE ESCAPED FROM THE COUNTRY A DAY AFTER MY SECOND BIRTHDAY LEAVING BEHIND MY MOTHER AND AN INFANT BROTHER. IT WAS A HEARTBREAKING AND TERRIFYING EXPERIENCE FOR MY DAD. NOT ONLY HE HAD TO LEAVE BEHIND HIS YOUNG WIFE AND 2 SONS, HE HAD ALSO RISKED HIS LIFE AND RISKED THE CHANCE OF BEING CAPTURED AND IMPRISONED BY THE VIETNAMESE COAST GUARDS. THE DANGER AND VULNERABILITY OF THE JOURNEY HAD MADE MY MOTHER DECIDED TO STAY BACK IN VIETNAM TO ENSURE SAFETY OF HER TODDLER AND HER INFANT. ON MARCH 20TH 1989, AFTER 8 LONG YEARS OF SEPARATION AND LIVING HALF OF THE WORLD APART, OUR FAMILY FINALLY REUNITED, AND IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE WORD “DAD” WAS EVER SPOKEN IN MY LIFE. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE PERSONAL EXPERIENCE I HAD SHARED WITH YOU IS AMONG COUNTLESS NUMBER OF STORIES EXPERIENCED BY THOUSANDS OF OTHER YOUNG VIETNAMESE LIVING IN THE UNITED STATES. WE, THE YOUNG VIETNAMESE ARE FOREVER INDEBTED TO OUR PARENTS, WITH SPECIAL GRATITUDE TO THEM FOR SACRIFICING THEIR LIVES AND ADULTHOOD FOR THEIR CHILDREN’S BETTER FUTURE AND EDUCATION IN THE LAND OF FREEDOM. COMPARING TO OUR PEERS WHO ARE UNFORTUNATE AND STILL LIVING UNDER THE COMMUNIST REGIME, WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO HAVE MADE IT TO THE “LAND OF THE FREE AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE“. WHATEVER ACCOMPLISHMENT WE MAY HAVE ACHIEVED WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED IF WE HAD NOT HAD THE FORTUNE TO LIVE IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THERE IS LARGE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN ARIZONA, AND THEY HAVE HONORED ME BY ELECTING ME AS THEIR PRESIDENT. THE VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY AND I ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO THOSE BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN WHO MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AND PROTECTING MILLIONS OF SOUTH VIETNAMESE CIVILIAN FROM COMMUNIST’S INVASION. TO ALL US VIETNAM VETERANS, YOU HAVE CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED TO US VIETNAMESE THE CORE VALUE OF FREEDOM! WE, THE VIETNAMESE AMERICANS LIVING IN ARIZONA ARE ALSO EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR THE PHILANTHROPIC SUPPORT FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE WHO HAVE EMBRACED OUR CULTURE AND WELCOMED OUR PRESENCE WITH OPEN ARMS. WE REMEMBER THE VIETNAMESE HISTORY AND CULTURE, BUT WE ARE PROUD AMERICANS, NOW, THANKS TO THE SERVICE OF OUR VIETNAMESE VETERANS AND AMERICAN VETERANS AND THE HUMANITY OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. THANK YOU!”

# THE "AZ-LZ"

**MG JAMES JACKSON, DIR, 50TH COMMEMORATION**



I'M JIM JACKSON, A 32-YEAR U.S. ARMY VETERAN WHO SERVED DURING THE PERIOD OF THE VIETNAM WAR. UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, I AM PRIVILEGED TO DIRECT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA VIETNAM WAR COMMEMORATION ... OUR NATIONAL EFFORT TO THANK AND HONOR THE 7.2 MILLION LIVING VIETNAM VETERANS AND THE 9 MILLION FAMILIES OF ALL WHO SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY IN THE U.S. ARMED FORCES BETWEEN 1 NOV 1955 AND 15 MAY 1975. I AM VERY HAPPY TO BE HERE....WE HAVE A GREAT RELATIONSHIP WITH THE ARIZONA MILITARY MUSEUM AND ALWAYS GLAD TO GET OUT OF WASHINGTON.....SPECIAL THANKS TO JOE ABODEELY AND WANDA WRIGHT FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT OF TONIGHT'S EVENT. MANY OF YOU KNOW THAT....WE BEGAN OUR EFFORTS ON MEMORIAL DAY 2012...AT THE WALL IN WASHINGTON WITH THE COUNTRY'S SENIOR LEADERSHIP PRESENT TO HELP RECOGNIZE AND HONOR OUR VIETNAM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. OUR CHARTER COMES FROM CONGRESS AND THEY PRESENTED US 5 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES WHICH WE ARE ACTIVELY TRYING TO ACCOMPLISH. THE FIRST OF WHICH KEEPS US THE MOST BUSY...THAT OF THANKING AND HONORING OUR US ARMED FORCES VIETNAM VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, RECOGNITION OF OUR FORMER POWS AND THOSE STILL MIA, OF WHICH WE STILL HAVE 1626. I AM HERE TODAY TO PROVIDE YOU AN UPDATE ON OUR STATUS AND TO PROVIDE SOME INFORMATION ON OBSERVATIONS AS OUR TEAMS HAVE SUPPORTED OUR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNERS.

AS OF TODAY, WE ARE FAST APPROACHING 9,000 COMMEMORATIVE PARTNERS. EACH OF THESE PARTNERS HAVE AGREED TO CONDUCT EVENTS SIMILAR TO THIS ONE TO REACH VETERANS WHO LIVE WITHIN THEIR AREAS AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE AND SACRIFICE...SO FAR WE THINK THIS IS WORKING OUT RATHER WELL. WE HAVE SEEN AN 81% INCREASE IN COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER EVENTS NATIONALLY SINCE AUGUST. WE EXPECT TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN 2,000+ EVENTS BY THE END OF 2015. JUST IN THE MONTH OF THIS NOVEMBER WE EXPECT TO SUPPORT NEARLY 450 EVENTS. OUR DATA INDICATES THAT WE HAVE REACHED OVER 500,000 VIETNAM VETERANS. THESE HAVE BEEN PERSONALLY THANKED AND HONORED BY OUR COMMEMORATIVE PARTNERS OR MY TEAM AND CLOSE TO 400 THOUSAND FAMILIES HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED.

AS ALL OF YOU KNOW...STATISTICS CAN BE MADE TO DO MOST ANYTHING...BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THESE NUMBERS, IF ANYTHING, ARE VERY CONSERVATIVE...IN FACT I WOULD BE COMFORTABLE DOUBLING THEM BUT I JUST DON'T HAVE THE HARD DATA. WE BELIEVE THAT OVER 2.5M AMERICANS HAVE HEARD OR READ ABOUT THE COMMEMORATION VIA NEWSPAPERS, RADIO, TELEVISION OR WORD OF MOUTH AND THIS NUMBER IS GROWING FAST AND WE ARE CONSTANTLY WORKING ON WAYS TO IMPROVE THE MESSAGING PROCESS AND WAYS TO GET THE NEWS TO ALL AMERICANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE WORK DONE HERE IN ARIZONA HAS BEEN SUPERB.

WE HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWING VETERANS AND WE CURRENTLY HAVE COMPLETED OVER 200 INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEWS. JOE GALLOWAY AND MARK FRANKLIN'S TEAM HAVE DONE A GREAT JOB CAPTURING LIFE EXPERIENCES AND WE WILL PROVIDE THESE TO THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS FOR FINAL SAFE KEEPING. SINCE UNVEILING OUR VIETNAM VETERAN LAPEL PIN DURING OUR 8 JULY CONGRESSIONAL EVENT WE EXPECT TO HAVE DISTRIBUTED OVER 100K PINS BY DEC 2015.....WE HAVE SEVERAL CONTRACTS WORKING TO BUILD THE PINS AND AS FAST AS THEY COME IN THEY ARE GOING OUT. YOU AND OTHER VIETNAM VETERANS HAVE INFLUENCED THIS CHANGE DUE TO YOUR EFFORTS OF NEVER LETTING ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER AND BY LEADING THE WAY IN ATTENDING ARRIVAL EVENTS AND WELCOMING OUR NEWEST VETERANS BACK FROM MILITARY OPERATIONS IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN.

WHILE OUR NUMBERS ARE GOOD AND WE ARE IN FACT REACHING VETERANS EVERY DAY....WE HAVE A LARGE TASK, THAT OF REACHING THE 7.2M LIVING VIETNAM VETERANS AND THE 9 MILLION FAMILIES OUT THERE. OUR MISSION IS FURTHER COMPLICATED BY THE FACT THAT, ACCORDING TO THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION, WE'RE LOSING OVER 300 VIETNAM VETERANS EVERY DAY ... WE DON'T WANT ONE TO PASS AWAY WITHOUT BEING RECOGNIZED AND THANKED.

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# THE “AZ-LZ”

MAKES YOU FEEL GOOD – DOESN'T IT?

I HAVE SAID OVER AND OVER AGAIN, IT TAKES LITTLE TO DO SOMETHING NICE FOR SOMEONE YOU KNOW, BUT IT MEANS MORE TO SOMEONE YOU **DON'T KNOW**. SOMETIMES, WE ARE A SELFISH PEOPLE AND CHOOSE NOT TO DO SOMETHING NICE FOR SOMEONE ELSE, AND ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT HAVE **NOTHING**. WELL, HERE IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO DO SOMETHING UNSELFISH FOR **ANYONE** YOU MAY NOT KNOW AT ALL.

YOU KNOW, I KNOW THAT A LOT OF US READING THIS ARTICLE HAVE MORE MONEY THAN WE KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH AND SHARING A LITTLE OF IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE WOULD DO YOUR HEART GOOD. AS YOU READ THIS, IT IS A NEW YEAR IN AMERICA AND FOR ALL YOU KNOW **BIRTHDAYS** ARE ALSO AROUND THE CORNER FOR SOMEONE YOU MAY NOT KNOW. IT WILL BE WORTH IT TO BE SURE. HOW MANY OF YOU **LIKE** TO BE REMEMBERED ON **YOUR BIRTHDAY**? I HOPE EVERYONE SAID “ME”?

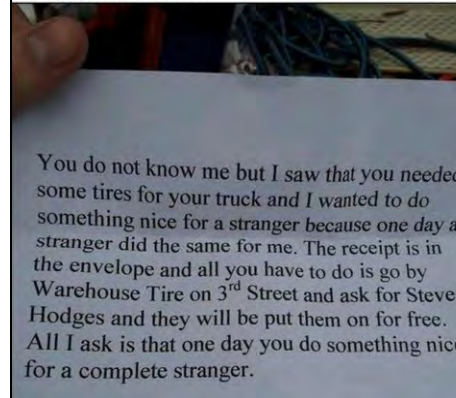
This barber, who offers haircuts for the price of a single hug.



The man who gave the shoes off his feet to this homeless girl.



The person who decided to put new tires on a stranger's car just because he needed it.



This dry cleaning place that helps the unemployed for free.



The paramedics who took an elderly man to the hospital and then came back and finished shoveling his driveway for him.



This man who missed his train helping this older lady with her bags.



# THE “AZ-LZ”

## SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH

ON BEHALF OF **SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH (SDIT)**, *AMERICA'S GOLD STAR CHILDREN FROM THE VIETNAM WAR*, I WANT TO LET YOU KNOW OF AN EXCITING SERIES OF EVENTS COMING UP IN WASHINGTON, DC, DURING WEEKEND IN 2015, WHICH WOULD BENEFIT FROM THE SUPPORT OF THE VVA STATE COUNCILS AND CHAPTERS.

**SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH (SDIT)** REPRESENTS THE CHILDREN OF THE 58,300 AMERICANS LOST IN SOUTHEAST ASIA DURING THE VIETNAM WAR. TODAY, NEARLY 50 YEARS LATER, SOME OF OUR FATHERS ARE STILL UNACCOUNTED FOR. WHEN **SDIT** WAS ESTABLISHED 25 YEARS AGO, IT WAS THE ONLY RESOURCE FOR THESE GOLD STAR CHILDREN OF THE VIETNAM WAR. OUR MISSION IS TO LOCATE, UNITE AND PROVIDE SUPPORT TO THE GOLD STAR SONS AND DAUGHTERS, AND OTHER FAMILY MEMBERS, OF THOSE WHO DIED OR REMAIN MISSING AS A RESULT OF THE VIETNAM WAR.

TODAY, **SDIT** IS PROMOTING HEALING VIA NETWORKING AND SPECIAL PROJECTS, AND BY REGULARLY ADDRESSING OTHER GOLD STAR FAMILY ORGANIZATIONS, HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGE CLASSES, TO PROVIDE EDUCATION ON THE HISTORICAL AND EMOTIONAL LEGACY OF WAR. DURING THIS QUARTER-CENTURY, A PROFOUND BOND OF FRIENDSHIP HAS GROWN BETWEEN THESE GOLD STAR ‘SONS AND DAUGHTERS’ AND THE VETERANS COMMUNITY. TO MARK **SDIT'S** 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY, WE ARE PLANNING A SERIES OF EVENTS DURING FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND 2015, CULMINATING WITH A BANQUET DINNER DURING THE JUNE 2015 TIMEFRAME. AND A POWERFUL FATHER'S DAY TRIBUTE AT THE VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL EARLIER LAST YEAR.

**SDIT** MEMBERS FROM ACROSS THE COUNTRY WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE TO HONOR THEIR FATHERS AT THIS MOVING SERIES OF EVENTS. SOME WILL BE SEEING THEIR FATHER'S NAMES ON THE WALL FOR THE FIRST TIME, AND ALL WILL BE CONNECTING WITH OTHERS WHO SHARE THEIR LOSS. WE ARE REACHING OUT TO MANY SENIOR MILITARY VIP'S FOR PARTICIPATION IN THESE EVENTS, AND ALSO TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL MEDIA FOR COVERAGE. MANY VIETNAM VETERANS WILL MAKE A SPECIAL TRIP TO THESE EVENTS TO GET REACQUAINTED WITH THE GROWN CHILDREN, AND GRANDCHILDREN THEY LOST IN SE ASIA.

OUR FATHERS CAME FROM EVERY STATE IN THE UNION, AND REPRESENTED EVERY ETHNIC AND SOCIAL BACKGROUND IN AMERICA. WHETHER OUR FATHERS WERE OFFICERS OR ENLISTED, AND REGARDLESS OF WHICH MILITARY UNIFORM THEY WORE OR WHEN THEY WERE TAKEN FROM US, EACH GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND WE ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT TO HELP US HONOR THEM, AND COME TOGETHER TO SHARE OUR STORIES DURING FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND 2015 – THE 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF SONS AND DAUGHTERS IN TOUCH.

## THE “LIFE OF A CHAPTER” IN PRINT

MOST OF US HAVE BEEN IN VVA FOR NEARLY A DECADE OR EVEN LONGER. THE THING IS, HOW MUCH DO WE KNOW OF THE HISTORY OF THAT CHAPTER? FOR EXAMPLE, THERE IS A CHARTER, ORIGINAL PHOTOS OF THE FIRST OFFICERS, ETC. THEN THE IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS SUCH AS NEWSLETTERS, AGENDAS, MINUTES, PICTURES FROM THIS AND THAT, EVEN VIDEOS AND ON AND ON. WELL, NEED I SAY, IT IS PROBABLY LOST OR IN SOMEONE'S GARAGE. WELL, VVA IS CHANGING THAT WITH A BOOK TO CONSIST OF ABOUT 100-150 PAGES THAT WILL TELL AND SHOW THE HISTORY OF THE CHAPTER FROM DAY ONE. DO WE HAVE EVERYTHING? “No”, BUT WE HAVE A LOT OF ITEMS AND IT WILL ALL BE BOUND IN A BOOK WITH PHOTOS, VIDEO AND DOCUMENTS FOR A NICE REMEMBRANCE.

The Life of VVA Chapter  
835 from 2000-2015  
Yuma, Arizona



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## ACTS 2:38 – CONCEAL CARRY AND AN INTRUDER

YOU GOTTA LOVE THIS COMPASSIONATE CHRISTIAN SENIOR CITIZEN

A WOMAN HAD JUST RETURNED TO HER HOME FROM AN EVENING OF CHURCH SERVICES, WHEN SHE WAS STARTLED BY AN INTRUDER.

SHE CAUGHT THE MAN IN THE ACT OF ROBBING HER HOME OF ITS VALUABLES AND YELLED: 'STOP! ACTS 2:38

(REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED, IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, SO THAT YOUR SINS MAY BE FORGIVEN.)

THE BURGLAR STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS. THE WOMAN CALMLY CALLED THE POLICE AND EXPLAINED WHAT SHE HAD DONE.

AS THE OFFICER CUFFED THE MAN TO TAKE HIM IN, HE ASKED THE BURGLAR:

'WHY DID YOU JUST STAND THERE? ALL THE OLD LADY DID WAS YELL A SCRIPTURE TO YOU.'

'SCRIPTURE?!' REPLIED THE BURGLAR. 'SHE SAID SHE HAD AN AX AND TWO 38's!' KNOWING SCRIPTURE CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE - IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE!

ACT 2:38 SAYS "THEN PETER SAID UNTO THEM, REPENT, AND BE BAPTIZED EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST FOR THE REMISSION OF SINS, AND YE SHALL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST."



## HUMOROUS, BUT NOT TRUE

 Thinks he has authority. He doesn't. Everybody knows it.	 Think he's better than him. But nobody knows the difference.	 He's in charge. And makes it up as he goes along. We all know it, but do it anyways.
 Thinks he's this guy. Hides in an office all day. Nobody misses him.	 First real rank achieved by an officer. He's termed a 'good' officer if he still does PT with the men.	 Stopped doing PT. Nobody questions it.
 Gives a lot of speeches. Thinks troops actually listen and are inspired. Neither is true.	 If you noticed more than one star... you've been staring too long. Your CSM has already verbally assaulted you for something you didn't do because you were there	

*Why The Services Can't Work Together*

One reason the Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language.

For example, if you told Navy personnel to "secure a building," they would turn off the lights and lock the doors. Army personnel would occupy the building so no one could enter. Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat. The Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

WE ALL JOKE ABOUT MILITARY OFFICERS FROM TIME TO TIME, ESPECIALLY WHEN "WE" WERE ON ACTIVE DUTY. WE MAY HAVE THOUGHT THEY DID NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WERE DOING. BUT, UNTIL WE HAVE WALKED A MILE IN THEIR SHOES AND HAD THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT THEY HAVE HAD, WE SHOULD KEEP OUR MOUTHS SHUT AND REMEMBER "SOMEONE HAS TO TAKE ORDERS" AND THAT IS US, THE PRIVATES, SPECIALISTS, SERGEANTS AND EVEN THE SERGEANT MAJOR'S WHO ARE SOMETIMES THE SMARTEST ONES AROUND. NOT ONE EVER "BATS A 1000", SO WE SHOULD ALWAYS BE CAREFUL TO "BE CRITICAL" ABOUT AN OFFICER THAT SOMEDAY LEAD US INTO BATTLE. ALWAYS RESPECT THEM.

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## A LOST MONGOLIAN TRIBE

HUMAN CIVILIZATION HAS COME A LONG WAY SINCE THE EARLY DAYS OF OUR SPECIES. RISING OUT OF CAVES AND UNDEVELOPED LANDS, HUMANS HAVE BUILT CITIES AND HOMES THAT THE EARLY GENERATIONS COULD NEVER HAVE IMAGINED. THE WIDESPREAD GROWTH OF GLOBALIZATION HAS MADE IT HARDER FOR HISTORIC CULTURES TO BE PRESERVED. THIS IS WHAT MAKES THE DUKHA PEOPLE OF MONGOLIA SO FASCINATING AND AMAZING. THE NOMADIC TRIBE HAS LIVED IN THE SAME REGION FOR CENTURIES. DURING THAT TIME, THEY DEVELOPED A SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE WILD ANIMALS.

PHOTOGRAPHER HAMID SARDAR-AFKHAMI RECENTLY VISITED THIS LOST TRIBE AND DOCUMENTED WHAT HE SAW THROUGH A SERIES OF THESE STUNNING PHOTOS. THROUGH THEIR UNIQUE CULTURE, THE DUKHA PEOPLE HAVE DEVELOPED A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH NEIGHBORING REINDEER. THEY USE THEM AS MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION OVER THE TREACHEROUS TERRAIN THEY CALL HOME.

THESE PEOPLE OF COURSE HAVE LITTLE TO NO MODERNISM AS WE DO AND FRANKLY CHOOSE NOT TO. THEY LIVE A SIMPLE LIFE, SUPPORTING LIFE AS THEY HAVE BEEN TO IT. THEY ARE HIGHLY RESPECTED AND REVERED IN THEIR WALK.



Children are taught to ride and train their Reindeer at a very early age.



Riding a reindeer is no easy task for average American, but them,



The Reindeer are very gentle and will protect the little ones at all costs.



This girl is getting ready to bathe a small baby reindeer



Only 44 Dukha families left in Mongolia they survive from the tourist industry.



They also train wolves to help them catch animals too fast for them



They also train eagles and are greatly respected for doing so.



They appear to have a spiritual connection with all animals

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## FACTS ABOUT SYMBOLS – ?!#&@

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED ABOUT THE SYMBOLS WE SEE AND USE ON A DAILY BASIS? FOR EXAMPLE, HOW ABOUT THE EXCLAMATION POINT OR THE AT-SIGN OR THE AMPERSAND? WHERE WAS THE ORIGIN OF THESE SYMBOLS AND WHY?

HOW ABOUT THE **POUND SIGN** (#)? WELL, IT STARTED WITH AT&T TO BE PLACED ON THE DESK PHONE, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE, RIGHT? IT'S REAL NAME IS A OCTOTHORPE. THE "OCTO" MEANS EIGHT PARTS WHILE THE "THORPE" PART MEANS A VILLAGE REFERENCING THE HEX'S OF THE EIGHT FIELDS AROUND THE CENTRAL PORTION OF THE SQUARE.

HOW ABOUT THE **EXCLAMATION POINT** (!). IN THE 1970'S, IT MADE ITS WAY TO KEY ABOVE THE NUMBER 1 ON THE KEY-

PAD ON ANY "KEYBOARD. IT'S BEEN AROUND SINCE THE 15TH CENTURY. IT'S ORIGINALS NAME USED TO BE FRANKEN-SYMBOL.

AH YES, THE **AT-SIGN**, IT TOO HAS BEEN AROUND A LONG TIME, BUT MANY COUNTRIES HAVE PLACED "THEIR SPIN" AS TO WHAT IT REALLY LOOKS LIKE. READ ON AND SEE IF YOU THINK THEY ARE RIGHT OR SHOULD BE SENT THE "@: WITH A ! # WITH IT.

IN HOLLAND, THEY REFER TO IT AS A MONKEY'S TAIL WHILE IN ISRAEL SAY IT IS A STRUDEL (APPLE), BUT THEY ARE ONLY REFERRING TO IT AS A "SHORTHAND" AND THIS BEING SINCE THE 1600'S. BUT, THE REST OF THE WORLD OR SOME OF THEM INSIST IT IS LITTLE DOG ACCORDING TO THE RUSSIANS AND ITALY BELIEVES IT IS A SMALL SNAIL AND THIS LITTLE UNKNOWN COUNTRY OF BOSNIA SAY IT LOOKS AS THOUGH IT IS A "CRAZY-A".

AND THEN THERE IS THE **TILDE**. (~). THOUGH THE TERM "TILDE" HAS EVOLVED AND NOW HAS A DIFFERENT MEANING IN LINGUISTICS.

THE **ASTERISK** (\*) IS FORMED FROM THE WORD *ASTERI* OR "LITTLE STAR" IS A TYPOGRAPHICAL SYMBOL. IT IS SO CALLED BECAUSE IT RESEMBLES A CONVENTIONAL IMAGE OF A STAR. THE ASTERISK IS DERIVED FROM THE NEED OF THE PRINTERS OF FAMILY TREES IN FEUDAL TIMES FOR A SYMBOL TO INDICATE DATE OF BIRTH. THE ORIGINAL SHAPE WAS SEVEN-ARMED EACH ARM LIKE A TEARDROP,

THE **AMPERSAND** (&) CAN BE TRACED BACK TO THE 1ST CENTURY AND THE OLD ROMAN CURSIVE, IN WHICH THE LETTERS E&T OCCASIONALLY WERE WRITTEN TOGETHER TO FORM A LIGATURE FROM THE ROMAN TIMES, MODERN ITALIC TYPE AMPERSAND IS A KIND OF "ET" LIGATURE THAT GOES BACK TO THE CURSIVE SCRIPTS DEVELOPED DURING THE RENAISSANCE. OF PRINTING IN EUROPE IN 1455.

## DOING IT GRACEFULLY

FOR THOSE OF YOU YOU START BEGIN TO HAPPEN. BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE READING THIS SWINGING INTO TO. I READ AND SEEN THIS MANY TIMES THAT SMALL LITTLE YOUR VERY MID-TO- THE PERSON IN THEIR MUCH-LATER YEARS PORTION OF THE LATE SEVENTIES AGE GRACEFULLY BECAUSE OF ONE THING "AZ-LZ" AND THIS AND THEN THAT YOU CAN CONTROL AND THAT IS PARTICULAR HOPEFULLY IN ATTITUDE. HAVING POSITIVE WORDS COME ARTICLE, HOW ARE YOUR EARLY 80'S. OUT OF YOUR MOUTH AND A GREAT FEELING YOU DOING? I TRULY THAT IS ALWAYS A ABOUT YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AND HOPE YOUR HEALTH BIG DEAL FOR US AS THOSE YOU LIKELY WOULD NOT KNOW OR IS GOOD AND THERE WE REACH OUR NEVER KNOW, THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO ARE "PARTS" NOT "SENIOR YEARS" AS IS KEEP THAT POSITIVE-NESS COMING ALL OF FALLING APART AS A LOT OF THINGS THE TIME. IS HARD? YES!, IMPOSSIBLE

**DON'T ASK ME WHAT I'LL BE DOING IN 5 YEARS. I DON'T HAVE "2020 VISION".**

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## IMPOSSIBLE THINGS

1. YOU CAN'T COUNT YOUR HAIR.

## THINGS THAT SAY IT ALL

LORD'S PRAYER: ..... 66 WORDS.

TEN COMMANDMENTS: ..... 179 WORDS.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS: .....286 WORDS.

US DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE : ..... 1,300 WORDS.

US CONSTITUTION WITH ALL 27 AMENDMENTS: .....7,818 WORDS.

## TEN THINGS I KNOW ABOUT YOU

1) YOU ARE READING THIS.

2) YOU ARE HUMAN.

3) YOU CAN'T SAY THE LETTER "P" WITHOUT SEPARATING YOUR LIPS.

4) YOU JUST ATTEMPTED TO DO IT.

6) YOU ARE LAUGHING AT YOURSELF.

7) YOU HAVE A SMILE ON YOUR FACE AND YOU SKIPPED No. 5.

8) YOU JUST CHECKED TO SEE IF THERE IS A No. 5.

9) YOU LAUGH AT THIS BECAUSE YOU ARE A LOVING PERSON & EVERYONE DOES IT TOO.

10) YOU ARE PROBABLY GOING TO SEND THIS TO SEE WHO ELSE FALLS FOR IT.

"DO NOT REGRET GROWING OLDER. IT IS A PRIVILEGE DENIED TO MANY.

## THE REASON FOR LONG HAIR

A TEENAGE BOY HAD JUST PASSED HIS DRIVING TEST AND INQUIRED OF HIS FATHER AS TO WHEN THEY COULD DISCUSS HIS USE OF THE CAR. HIS FATHER SAID HE'D MAKE A DEAL WITH HIS SON, "YOU BRING YOUR GRADES UP FROM A C TO A B AVERAGE, STUDY YOUR BIBLE A LITTLE AND GET YOUR HAIR CUT. THEN WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE CAR." THE BOY THOUGHT ABOUT THAT FOR A MOMENT, DECIDED HE'D SETTLE FOR THE OFFER AND THEY AGREED ON IT. AFTER ABOUT SIX WEEKS HIS FATHER SAID, "SON, YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR GRADES UP AND I'VE OBSERVED THAT YOU HAVE BEEN STUDYING YOUR BIBLE, BUT I'M DISAPPOINTED YOU HAVEN'T HAD YOUR HAIR CUT." THE BOY SAID, "YOU KNOW, DAD, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT, AND I'VE NOTICED IN MY STUDIES OF THE BIBLE THAT SAMSON HAD LONG HAIR, JOHN THE BAPTIST HAD LONG HAIR, MOSES HAD LONG HAIR, AND THERE'S EVEN STRONG EVIDENCE THAT JESUS HAD LONG HAIR." (LOVE THE DAD'S REPLY!) "DID YOU ALSO NOTICE THAT THEY ALL WALKED EVERYWHERE THEY WENT?"

## THE WONDER OF IT ALL

HAVE YOU EVER "WONDERED" ABOUT A **WONDER**? SOMETHING YOU HAVE NEVER SEEN BEFORE, SOMETHING SO BEAUTIFUL OR OUTSTANDING AT LEAST IN YOUR EYES. OH YES, THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM AROUND. IT IS A FEELING OF TRUE AMAZEMENT AND ADMIRATION, CAUSED BY SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL, REMARKABLE, OR UNFAMILIAR. MAYBE A FEELING OF REVERENTIAL RESPECT MIXED WITH FEAR OR WONDER. OR A FEELING OF GREAT SURPRISE OR WONDER. POSSIBLY AN EVENT OR SITUATION THAT PROVES TO BE VERY UNEXPECTEDLY ENLIGHTENING.

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## THE ORIGIN OF NAMES

EVER WONDER WHERE YOUR LAST NAME CAME FROM? HOW ABOUT THOSE LAST NAMES CALLED: SOUTHERN OR CREGO OR MITCHELL OR MARKS OR CULIN OR WESP OR A HOST OF OTHERS THAT OBVIOUSLY MEAN SOMETHING, BUT WHAT?

WHEN "NAMES" WERE FIRST USED, FOR EXAMPLE THE FIRST NAME OF ROBERT. WELL, THERE WAS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A 2ND ROBERT AS WELL, SO HOW DID THEY TELL THEM APART? IF ROBERT#1 WAS A TAX COLLECTOR, THEN HIS "LAST NAME" MIGHT HAVE BEEN CALLED "ROBERT UNDERWOOD". HOW ABOUT ROBERT ATTEHILL (AT THE HILL) AND SO FORTH. THESE APPLIED TO NOBILITY AND THE COMMON MAN AS WELL, SUCH AS CHARLES THE FAT OR LOUIS THE BALD.

IF A FATHER NAMED JOHN WAS TALLER THAN HIS SON, THEN HE WOULD BE JOHN THE TALL AND HIS SON JOHN THE SMALL. OFTEN TIMES, A SKILL OR OCCUPATION WILL BE INCORPORATED THE NAME WHICH USUALLY INCLUDED THE FATHER'S CRAFT SUCH AS BUTCHER, BAKER OR CANDLESTICK MAKER. HELMUT SCHMIDT'S FORE-RUNNER NAME WAS SCHMIDT OR MOLDERS OF IRON. MANY COMMON NAMES WERE DERIVED FROM ANIMALS WITH HUMAN CHARACTERISTICS SUCH AS "FOX" (CUNNING AS A FOX) OR "LYON" (BRAVE AS A LION). THE FIRST GROUP OF EUROPEANS TO ADOPT HEREDITARY SURNAMES WERE THE VENETIANS. THIS HAPPENED IN THE 11TH CENTURY. IN FRANCE SURNAMES WERE TAKEN IN THE 13TH CENTURY WHILE ENGLAND BEGAN THIS TRADITION IN THE FOURTEENTH CENTURY AND GERMANY IN THE FIFTEENTH TIMEFRAME. IN RECENT TIMES, THE PRACTICE FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES AND IN THE MORE REMOTE REGIONS OF COUNTRIES CITED.

- HILL - A PERSON WHO LIVED NEAR A **HILL**
- KIRK - A PERSON WHO LIVED NEAR THE **CHURCH** (KIRK)
- MUIR - A PERSON WHO LIVED NEAR THE **MOOR**
- STONE - A PERSON WHO LIVED NEAR A **LARGE STONE**
- FISCHER - A **FISHERMAN**
- SMITH - A PERSON WHO HAMMERS **METAL**
- TAYLOR - A TAILOR; A **CLOTHING MAKER**
- WAGNER - A PERSON WHO MADE **WAGONS**
- BARRET - A DECEITFUL **PERSON**
- PEELE - A **BALD-HEADED PERSON**
- POWER - A PERSON WHO IS **POOR**
- REID - A **RED-HAIRED PERSON**
- O'BRIAN - PREFIX 'O' - **SON OF BRIAN**
- MCDONALD - PREFIX 'Mc' - **SON OF DONALD**

SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES, AT FIRST, USED NON-INHERITABLE PATRYMIC NAMES. EACH SUCCEEDING GENERATION WOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT LAST NAME BASED ON HIS (OR HER) FATHER'S FIRST NAME. BECAUSE OF THIS TRADITION, SCANDINAVIAN COUNTRIES BECAME STANDARDIZED SURNAMES MUCH LATER THAN OTHER EUROPEAN NAMES. IT WAS ONLY ABOUT 100 YEARS AGO THAT PEOPLE OF SCANDINAVIA BEGAN TO INHERIT THEIR FATHER'S SURNAME. POLISH COUNTRIES HAVE GENDER SPECIFIC SURNAME ENDINGS. IF A WIFE TAKES A HUSBAND'S SURNAME WHICH ENDS IN -SKI, HER NEW SURNAME WILL END IN -SKA.



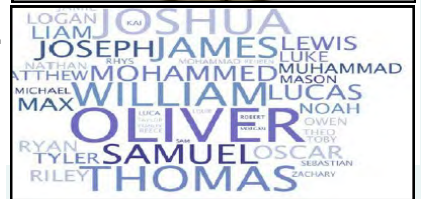
## Merle

Gender: Feminine & Masculine

Usage: English

Pronounced: [MURL]

Variant of **Merrill** or **Muriel**. The spelling has been influenced by the word **merle** meaning "blackbird" (via French, from Latin **merula**).



# THE “AZ-LZ”

## RUSSIA’S “COLD WAR RELIC”



**DURING THE YEAR 1987, RUSSIA WAS PUSHING THEIR BOUNDARIES ON TECHNOLOGY AND MILITARY ADVANCEMENT. WHAT THEY WERE BUILDING AND TESTING DURING THAT TIME ACTUALLY PROMPTED THE UNITED STATES, AREA 51 IN FACT, TO BUILD UNMANNED DRONES TO SPY ON THEIR ACTIONS. THIS PLAN OF ACTION WAS BROUGHT ABOUT WHEN IMAGES WERE TAKEN OF A GIANT VESSEL FLYING ACROSS THE CASPIAN SEA AT UNHEARD OF SPEEDS.**

**THE US MILITARY WASN'T SURE WHAT THEY WERE LOOKING AT. A VESSEL THAT COULD REACH SPEEDS ACHIEVED ONLY BY AIRPLANES BUT STAYED LOW ENOUGH THAT IT WOULD HIDE UNDER RADAR MUCH LIKE A STEALTHY BOAT. THE SPYING REVEALED WHAT THE RUSSIAN'S DUBBED THE LUN CLASS EKRANOPLAN. NOT QUITE AN AIRPLANE AND NOT QUITE A SHIP, THE EKRANOPLAN WAS SOMETHING MUCH MORE AND IT TERRIFIED NAVIES AROUND THE WORLD. IT WEIGHS IN AT A WHOPPING 380 TONS AND HAS A WINGSPAN OF 148 FEET. IT CONTAINED 6 ANTI-SHIP MISSILES THAT COULD BE LAUNCHED FROM FLIGHT OR FROM A STAND STILL. THE LUN CLASS EKRANOPLAN COULD ONLY REACH AN ALTITUDE OF ABOUT 15 FEET ABOVE THE SEA SO IT WAS MORE OF A HARRIER STYLED SHIP THAN A PLANE. THIS INCREDIBLE PIECE OF MACHINERY IS IN A CLASS ALL ITS OWN. THE LUN CLASS EKRANOPLAN WAS BUILT FROM SCRAP PAST PROJECTS IN 1987 AND WAS COMMISSIONED FOR USE UNTIL SOMETIME IN THE LATE 90'S. IT IS 240 FEET LONG AND BOASTS 6 MOSKIT ANTI-SHIP MISSILES CAPABLE OF REACHING A TOP SPEED OF MACH 3. COMBINED WITH THE TOP SPEED OF THE EKRANOPLAN, THESE MISSILES WOULD BE UNDETECTED UNTIL ABOUT 30 SECONDS BEFORE THEY HIT. IN COMPARISON, THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE ANTI-SHIP MISSILE THE U.S. HAD AT THAT TIME GAVE ENEMIES A TWO MINUTE WARNING. THE SHAPE OF THE HULL UNDERNEATH THE EKRANOPLAN ALLOWED IT TO FLY JUST ABOVE THE OCEAN'S SURFACE. THE HULL IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF AN OCEAN SPEED BOAT CAPABLE OF CUTTING THROUGH LARGE WAVES AT A VERY HIGH SPEED. THE EKRANOPLAN WAS CAPABLE OF SPEEDS UPWARDS OF 300 MPH AT AN ALTITUDE OF ROUGHLY 4-15 FEET ABOVE THE WATER BELOW. BECAUSE OF THE WING SHAPE, A CUSHION OF AIR IS CREATED BETWEEN THE SHIP AND OCEAN SURFACE. THIS ALLOWS FOR A HIGH SPEED FOR SUCH A LARGE VESSEL.**





# THE “AZ-LZ”

WHY CAN'T WE BE THIS WAY?



## D-DAY – THEN AND NOW

This is one of the coolest pictures I have ever seen. The men on the right are about to paratroop into France on D-Day. The men on the left are the same men today. More remarkable? It's the same plane. God bless our heroes.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## A WEE BIT OF HISTORY ON WORDS

DURING WWII, U.S. AIRPLANES WERE ARMED WITH BELTS OF BULLETS WHICH THEY WOULD SHOOT DURING DOGFIGHTS AND ON STRAFING RUNS. THESE BELTS WERE FOLDED INTO THE WING COMPARTMENTS THAT FED THEIR MACHINE GUNS. THESE BELTS MEASURE 27 FEET AND CONTAINED HUNDREDS OF ROUNDS OF BULLETS. OFTEN TIMES, THE PILOTS WOULD RETURN FROM THEIR MISSIONS HAVING EXPENDED ALL OF THEIR BULLETS ON VARIOUS TARGETS. THEY WOULD SAY, I GAVE THEM THE WHOLE NINE YARDS, MEANING THEY USED UP ALL OF THEIR AMMUNITION.

DID YOU KNOW THE SAYING "E" WAS IN REFERENCE TO THE CREEK INDIANS AND GOD WILLING AND THE CREEK DON'T RISE NOT A BODY OF WATER? IT WAS WRITTEN BY BENJAMIN HAWKINS IN THE LATE 18TH CENTURY. HE WAS A POLITICIAN AND INDIAN DIPLOMAT. WHILE IN THE SOUTH, HAWKINS WAS REQUESTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE U.S. TO RETURN TO WASHINGTON . IN HIS RESPONSE, HE WAS SAID TO WRITE, "GOD WILLING AND THE CREEK DON'T RISE." BECAUSE HE CAPITALIZED THE WORD "CREEK" HE WAS REFERRING TO THE CREEK INDIAN TRIBE AND NOT A BODY OF WATER.

IN GEORGE WASHINGTON'S DAYS, THERE WERE NO CAMERAS. ONE'S IMAGE WAS EITHER SCULPTED OR PAINTED. SOME PAINTINGS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON SHOWED HIM STANDING BEHIND A DESK WITH ONE ARM BEHIND HIS BACK WHILE OTHERS SHOWED BOTH LEGS AND BOTH ARMS. PRICES CHARGED BY PAINTERS WERE NOT BASED ON HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE TO BE PAINTED, BUT BY HOW MANY LIMBS WERE TO BE PAINTED. ARMS AND LEGS ARE 'LIMBS,' THEREFORE PAINTING THEM WOULD COST THE BUYER MORE. HENCE THE EXPRESSION, 'OKAY, BUT IT'LL COST YOU AN ARM AND A LEG.' (ARTISTS KNOW HANDS AND ARMS ARE MORE DIFFICULT TO PAINT.)

AS INCREDIBLE AS IT SOUNDS, MEN AND WOMEN TOOK BATHS ONLY TWICE A YEAR (MAY AND OCTOBER). WOMEN KEPT THEIR HAIR COVERED, WHILE MEN SHAVED THEIR HEADS (BECAUSE OF LICE AND BUGS) AND WORE WIGS. WEALTHY MEN COULD AFFORD GOOD WIGS MADE FROM WOOL. THEY COULDN'T WASH THE WIGS, SO TO CLEAN THEM THEY WOULD CARVE OUT A LOAF OF BREAD, PUT THE WIG IN THE SHELL, AND BAKE IT FOR 30 MINUTES. THE HEAT WOULD MAKE THE WIG BIG AND FLUFFY, HENCE THE TERM 'BIG WIG'. TODAY WE OFTEN USE THE TERM 'HERE COMES THE BIG WIG' BECAUSE SOMEONE APPEARS TO BE OR IS POWERFUL AND WEALTHY.

IN THE LATE 1700'S, MANY HOUSES CONSISTED OF A LARGE ROOM WITH ONLY ONE CHAIR. COMMONLY, A LONG WIDE BOARD FOLDED DOWN FROM THE WALL, AND WAS USED FOR DINING. THE 'HEAD OF THE HOUSEHOLD' ALWAYS SAT IN THE CHAIR WHILE EVERYONE ELSE ATE SITTING ON THE FLOOR. OCCASIONALLY A GUEST, WHO WAS USUALLY A MAN, WOULD BE INVITED TO SIT IN THIS CHAIR DURING A MEAL. TO SIT IN THE CHAIR MEANT YOU WERE IMPORTANT AND IN CHARGE. THEY CALLED THE ONE SITTING IN THE CHAIR THE 'CHAIR MAN.' TODAY IN BUSINESS, WE USE THE EXPRESSION OR TITLE 'CHAIRMAN' OR 'CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD'.

PERSONAL HYGIENE LEFT MUCH ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT. AS A RESULT, MANY WOMEN AND MEN HAD DEVELOPED ACNE SCARS BY ADULTHOOD. THE WOMEN WOULD SPREAD BEE'S WAX OVER THEIR FACIAL SKIN TO SMOOTH OUT THEIR COMPLEXIONS. WHEN THEY WERE SPEAKING TO EACH OTHER, IF A WOMAN BEGAN TO STARE AT ANOTHER WOMAN'S FACE SHE WAS TOLD, 'MIND YOUR OWN BEE'S WAX.' SHOULD THE WOMAN SMILE, THE WAX WOULD CRACK, HENCE THE TERM 'CRACK A SMILE'. IN ADDITION, WHEN THEY SAT TOO CLOSE TO THE FIRE, THE WAX WOULD MELT. THEREFORE, THE EXPRESSION 'LOSING FACE.'

# THE “AZ-LZ”

## THE MICRO-NATIONS OF THE WORLD

EVERY NOW AND THEN YOU COME UP WITH A “NEW SOMETHING OR OTHER” AND THIS IS ONE OF THOSE TIMES. WELL, WE HAVE A NEW COUNTRY, IN FACT THREE NEW COUNTRIES, BUT WE’LL ONLY DISCUSS ONE OF THEM TODAY. IT IS CALLED VIKESLAND AND LOCATED IN THE KINGDOM OF VIKESLAND IS A MICRO-NATION LOCATED IN MANITOBA, CANADA. IT WAS FOUNDED IN 2005 BY CHRISTOPHER BARRY JOSEPH BEYETTE (WHO REFERS TO HIMSELF AS KING CHRISTOPHER I), A TELEVISION NEWS CAMERAMAN EMPLOYED BY THE CHUM NETWORK. VIKESLAND’S CREATION AND SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENT WAS THE INTENDED FOCUS OF A DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT MICRO-NATIONS PLANNED TO PRODUCE.



***KINGDOM OF VIKESLAND***



Kingdom of Vikesland



PERLOJA IS A VILLAGE IN VARÈNA DISTRICT, LITHUANIA. IT IS SITUATED 12 MILES TO THE WEST FROM VARÈNA ON THE BANKS OF MERKYS RIVER AND ON THE VILNIUS–DRUSKININKAI ROAD. THE VILLAGE IS KNOWN FOR THE SO-CALLED REPUBLIC OF PERLOJA, AN INDEPENDENT MICRO-NATION THAT WAS ESTABLISHED IN THE AFTERMATH OF WORLD WAR I AND EXISTED UNTIL 1923. ACCORDING TO THE 2001 CENSUS, IT HAD 774 INHABITANTS. THERE ARE 87 “MICRO-NATIONS” WORLD-WIDE.

ICARIA, ALSO SPELLED IKARIA (GREEK: Ικαρία), IS A GREEK ISLAND IN THE AEGEAN SEA, TEN NAUTICAL MILES SOUTHWEST OF SAMOS. IT DERIVED ITS NAME FROM ICARUS, THE SON OF DAEDALUS IN GREEK MYTHOLOGY, WHO FELL INTO THE SEA NEARBY. ADMINISTRATIVELY THE ISLAND FORMS A SEPARATE MUNICIPALITY WITHIN THE IKARIA REGIONAL UNIT, WHICH IS PART OF THE NORTH AEGEAN REGION. THE PRINCIPAL TOWN OF THE ISLAND AND SEAT OF THE MUNICIPALITY IS AGIOS KIRYKOS. THE HISTORICAL CAPITALS OF THE ISLAND INCLUDE OENOE AND EVDILOS.



## DES – HILTON HOTELS SUPPORTS VETERANS

THANKS TO A PARTNERSHIP WITH HILTON HOTELS, THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY (DES) OFFERS FREE HOTEL STAYS FOR EMPLOYMENT-RELATED TRAVEL TO VETERANS, SPOUSES AND TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS. “OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH HILTON HOTELS HELPS MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR SPOUSES MAKE A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION INTO THE WORKFORCE BY PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN MOVING THEIR CAREER PATH FORWARD,” SAID DES REP RAY TILKENS. “THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY PROGRAMS DES OFFERS SPECIFICALLY TO MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO HELP THEM IN A JOB SEARCH IN ORDER TO REACH CAREER GOALS.” WHILE HUNDREDS OF VETERANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY UTILIZED THE PROGRAM, THERE ARE NO LIMITS ON THE NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE PEOPLE WHO CAN ENROLL. HOTEL STAYS ARE FOR EMPLOYMENT-RELATED TRAVEL MORE THAN FIFTY MILES FROM AN INDIVIDUAL’S CURRENT RESIDENCE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS MUST MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE HILTON HHONORS MILITARY REWARDS PROGRAM, INCLUDING:

- MEETING THE DEFINITION OF A VETERAN AND IS A RESIDENT OF OR RESIDES IN ARIZONA
- REGISTERING ON THE DES FREE JOB-SEARCH WEBSITE: [WWW.AZJOBCONNECTION.GOV](http://WWW.AZJOBCONNECTION.GOV)
- ENROLLING ONLINE FOR A FREE HHONORS ACCOUNT

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE HILTON HHONORS PROGRAM AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT RAY TILKENS AT (520) 209-1038 OR [RTILKENS@AZDES.GOV](mailto:RTILKENS@AZDES.GOV)

# THE “AZ-LZ”

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

### WHO IS THE STRONGEST?

*PROVERBS 16:32 HE THAT IS SLOW TO ANGER IS BETTER THAN THE MIGHTY; AND HE THAT RULETH HIS SPIRIT THAN HE THAT TAKETH A CITY*

THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD IS FULL OF DICTATORS, DESPOTS, AND STRONG MEN WHO GOT THEIR WAY BY WIELDING THEIR POWER. PERHAPS BECAUSE OF THIS, WE HAVE GROWN UP THINKING THAT THE WAY TO HAVE POWER IS TO HAVE POWER OVER PEOPLE, THAT THE MORE WE CAN CONTROL OTHER PEOPLE, THE MORE POWER WE DEMONSTRATE. YET THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY TRUE. IN FACT, A MAN WHO CANNOT EVEN CONTROL HIMSELF CERTAINLY HAS NO BUSINESS TRYING TO CALL THE SHOTS FOR OTHER PEOPLE.

PROVERBS 16:32 SAYS, “HE THAT IS SLOW TO ANGER IS BETTER THAN THE MIGHTY; AND HE THAT RULETH HIS SPIRIT THAN HE THAT TAKETH A CITY.” WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE CONQUERED CITIES AND CIVILIZATIONS, YOU THINK ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE DOMINANT PERSONALITIES, BUT SOME OF THOSE PEOPLE COULD NOT EVEN CONTROL THEMSELVES. THE STRONGEST MAN IN THE ROOM IS THE ONE WHO CAN CONTROL HIMSELF; IT ISN’T THE PERSON WHO CAN MANIPULATE, DECEIVE, OR STRONG ARM OTHER PEOPLE INTO SEEING THINGS HIS OWN WAY. THE STRONGEST PERSON IN THE ROOM IS A PERSON WHO HAS SELF-CONTROL.

## SOMETHING ELSE TO THINK ABOUT

MOST OF US RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF WHAT WE SAY. THAT IS GOOD, BUT IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER THAT THE IMPACT OF WHAT WE SAY IS SHAPED BY WHEN WE SAY IT, NOT JUST HOW WE SAY IT. SOME WEEKS BACK, MY FAMILY AND I WERE WATCHING THE DENVER BRONCOS PRACTICE. THIS WAS TRAINING CAMP AT THE END OF AUGUST. THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE DAY WAS TOWARD THE END OF THE PRACTICE WHEN THE BRONCOS BEGAN TO RUN PLAYS. WE WERE SO CLOSE TO THE ACTION THAT YOU COULD ACTUALLY HEAR THE QUARTERBACK CALLING FOR THE FOOTBALL. THE CENTER SNAPS THE BALL TO THE QUARTERBACK BASED ON WHAT THE QUARTERBACK SAYS, AND TIMING IS VERY IMPORTANT. IF THE QUARTERBACK SAYS THE WRONG THING AT THE RIGHT TIME, THE BALL IS GOING TO BE IN PLAY WHEN IT SHOULD NOT. WHAT I SAY IS IMPORTANT, BUT WHEN I SAY IT CAN DETERMINE HOW EFFECTIVE THAT UTTERANCE MAY BE. SOMETIMES A PERSON HAS SOMETHING HE NEEDS TO SAY. PERHAPS HE NEEDS TO TALK TO HIS MATE. MAYBE HE NEED TO CLEAR THE AIR, MAKE AN APOLOGY, OR ASK A QUESTION. GOD CAN GIVE EACH OF US THE GOOD SENSE TO KNOW WHEN THE RIGHT TIME IS TO BEGIN SUCH A CONVERSATION. FOR INSTANCE, THERE ARE SOME TIMES OF THE DAY WHEN YOU KNOW THE PERSON TO WHOM YOU ARE GOING TO SPEAK IS GOING TO BE WORN OUT, TIRED, DISTRACTED, AND NOT INCLINED TO LISTEN. SOMETIMES WE MAY WANT TO SAY SOMETHING WHEN SOMEONE IS GRIEVING OR AFTER SOMEONE HAS BEEN HURT. WE NEED TO ASK GOD NOT ONLY TO GIVE US THE RIGHT WORDS TO SAY, BUT TO GIVE US THE RIGHT TIME TO SAY THEM. TIMING CAN BE EVERYTHING.

# THE "AZ-LZ"

VA AND MILITARY NEWS



**NEWS**

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## AGENT ORANGE UPDATE



### THE AGENT ORANGE ACT – BUT MANY OF US STILL DON'T QUALIFY FOR BENEFITS

FIVE DECADES AFTER THE VIETNAM WAR BEGAN— AND FOUR DECADES AFTER IT ENDED— VETERANS EXPOSED TO THE CHEMICAL BREW DUBBED AGENT ORANGE ARE STILL FIGHTING FOR COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS FOR THEMSELVES AND THEIR CHILDREN. AND IT TURNS OUT, NOT ALL VETERANS EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE ARE BEING TREATED THE SAME. THE FIGHT IS PLAYING OUT IN THE HALLS OF CONGRESS, IN COURTROOMS AND AT VETERANS MEETINGS ACROSS THE COUNTRY. AGENT ORANGE IS THE NAME GIVEN TO A MIXTURE OF TOXINS USED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR TO REMOVE LEAVES FROM TREES AND BUSHES, LEAVING THE ENEMY MORE EXPOSED. (IT GOT ITS NAME FROM THE ORANGE STRIPES ON BARRELS CONTAINING IT.) ALL TOLD, ABOUT 9 MILLION MILITARY PERSONNEL SERVED ON ACTIVE DUTY DURING THE VIETNAM ERA, BUT MOST WERE NOT STATIONED IN THE COUNTRY. OF THOSE, SOME 2.6 MILLION WERE POTENTIALLY EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE, THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ESTIMATES. THE VA BEGAN RECEIVING CLAIMS RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE IN 1977, ACCORDING TO A NOVEMBER 2014 REPORT FROM THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE. IN 1991, CONGRESS PASSED THE AGENT ORANGE ACT, WHICH SAID THAT CERTAIN DISEASES TIED TO CHEMICAL EXPOSURE WOULD BE PRESUMED TO BE RELATED TO A VET'S MILITARY SERVICE AND WOULD MAKE THE VET ELIGIBLE FOR BENEFITS. THE LIST HAS GROWN OVER TIME AND NOW INCLUDES VARIOUS CANCERS, DIABETES, PARKINSON'S DISEASE, PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY AND HEART DISEASE, AMONG OTHERS. TO GET THESE BENEFITS, THOUGH, VETERANS "MUST HAVE ACTUALLY SET FOOT ON VIETNAMESE SOIL OR SERVED ON A CRAFT IN ITS RIVERS (ALSO KNOWN AS 'BROWN WATER VETERANS')," THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE WROTE. THOSE WHO INSTEAD SPENT TIME ON DEEP-WATER NAVY SHIPS (CALLED "BLUE WATER NAVY" VETERANS) DO NOT QUALIFY UNLESS THEY CAN SHOW THAT THEY SPENT TIME ON VIETNAM LAND OR RIVERS, THE REPORT SAID. BELOW ARE VARIOUS GROUPS WHO RECEIVE AGENT ORANGE BENEFITS OR ARE SEEKING THEM. SINCE 2002, MORE THAN 650,000 VETERANS HAVE BEEN GRANTED BENEFITS BECAUSE OF THEIR AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE, THE VA ESTIMATES. (THE DEPARTMENT DID NOT KEEP DATA PRIOR TO THEN.) ACCORDING TO THE VA'S ANNUAL BENEFITS REPORT, IT SPENT NEARLY \$1.3 BILLION ON COMPENSATION FOR VIETNAM ERA VETERANS IN FISCAL YEAR 2013, THE MOST RECENT YEAR FOR WHICH DATA IS AVAILABLE. THAT IS ABOUT ONE-THIRD OF THE \$3.7 BILLION IN COMPENSATION PROVIDED THAT YEAR FOR ALL VETERANS. THAT FIGURE INCLUDES MONTHLY CASH COMPENSATION PAYMENTS, BUT NOT HEALTH CARE SERVICES. THE VA'S WEBSITE SAYS THAT: "FOR THE PURPOSES OF VA COMPENSATION BENEFITS, VETERANS WHO SERVED ANYWHERE IN VIETNAM BETWEEN JANUARY 9, 1962 AND MAY 7, 1975 ARE PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN EXPOSED TO HERBICIDES, AS SPECIFIED IN THE AGENT ORANGE ACT OF 1991. THESE VETERANS DO NOT NEED TO SHOW THAT THEY WERE EXPOSED TO AGENT ORANGE OR OTHER HERBICIDES IN ORDER TO GET DISABILITY COMPENSATION FOR DISEASES RELATED TO AGENT ORANGE EXPOSURE."

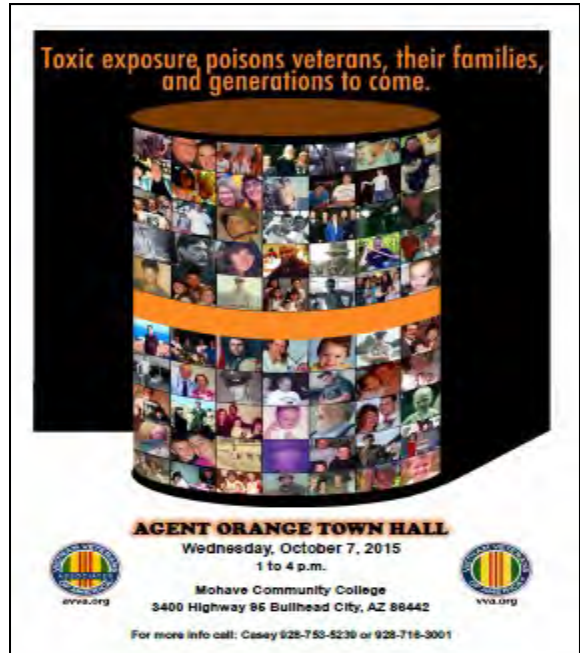
# THE "AZ-LZ"

## AGENT ORANGE AT CHAPTER 975

THE AVVA STAGED THEIR AGENT ORANGE TOWN HALL MEETING IN BULLHEAD CITY AT THE MCC CAMPUS BUILDING #500 ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7TH FROM 1:00 PM TO 4:00 PM. THE FLIER WE USED WAS TO THE RIGHT.

AS THE LONG TERM EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO AO AND OTHERS DIOXINS BECOME MORE KNOWN I SUGGEST THAT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ATTEND THIS SESSION. THEY HAD VSOS AND SERVICE OFFICERS AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS INDIVIDUAL ISSUES.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE SIGN-UPS, AV ASSISTANCE MOHAVE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALLOWED VVA TO USE THEIR EQUIPMENT AND FACILITY.



## PAT SAJAK HONORED



ON BEHALF OF VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, STEVE MACKEY, PRESIDENT OF VVA CALIFORNIA STATE COUNCIL, PRESENTED VVA LIFE MEMBER PAT SAJAK WITH THE VVA ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL. SAID MACKEY, "PAT, YOU LIFTED SPIRITS WHILE SERVING WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES VIETNAM NETWORK IN SAIGON, AND YOU CONTINUE TO DO SO THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS OF HELPING VETERANS RECEIVE THE HONOR THEY RIGHTFULLY DESERVE. VETERANS WEEK AIRS NOVEMBER 9-13, 2015 ON WHEEL OF FORTUNE. VETERANS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND ACROSS ALL BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY WILL SPIN THE WHEEL AND SOLVE PUZZLES FOR CASH AND PRIZES.

# THE “AZ-LZ”

## VVA VSO's FOR ARIZONA

### VVA-AZ ACCREDITED VSO's

1. BILL COLBERG SIERRA VISTA CHAPTER # 1093
2. BILLEE CULIN SUN CITY WEST CHAPTER 1043 (LIMITED)
3. BOB FOLEY MESA, CHAPTER 1011
4. CHUCK BYERS MESA, CHAPTER 1011
5. DANNY CURTIS TUCSON AT-LARGE VVA/BVA
6. DAVID (DAVE) CLARK MOHAVE Co. CHAPTER 975 GOLDEN VALLEY
7. DAN (GEORGE) ROSS TUCSON CHAPTER 106
8. GENE CREGO AZ. SCP, CHAPTER 975 MESA (LIMITED)
9. EDWARD UZUMECKIS AT-LARGE COTTONWOOD
10. PATRICIA GORDEN, CHAPTER 1011
11. ROBERT MORENO TUCSON AT-LARGE VVA

### THOSE TAKING VVA 30 HOUR COURSE

1. CHRIST HAMILTON TUCSON CHAPTER 106
2. PATRICK LIPPINCOTT KINGMAN MOHAVE CHAPTER 975
3. LOU ANN HUSKISSON WEST VALLEY CHAPTER 1043
4. JOHN BERGER WEST VALLEY CHAPTER 1043

### LOOKING INTO TAKING TESTS

1. PAT FARRELL KINGMAN MOHAVE Co. CHAPTER 975
2. DAVE SWAFFORD, SURPRISE, AZ, CHAPTER 975

## VA HOMELESS SITUATION

SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ROBERT A. McDONALD TODAY ANNOUNCED \$12.8 MILLION IN RENEWAL FUNDING THROUGH THE GRANT AND PER DIEM (GPD) PROGRAM TO 20 COMMUNITY AGENCIES THAT CURRENTLY PROVIDE TRANSITIONAL HOUSING WITH SUPPORTIVE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS UNDER THE TRANSITION IN PLACE (TIP) MODEL.

AS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS' (VA) PLAN TO ELIMINATE HOMELESSNESS AMONG VETERANS, VA'S GPD PROGRAM PROVIDES PER DIEM PAYMENTS TO HELP PUBLIC AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISH AND OPERATE SUPPORTIVE HOUSING FOR SPECIFIC HOMELESS VETERAN POPULATIONS, WHICH INCLUDES THE INNOVATIVE TIP APPROACH TO ASSIST HOMELESS VETERANS TRANSITION FROM HOMELESSNESS. TIP ENCOURAGES RAPID MOVEMENT FROM TRANSITIONAL HOUSING TO PERMANENT HOUSING WHICH ENABLES VETERANS TO LIVE AS INDEPENDENTLY, AS POSSIBLE, WHILE INCREASING HOUSING STABILIZATION.

TODAY'S AWARDS FOLLOWS AN ANNOUNCEMENT LAST WEEK OF \$4 MILLION IN RENEWAL FUNDING THROUGH THE GPD PROGRAM TO 21 COMMUNITY AGENCIES THAT CURRENTLY PROVIDE ENHANCED SERVICES FOR HOMELESS VETERANS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT VA'S HOMELESS PROGRAMS IS AVAILABLE AT [WWW.VA.GOV/HOMELESS](http://www.va.gov/homeless). COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS SEEKING DETAILS AND/OR MORE INFORMATION, MAY CONTACT THE NATIONAL GRANT AND PER DIEM PROGRAM OFFICE AT [HTTP://WWW.VA.GOV/HOMELESS/GPD.ASP](http://www.va.gov/homeless/gpd.asp) OR BY CALLING 1-877-332-0334.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## A MEMORIAL PARK IN GRAPHICS

NOW AND THEN YOU FIND THAT SPECIAL MEMORIAL PARK MANAGED BY A GUY YOU KNEW "A LONG TIME AGO" AND THAT WAS THE CASE WITH COL. DON LOFTIS, FORMER COMMANDER OF USAYPG, AZ.

THE MINUTE YOU SEE THIS MEMORIAL PARK, YOU ARE SIMPLY AMAZED BY THE PREPARATION, THE THOUGHT PUT INTO IT, THE PATRIOTISM, THE BEAUTY AND THE REVERENCE THAT IT INSTILLS IN YOU AS YOU SEE THE "REMINERS OF EVERYTHING" THAT MANY OF US HAVE BEEN A PART OF. ALL SERVICES ARE CRITICAL, ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN ARE IMPORTANT AND THE EFFORT THAT WAS MADE FOR THE CONFLICTS OVER TIME WAS WELL WORTH IT AS WHAT WOULD THE WORLD HAVE BEEN LIKE IF WE HAD NOT BEEN THERE FOR THE WORLD?



# THE "AZ-LZ"

CHAPTER 432 DOING A GOOD JOB



# THE “AZ-LZ”

## VETERANS DAY-2015

VETERANS DAY OF 2015 WILL BE A VERY SPECIAL ONE WITH THE FESTIVITIES, PARADES, HONORING'S, GRATITUDE, THANKFULNESS AND FUN FOR THE VETERANS AND THOSE THAT ARE WITH THEM.

IT IS MY HOPE THAT PEOPLE'S CHILDREN REMEMBER THEIR VETERAN FATHER AND/OR MOTHER IF THEY HAVE IN FACT SERVED. A CARD SHOWING THEIR GRATITUDE AND THANKS FOR KEEPING AMERICA FOR **THEM**. IF WE HAD LOST WWII, WE WOULD LIKELY BE SPEAKING GERMAN OR JAPANESE, POSSIBLY LIVING A LOT DIFFERENTLY THAN WE DO NOW, MAY NOT HAVE THE CHILDREN WE HAVE NOW AND THE LIST GOES ON AND ON. WE SHOULD **ALWAYS** BE GRATEFUL TO THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED AND LET THEM KNOW IT. THERE ARE WAY TOO MANY MEN AND WOMEN THAT NEVER RECEIVE A THANK YOU FOR WHAT THEY DID AND ONCE A YEAR FOR THAT **IS NOT OFTEN**, IS IT?

**BEING A VETERAN CAN BE HARD AND SOMETIMES EASY**, BUT, THEY **ALL** DID SOMETHING EITHER IN COUNTRY OR OUT OF COUNTRY “BUT, THEY DID SOMETHING”. A LUNCH FOR VETERAN, A GIFT CARD, A NOTE OF THANKS DOES NOT COST ANYTHING WHEN YOU COMPARE IT TO WHAT “**YOU MAY NOT HAVE HAD**”, AND DON'T SAY “THAT WOULD HAVE HAPPENED”, BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW THAT.

THIS DAY FOR A VETERAN IS ALIKE YOUR BIRTHDAY, IT COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR AND IT WILL BE A NICE REMEMBRANCE FOR ANY VETERAN TO BE TREATED, REMEMBERED AND SIMPLY “**THOUGHT OF**” AS ANY OTHER VETERAN THAT SERVED IN ANY WAR THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN. **MAY YOUR DAY BE WONDERFUL.**



THE ONE THING THAT “GETS ME” IS 100% OF THE TIME A BRANCH OF SERVICE THAT WAS “**CRITICAL TO AMERICA**” DURING WORLD WAR II IS ALWAYS LEFT OFF OF EVERYTHING, AND THAT IS THE **MERCHANT MARINES**. I REALIZE THIS BRANCH IS NOT A POPULAR ONE, AND NEVER REMEMBERED, BUT HAD WE NOT HAD THEM, WWII WOULD HAVE BEEN A MORE TERRIBLE WAR, KOREA WOULD HAVE BEEN WORSE OFF AND THE START OF VIETNAM WOULD HAVE BEEN, WELL, YOU THINK ON THAT. WE NEED TO ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT BRANCH AS THERE ARE MEN AND WOMEN THAT ARE VETERANS IN THAT BRANCH OF THE ARMED FORCES AND IT IS STILL AROUND TODAY. PLEASE TELL YOUR GRANDCHILDREN ABOUT THIS BRANCH OF SERVICE. THEY NEED TO KNOW THIS INFORMATION ABOUT THEM.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## VETERANS DAY – 2015



VETERANS DAY



**WORLD WAR I**  
(1917 - 1918)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide)	4,734,991
Battle Deaths	53,402
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	63,114
Non-fatal Woundings	204,002
Living Veterans	0



**WORLD WAR II**  
(1941 - 1945)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide)	16,112,566
Battle Deaths	291,597
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	113,842
Non-fatal Woundings	670,846
Living Veterans	1,711,000



**KOREAN WAR**  
(1950 - 1953)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide)	5,720,000
Battle Deaths	33,739
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	2,935
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	17,672
Non-fatal Woundings	103,284
Living Veterans	2,273,000



**VIETNAM WAR**  
(1964 - 1975)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide)	3,744,000
Battle Deaths	47,434
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	10,796
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	32,000
Non-fatal Woundings	153,303
Living Veterans	7,391,000



**GULF WAR**  
(1990 - 1991)

Total Servicemembers (Worldwide)	2,322,000
Battle Deaths	148
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	233
Other Deaths in Service (Non-Theater)	1,365
Non-fatal Woundings	467
Living Veterans	2,244,533



**GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR**  
(2001 - PRESENT)

The Global War on Terror is an ongoing conflict. For the most recent statistics, please visit the Department of Defense Web site:  
[http://inadagp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot\\_component.pdf](http://inadagp.dmdc.osd.mil/personnel/CASUALTY/gwot_component.pdf)



IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS ACROSS THIS COUNTRY OF AMERICA, **WE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR THIS GREAT COUNTRY.** YOU ARE ALWAYS TO BE HONORED EVERY DAY.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH - 50TH EVENT



FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH OF YUMA, ARIZONA HELD THEIR FIRST 50TH COMMEMORATIVE EVENT ON 8 NOVEMBER 2015 TO CELEBRATE THEIR ANNUAL "VETERANS APPRECIATION SUNDAY", WHICH IS A HUGE EVENT IN THE CITY OF YUMA, ARIZONA. WITH AN ATTENDANCE OF ABOUT 450 PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE AND ALL OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS RECEIVING 50TH COMMEMORATIVE COINS.

YOU DON'T FIND MANY ORGANIZATIONS THAT GO THE LENGTH PASTOR JOHN GOETSCH GOES TO MAKE 400+ VETERANS FEEL AT HOME ON THEIR DAY. ALL THE DAY FROM VIETNAM VETERANS, KOREAN AND WWII. NOT TO MENTION A SPECIAL MAN WE CALL KEN MIMLITSCH WHO IS DEPLOYED AND HIS WIFE MELISSA RECEIVING A SPECIAL MEDAL IN HIS ABSENCE. THIS EVENT IS CERTAINLY ONE OF THE NICEST IN THE ENTIRE CITY OF YUMA. THE WIVES RECEIVING ROSES, THE CHILDREN LEARNING WHAT VETERANS DAY IS ALL ABOUT, A MESSAGE ABOUT WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR AMERICA FOR 200+ YEARS AND OUR RESPONSIBILITY TOWARD OUR OWN COUNTRY AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST FOR BEING THE PEOPLE THAT HE HAS ASKED TO BE FAITHFUL. WE ARE VERY PROUD OF THIS MAN (JOHN GOETSCH) TO MAKING THIS A MEMORABLE DAY FOR US ON OUR DAY – VETERANS DAY 2015.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## VETERAN DAY PHOTOS—FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH



HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERANS WITH A SPECIAL CHALLENGE COIN ON VETERANS DAY.



THE RAISING OF THE RED-WHITE-AND-BLUE ON VETERANS DAY AT FAITH BAPTIST CHURCH IN YUMA, ARIZONA. IN HONOR OF WHAT AMERICA HAS DONE FOR ITS PEOPLE TODAY.



THE VVA COLOR GUARD AND THE 21 GUN SALUTE HONORING OUR COUNTY AND AMERICA ON THIS VETERANS DAY—11 NOVEMBER 2015.



THE HONORING OF MEN AND WOMEN WHO FOUGHT FOR AMERICA AND REMEMBERING THEM ALL OF THESE YEARS. AND THOSE THAT DIED IN THE PROCESS FOR OUR COUNTRY,

TAKING CARE OF AMERICAN FAMILIES SUCH AS THIS ONE WHO ARE VERY SWEET TO EVERYONE ON THEIR PATH. THIS IS THE NEXT AND THE NEXT GENERATION OF PEOPLE.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## YUMA'S POW/MIA BREAKFAST



YOU SEE IT EVERYWHERE . . . THE STARK BLACK AND WHITE POW/MIA FLAG . . . FLYING IN FRONT OF VA HOSPITALS, US POST OFFICES, AND OTHER FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL BUILDINGS, BUSINESSES, AND HOMES. IT FLAPS ON MOTORCYCLES, CARS AND PICK-UP TRUCKS. THE FLAG HAS BECOME AN ICON OF AMERICAN CULTURE, A REPRESENTATION OF THIS NATION'S CONCERN FOR MILITARY SERVICE PERSONNEL MISSING AND UNACCOUNTED FOR IN OVERSEAS WARS. THE FLAG IS A POWERFUL IMAGE. IT FEATURES A SOLEMN FIGURE ON A FIELD OF BLACK, WATCHED OVER BY A DISTANT TOWER AND A BARBED WIRE FENCE, WITH THE MESSAGE, "YOU

ARE NOT FORGOTTEN". THE WHITE ON BLACK CONVEYS A SENSE OF HOPELESSNESS AND LOSS FELT FOR EACH OF THESE MEN . . . MANY LOST TO US FOREVER!

FROM THE REVOLUTION TO THE KOREAN WAR, THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN, AND MARINES, HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRISONER OR GONE MISSING. BUT IT TOOK THE VIETNAM WAR AND A SENSE OF ABANDONMENT FELT BY WIVES AND FAMILY MEMBERS OF AMERICANS HELD CAPTIVE . . . TO BRING FORTH WHAT HAS EVOLVED INTO THE NATION'S POW/MIA SYMBOL. THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF POW/MIA FAMILIES BEGAN IT ALL IN 1969 . . . SOME 46+ YEARS AGO! IN 1971, THE FLAG DESIGN (ONE OF THREE ORIGINAL DESIGNS) BECAME THE FLAG WE RECOGNIZE TODAY. IT TOOK NEARLY A DECADE, BUT IN 1982 THE POW/MIA FLAG BECAME THE ONLY FLAG, OTHER THAN THE STARS AND STRIPES, TO FLY OVER THE WHITE HOUSE. IN 1989 THE FLAG WAS INSTALLED IN THE CAPITAL ROTUNDA. THIS FLAG ALSO HAS THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE ONLY NON-NATIONAL FLAG THAT ANY GOVERNMENT, ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD, HAS BEEN MANDATED TO BE FLOWN REGULARLY.

IN 1998 IT WAS NATIONALLY MANDATED THAT THE POW/MIA FLAG BE FLOWN ON SIX DAYS OF THE YEAR: POW/MIA RECOGNITION DAY, ARMED FORCES DAY, MEMORIAL DAY, FLAG DAY, THE 4TH OF JULY, AND VETERAN'S DAY. SINCE THEN, A NUMBER OF STATES HAVE PASSED A SIMILAR LAW . . . AMONG THESE ARE OREGON, FLORIDA, IDAHO, AND ARIZONA. IN 2011, IDAHO BECAME THE FIRST STATE TO REQUIRE THAT THE POW/MIA FLAG BE FLOWN OVER ALL STATE BUILDINGS, 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK OR "UNTIL SUCH TIME AS ALL OUR UNACCOUNTED FOR AND MISSING MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES RETURN." WHAT I SEE IN LOOKING AT OTHER VETERANS WHO VALUE THIS FLAG IS A DEEP LONGING TO EXPRESS SOMETHING IMPORTANT ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR COMRADES MORE THAN JUST TO FLY THE FLAG ITSELF.

BEYOND THE PAIN OF LOST BROTHERS IN ARMS, VIETNAM VETERANS WHO CONTINUE TO IDENTIFY WITH IT DO SO FOR A DIFFERENT REASON. THEY SEE IN ITS DESPERATION AND HOPELESSNESS A SMALL MEANS TO COMMUNICATE THEIR OWN SUFFERING . . . A SUFFERING ENDURED IN A DANGEROUS AND FARAWAY PLACE WHILE FIGHTING A WAR THAT OFTEN SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE TO WIN . . . A SUFFERING FOR WHICH THEY WOULDN'T EVEN BE APPRECIATED FOR UPON RETURNING HOME. SOME CAME HOME TO SUCH A WRETCHED WELCOME THAT THEY CONTINUED TO SUFFER FOR YEARS AFTER THE WAR ENDED.

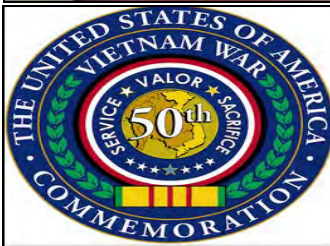
FOR MEN AND WOMEN LIKE THIS, A PART OF ME WONDERS IF THE FLAG SERVES AS A SILENT METAPHOR FOR A GENERATION OF WARRIORS A NATION REJECTED AND WHO ARE LOST FOREVER.

# THE “AZ-LZ”

## A MAN AMONG MEN - MG ARNOLD FIELDS



SOMETIMES YOU JUST RUN INTO THAT CERTAIN PERSON WHO YOU SIMPLY CONNECT WITH AND THE GENTLEMEN IN THE PHOTO TO THE RIGHT STANDING ON THE RIGHT IS A TRULY “A MAN AMONG MEN” WHOM WE CALL MG (RET.) ARNOLD FIELDS. A FORMER MARINE CORPS OFFICER SERVED HIS COUNTRY AND IS STILL SERVING HIS COUNTRY, ONLY HE HAS ALSO ADDED “SERVING VIETNAM VET-ERANS” AT THE SAME TIME. THIS VERY UNASSUMING INDIVIDUAL IS ONE THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE LOOK UP TO AND HAVE A HUGE AMOUNT OF RESPECT FOR . THE PICTURE TO THE LEFT IS ONE I’LL NEVER FORGET AS THIS MAJOR GENERAL HAS CAPTURED MY ATTENTION AND PINNED A 50TH COMMEMORATION PIN ON MY SHIRT AND WAS VERY PLEASED TO DO IT. AND MADE A “BIG DEAL” OUT OF IT WHEN HE REALIZED I TOO HAD BEEN IN THE VIETNAM WAR. WE NEED MORE MEN JUST LIKE THIS ONE. THE ONE THAT CAN MAKE ANYONE’S DAY BY SIMPLY OPENING HIS MOUTH AND PAYING YOU A COMPLIMENT AND HE’S VERY SINCERE AND PERSONAL ABOUT IT.



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



A GRATEFUL NATION THANKS AND HONORS YOU





# THE “AZ-LZ”

## A BRITISH MATCH STICK FLEET



PHIL WARREN, FROM THE UK, SPENT 62 YEARS TO BUILD THIS INCREDIBLE FLEET OF 432 SHIPS. ALL VESSELS ARE BUILT ENTIRELY OF MATCHSTICKS AND BOXES OF WOODEN MATCHES. THE COLLECTION INCLUDES NEARLY 370 AMERICAN AND 60 BRITISH SHIPS.

ALTHOUGH NOW 84 YEARS OF AGE, MR. WARREN BEGAN CREATING HIS FIRST BOAT IN 1948, WHEN HE WAS ONLY 17. HE USES A RAZOR BLADE, TWEEZERS AND SANDPAPER TO CARVE THE PIECES AND BOXES, THEN STICKS THEM TOGETHER WITH BALSA WOOD GLUE.

IN TOTAL, MORE THAN 650,000 MATCHSTICKS WERE USED TO CREATE AN AMAZING COLLECTION OF 1:300 SCALE MODELS. HIS 1,200 AIRCRAFT MAKE AN EVEN MORE REALISTIC APPEARANCE TO DRESS THE DECKS OF AIRCRAFT CARRIERS.



IT IS SIMPLY AMAZING THE EXPERTISE THAT SOME OF US IN THE WORLD HAVE TO DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS. TO TAKE SOMETHING AS SIMPLE AS A MATCH STICK AND MAKE AN ENTIRE FLEET OF SHIPS NO MATTER HOW SMALL. THIS IS A NICE TALENT TO TEACH THAT SPECIAL GRANDCHILD.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## VVA MAC REPORT-NOVEMBER 2015



MEMBERSHIP AFFAIRS COMMITTEE (MAC)  
MONTHLY REPORT  
NOVEMBER 2015

**Membership Totals by Classification**

VVA		AVVA		New Members in November	
IND	20,387	AIND	3,797	VVA:	758
LMP	54,251	ALP	4,400	AVVA:	261
LMT	4	ALT	14	<b>Deceased Members Reported in November</b>	
IVI	2,191	AIVI	395	VVA:	51
VPHV	346	APHV	3	AVVA:	6
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>77,179</b>	<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>8,609</b>		

includes 1,156 Women Veterans

### Top 25 VVA Chapters in Membership

ST	Chapter #	Total Members	ST	Chapter #	Total Members
1. MD	0172	1,061	15. AL	1067	366
2. TN	0203	782	16. SD	1054	356
3. PA	0862	726	17. NY	0082	330
4. MI	0154	698	18. NJ	0012	317
5. NY	0077	638	19. WV	0628	307
6. MD	0451	608	20. CA	0223	289
7. NY	0020	595	21. NY	0049	278
8. CA	0391	528	22. WA	0165	273
9. FL	1036	494	23. NJ	0800	272
10. TX	0137	472	24. CA	0047	271
11. NY	0011	460	WI	0224	271
12. IL	0299	418	25. MI	0267	268
13. OK	0751	407	MI	0528	268
14. MO	0317	393	VA	0227	268

### MEMBERSHIP TOTALS AND VARIANCES BY STATE

ST	WA	±	AVVA	±	ST	VVA	±	AVVA	±
AK	171	-1	16	+1	MT	574	0	42	+1
AL	1,600	+17	94	+4	NC	2,075	+25	194	-3
AR	379	0	35	+5	ND	566	+3	129*	+9
AZ	1,124	+5	110	+5	NE	317	+7	19	+1
CA	4,786	+5	683	+41	NH	383	+5	51	0
CN	6	0	0	0	NJ	3,434	+19	392	+11
CO	476	+13	39	+6	NM	569	+5	31	0
CT	637	+1	33	0	NV	978	-5	94	0
DC	89	+1	4	0	NY	5,820	+12	566	-2
DE	496	+2	42	0	OH	3,004	+41	256	-6
FL	4,128	+29	413	+18	OK	1,147	+3	90	+4
GA	1,370	+5	139	+6	OR	1,147	+9	182	+5
GU	116	+1	27	+1	OS	55	0	9	0
HI	153	+1	14	0	PA	4,109	+27	558	+21
IA	1,106	+19	61	0	PI	116	0	11	0
ID	305	-5	28	0	PR	296	-4	8	-1
IL	1,891	+32	181	+1	RI	415	-2	39	0
IN	1,167	+8	79	-9	SC	904	+17	74	+3
KS	586	-3	45	-1	SD	574	+7	42	+8
KY	821	+2	95	+12	TN	2,985	+30	459	+32
LA	1,029	+2	184	+17	TX	4,604	+33	505	+13
MA	1,503	+12	67	0	UT	264	+3	43	-2
MD	3,184	+17	249	+4	VA	2,054	+9	266	+6
ME	340	0	41	+8	VI	18	0	0	0
MI	4,472	+31	636	+14	VT	633	+1	36	-1
MN	1,286	+20	73	0	WA	1,092	+13	56	+1
MO	1,670	+20	243	+24	WI	2,154	+28	279	+9
MS	426	+2	48	+3	WV	1,504	-4	493	+10
					WY	71	0	2	0

	VVA	+/-	AVVA	+/-
Region I	3,910	+16	267	+7
Region II	13,855	+56	1,554	+26
Region III	13,602	+84	1,832	+68
Region IV	7,836	+47	702	+29
Region V	10,530	108	1,149	-3

	VVA	+/-	AVVA	+/-
Region VI	8,256	+98	888	+47
Region VII	7,156	+35	814	+39
Region VIII	3,358	+14	326	+8
Region IX	8,578	+24	1,047	+46
Living outside the US	61	0	9	0

### YEARLY & MONTHLY *GROWTH* PERCENTAGES

	VVA			AVVA		
	Nov '14	Nov '15	% +/-	Nov '14	Nov '15	% +/-
Yearly Growth:	74,018	77,179	+4.1%	8,552	8,609	+0.7%
Monthly Growth:	Oct '15	Nov '15	% +/-	Oct '15	Nov '15	% +/-
	76,661	77,179	+0.7%	8,324	8,609	+3.4%

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## POSTAL POINTERS VIA AIRMAIL



ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, 70-FOOT CONCRETE ARROWS CAN BE FOUND IN REMOTE LOCATIONS. THEY COME COURTESY OF THE US POSTAL SERVICE'S AIR FORCE AND WILL POINT YOU ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES.

THEY WERE CONSTRUCTED IN 1924 TO GUIDE POSTAL PLANES IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION AS THEY CARRIED MAIL FROM COAST TO COAST. THESE OLD PLANES COULDN'T RELY ON RADIO AS MUCH AT THE TIME, SO THEY USED THESE ARROWS, ALONG WITH BEACON TOWERS, TO NAVIGATE.

THE TOWERS WERE 50 FEET TALL AND FIXED WITH GAS LIGHTS THAT COULD BE SEEN FROM 10 MILES AWAY, IN ORDER TO HELP LOST PILOTS FIND THEIR WAY. THIS IS A MODEL OF THE ARROWS AND TOWERS IN THEIR HEYDAY. THE ARROWS AND BEACONS BISECT THE UNITED STATES FROM SAN FRANCISCO TO NEW YORK CITY.



A re-creation of a 1920s map showing the route of airmail planes; the dots are intermediate stops along the course.



# THE “AZ-LZ”

## THE STORY OF DOG TAGS

DOG TAGS WERE OFFICIALLY ADOPTED BY THE WAR DEPARTMENT IN 1906. THE FIRST ID TAGS WERE ROUND, ALUMINUM DISCS, ABOUT THE SIZE OF A HALF-DOLLAR, AND WERE STAMPED WITH NAME, RANK AND UNIT. ENLISTEES WERE ISSUED THEM, WHILE OFFICERS HAD TO PURCHASE THEIRS. IN 1916, AN ARMY REGULATION STANDARDIZED THE 2 TAG ISSUE THAT WE STILL HAVE TODAY. ONE TAG WORN ON A NECKLACE AND A SECOND TAG ATTACHED TO THAT NECKLACE BY A SEPARATE CORD. THE FIRST TAG WAS TO REMAIN WITH THE BODY IN THE EVENT OF DEATH, WHILE THE SECOND TAG WAS GIVEN TO THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF THE DISPOSITION OF REMAINS.



WORLD WAR I, THE ENLISTED SOLDIERS WORE TAGS THAT SIMPLY SHOWED NAME AND “USA” AND OFFICERS HAD TAGS THAT INDICATED RANK AND UNIT IN ADDITION TO NAME AND “USA”. SOMETIMES, IT WOULD EVEN HAVE THE SOLDIER’S ADDRESS AS TO WHERE HE LIVED AS THE SECOND ONE IS SHOWING AND TO “PROVE” THAT THE DECEASED SOLDIER WAS IN FACT THE ACTUAL ONE, AS LIKE TODAY THERE ARE DUPLICATE NAMES.

### WORLD WAR II

THE FAMILIAR ROUNDED RECTANGLE WE USE TODAY WAS ADOPTED. THESE FIRST ROUNDED RECTANGLES HAD A SMALL NOTCH OPPOSITE THE HOLE. IT HAS LONG BEEN RUMORED THAT THE NOTCH WAS SO YOU COULD TAKE THE TAG AND JAM IT BETWEEN THE CORPSE’S TEETH, ENSURING THE TAG REMAINED WITH THE BODY. THIS HOWEVER IS FALSE. THE NOTCH WAS USED TO LINE UP THE BLANK TAG IN THE EMBOSSING MACHINE, AND IF NECESSARY, THE NOTCH WAS USED TO AFFIX THE TAG TO A WOODEN BOX BY THE GRAVES REGISTRATION SERVICE.

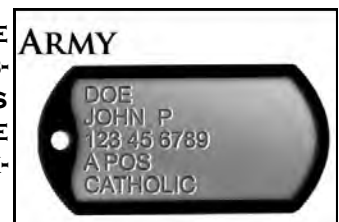


### VIETNAM AND KOREA

THE FAMILIAR ROUNDED RECTANGLE WE SEE TODAY WAS ADOPTED IN 1949. THROUGH KOREA, VIETNAM, AND SOME TIME AFTERWARDS, THE ID TAG DIDN’T CHANGE MUCH. THE ARMED FORCES ADDED “RUBBER” OR CLOTH ITEMS TO KEEP THE NOISE DOWN, BUT BY AND LARGE THE TAG FROM WORLD WAR II THROUGH VIETNAM IS LARGELY THE SAME.

### GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

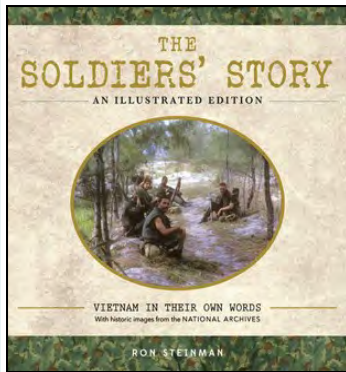
THE ID TAG USED TODAY IS SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. THE TYPEFACE HAS BEEN CHANGED, AND THE METAL IS DIFFERENT. BLACK RUBBER BUMPERS ARE AVAILABLE TO MINIMIZE THE NOISE OF THE TAGS CLANKING TOGETHER, AND SOME PEOPLE WILL STRIP THE CORE STRANDS OUT OF 550 CORD TO MAKE A SHEATH FOR THE NECKLACE. THE NEW NAME FOR DOG TAGS TODAY IS DESTINATION TAGS.



IT IS ALWAYS A BLESSING TO BRING YOUR DOG TAGS HOME WITH YOU AND NOT HAVE THEM PLACED AS A MEMENTO OF YOUR HOME GOING. NOTE, OVER THE YEARS HOW THE DOG TAG HAS CHANGED OVER TIME. BUT, WE VIETNAM VETERANS WILL ALWAYS REFER TO THIS ITEM AS A “DOG TAG”. THAT IS WHAT WE’LL ALWAYS REMEMBER.

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## THE SOLDIERS' STORY: AN ILLUSTRATED EDITION



VETERAN JOURNALIST RON STEINMAN GATHERS CANDID REMINISCENCES FROM SEVENTY-SIX MEN (INCLUDING SENATOR JOHN MCCAIN) WHO LIVED THROUGH THE BRUTALITIES OF COMBAT IN THE VIETNAM WAR. *A SOLDIERS' STORY* PROVIDES A VIVID AND GRIPPING ORAL HISTORY OF THE FEAR, FELLOWSHIP, TRAUMA AND TRIUMPH OF THESE MARINE, ARMY, AIR FORCE, AND NAVY VETERANS. COMPLETE WITH MAPS AND BATTLEFIELD PHOTOGRAPHS, THESE INDISPENSABLE FIRST-HAND ACCOUNTS PROVIDE A UNIQUE FRONT-LINE RECORD OF VIETNAM - FROM ITS SURREAL HORRORS, TO THE COMRADESHIP AND COURAGE FORGED IN BATTLE. FROM THE JUNGLES OF SOUTHEAST ASIA TO LIFE BACK IN THE UNITED STATES AS VETERANS OF AN UNPOPULAR WAR, *A SOLDIERS' STORY* ALSO INCLUDES COMPLETE AND UPDATED BIOGRAPHIES OF THE BRAVE MEN WHO ARE PROFILED. THIS IS A BOOK THAT GOES BEYOND THE MILITARY AND

POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF VIETNAM, TO THE TRUTH OF WHAT THE WAR COST - AND WHO ACTUALLY PAID THE PRICE. QUARTO PUBLISHING GROUP OFFERS VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA A DISCOUNT ON OUR BOOKS! THE ORDER NEEDS TO COME FROM 1 PERSON, BE PAID FOR BY 1 PERSON AND BE SHIPPED TO 1 PERSON SO IT REQUIRES A LITTLE COORDINATION ON YOUR END. MANY ASSOCIATIONS HAVE FOUND OUR BOOKS TO BE A GOOD FUNDRAISING TOOL FOR THEIR CLUB COFFER OR A LOCAL CHARITY! PRICE IS 50% OFF, MAKING THE BOOK \$14.00 FOR VVA MEMBERS (NORMAL PRICE IS \$28.00) WITH FREE SHIPPING ON ORDERS OVER \$75.00. THIS OFFER OF THIS BOOK WILL NEVER EXPIRE. POINT OF CONTACT IS TO THE RIGHT .

**WE NEED TO GET OUR OWN STORY OUT THERE AS WELL.**

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## A TRUE SOLDIER – COL. DON LOFTIS



I RAN ACROSS SOME OF MY OLD WAR PICTURES THE OTHER DAY AND THOUGHT I WOULD SHARE ONE WITH YOU. I WAS THE BN. SR ADVISOR TO THE 1 BN-50TH INF REGT OF THE 25TH INFANTRY DIV (ARVN). THIS PICTURE IS OF THE BN CDR(1ST ON THE LEFT) AND THE COMPANY COMMANDERS OF THIS FINE BATTALION. I SPENT THE 4 MONTHS IN CAMBODIA WITH THEM AND THEY KICKED BUTT. THESE GUYS WERE LOY-

AL, DEDICATED AND PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS. THEY ALSO TOOK CARE OF THEIR SOLDIERS. THE US MILITARY PROVIDED THE ENVIRONMENT TO DEVELOP THESE LEADERS AND HAD WE WAITED UNTIL THE COUNTRY WAS READY FOR THE BURDEN-SOLDIERS LIKE THIS WOULD HAVE SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING A SOUTH VIETNAM.

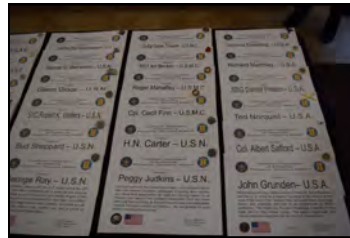
# THE "AZ-LZ"

## DESERT ROSE – 50TH COMMEMORATION

DESERT ROSE RETIREMENT CENTER IN YUMA, ARIZONA WAS THE LOCATION TO HONOR 22 VETERANS OF ALL WARS AND SIX OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE VIETNAM WAR. WE HAVE DISCOVERED OVER TIME, THAT NONE OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN HAVE EVER BEEN HONORED. BETWEEN THE MEN AND WOMEN FROM ALL FOUR MAJOR SERVICES, WE ALSO HAD THE PLEASURE OF HONORING ONE LADY FROM AUSTRALIA WHO SERVED IN WWII WITH THE UNITED STATES FOR FOUR YEARS. THIS WAS A REAL PLEASURE TO ENJOY THESE PEOPLE ABOUT 100 IN TOTAL TO PROVIDE THEM WITH SOME 1940'S TRIVIA, WWII MUSIC, SING-A-LONG'S, REMEMBERING THE YEARS OF THE GREATEST GENERATION. THOSE YEARS WERE SOME OF THE VERY BEST AMERICA HAS EVER KNOWN, AND WHILE WE LIVE IN A LONG GONE ERA SINCE THE 1940'S. WE HAD THE PLEASURE OF SINGING SONGS KNOWN THEN TO THE 1940 DECADE AND HAD SOME SOLO'S FILLED WITH SOME BEAUTIFUL VOICES FROM THAT TIME.



THIS EVENT USUALLY TAKES PLACE EVERY 2-3 YEARS FOR THESE FOLKS LIVING IN THIS FACILITY WHICH IS A MARVELOUS PLACE. THEY CATER TO THE VETERANS AND ALLOW ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS VVA TO COME IN AND HONOR THOSE THAT DESERVE IT. WE SO ENJOY DOING THINGS FOR THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II, KOREA AND VIETNAM AND THEY APPRECIATE IT AS WELL.



A SPECIALLY PREPARED VIETNAM 50TH EVENT FOR THOSE OF AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR ALONG WITH WORLD WAR II AND KOREA. SPECIAL ITEMS WERE ORDERED FOR THESE FOLKS AS A REMEMBRANCE FOR THEIR SERVICE TO AMERICA AND A WAY JUST TO HONOR THEM AND LOVE THEM FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE FOR THE USA AND THEIR FAMILIES.



THIS WALL OF HONOR WAS MADE SEVERAL YEARS AGO TO PROVIDE REMEMBRANCE OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES SINCE WORLD WAR II. WHEN THE YOUNGER GENERATION COMES IN TO VISIT THE "GREAT-GRANDPARENTS", THEY SHOULD NOTICE WHAT **THIS** GENERATION HAS DONE FOR THE WORLD MUCH LESS AMERICA. THE GREATEST GENERATION IS STILL AROUND, BUT ARE LEAVING AT A FAST PACE AND TO REMEMBER THEM IS A TRIBUTE TO ALL OF US, BUT ESPECIALLY TO THEM AND THEIR LOVED ONES. WE SO APPRECIATE THEM FOR WHO THEY ARE.

# THE "AZ-LZ"

## MVPA (MILITARY VEHICLE PRESERVATION ASS'N)

PRESERVING **YES-  
TERDAY** FOR  
THOSE THAT LIVE  
INTO **TOMORROW**.  
IF WE DON'T DO IT  
NOW, IT WILL NEVER  
BE DONE.  
START **TODAY**.



DENNIS A. BOOTS, CPT, CE CONVOY, XO OF THE MVPA RUN FROM WASHINGTON D.C. TO SAN DIEGO.



THIS UNIT "**MILITARY VEHICLE PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION**" OR MVPA IS KNOWN FOR PURCHASING, RESTORING AND DISPLAYING VEHICLES FROM YESTER-YEAR, STARTING BACK IN WORLD WAR I TIME FRAME. SO MUCH PASSES US BY AND WE DON'T HAVE THE TIME, TAKE THE TIME TO DEMONSTRATE THE HISTORICAL PORTION OF THE UNITED STATES MILITARY AND VEHICLES WERE AND STILL ARE A HUGE PART OF THE ALL OF MILITARIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THEY TRAVEL TO DISPLAY WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THEM AND THAT IS A PORTION OF **ALL** OF THE U. S. ARMED FORCES.



# THE "AZ-LZ"

## SIX STORIES

{1} - ONCE ALL VILLAGERS DECIDED TO PRAY FOR RAIN, ON THE DAY OF PRAYER ALL THE PEOPLE GATHERED, BUT ONLY ONE BOY CAME WITH AN UMBRELLA. THAT'S FAITH.

{2} - WHEN YOU THROW A BABY IN THE AIR, SHE LAUGHS BECAUSE SHE KNOWS YOU WILL CATCH HER. THAT'S TRUST.

{3} - EVERY NIGHT WE GO TO BED, WITHOUT ANY ASSURANCE OF BEING ALIVE THE NEXT MORNING BUT STILL WE SET THE ALARMS TO WAKE UP. THAT'S HOPE.

{4} - WE PLAN BIG THINGS FOR TOMORROW IN SPITE OF ZERO KNOWLEDGE OF THE FUTURE. THAT'S CONFIDENCE.

{5} - WE SEE THE WORLD SUFFERING, BUT STILL WE GET MARRIED AND HAVE CHILDREN. THAT'S LOVE.

{6} - ON AN OLD MAN'S SHIRT WAS WRITTEN A SENTENCE-'I AM NOT 80 YEARS OLD.... I AM SWEET 16 WITH 64 YEARS EXPERIENCE'. THAT'S ATTITUDE.

## WOMEN'S EXPO

THIS EXPOSITION WILL BE HELD AT GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016.

AND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM ON SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2016; AT ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM ON SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 2016; AND AT NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY FROM 8 AM TO 2 PM ON SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 2016.



MICHELLE H. SULLIVAN  
ARIZONA MILITARY FAMILY RELIEF FUND  
WOMAN VETERAN COORDINATOR  
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# THE “AZ-LZ”

## GOD’S ACCURACY

WHEN GOD SOLVES OUR PROBLEMS, WE HAVE FAITH IN HIS ABILITIES.  
WHEN GOD DOESN'T SOLVE OUR PROBLEMS, HE HAS FAITH IN OUR ABILITIES.

GOD'S ACCURACY MAY BE OBSERVED IN THE HATCHING OF EGGS.

- THOSE OF THE **CANARY** IN 14 DAYS;
  - THOSE OF THE **BARNYARD HEN** IN 21 DAYS;
  - EGGS OF **DUCKS AND GEESE** IN 28 DAYS;
  - THOSE OF THE **MALLARD** IN 35 DAYS;
  - THE EGGS OF THE **PARROT AND THE OSTRICH** HATCH IN 42 DAYS.
- (NOTICE, THEY ARE ALL DIVISIBLE BY SEVEN, THE NUMBER OF DAYS IN A WEEK!)

GOD'S WISDOM IS SEEN IN THE MAKING OF AN **ELEPHANT**. THE FOUR LEGS OF THIS GREAT BEAST ALL BEND FORWARD IN THE SAME DIRECTION. NO OTHER QUADRUPED IS SO MADE.

GOD PLANNED THAT THIS ANIMAL WOULD HAVE A HUGE BODY, TOO LARGE TO LIVE ON TWO LEGS. FOR THIS REASON HE, GAVE IT **FOUR FULCRUMS** SO THAT IT CAN RISE FROM THE GROUND EASILY.

- THE **HORSE** RISES FROM THE GROUND ON ITS TWO FRONT LEGS FIRST.
- A **COW** RISES FROM THE GROUND WITH ITS TWO HIND LEGS FIRST.
- EACH **WATERMELON** HAS AN EVEN NUMBER OF STRIPES ON THE RIND.
- EACH **ORANGE** HAS AN EVEN NUMBER OF SEGMENTS.
- EACH EAR OF **CORN** HAS AN EVEN NUMBER OF ROWS.
- EACH STALK OF **WHEAT** HAS AN EVEN NUMBER OF GRAINS.
- EVERY BUNCH OF **BANANAS** HAS ON ITS LOWEST ROW AN EVEN NUMBER OF BANANAS, AND EACH ROW DECREASES BY ONE, SO THAT ONE ROW HAS AN EVEN NUMBER AND THE NEXT ROW AN ODD NUMBER.

-THE WAVES OF THE **SEA ROLL** IN ON SHORE TWENTY-SIX PER MINUTE IN WINDY WEATHER.

-ALL **GRAINS** ARE FOUND IN EVEN NUMBERS ON THE STALKS.

GOD HAS CAUSED THE **FLOWERS** TO BLOSSOM AT CERTAIN SPECIFIED TIMES DURING THE DAY.

-LINNAEUS, THE GREAT BOTANIST, ONCE SAID THAT IF HE HAD A CONSERVATORY CONTAINING THE RIGHT KIND OF SOIL, MOISTURE AND TEMPERATURE, HE COULD TELL THE TIME OF DAY OR NIGHT BY THE FLOWERS THAT WERE OPEN AND THOSE THAT WERE CLOSED!

THE LIVES OF EACH OF US MAY BE ORDERED BY THE LORD IN A BEAUTIFUL WAY FOR HIS GLORY, IF WE WILL ONLY ENTRUST HIM WITH OUR LIFE. IF WE TRY TO REGULATE OUR OWN LIFE, IT WILL ONLY BE A MESS AND A FAILURE. ONLY GOD, WHO MADE OUR BRAIN AND HEART, CAN SUCCESSFULLY GUIDE THEM TO A PROFITABLE LIFE FOR HIM AND OTHERS. I PRAY GOD BLESS YOU IN WAYS YOU NEVER EVEN DREAMED.

## **A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT – GENE CREGO**



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## **A LOOK AT 2016**

TO VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL, THE EIGHT CHAPTERS, AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS, I HOPE THE MEMBERSHIP, AVVA, FAMILY AND FRIENDS HAD A GOOD CHRISTMAS AND SAFE NEW YEAR. THAT 2016 WILL BE A PROSPEROUS YEAR FOR THE ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL, ASSOCIATES ARIZONA STATE COUNCIL, CHAPTERS 95, 106, 432, 835, 975, 1011, 1043, AND 1093. THE YEAR 2015 SAW AN INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP, AND ACCREDITED VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS (FROM 6 TO 11).

WE RECEIVED A VVA NATIONAL GRANT OF \$7,000, AND A SMALL GRANT FROM THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES FOR \$4,999.99 FOR THE VSO AND AGENT ORANGE PROGRAMS. WE ARE PUTTING IN FOR MORE GRANTS IN 2016. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS FOR ALL THE HARD WORK THAT WAS DONE IN 2015. THEY DID OVER \$20 MILLION DOLLARS IN BENEFITS. THIS WAS REPORTED BY THE VA OUT OF WASHINGTON, D. C. WE HAVE FIVE MEMBERS WORKING ON BEING ACCREDITED VSO'S.

WE NEED TO THANK WALT SCHUMACHER AND HIS WIFE JAN FOR PUTTING TOGETHER BOOKS WITH DVD'S OF THE VVA NATIONAL CONVENTION OF 2015. THE AZ-LZ RECEIVED THE VVA NATIONAL AWARD FOR SECOND TIME. WAY TO GO WALT. THE AVVA NATIONAL AWARD FOR INDIVIDUAL VOLUNTEER HOURS FOR 2ND PLACE WENT TO NANCY BRIGGS OF CHAPTER 1011. THE YEAR 2016 WILL HAVE THE STATE COUNCIL MEETINGS IN BULLHEAD CITY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 16TH, AND TUCSON, SATURDAY, JUNE 18TH. VVA WILL BE HAVING THEIR STATE COUNCIL ELECTIONS IN TUCSON.

VVA/AVVA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS IN TUCSON JULY 19-23, 2016 AT THE HILTON TUCSON EL CONQUISTADOR GOLF RESORT. WE NEED MEMBERS TO BE INVOLVED, ESPECIALLY THE COLOR GUARD FROM THE CHAPTERS.

THE DIRECTOR OF THE ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICE DIRECTOR COL. WANDA WRIGHT (RET. USAF AND DAUGHTER OF A 3 TOUR VIETNAM VETERAN OF THE US ARMY) HAS ASKED VVA TO CO-SPONSOR THE 50TH COMMEMORATIVE OF THE VIETNAM WAR WITH THEM AND DOD. THEY WILL PROVIDE THE FUNDS, 50TH COINS, DOD REPRESENTATIVES AND A PIN, ALONG WITH A GUEST SPEAKER (IF NEEDED). THE EIGHT CHAPTERS WILL BE ASKED TO SET UP A FREE BREAKFAST OR LUNCH FOR VIETNAM ERA VETERANS. THE VETERANS WILL BE THANKED FOR THEIR SERVICE WHERE EVER THEY SERVED DURING THE VIETNAM WAR.

ONE AREA THAT NEEDS HELP IS GETTING STATE COUNCIL FUNDS BACK UP. WE WILL BE LOOKING AT DIFFERENT WAYS AND IDEAS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP. WE THANK YOU FOR BEING MEMBERS AND HELPING ALL VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES. NEVER AGAIN SHALL ONE GENERATION OF VETERANS ABANDON ANOTHER.