

# THE “AZ-LZ”

*Vietnam Veterans of America—Arizona State Council  
Phoenix, Arizona*

## We’re Getting Old, But Be Gracious

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Far too often I see PEOPLE getting all over someone who has done them a favor or just been nice or maybe something that “someone” did not like”. You know as well as I do, NONE OF US ARE PERFECT and NEVER WILL BE.

You know at our age, we ought to have learned by this time that “no one” will likely do or act or say what we expect them to, but they are trying, aren’t they. Therefore, the least we can do is to be very GRACIOUS. By the time each of us hits 70 years old, I have mentioned we are all “On Borrowed Time”. God states He will give you 70 years, but then maybe not.

We don’t have to be like others, but it takes some personal encouragement to sometimes let

things go. At 70+ years of age, we should have enough wisdom in our being to know the difference as to “what to say” and “how to say” it by this time. And at the same time teach that other person that may be insulting you (and themselves) the right way to open their mouths.

It has been said for centuries that the #1 sin of man is: PRIDE and none of us will ever get over it, but, we can get through it, by being patient and gracious with whom we are dealing with whether it be family, friend or foe.

I am sure there is someone in your life that we truly admire and have thought to ourselves “I wish I could be like him or her”. Well, you can certainly mimic that person and take after them and acknowledge how gracious they have been to-

wards you and others in their life. I hear over and over that as we age, these are supposed to be the “golden years”. Well, some of the are years are and some may be not. What is most important, is we are still breathing when we “wake” up the next morning and can still get around.

It might be a good idea to see how we are living our life and maybe we can eliminate a few things in our life that are shortening it, like smoking, drinking and other things that maybe shortening it and causing us to be getting older and a little less gracious. Think on it, pray on it and do something about it. That might be the answer you need today.

## \$100 for the “REST OF YOUR LIFE”

Our Membership Affairs Committee at VVA National has made a motion to the National BOD to make \$100.00 a permanent price for a Life Time Membership. This motion was passed on Saturday and is retroactive January 1, 2016. We will get the membership brochure and all the membership applications changed as soon as we can to reflect the permanent change. All it takes is you writing that check for \$100 and supporting VVA which is a fine organization to belong to.



## Who Is VVA?

### THE START

Founded in 1978, Vietnam Veterans of America is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families. VVA is organized as a not-for-profit corporation and is tax-exempt under Section 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Service Code

### VVA'S FOUNDING PRINCIPLE

*"Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another."*

### GOALS

VVA's goals are to promote and support the full range of issues important to Vietnam veterans, to create a new identity for this generation of veterans, and to change public perception of Vietnam veterans.

### ORGANIZATION

- Over 75,000 individual members
- 49 state councils
- 650 local chapters

### SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- Aggressively advocate on issues important to veterans
- Seek full access to quality health care for veterans
- Identify the full range of disabling injuries and illnesses incurred during military service
- Hold government agencies accountable for following laws mandating veterans health care
- Create a positive public perception of Vietnam veterans
- Seek the fullest possible accounting of America's POW/MIAs
- Support the next generation of America's war veterans
- Serve our communities

### Symbolism of the VVA Flag



The VVA flag is an elegant presentation of American veterans' service in the Vietnam War. VVA Flags are proudly displayed at all Vietnam Veterans of America meetings and functions and in Veterans Affairs Committee chambers of both the U.S. Senate and the US House of Representatives. So why is this page here? For YOU to tell other Vietnam Veterans about VVA to grow the ranks of this organization and have them be honored at one of the many scores of events within Arizona. Go to <http://www.vva.org>

## Why Are They Called "A, B and C Rations"?



A rations were class A meals prepared in mess halls like we had when we were at Army bases. B rations are the same as C rations except it came in larger 1 gallon cans and was prepared in the field mess hall. C rations were prepared by soldiers in the field. The whole time we were in Vietnam we were usually served two C rations and one B ration each day. Relished and

reviled, C-rations fed millions of troops in the field. The iconic green cans were far from home cooking, but they did sustain a fighting man when he was far from home—or at least the mess hall—until 1981, when they were replaced by the Meal Ready to Eat, or MRE. "If you were in the field, hungry and you could heat them up, they were great—slightly better than

shoe leather." War Is Boring. "If you were in garrison where you had a choice, forget about it!"

All in all, we knew how to eat them, heat, enjoy them and make the most of them all over a year.

We all may have eaten about 6-7 months worth of C-Rations and we have all lived to tell about it. We all came up with ways to make them taste better and kinda enjoyed them somewhat.

## Background of the "C-Rations"



Napoleon once said an army marches on its stomach. In other words, poorly fed troops fight poorly—food is a force multiplier. But food preservation for long periods of time and the logistics of moving food to troops on the battlefield are two of warfare's oldest challenges. The U.S. Military is no

different. During the 1930's, the War Department did its best to develop several kinds of compact, long-lasting rations that could feed men in combat. One was the C-ration, first issued in 1939. It was three cans of different meat and vegetables—field healthy. Actually the Roman manuals of the time described the contents as having "the taste and appearance of a hearty stew"—and three cans containing crackers, instant coffee and sugar. It wasn't Mom's home cooking, but it was filling. Each C-ration contained about 2,900 calories and sufficient vitamins to keep the troops healthy. Actually the Roman soldiers were by far the best fed Army of all time, and they lived a long time as well.

## And After World War II . . .



C-rations were just one of the letter-coded rations the military issued during World War II. Most soldiers and Marines from that time remember—and detest—the K-rations of the era, which had three separate meal units for breakfast, lunch and

dinner. During the Korean War, C-rations soon eclipsed the K-ration as the most commonly issued field ration. *But the food was boring—"menu fatigue" was the term military dieticians used.* In 1958, the Defense Department created 12 different

menus. Each menu contained one canned meat item; one canned fruit, bread or dessert item; one "B unit" that contained items such as crackers and chocolate; an accessory packet containing cigarettes, matches, chewing gum, toilet paper, coffee, creamer, sugar, and salt; and a spoon. Just enough to get full and sometimes sick.

## Ramblings of a Retired Mind

I found this timely, because today I was in a store that sells sunglasses, and only sunglasses. A young lady walks over to me and asks, "What brings you in today?" I looked at her, and said, I'm interested in buying a refrigerator. She didn't quite know how to respond. Am I getting to be that age?

I was thinking about how a status symbol of today is those cell phones that everyone has clipped onto their belt or purse. I can't afford one. So I'm wearing my **garage door opener**.

You know, I spent a fortune on deodorant before I realized that people didn't like me anyway.

I was thinking about old age and decided that old age is when you still have something on the ball but you are just too tired to **bounce** it.

## More Ramblings

I thought about making a fitness movie for folks my age and call it '**Pumping Rust**'.

When people see a cat's litter box they always say, 'Oh, have you got a cat?' Just once I want to say, 'No, it's for company!'

Employment application blanks always ask who is to be called in case of an emergency. I think you should write, '**An ambulance**.'

The easiest way to find something lost around the house is to buy a **replacement**.

Did you ever notice: The Roman Numerals for forty (40) are **XL**.'

## One More Time

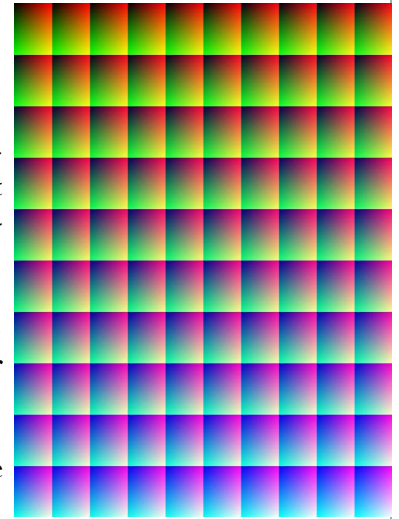
The sole purpose of a child's middle name is so he can tell when **he's really in trouble**..

Did you ever notice: When you put the 2 words '**The**' and '**IRS**' together it spells 'Theirs..'

Aging: Eventually you will reach a point when you stop **lying** about your age and start **bragging** about it.

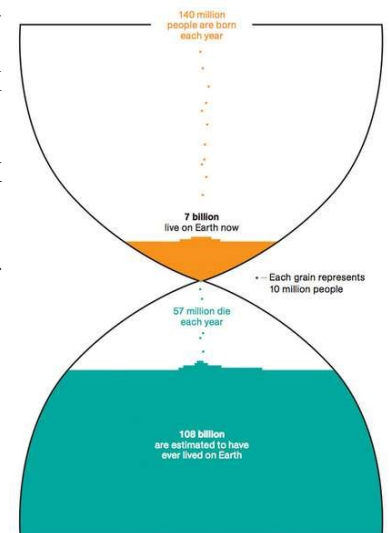
Some people try to turn back their "**odometers**." Not me. I want people to know 'why'

Lord, Keep your arm around my shoulder and your **hand over my mouth**



1,000,000 colors are in the box above. There is obviously no way to count them, but this a true statement that there are.

What can you do in the way of million-anything?



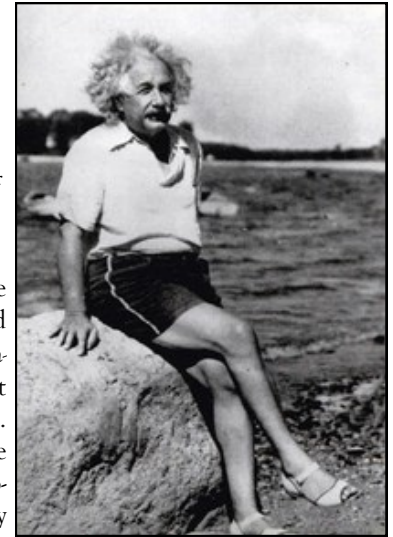
Ever wonder about the people on Earth? Did you know they (people) are the only living entity on earth that can think, do, react and have a distinct purpose on behalf of the Creator and each other? We have two states: living and dead and we all fall into both categories., but we could have living and living as well.

## Something About a SMART Person

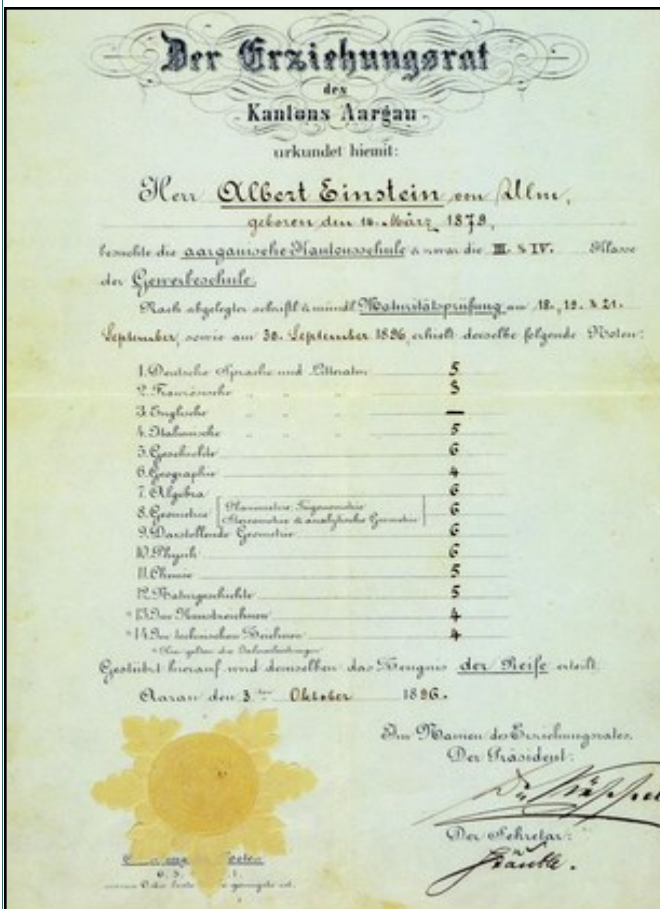
Born in Ulm, Württemberg, Germany in 1879, Albert Einstein had a passion for inquiry that eventually led him to develop the special and general theories of relativity. In 1921, he won the Nobel Prize for physics for his explanation of the photoelectric effect and immigrated to the U.S. in the following decade after being targeted by the Nazis. Einstein is generally considered the most influential physicist of the 20th century, with his work also having a major impact on the development of atomic energy. With a focus on unified field theory during his later years, Einstein died on April 18, 1955, in Princeton, New Jersey. Einstein attended elementary school at the Luitpold Gymnasium in Munich. However, he felt alienated there and struggled with the institution's rigid pedagogical style. He also had what were considered to be speech challenges, though he developed a passion for classical music and playing the violin that would stay with him into his later years. Most significantly, Einstein's youth was marked by deep inquisitiveness and inquiry. Towards the end of the 1880s, Max Talmud, a Polish medical student who sometimes dined with the Einstein family, became an informal tutor to young Albert. Talmud had introduced his pupil to a children's science text that inspired Einstein to dream about the nature of light. Thus, during his teens, Einstein penned what would be seen as his first major paper, "The Investigation of the State of Aether in Magnetic Fields."

While working at the patent office, Einstein had the time to further ideas that had taken hold during his studies at Polytechnic and thus cemented his theorems on what would be known as the principle of relativity.

In 1905—seen by many as a "miracle year" for the theorist—Einstein had four papers published in the *Annalen der Physik*, one of the best known physics journals of the era. The four papers focused on the photoelectric effect, Brownian motion, the special theory of relativity (the most widely circulated of the write-ups) and the matter/energy relationship, thus taking physics in an electrifying new direction. In his fourth paper, Einstein came up with the equation  $E=mc^2$ , suggesting that tiny particles of matter could be converted into huge amounts of energy, foreshadowing the development of atomic power. Famed quantum theorist Max Planck backed up the assertions of Einstein, who thus became a star of the lecture circuit and academia, taking on various positions before becoming director of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physics from 1913 to 1933. In November, 1915, Einstein completed the general theory of relativity, which he considered the culmination of his life research. He was convinced of the merits of general relativity because it allowed for a more accurate prediction of planetary orbits around the sun, which fell short in Isaac Newton's theory, and for a more expansive, nuanced explanation of how gravitational forces worked. Einstein's assertions were affirmed via observations and measurements by British astronomers Sir Frank Dyson and Sir Arthur Eddington during the 1919 solar eclipse, and thus a global science icon was born.



In 1921, Einstein won the Nobel Prize for Physics though he wasn't actually given the award until the following year due to a bureaucratic ruling. Because his ideas on relativity were still considered questionable, he received the prize for his explanation of the photoelectric effect though Einstein still opted to speak about relativity during his acceptance speech. In the development of his general theory, Einstein had held on to the belief that the universe was a fixed, static entity, aka a "cosmological constant," though his later theories directly contradicted this idea and asserted that the universe could be in a state of flux. On April 17, 1955, while working on a speech to honor Israel's seventh anniversary, Einstein suffered an abdominal aortic aneurysm. He was taken to the University Medical Center at Princeton for treatment but refused surgery, believing that he had lived his life and was content to accept his fate. "I want to go when I want," he stated at the time. "It is tasteless to prolong life artificially. I have done my share, it is time to go. I will do it elegantly." Einstein died at the university medical center early the next morning—April 18, 1955—at the age of 76.



## We Better Take Care Of What We Have

**Memorial Day** is a federal holiday in the United States for remembering the people who died while serving in the country's armed forces.<sup>[1]</sup> The holiday, which is observed every year on the last Monday of May,<sup>[2]</sup> originated as **Decoration Day** after the American Civil War in 1868, when the Grand Army of the Republic, an organization of Union veterans founded in Decatur, Illinois – established it as a time for the nation to decorate the graves of the war dead with flowers.<sup>[3]</sup> By the 20th century, competing Union and Confederate holiday traditions, celebrated on different days, had merged, and Memorial Day eventually extended to honor all Americans who died while in the military service.<sup>[1]</sup> It typically marks the start of the summer vacation season, while Labor Day marks its end. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials, particularly to honor those who have died in military service. Many volunteers place an American flag on each grave in national cemeteries. It is critical that our younger generation remember Memorial Day for those who died on their behalf.



## Do You Celebrate Independence Day?

**Independence Day** of the United States, also referred to as **Fourth of July** or **July Fourth** in the U.S., is a federal holiday commemorating the adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776, by the Continental Congress declaring that the thirteen American colonies regarded themselves as a new nation, the United States of America, and no longer part of the British Empire. Independence Day is commonly associated with fireworks, parades, barbecues, carnivals, fairs, picnics, concerts, baseball games, family reunions, and political speeches and ceremonies, in addition to various other public and private events celebrating the history, government, and traditions of the United States. Independence Day is the National Day of the United States. During the American Revolution, the legal separation of the Thirteen Colonies from Great Britain occurred on July 2, 1776, when the Second Continental Congress voted to approve a resolution of independence that had been proposed in June by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia declaring the United States independent from Great Britain rule. After voting for independence, Congress turned its attention to the Declaration of Independence, a statement explaining this decision, which had been prepared by a Committee of Five, with Thomas Jefferson as its principal author. Congress debated and revised the wording of the Declaration, finally approving it on July 4. A day earlier, John Adams had written to his wife Abigail: The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more. Adams's prediction was off by two days. From the outset, Americans celebrated independence on July 4, the date shown on the much-publicized Declaration of Independence, rather than on July 2, the date the resolution of independence was approved in a closed session of Congress.



Each of us should know this much history to pass onto our families on the off chance that they ask, but we should take the initiative to tell them and remind them about exactly how we got our freedom from Great Britain, otherwise, we would be part of the British Empire, speaking with an accent, driving on the left side of the road, using pounds for money and being a Socialist society.

## The IMPORTANT Days of the Year

**MOTHER's** Day is a critical one and shame on any of you that forget it. Your Mother is one of the only one's that will put up with you most of your life. But then there is also your **FATHER** who provided for you most of your life, taught you,, took you to do things early on and frankly, he is the one that is Head of House to teach you (if you're a male) to also be head-of-house in your own home. The Father is the one that keep's the home in one piece, but he has to be there for that to happen. God has an order for people in the home he is the head of it. The first Commandment for man is: Honor thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;). What is that promise? Well, go to the King James Bible in Ex 6:20-25 where it says: "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." This **IS THE PROMISE** that God is talking about. Do your VERY BEST to honor this 5th Commandment.



THESE are critical people in your life. NEVER, NEVER throw them away, no m/atter what. These folks are to be **HONORED** at all times. Do they make mistakes, "Yes", and so do you children and many more of them. Love your family always, regardless.

## Grandparents Day

**Grandparents and Older Adults:** We're asking you to commit to do something grand and share your wisdom, perspectives and key civic values with young people and advocate on their behalf.

**Children, Youth, and Younger Adults:** We're asking you to commit to do something grand and connect and serve with your grandparents or older adults in your community.

**Grandfamilies:** You provide a safe and loving home to your grandchildren or other relatives in your care. We think you are doing something grand for children every day of the year. As part of our week-long celebration of Grandparents Day, Generations United recognizes, honors, and thanks grandfamilies. **Intergenerational Programs:** You are doing something grand every time you bring younger and older people together. We're asking you to plan and coordinate grand intergenerational activism projects. Together, adults and youth can reach out to decision makers and begin one of the most important dialogues in our history: discussing how, as a country, we can address the many challenges facing future generations—from literacy to health and wellness to financial stability.

It is held on September 11, 2016. Ensure you that are NOT grandparents do something special for your grandparents. According to U.S. Census data, there were an estimated 65 million grandparents in the U.S. in 2010. By 2020, it is projected that the number of grandparents will reach 80 million, which will equate to one in three adults. By 2010, more than 50% of the grandparent population will be baby boomers – by 2015.

If you had any idea as to how important it is to have grandchildren love on their grandparents, wait until you become one.



## We Have a New Enemy

Are you ever amazed by how many people are deceived by falsehood? Whether it is the spin coming from the politician, the bias coming from some news report, or the falsehood coming from some false teacher, we sometimes scratch our heads at how many people can be deceived by such untruth. How can this be?

Well, it is obviously not merely a matter of intellect because many brilliant people who are otherwise smart are easily deceived by lies. Part of the answer is that **we are inclined to know what we want to know. We are inclined to believe what we wish to be the truth.**

Proverbs 17:4 says, "*A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips.*" There is a connection here between what a person does and what a person hears. Then the proverb goes on to say, "And a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue." In other words, those who don't want to do what is right don't want to hear what is true.

The easiest person in the world to deceive is the person who doesn't want to know the truth. No one sets out to swallow falsehood hook, line, and sinker. No one needs to. All that needs to be done is to reject the truth, to be slow to listen to the truth, and to shut the truth down. It is easy to deceive those who don't want to know the truth, but anyone who has a heart to know the truth can do so.

## Relationships or Goals

Perhaps you've read somewhere that men tend to be goal-oriented and women tend to be relationship-oriented. Maybe you are not one or the other, or maybe you are a mixture of both. Are you more focused on goals or relationships? Which do you think is more valuable or important? **Which matters the most to God?**

Think of the apostle Paul. Which was he? If you read Philippians 3, you will read about the goal after which the Apostle Paul was following. In verse 14, Paul says, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." It sounds as if Paul was definitely goal-driven. Paul was definitely not passive. He was always on the go.

And yet, Paul's emphasis here is not upon his performance but upon his dependence. In verse 10, Paul says, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." The goal Paul was pursuing was his relationship with the Lord Jesus. His goal was to know Christ better and to follow Him more closely. His goal was not so much to do more for God, but to allow God to do everything He intended through the life of Paul. What is most important is not so much what we do for God; it is what we allow God to do through us.

We should set goals and go after them, but our primary goal should be a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus. Paul forgot the past, both the successes and the failures, and he actively pursued the future and a growing relationship with the Lord Jesus. When we do that, we make a relationship with Him the priority. Then the things that we accomplish are the result of our dependence upon Jesus, and not merely the result of our own performance. Often times, we get into a rut and think that we can run with anything we want and do it our way, but inside, we all know that is not true. It is always better to have a **RELATIONSHIP** than a goal.

## Greed and It's Faces

Our obsession with stuff carries a hefty price tag. We spend 110 percent of our disposable income trying to manage debt. Who can keep up? No one can! Jesus warns in Luke 12:15, "**Be on your guard against every form of greed.**" Greed comes in many forms. Greed for approval. Greed for applause. Greed for status. Greed has many faces but speaks one language: the language of more. Wise was the one who wrote, "Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income." The only way to feel full is to feel fulfilled. The only way to feel fulfilled is to understand that everything we have comes from God—and he gives us exactly what we need. All of it is on loan! And, someday we'll have to give it all back, checking it at heaven's door!

**Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.**



# Recognize Anyone Here??



When you look at anyone of these people, you find that they have truly and really used their brain to get where they are today. And, for the good of others.



They also used their heart to make the "HEART's" of others a blessing to enlighten the being of their family and put a huge everlasting smile on their face for a long time to come.



So, how about us, what can we do for others in the "BRAIN" department of our head to make better for others and to help others in on the process?



At the same time, how about making it possible to put a permanent smile on other faces that will last for a long time.



And how about the guy one thought would ever be elected. Well, he did and could one of your grandchildren be President? Well, think on it and consider it, because it is possible.



And then, we have that company that provides some good food to strengthen us when we are hungry and enjoy a mascot



Each of us (hopefully) will have a entire lifetime to live and we should be able to do something special (more than once) for those around us or those NOT around us. In closing, life is not about us, but about others, so let's invest in others, because once you're gone, so is that opportunity, so do it today and tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow.



## World War II Remembrances—Chapter 106

We give thanks for the Americans who strengthen our Nation with their example of service and sacrifice. Our veterans are drawn from many generations and from many backgrounds. Some charge across great battlefields. Some fight on the high seas. Some patrol the open skies. And all contribute to the character and to the greatness of America. "We need to remember that God created this vast and glorious world for us to live in, freely, but also at great sacrifice. Let us never forget, from the Revolutionary War to the current War on Terrorism and all the wars in-between, the sacrifices that are made for our freedom. Remember to pray for this great Country of ours and also pray for those still in murderous unrest around the world. STOP and thank God for being alive and our military for being free...all at someone else's sacrifice." As a result of requests from friends for information on events planned for the Iwo Jima Commemoration, the following is submitted to assist you in participating or attending. This email also serves as a reminder of how important our military is and how much we owe our military. Those who risk their lives for our freedom follow in a great tradition handed down to them by all America's warriors. The battle on Iwo Jima exemplifies the kind of people our Military is and about the kind of dedication they bring to our Country while they serve in uniform AND forever after as veterans. Feel privileged they are your friends - Someone capable of seeing what they have seen. Our military is the reason we have this amazing Country in which we live in. This Country will forever remain the "land of the free and home of the brave" so long as we never run out of tough young Americans who are willing to look beyond their own self-interest and comfortable lives. They are our guardian of honor willing to defend what is right - all is secure.

### PHOENIX - Fighting Fourth of WWII

Every year, on or near the Iwo Jima Landing and Flag Raising anniversary, WWII survivors gather at the 4th Marine Division Memorial at Wesley Bolin Plaza. Veterans assemble to honor and show respect for those who gave and sacrificed at a pivotal moment in WWII. 4th Marine Division of the United States Marine Corps was formed by the organization and redesignation of several other units and formally activated on August 14, 1943. After intensive training, the "Fighting Fourth of WWII" shipped out on January 13, 1944, and in 13 months made four major amphibious assaults in battles of Kwajalein (Roi-Namur), Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima. On Iwo Jima, the 4th Marine Division along with the 3rd and 5th Marine Divisions were given the dubious honor of assaulting the miserable hell hole of Iwo Jima and landed on February 19, 1945 - 71 years ago.

### Victory Place Ribbon Cutting

Please join us in celebrating the Grand Opening of Victory Place Phase IV, a new 96 unit development, consisting of 66 studios and 30 One-Bedrooms, for homeless and formerly homeless veterans in the South Mountain Community. Victory Place IV completes the residential components of the original, 5 acre master planned community bringing the campus capacity to 273 veterans including 70 Transitional Housing beds operated by U.S. VETS and 203 Permanent Supportive Housing units. Special Guests will include Mayor Greg Stanton, Councilwoman Kate Gallego and Director Michael Traylor among others as confirmed. We thank all of our partners in bringing this critical campus to fruition throughout all the years and the work will continue. It is our sincere hope that you can join us on March 28, 2016 at 11 am at 832 E. Jones Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85040. Refreshments and light snacks will be provided.



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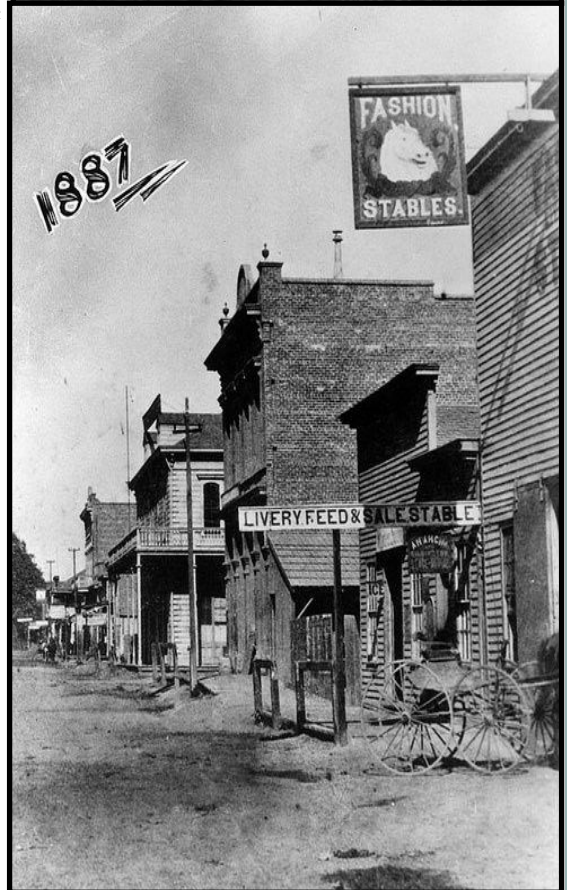
## Barely 100 Years Ago

The United States began as a largely rural nation, with most people living on farms or in small towns and villages. While the rural population continued to grow in the late 1800s, the urban population was growing much more rapidly. Still, a majority of Americans lived in rural areas in 1900.

Many of those Americans had settled on the plains in the 1880s. Abundant rainfall in the 1880s and the promise of free land under the Homestead Act drew easterners to the plain. When dry weather returned, the homesteaders' crops failed, sending many of them into debt, farther west, or back to the east or south. Farmers began to organize into groups called Granges and Farmers' Alliances to address the problems faced by farmers. Some farmers tried to launch a new political party, the People's Party (or Populists), running a candidate for president in 1892. Unfortunately, their candidate did not do well, drawing only about 8 percent of the vote.

New machines for use in farming were invented in this period, but horses, oxen, and people still provided most of the power that operated the machinery. While farmers now produced cash crops (crops grown for sale), they were still remarkably self-sufficient, often making or trading for nearly everything required by their own families.

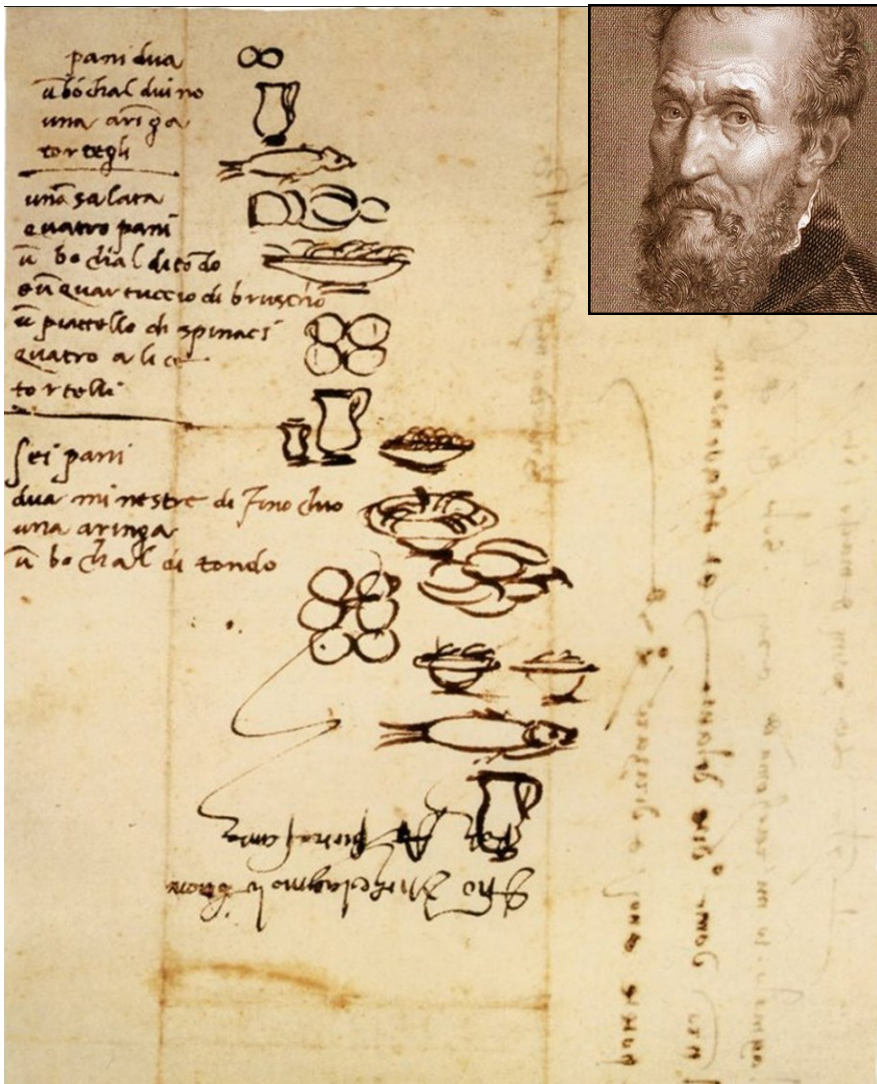
Perhaps it is that self-sufficiency that gives rural life a special place, even today, in the minds of Americans. As you read the documents in this section, try to infer what makes rural and small town life special. Do those qualities still exist in rural and small town America today?



Can you only imagine America being like any of these pictures today in 2016? However there are plenty of countries that still remain just like this even in this year.

God has been very good to the United States of America and we should never take this for granted in terms of "thinking" it will always come to us easy or just because it can.. Let's always be grateful for what we have in our country AMERICA.

## Michelangelo's Grocery List in 1518



Buonarroti Michelangelo was too busy to buy food, so he used to send his illiterate servant with grocery shopping lists like the one to the left. Because the servant he was sending to market was illiterate, Michelangelo illustrated the shopping lists - a herring, tortellini, two fennel soups, four anchovies and "a small quarter of a rough wine" - with rushed (and all the more exquisite for it) caricatures in pen and ink. Specifically, the list says the following:

- ◆ Pani Dua (Two pieces of bread)
- ◆ Un Bocal di Vino (a quart of wine)
- ◆ Un Ariga (herring)
- ◆ Tortegli (tortellini)
- ◆ Una salama (salami)
- ◆ Quattro pani (4 pieces of bread)
- ◆ Unh Bochal di Zodo (pitcher of something)
- ◆ Un quartuccio di Bruschino (Red wine)
- ◆ di spinaci (Spinach)
- ◆ Quattro Alici (anchovies, etc)
- ◆ Tortelli (a form of pasta)
- ◆ Sei Pani (6 pieces of bread)
- ◆ Due Minestre di Finocchio (Fennel soup)
- ◆ Un aringa (herring)
- ◆ Un boccal di Zondo (pitcher of something)

He did pretty good for knowing what all of the items were, to the guy who could not read at all.

## Where Did This Come From?



This memorial, far from civilization, is, without doubt, the most endearing of memories of soldiers who fought and died in SE Asia. An unknown, hidden, and powerful tribute to men who received NO honor recognition, or respect from the country they loved.

**"God has eyes", "He sees" and "He knows"**

This photo was taken along the continental divide in Colorado, who stumbled upon a Vietnam memorial in the woods. Whoever did it, put a lot of time and money into it. Evidently hunters and possibly some Vets must be aware of it as there are numerous 7.62, 30.06 rounds and good coins on the ledges between the stones.

## A Bit of Great History About America



Frank Sinatra considered Kate Smith the best singer of her time, and said that when he and a million other guys first heard her sing "God Bless America" on the radio, they all pretended to have dust in their eyes as they wiped away a tear or two.

Here are the facts.... The link at the bottom will take you to a video showing the very first public singing of "GOD BLESS AMERICA". But before you watch it, you should also know the story behind the first public showing of the song.

The time was 1940. America was still in a terrible economic depression. Hitler was taking over Europe and Americans were afraid we'd have to go to war. It was a time of hardship and worry for most Americans. This was the era just before TV, when radio shows were HUGE, and American families sat around their radios in the evenings, listening to their favorite entertainers, and no entertainer of that era was bigger than Kate Smith.

Kate was also large; plus size, as we now say, and the popular phrase still used today is in deference to her, "It ain't over till the fat lady sings". Kate Smith might not have made it big in the age of TV, but with her voice coming over the radio, she was the biggest star of her time.



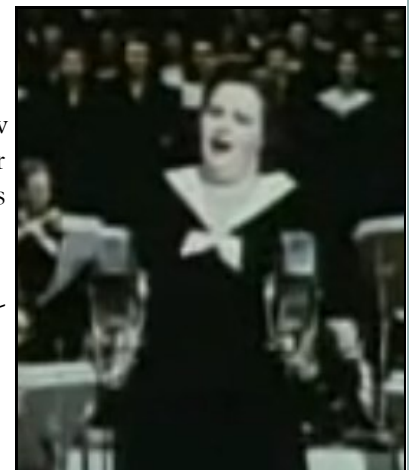
Kate was also patriotic. It hurt her to see Americans so depressed and afraid of what the next day would bring. She had hope for America, and faith in her fellow Americans. She wanted to do something to cheer them up, so she went to the famous American song-writer, Irving Berlin (who also wrote "White Christmas") and asked him to write a song that would make Americans feel good again about their country. When she described what she was looking for, he said he had just the song for her. He went to his files and found a song that he had written, but never published, 22 years before - way back in 1917. He gave it to her and she worked on it with her studio orchestra. She and Irving Berlin were not sure how the song would be received by the public, but both agreed they would not take any profits from God Bless America. Any profits would go to the Boy Scouts of America. Over the years, the Boy Scouts received millions of dollars in royalties from this song.

This video starts out with Kate Smith coming into the radio studio with the orchestra and an audience. She introduces the new song for the very first time, and starts singing. After the first couple verses, with her voice in the background still singing, scenes are shown from the 1940 movie, "You're In The Army Now." At the 4:20 mark of the video you see a young actor in the movie, sitting in an office, reading a paper; it's Ronald Reagan.

To this day, God Bless America stirs our patriotic feelings and pride in our country. Back in 1940, when Kate Smith went looking for a song to raise the spirits of her fellow Americans, I doubt whether she realized just how successful the results would be for her fellow Americans during those years of hardship and worry.... And for many generations of Americans to follow. Now that you know the story of the song, I hope you'll enjoy it.

This is one video and song one should play over and over again, especially for our children and grandchildren. Most have NEVER heard it or heard of it before.

Put this song in front of your children to see if they know it and have them learn it.



## DOD Agrees to Quarterly Disclosure of PTSD Records

Last week, the **U.S. District Court in Connecticut** approved a settlement in *Vietnam Veterans of America et al v. Dept. of Defense et al.*, a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit brought by the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress and Vietnam Veterans America against the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD). The veterans groups sought records regarding implementation of a September 2014 directive by then-Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel requiring that military record correction boards give “liberal consideration” to applications by veterans with PTSD who had received an other-than-honorable or other bad discharge and later seek to have their discharge status upgraded. Under the settlement, DOD agreed to release statistics on a quarterly basis for the next two years concerning PTSD applications and adjudications by each board and each service branch. “Vietnam Veterans of America has long held that thousands of Vietnam veterans suffering from Post-traumatic Stress Disorder were wrongfully discharged with bad paper,” said John Rowan, VVA National President. “The overwhelming majority of them were not malingerers. They were not cowards. They served honorably and well and did what was asked of them. But they were suffering from what is now known as PTSD at a time when PTSD was not an accepted mental health diagnosis. This settlement will help veterans and the public ensure that the record correction boards faithfully implement Secretary Hagel’s instruction and enable many of these veterans to get a modicum of the justice denied them for so long.”

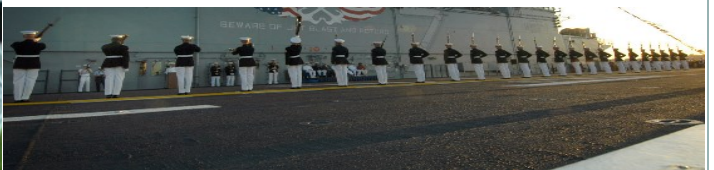
“Nearly two years ago, NVCLR and my brother Conley Monk helped bring a class-action lawsuit against the Department of Defense to hold its record correction boards accountable,” said Garry Monk, Executive Director for the National Veterans Council for Legal Redress. “For decades, these boards denied upgrades to veterans with less than honorable discharges when these men and women had service-related PTSD. We welcomed the Hagel Memo and believe this settlement will allow the public to monitor the military’s compliance with its command. We now need the Department of Defense to make a serious and coordinated effort to reach out to veterans to make sure our troops know where they can find help to apply for an upgrade and remove the lifelong stigma of a bad paper discharge.”

“The court order approving this settlement requires DOD to disclose, on a quarterly basis and for the next two years, the number of PTSD applications received by each Army, Navy, and Air Force record correction or discharge review board, as well as the number of applications approved and denied and their docket numbers,” said Prof. Michael J. Wishnie, Director of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School, which represented the plaintiffs in the suit. “For the first time, this will allow veterans, their advocates, and the public to know whether DOD is fulfilling its twin obligations under the Hagel Memo to conduct a vigorous campaign of outreach to eligible veterans and to give ‘liberal consideration’ to the discharge upgrade applications the boards actually receive.”

## USMC Silent Drill Team



The USMC Silent Drill Team and the Commandant's Own, Drum and Bugle Corps, gave a stunning performance at the Arizona Western College Veteran's Memorial Stadium. I was privileged to be part of the reviewing official(s), along with my friend, Richard Perez, Gunnery Sergeant (Retired) . . . a thrill of a lifetime. —Chuck LeDrew, Yuma, AZ



## Saying Thanks Costs “Nothing”

Sometimes we wonder how much we are appreciated for what we do and should we continue. My answer is we SHOULD continue to help out our fellow veterans in need. Attached is a copy of the Thank You card that we received from Stephanie Nix, the social worker at the NW CBOC in Surprise. This cards shows how much we are appreciated for our "big" hearts. I agree with Stephanie. You are a "special group". No one can ever deny this fact.

I am sending a copy of this card to the editor of the AZ state newsletter in hopes that he will publish it in the next newsletter, so other members of VVA will know some of what we do for our brothers and sisters. I am also sending it to Michael Keating from National VVA to be inserted in the "news" section about what chapters are doing around the country. God bless you all. Never a day goes by that I do not feel more loved and cared about because of all of you guys.

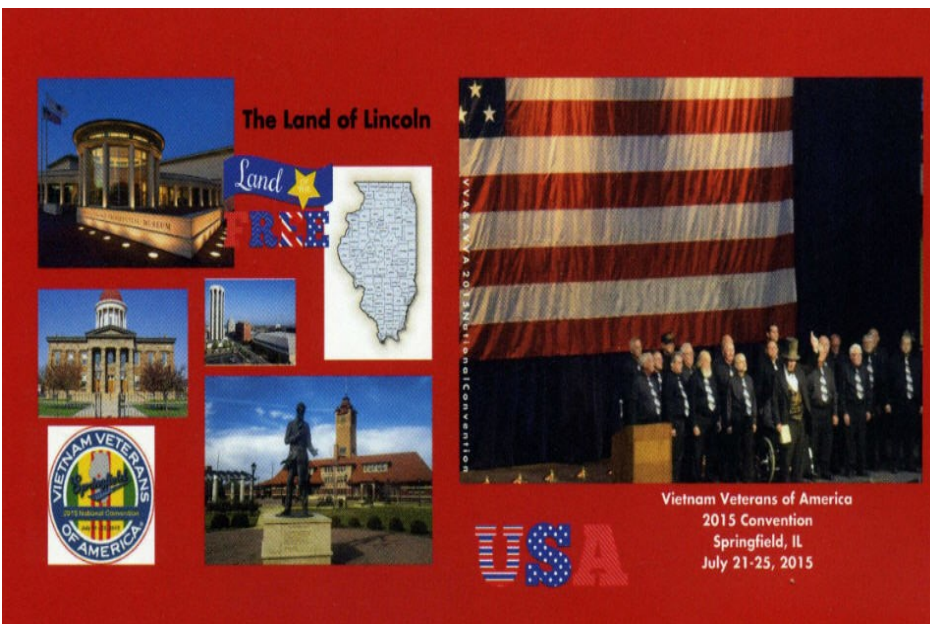
Go in Peace. Serve a Vet!

### Billee Culin

President, West Valley Chapter 1043  
 Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.  
 Accredited Veterans Service Officer

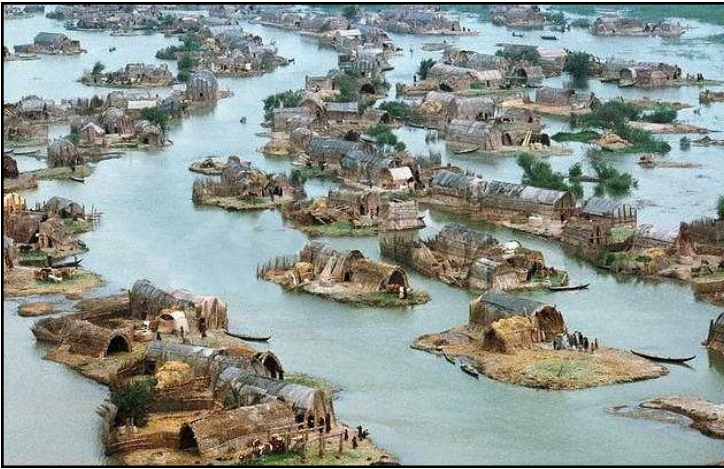


## VVA-2015 Springfield Convention Book



Anyone desiring a 2015 VVA Convention Book is welcome to one for \$25.00. This 12"x12" book is a nice memory of the convention held in Springfield, Illinois last July 2015. This 20 page color book is a very nice memory of the time that VVA-Arizona enjoyed and was honored many different times. Let Walt Schumacher know if you would like one for yourself.

# “Seeing” Something Really Different



The marshes in Southern Iraq



Wheat and Lavender (what an aroma)



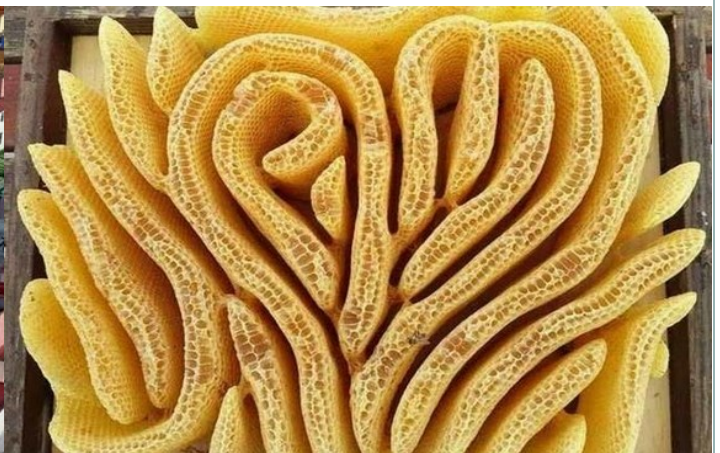
Birds-eye-view of Dubai



This is what a “bee see’s” (an infrared garden)



A real housing complex in Mexico



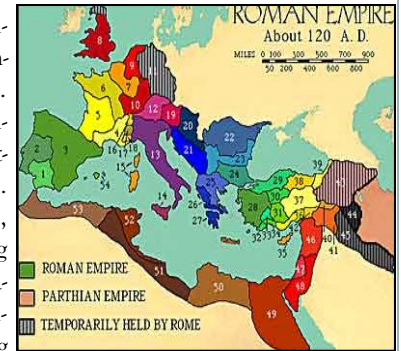
A real honeycomb





## The Beginning and The End Of It All

The Romans built an empire of gigantic proportions. At its height, it encompassed nearly the entire European continent as well as parts of the Middle East and Africa. The Roman Empire's tentacles stretched from England to Egypt, from Spain to Iraq, and from southern Russia to Morocco. More significantly, ancient Roman civilization thrived for nearly one thousand years. The influence of the Romans over all of those peoples over that span of time defies measure. After adopting Christianity in the 4th century AD., the Romans spread it to every corner of their empire. They also brought their brand of law and order to all of the territories that they conquered. Latin, the language of the Romans, became the basis for several modern European languages, including Italian, French, and Spanish. The Romans were particularly skilled in administration, organization, and engineering. They had a highly trained and disciplined military and an efficient bureaucracy. Without these qualities, the Romans would never have been able to manage their sprawling empire. They were not, however, as driven or original when it came to other intellectual pursuits. In fact, the Romans basically adopted and copied much of Greek art, literature, philosophy, and even religion. The Romans had the same set of gods as the Greeks, but with different names. In Roman mythology, Zeus became Jupiter, Hera became Juno, Ares changed to Mars, and Athena was Minerva, to name a few examples. The Romans did, however, spread these borrowed ideas everywhere they went. To say the least Rome got under financially many times and their limit was usually up to 8% for forgiveness. Around 60 BC, Julius Caesar was elected and he continued the policies of many of his predecessors with a few of his own. It seemed like Rome was always in the midst of a crisis and in this timeframe, private contractors called tax farmers collected taxes owed to the state. These tax collectors would bid on tax-farming contracts and were permitted to keep any outstanding "extra". Enormous entitlement programs also became the norm in old Rome. At its height, the largest state expenditure was an army of 300,000–600,000 legionaries. The soldiers realized their role and necessity in Roman politics, and consequently their demands increased. They required exorbitant retirement packages in the form of free tracts of farmland or large bonuses of gold equal to more than a decade's worth of their salary. They also expected enormous and periodic bonuses in order to prevent uprisings. Rome fell to invaders in 476 AD, but who the real barbarians were is an open question. The Roman people who supported the welfare state and the politicians who administered it so weakened society that the Western Roman Empire fell like a ripe plum that year



America built an empire of gigantic proportions. At its height, it encompassed nearly much of the North American Continent as well as parts of the Western World. The American Empire's tentacles stretched from the middle of the Pacific Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean and beyond. More significantly, the ancient American civilization has thrived for only a little over two hundred years. The influence of the America over all of those peoples over that span of time defies measure. After adopting Christianity in the 16th century AD., America spread it to every corner of their empire and beyond. They also brought their brand of law and order to all of the territories that they conquered. English, the language of the American's, became the basis for nearly everyone in the world. The American's were particularly skilled in administration, organization, and engineering. They had a highly trained and disciplined military and an efficient bureaucracy. Without these qualities, the American's would never have been able to manage their sprawling empire. They were not, however, as driven or original when it came to other intellectual pursuits. In fact, the American's basically adopted and much of the Greek art, literature, philosophy, and even religion. The American's had their primary God and then adopted the same set of gods as other countries, but with different names. In Roman-American mythology, Zeus became Jupiter, Hera became

Juno, Ares changed to Mars, and Athena was Minerva, to name a few examples. The American's did, however, spread these borrowed ideas everywhere they went. To say the least America got under financially many times and their limit was usually up to 8% for forgiveness. Around the 1930's, FDR was elected and he continued the policies of many of his predecessors with a few of his own. It seemed like America was always in the midst of a crisis and in this timeframe, private contractors called tax farmers collected taxes owed for the state. Enormous entitlement programs also became the norm in America. At its height, the largest state expenditure was an army of 300,000–600,000 soldiers. The soldiers realized their role and necessity in American politics, and consequently their demands increased. They required exorbitant retirement packages in the form of free tracts of farmland or large bonuses of gold equal to more than a decade's worth of their salary. They also expected enormous and periodic bonuses in order to prevent uprisings. America fell to invaders sometime in the 21st Century, AD but who the real barbarians were is an open question. The American people who supported the welfare state and the politicians who administered it so weakened society that the American Empire fell like a ripe plum that year.

*America seems to have "copied" Rome to a point only to see that we too, are falling apart. Something we should not do.*

# The Beauty of the World



# 50th Commemoration News



50th Commemoration  
of the Vietnam War



## 50th Commemoration News (Cont'd)



### *The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Salutes our Commemorative Partners!*



Your accomplishments in 2015 were magnificent! On behalf of the nation, you collectively thanked and honored 665 thousand Vietnam veterans and their families in public, dignified ceremonies. Your efforts propelled the nation well along in recognizing the service and sacrifice of our 7.2 million living Vietnam veterans and the 9 million families of those who served. I encourage you to review the accompanying "VWC SITREP;" it contains a summary of your efforts based on data you shared with us. We would love to include the efforts of every partner in our totals and stand ready to assist each of you. Simply log into our Partner Portal and you'll have access to all our free resources, like the Vietnam veteran lapel pin, quickly becoming a lasting memento of the nation's thanks. You'll also be able to share the results of your efforts with us. Finally, please know we are here to help as you plan your 2016 commemorative events. On behalf of our entire Commemoration staff, thank you. It is a privilege serving with you as we pursue this most noble mission! Sincerely,



MG (R) James T. Jackson  
Director

## 50th Commemoration Events



Col. Wanda Wright, the Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services of the State of Arizona has provided Vietnam Veterans of America—Arizona with \$50,000.00 to put on as many events for the Vietnam Veterans, both "Era" and "In Country". She has recommended that VVA-Arizona "*spread the wealth*" for these sorts of 50th Events throughout the state of Arizona so as many as possible men and women can join in on the events by having a complimentary breakfast or lunch along with an honoring ceremony to include a guest speaker, the 50th pins, coins, certificates, and whatever the person putting it on would like to do. The bottom line is that Vietnam Veterans of America's Arizona's eight (8) chapters and two promising chapters will each receive \$5,000.00 to hold their 50th Commemoration Event in their given city.

It will consist of a breakfast or lunch, a guest speaker noting "what the Veterans of that era did for Southeast Asia, much less the world, the presentation of a DOD pin, especially made for the Vietnam Veterans of today, the recognition and honoring of possibly some select individuals (such as the oldest, the youngest, one or more with the highest earned medal and the like.

From this author's standpoint, we (who are in fraternal organization's) should all come together and honor those Vietnam Veterans that gave their all nearly 50 years ago and honor those Veterans that kept that part of the world safe from Communism. We lost too many men and women, however, we need to honor those who are left today and let them know they are just like WWII, Korea and other veterans who have come forward to protect those who are in a serious predicament like we are facing today.



## The 50th DOD Pin



### The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin

*"A Lasting Memento of the Nation's Thanks!"*

Front



Back

- **Purpose:** To recognize, thank and honor United States military veterans who served during the Vietnam War.
- **Eligibility:** Living United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period of November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location, are eligible to receive one lapel pin.
- **Presentation:** These lapel pins will be presented in a dignified manner to each Vietnam veteran during public events held in their communities by Commemorative Partners. Accompanying remarks should reflect the nation's thanks for their service and sacrifice. In the rare instance when an honoree cannot attend a public event, the pin may be presented during a private ceremony.
- **Symbolism:**
  - **Eagle** - The eagle represents courage, honor, and dedicated service to our nation. As one of the most recognizable and notable American symbols, it is emblazoned with distinction on numerous military insignia.
  - **Blue Circle** - The color blue matches the canton of the American flag and signifies vigilance, perseverance, and justice. The circle shape and blue color also match the official seal of the Commemoration.
  - **Laurel Wreath** - A time-honored symbol representing victory, integrity, and strength.
  - **Stripes** - The stripes behind the eagle represent the American flag.
  - **Stars** - The six stars represents the six allies who served, sacrificed, and fought alongside one another: Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, and the United States.
  - **Message** - "A Grateful Nation Thanks and Honors You" is embossed on the back, closest to the heart of the wearer. Also, the official name of the Commemoration is included to remind each veteran that this is a national initiative, and this lapel pin is the nation's lasting memento of thanks.

Published: February 2016

[www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com)

## Being a 50th Partner



# The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration

### *Join the Nation ... Thank a Vietnam Veteran!*

The 2008 National Defense Authorization Act (Public Law 110-181 § 598) empowers the Secretary of Defense to conduct a program on behalf of the nation that commemorates the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. This law also authorizes the Secretary to coordinate, support and facilitate federal, state and local government commemorative programs and activities. To that end, "The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration" was formed.

By presidential proclamation on May 25, 2012, the Commemoration extends from Memorial Day 2012 through Veterans Day 2025. Congress articulated five objectives for this Commemoration:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war, or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, 9 million Americans served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the period of the Vietnam War; approximately 7 million are living today. To reach these large numbers, the Commemoration has enlisted the assistance of many thousands of Commemorative Partner organizations at the local, state and national levels to conduct hometown-centric events and activities that thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families in their local communities.

Join the nation, become a Commemorative Partner and thank a Vietnam veteran today! Apply online at [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com), where visitors can find more information and enjoy photos, videos and compelling Commemoration stories.

## Being a 50th Partner (Cont'd)



### The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner Program

The Commemorative Partner Program is an organizationally based, hometown-centric, veteran-focused program designed for federal, state and local organizations to assist a grateful nation in thanking and honoring our Vietnam veterans and their families where they live and work. It is the primary vehicle by which our nation thanks and honors our Vietnam veterans and their families. Commemorative Partners participate by planning and conducting events or activities that recognize Vietnam veterans and their families' service and sacrifice. Commemorative Partners must commit to conducting two events or activities each year for a three-year period.

Commemorative events and activities should be dignified, memorable occasions that show a sensitivity and appreciation for the solemnity of war, the losses suffered by many and the sacrifices of all who served. Events or activities should meet one or more of the congressionally articulated objectives (below) of the program, and as a minimum, with an emphasis on the first:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war or listed as missing in action, for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize the contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

*It costs nothing to become a Commemorative Partner.* Organizations simply submit a completed application and Statement of Understanding (SOU). To obtain an application, organizations can visit [www.vietnamwar50th.com](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com), then click on the Commemorative Partner Program tab for further information on how to apply. Once a completed application and SOU are submitted, the approval process should take no longer than 30 days. Partners are kept informed through electronic notifications. Once approved, organizations will receive a starter kit consisting of a Commemoration flag, Commemorative Partner certificate, and other materials. Additionally, they will have authorization to use The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Commemorative Partner seal for approved purposes and access to the Commemorative Partner Portal to order additional materials for events.

- For questions regarding the application process: [whs.vnwar50th\\_cpp@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th_cpp@mail.mil)
- For online application forms:  
[www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/online\\_application\\_forms](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/online_application_forms)
- To download printer-friendly application forms:  
[www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative\\_partners/application\\_forms](http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/commemorative_partners/application_forms)

## 50th Partner News

### **Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP" – 2016, Issue 2**

**Thursday, February 4**

#### *Dear Commemorative Partners,*

This year, the *National Football League* (a CP) and *Vietnam veterans* share something in common ... a *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!* By [Presidential Proclamation](#), our nation is observing the Vietnam War Commemoration from Memorial Day 2012 until Veterans Day 2025. The NFL also celebrates the golden anniversary of its Super Bowl this weekend. At the right, we've highlighted two familiar faces from previous Super Bowls who also are Vietnam veterans, alongside Gen. Mark Milley, the U.S. Army Chief of Staff. As more than 110 million people worldwide prepare to watch this milestone game, let's *remember* to thank and honor those who volunteered to leave their professions, including football, to serve when our nation called – especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice.



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

*Did you know ...* one of the things you have access to as a Commemorative Partner is use of the *Commemoration Flag* and *Commemorative Partner Seal*?

*Highlight* the fact your organization and event is part of this *national effort* to honor our Vietnam veterans and their families by using the *Commemoration Flag* and *CP Seal* on your programs, posters, banners, newspaper ads, and other advertising efforts in your region.



*How do you access these?* It's easy! Log in to our [Partner Portal](#) by using your chairperson's email and password. The "Communication Resources" tab includes links to the electronic versions of the flag and CP Seal, as well as our Style Guide, which provides guidance on their appropriate use. Still have questions? Email us at [whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil) or call (877)387-9951; we stand ready to assist!

*Note:* The *CP Seal* (pictured above) has the words "*Commemorative Partner*" in a banner under the seal itself. The use of the seal without these words/banner is not authorized.

Finally, we encourage those of you hosting Super Bowl parties to invite Vietnam veterans and their families in your neighborhoods to thank and honor them for their service!

Sincerely,

*The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff*



## 50th Partner News

### Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP" – 2016, Issue 3

Friday, March 4

#### Dear Commemorative Partners,

As *Vietnam Veterans Day* approaches, recognized by 21 states on [March 29<sup>th</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>](#), we want to ensure that you are *well equipped* to plan and carry out your events.

Clicking on [VWC background information](#) will take you to our new "tag lines" and updated key messages, talking points, quotable quotes and clarification of terminology. We also have several poster series available to download from [vietnamwar50th.com](#). A portion of our newest, "*African Americans in the Vietnam War*," is pictured at the right.

**Remember** to use our *tag lines* in all your communications: "*Proud partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!*" and "*Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!*"

The use of these tag lines, along with the [CP Seal](#) and Commemoration flag, resonates with the nation and will inspire all Americans to join in this national initiative and thank Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice. We encourage you to incorporate them freely throughout your programs, flyers, newspaper ads, radio spots and other media outlet advertising.



#### Above & Beyond

Department of Veterans Affairs

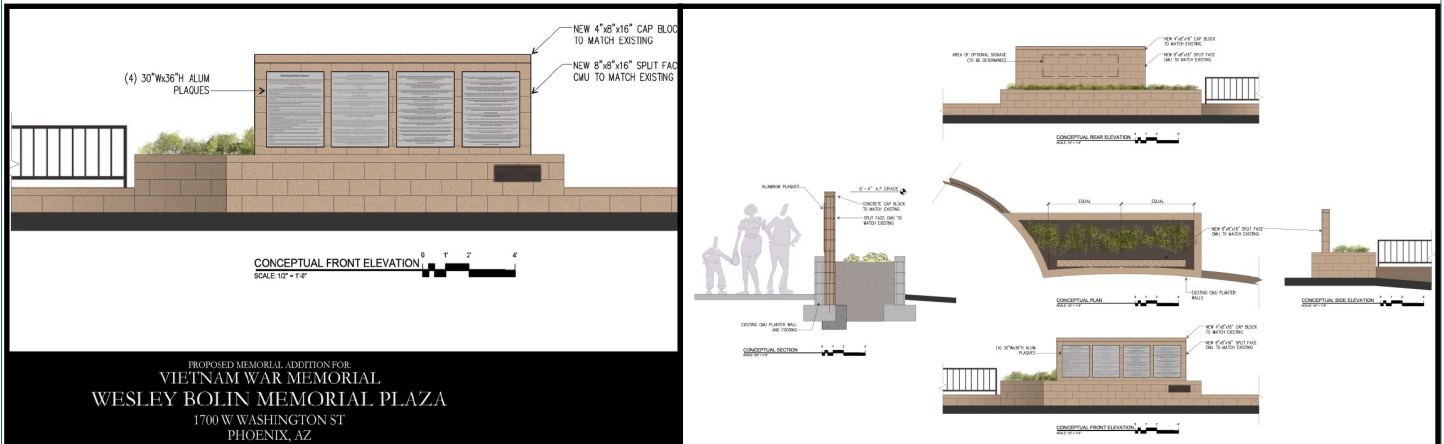


"I have designated March 29, 2016 as a day for our Department to express our tremendous gratitude and support to this generation of Americans through ceremonies across the nation. This commemoration has special significance for those of us at VA because of our honored mission to serve those who have 'borne the battle.' It's also an opportunity to remember our VA colleagues who served in this generation of Veterans, to extend our heartfelt appreciation to them and to their families who shared the burden of their loved one's service." Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert A. McDonald

If you are planning a ceremony, **order** your [Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins](#) early! Present each Vietnam veteran a lapel pin [Fact Sheet](#) along with their lapel pin, as these fact sheets contain an explanation of the elements and significance of this "lasting memento of the nation's thanks." **Finally**, [photograph](#) your event, and email us your three best captioned pictures, along with your [AAR](#). We look forward to hearing your success stories!

Sincerely, *The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff*

# The Vietnam Arizona Wall in Phoenix



## Legislative Governmental Mall Commission Approves Plaques Honoring Vietnam Veterans

On March 4, 2016, the Governmental Mall Commission, by a vote of 7 to 2, approved the construction of a wall to display four plaques entitled “Honoring Vietnam Veterans”. The plaques are 36’ high by 30’ wide and are made of stainless steel. There are four headings in the text of the plaques:

- (1) SOME KEY HISTORICAL AND GEO-POLITICAL FACTS,
- (2) MEDIA “SPIN” INFLUENCED THE PUBLIC AND THE WAR,
- (3) THE LEGACY OF THE SO-CALLED “PEACE MOVEMENT”
- (4) HONORING VIETNAM VETERANS.

State Representative Sonny Borrelli spoke and was very supportive of the update to the present memorial. Of course, there was some controversy since this is about the Vietnam War, but Chairman of the commission, Mr. Kevin DeMenna handled one hostile speaker and two dissident commission members with tact and professionalism. The vote speaks for itself. They dedicated the memorial plaques on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at noon at the Vietnam memorial site in Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix, Arizona.



## Arizona Military Museum Annual Dinner

The 6th Annual Vietnam Veterans Commemoration Dinner is coming up. And we wanted to give you some details early on about it, so you could plan on attending it. This is truly an exclusive event which includes a lot of great people (to include you and friends, that you may know) This annual event is something we should seriously consider going to, because as we get older, we may not have that opportunity to do thing such as this in the distant much less near future.

**Date: 29 October 2016**  
**Reception Time: 5:30pm**  
**Dinner Time: 6:30pm**  
**Location: Scottsdale Plaza Resort**  
 7200 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ  
**Cost: \$50.00 per person**

This is an event YOU will not want to miss. We have an average of 400 people attend, the meals are fabulous, the fellowship is superb and the dessert is scrumptious and you Vietnam Veterans receive a special gift to given out that evening, but not told in this newsletter.



The guest speaker will be Professor Robert Turner who teaches National Security at the University of Virginia Law School. He's a very conservative professor and has extensive knowledge of the history and geopolitics of the Vietnam war. He's been to Vietnam several times and did two tours in Vietnam.

This is an event very worthwhile coming to and you not regret spending the time nor the money for a very memorable event in your life. Robert F. Turner holds both professional and academic doctorates from the University of Virginia School of Law. He co-founded the Center for National Security Law with Professor John Norton Moore in April 1981 and has served as its associate director since then except for two periods of government service in the 1980s and during 1994-95, when he occupied the Charles H. Stockton Chair of International Law at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. A former Army captain and veteran of two tours in Vietnam, Turner served as a research associate and public affairs fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace before spending five years in the mid-1970s as national security adviser to Senator Robert P. Griffin, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He has also served in the executive branch as a member of the Senior Executive Service,



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- Historical Links

### "An Arizona Centennial Legacy Project"



Museum Director  
Colonel Joe Abdeely  
USA (Ret)



Webmaster

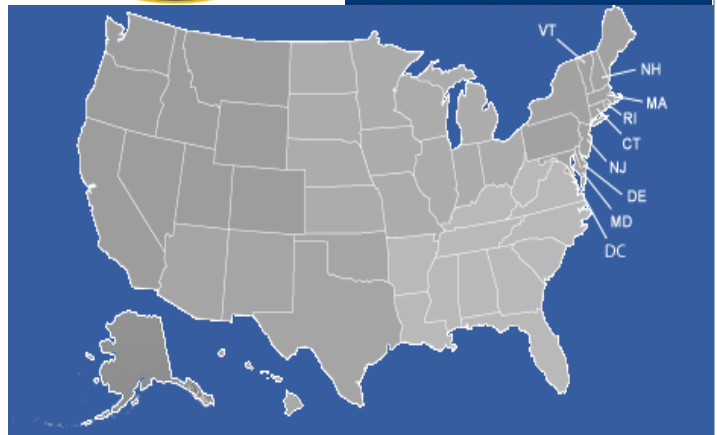
#### ARIZONA NATIONAL GUARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Arizona Military Museum is operated by the Arizona National Guard Historical Society, a private non-profit corporation. The officers and directors serve as docents, and they perform other necessary functions in conjunction with National Guard support to operate and maintain the museum.

The Historical Society's purposes are: "To enhance the appreciation of the military history of Arizona and the contributions of the Militia of Arizona and the Arizona National Guard to the State of Arizona and to the Nation..." (Bylaws, Article I, Section 1). To accomplish its purposes, the Historical Society shall strive: "...to discover and memorialize the history of the Military of Arizona, the Arizona National Guard, and the general military history of Arizona, and to establish and maintain a museum on land leased, owned, or otherwise controlled by the Society." (Id.). The policy statement states that the Historical Society is "...to portray events, persons, and other historical information relating to...the military service of Arizonans in wars and other military actions in Arizona and around the world".

On September 30, 2006, the Arizona Military Museum celebrated its 25th anniversary.

The museum building is a significant part of Arizona's military history. The raw adobe building was constructed in 1936 as a Depression-era public works project. It served as a National Guard arsenal until World War II, when it was converted into a maintenance shop for German prisoners of war confined at a nearby POW camp.



## Prospective “VVA Chapter”–Sedona’s 50th Event



### You Are Invited!

April 1, 2016

50th Anniversary Commemoration  
of the Vietnam War Luncheon

Keynote Speaker  
Col. Thomas H. Kirk, JR. (USAF Ret.)  
POW 1967 - 1973

Elks Lodge, 110 Airport Road Sedona  
11:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Vietnam Era\* Veterans Only,  
*Please, No Guests!*  
Reservations Required

Call (928) 282-7571 or (928) 282-3030 to reserve a seat.  
Space is limited so call and reserve your spot now.

This event is presented free of charge by the Vietnam Veterans of America  
and the Arizona Department of Veterans Services.

\*1 November 1955 - 15 May 1975\*

## Women Vets of America



**WomenVetsUSA**  
Your service. Your connections.



The WomenVetsUSA website launched at: <https://womenvetsusa.org>



The oldest female Veteran, the high-spirited, fun-loving, amazing local celebrity, **Alyce Dixon**, died peacefully in her sleep at the Washington DC Veterans Affairs Medical Center's Community Living Center. She was 108 years old. She is well-known in the community for her elegant sense of style, her long repertoire of eyebrow-raising jokes and very strong opinions. She credits her long life to sharing and caring. "I always shared what little I have, that's why He let me live so long. I just believe in sharing and giving. If you have a little bit of something and someone else needs it, share." she said. Dixon was born in 1907, when an American's average life expectancy was only 47 years. She was born Alice Ellis in Boston. At the age of 16, she changed the spelling of her name to Alyce after seeing a picture show starring actress Alyce Mills. She lived life on her own terms from that day forward. She was married for a time, but divorced her husband over an \$18 grocery bill. He found out she was sending money home to her family and put her on a strict allowance. This didn't sit well for the independent young woman. "I found myself a job, an apartment and a roommate. I didn't need him or his money," she said. She later joined the military in 1943. She was among one of the first African-American women in the Army. As a member of the Women's Army Corps, she was stationed in England and France where she played an important role in the postal service as part of the 6888th Battalion. After leaving the Army, she served the government for many years at the Census Bureau and for the Pentagon where she served as a purchasing agent, buying everything from pencils to airplanes. She retired from government service in 1973. At the medical center, she was affectionately called the "Queen Bee" and was known for impeccable dress. She never left her room without fixing her makeup and hair. She always wore stylish clothes and jewelry and sported well-manicured nails. She loved to sit in the medical center Atrium and watch the people. She was disappointed in how young women dress today. "I tell everyone to dress nice for yourself and you'll feel better, even if you don't feel good," she said. "Wear your jewelry, fix your hair. No one has to tell you that you look good...do it for yourself." She led a long and full life. She has met presidents, the first lady, members of Congress, high-ranking military officers, celebrities and musicians. She also held media interviews with many local and national outlets. According to medical center director, Brian A. Hawkins, MHA, she will be missed, "...especially the caregivers and Veterans of our Community Living Center. She was one-of-a-kind; a strong-willed, funny, wise, giving and feisty WWII Veteran. Her message touched a lot of people." VA Secretary Bob McDonald meets with Alyce Dixon in January 2015 in above photo.

## Sharing Everything

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger and carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously they were thinking, 'That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.' As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything. People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.. Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said 'No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.' Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked 'What is it you are waiting for?' She Answered:

A lot of us probably have these things and the other person in the room does not even know it. It is not a bad thing, just something some have to put up with over our life. The best thing is that we are still breathing. The best thing we can do in the winter of our life is to SHARE.





## The Arizona Stand-Down

Through the work of our service providers and volunteers, we were able to serve 1,850 veterans, including 176 female vets, at the 2016 Maricopa County Stand-down, the largest number served to date. This is a bittersweet accomplishment. We are saddened to see so many veterans in our community in need, but appreciative of our partners who have the capacity to serve so many. With the help of over 800 guest guide volunteers, for the first time ever, the courts served over 1,000 veterans; MVD served 750-800; 261 vision consults and nearly 600 reading glasses were distributed; 450 veterans were served by the Veterans Benefits Administration, with over 200 claims filed; child care was provided for 30 children over the course of the first two days; and 325 veterans received haircuts from volunteer stylists. Report on the Stand-down in Phoenix from Nancy Briggs who is a member of AVVA Chapter 1011 members from 1011 and Chapter 432 were working at the Stand-down last week. Thanks for the update and for all the hard work you all put in to help the homeless. Through the work of our service providers and volunteers, we were able to serve 1,850 veterans, including 176 female vets, at the 2016 Maricopa County Stand Down, the largest number served to date. This is a bittersweet accomplishment. We are saddened to see so many veterans in our community in need, but appreciative of our partners who have the capacity to serve so many. With the help of over 800 guest guide volunteers, for the first time ever, the courts served over 1,000 veterans; MVD served 750-800; 261 vision consults and nearly 600 reading glasses were distributed; 450 veterans were served by the Veterans Benefits Administration, with over 200 claims filed; child care was provided for 30 children over the course of the first two days; and 325 veterans received haircuts from volunteer stylists.

## Arizona VVA's VSO's

### William (Bill) Colberg

2871 Palmer Dr., Sierra Vista , AZ. 85650  
Work: 520-249-8898, Fax: 520-803-9980  
Email: [vvavso@cox.net](mailto:vvavso@cox.net)

### Eduard (Ed) Uzumekis, PhD

Community Development Bldg. #104  
102 Roadrunner Dr., Sedona, AZ. 86336  
Work: 928-202-2193  
Email: [vva.service.officer@lcloud.com](mailto:vva.service.officer@lcloud.com)

### Bob Foley

Mesa Veterans Center #5  
1303 S. Longmore, Mesa, AZ. 85202  
Work: 480-610-6727, Fax: 480-464-3526  
Email: [rfoley10@cox.net](mailto:rfoley10@cox.net)

### Dave Clark

4225 Highway 68 Suite G, Golden Valley, AZ. 86413  
Work: 928-377-1101  
Email: [daveclark@vva975.org](mailto:daveclark@vva975.org)  
Friday Only

### Charles Byers Senior VSO

VA Southeast Clinic  
3285 South Val Vista Dr. ,Gilbert, AZ. 85297  
Work: 480-397-2815  
Email: [Charles.Byers@va.gov](mailto:Charles.Byers@va.gov)  
Monday only

### Charles (Chuck) Byers, VARO

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### Lou Ann Huskisson, VARO

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Phone: 623-972-7369 (West Valley)  
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Thursday Only

### Gene Crego, AZ. State Council President, VARO

3333 N. Central Ave. Rm. 1054, Phoenix, AZ. 85012  
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Email: [azvvavso@gmail.com](mailto:azvvavso@gmail.com)  
Thursday Only

### Patricia (Pat) Gorden, VA Southwest Clinic

3285 S. Val Vista Dr., Gilbert, AZ. 85297\  
Work: 480-397-2815:  
Email: [VVAVSOPJG@yahoo.com](mailto:VVAVSOPJG@yahoo.com)  
Monday only

### George (Dan) Ross, VAMC

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Email: [danvet22@gmail.com](mailto:danvet22@gmail.com)  
Monday & Tuesday

### Ronald (Ron) J. Dolgner, VAMC

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Wednesday & Thursday

### Danny Curtis BVA/VVA /VAMC

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Monday, Wednesday & Thursday

### Robert Moreno BVA/VVA , VAMC

3601 South 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bld.#30 Rm.#321, Tucson, AZ. 85273  
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Wednesday

## VVA-Arizona State Council Meeting—January 2016



Elections were held for AZ AVVA State Officers on Saturday, Jan 16, 2016. L to R: President - Casey Farrell, Vice President - Sue Crego, Secretary - Sandra Cornejo, Treasurer - Brenda Noriega.

This is a group of people who really do a fine job in supporting the men and women of Vietnam Veterans of America-Arizona. Between the lunches they provide for us, the drawings to raise money for themselves and other instances, they are a great group to work with. And you never hear them complain. The lady on the left is Casey Farrell is the new AVVA President, next to the right is Sue Crego, the new AVVA Vice President, and then is Sandra Cornejo as Secretary and Brenda Noriega who remained as Treasurer. We would like to thank them for the hard work they do in making and supporting the VVA-Arizona ranks very nice for all of us. There are others not shown here and we all appreciate the entire group for what they each month of the year. God Bless you as you make a difference for us.

## VVA-Arizona State Council Topics

The Arizona State Council is attempting to develop methods with the Chapters in Arizona and the State Council itself to raise money, help support the eight chapters in Arizona itself along with the VSO program. We are attempting to write grants and come up with new ways to earn funds for everyone in the state to provide new services, events, items for give-away, recruit new members, “Keep the Vietnam Spirit Alive”, and teach the grandchildren and great-grand-children about Veterans of America. The latest generations need to develop, learn and keep the sense of patriotism within America about “WHAT THE MILITARY HAS DONE FOR THEM” in the 20th and 21st Centuries. Looking at the problem of today with “ISIS” is more than critical, even more dangerous than World War II, because they are appearing everywhere and anywhere in the world and there is a long line of recruits to join. Therefore, all chapters have to develop a plan to raise funds for themselves, and on occasion help out the State Council financially (if necessary) and keep the VSO program alive for the next several years.

We currently have 13 VSO's on hand, doing a great job and are making a difference in hundreds of lives with Veterans throughout Arizona. VVA-Arizona will be having their bi-annual election in June 2016 in Tucson. All four spots of (President, VIP#1, VP#2, State Secretary and Treasurer) will be elected upon.

PTSD Claims are reported to be at 100% “claim rate” according to Dave Clark. He stated that sometimes, we are in danger because we cannot tell “false danger” from “real danger”. State Secretary Walt Schumacher took the opportunity to organize and bind all of the VVA-Arizona State Council documents from 2002-2015. In this sense, the documents are all organized and easy to locate, either in print or electronic format. Gene Crego presented Dick Southern with a “Snapfish” VVA 2015 Convention book for his enjoyment and an Agent Orange book put together by Chapter 835 as a reference for Yuma's Agent Orange Town Hall. Several committees were formed and there is a plan afloat to merge other personnel within them to give them for stance and different inputs and outputs to possibly aid all of us in that category. Chapter 1011 (Mesa) is held an Agent Orange Town Hall in February 2016. Nearly all chapters have performed this task which was quite informative to the veterans. The VVAF Foundation awarded the MANA House in Phoenix a check for \$1,000.00 for food. Dick Southern mentioned that the word “ERA” is now dropped from those who did not serve in the country.



# Arabian Horse Show



## SCOTTSDALE ARABIAN HORSE SHOW MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY!!

All veterans and their families are cordially invited to the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show

**MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016**

WestWorld, North Scottsdale  
16601 North Pima Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85260

All veterans & their families get in free.  
Show ID card or DD 214 or be in uniform and get in free.

There will be a special presentation in the South Hall at 2:00 pm with Desert Storm veteran County Attorney Bill Montgomery and distribution of Commemoration of the Vietnam War pins to Vietnam and era veterans.

Representatives of the Veterans Heritage Project (conduct interviews of veterans for publication) will also be on site.



### MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY AT WESTWORLD SPECIAL EVENTS SCHEDULE

- 9:00am Behind the Scenes Barn Tour  
- Military Personnel & Families - Barn Tour Office - North Hall
- 10:30-11:30am Meet an Arabian Horse - South Hall
- 12:00noon Four Natural Aids for Training-Robert Leary - South Hall
- 1:00pm Dressage Freestyle/Demonstration  
with SSG Katie Ferencik of the U.S. Army Sponsored by Markel - Arena 6
- 2:00pm Military Appreciation Presentation, Color Guard & Bill Montgomery,  
Maricopa County Attorney - South Hall
- 3:00pm Military Dog Demonstration - Neal Mestas, Dog Training  
- Elite AZ - South Hall

For more information visit:  
[www.scottsdaleshow.com](http://www.scottsdaleshow.com)

Events such as this are great to take your grand-children to as they usually only happen once a year. You would be greatly encouraged to invite them to events such as this. We have only so much time left to enjoy the people that we love during this lifetime, so may I recommend that we take advantage of programs such as this to pay honor to Vietnam Veterans and allow our grand children and great-grand-children to enjoy something you don't see too often.

## What Eisenhower Thought of France and Indo-China

### Eisenhower on the Strategic Link between French Forces in Europe and Vietnam



Serious problems were plaguing our nation in Korea and Vietnam. In the former, indecisive and costly fighting still dragged on. In Vietnam the French had not yet convinced the world that the struggle was between those who stood for freedom on one side and Communist rebels, supported by the power of Red China, on the other. Consequently a considerable portion of world opinion viewed the war there as merely a French effort to continue their prewar domination in the region. Until this point was clarified, it was difficult for any Western nation, including our own, to offer or provide any help to the French and loyal Vietnamese. This was a matter that had troubled me greatly when I was serving as military commander of NATO in 1951-52. In that period the French government had found it necessary to deplete their NATO military contingent by a number of battalions so as to reinforce promptly French troops in Vietnam. In expressing my disappointment in that development I had strongly urged the government to interpret, publicly, their Far Eastern war effort in terms of freedom versus Communism. This could be done only through a French public commitment assuring to the Vietnamese, unequivocally, the right of determining their own political future. Such a pronouncement, I argued, would earn the approval of the Free World as well as its moral and greater material support. During my service in NATO a considerable number of responsible officials in France had assured me of their complete agreement with this view. General de Lattre de Tassigny, who was then the commander of French forces in Vietnam, had come to the United States, at my urging, just a few months before his death and in a nationally televised speech in this country made just such a statement. But because his government did not follow with a public political pronouncement, the matter was still subject to misinterpretation and an American support for the French in that region could not achieve unanimous domestic approval. Nonetheless, recognizing the necessity of stopping Communist advances in that country, we started immediately after my inauguration to devise plans for strengthening the defenders politically and militarily within the proper limits. (Source: Dwight D. Eisenhower, *Mandate for Change*: 1953-1956).

## AZ Governor Appoints Joe Abodeely to Historical Society

It has paid off being the CEO of the Arizona Military Museum for 36 years. We have honored the military service in and from Arizona from the Conquistadors to the present. And there is a large room dedicated to the Vietnam War, and the museum has planned, coordinated, and sponsored events which honor Vietnam veterans for the past five years. There has been a mutually supportive relationship between the Arizona Historical Society, the state's oldest agency, and the Arizona Military museum. Recently, Governor Doug Ducey, appointed Col (Ret) Joe Abodeely to the Board of Directors of the Arizona Historical Society, and the Senate confirmed the appointment February 17, 2016. It is an honor to serve on the board of directors of the Arizona Historical Society which has collected and preserved Arizona's history since territorial days. **If you have NOT seen the museum, you're missing a lot.**

## Best .45 Shot In The World



Some of you have probably already read this, but interesting nonetheless. Owen John Baggett was born in 1920 in Graham, Texas. By 1941 he graduated from college and went on to work on Wall Street, but by the following year, he enlisted in the Army Air Corps (now USAF) when the United States entered the war. A studious man, he graduated from pilot training in just five months and was sent to Burma, flying a B-24 Liberator. What he happened the following year is one of those stories we just described. On March 31st, 1943, Baggett and his squadron were sent on a mission to destroy a bridge of strategic importance. On their way, the B-24s got intercepted by Japanese Zeros which hit the squadron hard. Baggetts' plane was riddled with bullets to such an extent that the crew was forced to bail out. While parachuting, a Japanese pilot decided that downing the plane wasn't enough. He circled around and started shooting at the bailed out pilots, killing two of the crew. Seeing this, Baggett did the only thing he could. He

played dead. Not convinced Baggett was dead, the Zero pulled up to him at near stall speed, the pilot opening his canopy to check on his horrendous work. Not wasting any time and thinking on his feet (no pun intended), Baggett pulled out his pistol and shot the pilot right in the head. This is considered the best shot by a Caliber .45 (M911) pistol of ALL TIME. The last thing he saw was the Zero spiraling toward earth. When he landed, he and the other bailed out crew members were captured and sent to a POW camp where they remained till the end of the war. They were liberated by OSS agents (World War II version of the modern CIA) and Baggett was recognized as the only person during the war to shoot down a Zero with a pistol.



## U.S.S. Constitution – A Bit of Naval History



The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Iron Sides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (I.e. Fresh water distillers). However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum". Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each. By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home. The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whiskey, and 38,600 gallons of water.

## Look What Chik-Fil-A Did?

### MISSING MAN TABLE—MAN WALKS INTO CHICK-FILA

He is Completely Blown Away When He Saw This for Veterans

By *Bill Callen: Top Right News*

Chick-fil-A, the same fast-food outlet has once again proved a positive to the world. This time it did so by unveiling an amazing Veterans Day tribute that left Georgia resident Eric Comfort in complete shock. According to a Facebook post he published on Monday, when he walked into a local Chick-fil-A, Comfort discovered a "Missing Man Table" that contained a single rose, a Bible and a folded American flag, as well as a plaque within which was the following explanation: "This table is reserved to honor our missing comrades in arms. The tablecloth is white – symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call of duty. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends of these Americans who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing."

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted – to symbolize their inability to share this evening's toast. The chair is empty – they are missing."

After the story went viral, the store manager, Alex Korchan, explained to WSB that his team members had set up the table because they "wanted to honor veterans." Furthermore, he offered free meals to all veterans and their family members on Veterans Day. Korchan also put up a poster so that customers could write in the names of loved ones who they have lost. "We've had a lot of people who have come in and seen it and been touched by it," Korchan continued. "It's been special to see."



## Final Resting Place Guidelines

### Persons Eligible for Burial in a National Cemetery

The National Cemetery Scheduling Office has the primary responsibility for verifying eligibility for burial in VA national cemeteries. A determination of eligibility is made in response to a request for burial in a VA national cemetery. To schedule a burial fax all discharge documentation to 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117.

#### a. Veterans and Members of the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard)

(1) Any member of the Armed Forces of the United States who dies on active duty.

(2) Any Veteran who was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. With certain exceptions, service beginning after September 7, 1980, as an enlisted person, and service after October 16, 1981, as an officer, must be for a minimum of 24 continuous months or the full period for which the person was called to active duty (as in the case of a Reservist called to active duty for a limited duration). Undesirable, bad conduct, and any other type of discharge other than honorable may or may not qualify the individual for Veterans benefits, depending upon a determination made by a VA Regional Office. Cases presenting multiple discharges of varying character are also referred for adjudication to a VA Regional Office.

(3) Any citizen of the United States who, during any war in which the United States has or may be engaged, served in the Armed Forces of any Government allied with the United States during that war, whose last active service was terminated honorably by death or otherwise, and who was a citizen of the United States at the time of entry into such service and at the time of death.

#### b. Members of Reserve Components and Reserve Officers' Training Corps

(1) Reservists and National Guard members who, at time of death, were entitled to retired pay under Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code, or would have been entitled, but for being under the age of 60. Specific categories of individuals eligible for retired pay are delineated in section 12731 of Chapter 1223, title 10, United States Code.

(2) Members of reserve components, and members of the Army National Guard or the Air National Guard, who die while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while performing active duty for training or inactive duty training, or undergoing such hospitalization or treatment.

(3) Members of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps of the Army, Navy, or Air Force who die under honorable conditions while attending an authorized training camp or on an authorized cruise, while performing authorized travel to or from that camp or cruise, or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury or disease contracted or incurred under honorable conditions while engaged in one of those activities.

(4) Members of reserve components who, during a period of active duty for training, were disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in line of duty or, during a period of inactive duty training, were disabled or died from an injury or certain cardiovascular disorders incurred or aggravated in line of duty.

#### c. Commissioned Officers, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

(1) A Commissioned Officer of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (formerly titled the Coast and Geodetic Survey and the Environmental Science Services Administration) with full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945.

(2) A Commissioned Officer who served before July 29, 1945; and,

(a) Was assigned to an area of immediate military hazard as determined by the Secretary of Defense while in time of war, or in a Presidentially declared national emergency; or,

(b) Served in the Philippine Islands on December 7, 1941, and continuously in such islands thereafter.

#### d. Public Health Service

(1) A Commissioned Officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service who served on full-time duty on or after July 29, 1945. If the service of the particular Public Health Service Officer falls within the meaning of active duty for training, as defined in section 101(22), title 38, United States Code, he or she must have been disabled or died from a disease or injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty.

(2) A Commissioned Officer of the Regular or Reserve Corps of the Public Health Service who performed full-time duty prior to July 29, 1945:

(a) In time of war;

(b) On detail for duty with the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard; or,

(c) While the Service was part of the military forces of the United States pursuant to Executive Order of the President.

## Final Resting Place Guidelines (cont'd)

### **e. World War II Merchant Mariners**

(1) United States Merchant Mariners with oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict, December 7, 1941, to December 31, 1946. Prior to the enactment of Public Law 105-368, United States Merchant Mariners with oceangoing service during the period of armed conflict of December 7, 1941, to August 15, 1945, were eligible. With enactment of Public Law 105-368, the service period is extended to December 31, 1946, for those dying on or after November 11, 1998. A DD-214 documenting this service may be obtained by submitting an application to Commandant (G-MVP-6), United States Coast Guard, 2100 2nd Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593. Notwithstanding, the Mariner's death must have occurred on or after the enactment of Public Law 105-368.

(2) United States Merchant Mariners who served on block-ships in support of Operation Mulberry during World War II.

### **f. The Philippine Armed Forces**

(1) Any Philippine Veteran who was a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States at the time of their death; and resided in the United States at the time of their death; and,

(a) Was a person who served before July 1, 1946, in the organized military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines, while such forces were in the service of the Armed Forces of the United States pursuant to the military order of the President dated July 26, 1941, including organized guerilla forces under commanders appointed, designated, or subsequently recognized by the Commander in Chief, Southwest Pacific Area, or other competent authority in the Army of the United States, and who died on or after November 1, 2000; or,

(b) Was a person who enlisted between October 6, 1945, and June 30, 1947, with the Armed Forces of the United States with the consent of the Philippine government, pursuant to section 14 of the Armed Forces Voluntary Recruitment Act of 1945, and who died on or after December 16, 2003.

### **g. Spouses and Dependents**

(1) The spouse, surviving spouse or dependent of an eligible Veteran or member of the Armed Forces may be eligible for interment in a national cemetery even if that Veteran is not buried or memorialized in a national cemetery.

(2) The surviving spouse of an eligible Veteran who had a subsequent remarriage to a non-Veteran and whose death occurred on or after January 1, 2000, is eligible for burial in a national cemetery, based on his or her marriage to the eligible Veteran.

(3) The minor children of an eligible Veteran. A burial in a national cemetery, a child who is unmarried:

(a) Who is under 21 years of age; or,

(b) Who is under 23 years of age and pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution.

(4) The unmarried adult child of an eligible Veteran. For purpose of burial in a national cemetery, an unmarried adult child

Of any age but became permanently physically or mentally disabled and incapable of self-support before reaching 21 years of age, or before reaching 23 years of age if pursuing a full-time course of instruction at an approved educational institution. Proper supporting documentation must be provided.

### **h. Parents**

(1) Biological or adoptive parents, who died after October 13, 2010, and whose biological/adoptive child was a servicemember:

(a) whose death occurred on or after October 7, 2001, and

(b) whose death was the result of a hostile casualty or a training-related injury, and

(c) who is interred in a national cemetery, in a gravesite with available space for subsequent interment, and

(d) at the time of the parent's death, had no spouse, surviving spouse, or child who is buried, or who, upon death.

(2) The term "hostile casualty" means a person who, as a member of the Armed Forces, dies as the direct result of hostile action with the enemy, while in combat, while going to or returning from a combat mission if the cause of death was directly related to hostile action, or while hospitalized or undergoing treatment at the expense of the United States for injury incurred during combat, and includes a person killed mistakenly or accidentally by friendly fire directed at a hostile force or what is thought to be a hostile force. The term "hostile casualty" does not include a person who dies due to the elements, a self-inflicted wound, combat fatigue, or a friendly force while the person was absent-without-leave, deserter, or dropped-from-rolls status or was voluntarily absent from a place of duty.

(3) The term "training-related injury" means an injury incurred by a member of the Armed Forces while performing authorized training activities in preparation for a combat mission.

### **i. Others**

Such other persons or classes of persons as designated by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs (38 U.S.C. § 2402(6)) or the Secretary of Defense (Public Law 95-202, § 401, and 38 CFR § 3.7(x)).

## VA Health

### A healthy lifestyle turn for the better-Veteran loses 78 lbs with support from the VA MOVE! program

When you are diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, it was a real wake-up call. But change didn't happen right away. I signed up for classes at the VA including the MOVE! Program, but at first it was difficult to find motivation. One evening I was watching the documentary film, *Fat, Sick and Nearly Dead*, and I really saw myself reflected in the movie. At 60 years old, I knew that I had to do something about my health. With the help of Shari Baird and Jennie Guan, both registered dietitians at the Phoenix VA Medical Center, I came up with a plan. It didn't seem like much at first; I started by committing to walking to the grocery store near my office at lunch every day and choosing something healthy. Then I started walking in the morning before I left for work and right when I got home - just 15 minutes at a time.

I used the skills I learned in MOVE! like keeping a food diary to track calories, and tracking my exercise. I changed my diet to eat less processed foods and I found if I mixed things up it was a much better way to eat. I got creative with exercise and parked about a mile from work, and I started walking stairwells and incorporating pushups and planks during my breaks at work. I like to add variety to challenge myself like swimming and hiking. Today I feel stronger than I ever have in my whole life. In a little over a year, I've lost 78 pounds, brought my BMI from 38 to 27, and lowered my A1c from 9.5% to 5.4%! I have less stress and more energy, I sleep better, and I am more self-confident. It's like night and day!

We're so conditioned to want everything now, but incremental change really works. When I think about the way I used to eat, I tell myself, "You deserve to take care of yourself for all the hard work you've been doing." Jennie and Shari were highly professional, friendly and gave strong technical support. Both were extremely influential in my progress towards such an amazing personal success story. I can't thank them enough for all their help! My success didn't happen overnight, but finding personal motivation and having the skills and knowledge to make healthier choices had led me to real and lasting change.

## Oregon Memorial Park



What else needs to be said for a superb memorial park for our veterans?



## An Additional Year Given

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced today it will extend the healthcare enrollment application period for one year to approximately 545,000 living Veterans that have pending incomplete enrollment applications. Fixing the Veterans enrollment system is a top priority for VA. This is an important step forward to regain Veterans' trust and improve access to care as we continue the MyVA Transformation," said VA Deputy Secretary Sloan D. Gibson. "We've got a lot of work left to do, but this is a big step in the right direction to restore the data integrity of our enrollment system," Gibson said. The National Enrollment Improvement team conducted a detailed analysis of the pending applications in VA's enrollment system and identified approximately 545,000 living Veterans whose applications were incomplete and in a pending status. The team also validated that approximately 288,000 pending enrollment system records were for deceased Veterans. VA has segregated deceased records from living Veteran records and, as part of the Veteran Enrollment Rework Project (VERP), will review each incomplete application to determine if any should have been enrolled in VA health care. VA is required by law to provide notice to Veterans of incomplete applications. The VERP team could not verify that VA's mailing system used to contact Veterans about their incomplete applications was able to notify the 545,000 Veterans identified above. VA will contact living Veterans to confirm their continued interest in enrolling in VA health care and ask them for the necessary information to complete their application. Veterans will have one year from the notice to provide this information. After a year, VA will close the record. A Veteran may reapply for enrollment at any time. As Veterans choose to enroll, VA offers an enhancement to their enrollment experience through "Welcome to VA" (W2VA). Veterans enrolled since July 1, 2015 have received a personal introduction to VA health care services, programs and resources to help them become more familiar with VA's services. In addition, VA sends each new enrollee an introductory letter and personalized handbook in the mail. W2VA enhances communication by reaching out to newly enrolled Veterans through personal phone calls upon enrollment, providing assistance with health care inquiries and assisting with their initial appointment at their preferred VA healthcare facility.

## Care and Benefits for Veterans Strengthened by \$182 Billion VA Budget

In his FY 2017 budget, President Obama is proposing \$182.3 billion for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Funding will continue to support the largest transformation in VA history; expand access to timely, high-quality health care and benefits; and advance efforts to end homelessness among Veterans. "VA has before it one of the greatest opportunities in its history to transform the way it cares for our Veterans who nobly served and sacrificed for our Nation," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "As we work to become a more efficient, effective and responsive, Veteran-centric Department, we can't do it alone; we need the help of Congress. This year, VA submitted over 100 legislative proposals, including 40 new proposals to better serve Veterans. Our goal is provide the best care to our Veterans while removing obstacles or barriers that prevent them from getting the care they deserve." The FY 2017 budget includes \$78.7 billion in discretionary funding, largely for health care and \$103.6 billion for mandatory benefit programs such as disability compensation and pensions. The \$78.7 billion for discretionary spending is \$3.6 billion (4.9 percent) above the 2016 enacted level, including over \$3.6 billion in medical care collections from health insurers and Veteran copayments. The budget also requests \$70.0 billion, including collections, for the 2018 advance appropriations for medical care, an increase of \$1.5 billion and 2.1 percent above the 2017 medical care budget request. The request includes \$103.9 billion in 2018 mandatory advance appropriations for Compensation and Pensions, Readjustment Benefits and Veterans Insurance and Indemnities benefits programs in the Veterans Benefits:

### **Health Care**

With a medical care budget of \$68.6 billion, including collections, VA is positioned to continue expanding health care services to its millions of Veteran patients. Health care is being provided to over 922,000 Veterans who served in Operation Enduring Freedom/Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation New Dawn/Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR) and Operation Freedom's Sentinel (OFS). Major spending categories within the health care budget are:

- \$12.2 billion for care in the community;
- \$8.5 billion for long-term care;
- \$7.8 billion for mental health;
- \$1.6 billion for homeless Veterans;
- \$1.5 billion for Hepatitis-C treatments;
- \$725 million for Caregivers;
- \$601 million for spinal cord injuries;

## IOM Releases Veterans and Agent Orange, Update 2014

### *Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, Parkinson-like Symptoms, Hypertension, and Stroke Upgraded; Spina Bifida in offspring Downgraded*

The IOM (Institute of Medicine) released *Veterans and Agent Orange Update 2014*, the tenth biennial evaluation of relevant scientific studies—published between October 1, 2012, and September 30, 2014—on Agent Orange and other herbicides used during military operations in Vietnam.

“Vietnam Veterans of America thanks the IOM’s Veterans and Agent Orange Committee for upgrading the status of **Bladder cancer** and **hypothyroidism** to the Limited/Suggestive Category of Association; for clarifying that **individuals with Parkinson-like symptoms** without other known etiology should **be included in the presumption for Parkinson’s disease**; and for firmly supporting the VAO’s prior decisions—but not yet recognized by VA as presumptive conditions: **hypertension** and **stroke**,” said VVA National President John Rowan.

“VVA calls on President Obama and Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert McDonald to immediately initiate the process for adding all of these conditions to the service-connected, presumptive list for those who served in Vietnam and elsewhere in the Southeast Asia theater of operations,” said Rowan.

“Most disturbing,” noted Rowan, “is the rationale behind the Committee’s recommendation to **downgrade Spina Bifida to Inadequate or Insufficient Evidence**. As stated on Page 10 of *Update 2014*, ‘since *Update 1996*, no new analyses of birth defect data, finding increased rates of spina bifida among children of men exposed to the chemicals of interest have become available.’ IOM, in previous updates, has repeatedly called for the VA to conduct research on this issue. The VA has not spent a dime on this vitally needed research.”

Of the more than 7,600 abstracts of scientific and medical articles related to **Agent Orange**, **Agent Blue**, and **Agent White**, none of these studies were funded by VA,” said Rowan. “It is time for Congress to demand that the VA do their job by passing the Toxic Exposures Act (S. 901/ HR 1769) before Memorial Day.”

## Vietnam Vet Radio



<http://vietnamvetradio.com>

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.* United States Declaration of Independence

**ministry:** n. The act of serving

Vietnam Vet Radio is a unique one-of-a-kind internet radio station in that it is a non-traditional ministry to Vietnam War Veterans, their families, and friends. Vietnam Vet Radio believes, as did the founders of this great country, that Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness is a God-given right to every human being. Veterans of the Vietnam War, during their service in-country and upon returning home, were generally looked upon as less-than-deserving of that right. As a result a spiritual battle has been going on in the minds and hearts of a great many Vietnam War veterans; a struggle that has lasted for decades and continues to affect, not only the veteran, but family and friends as well.



## Those Phrases We Have ALL Heard

### To Look A Gift Horse In the Mouth

To look a gift horse in the mouth! Wait, why would I not want to do that? Well, think of it this way: if someone was polite enough to give you your very own horse as a gift, would you then inspect the animal to see if it's of good quality, especially when the person who gave the horse to you is standing right there next to you? Probably not, because that might be seen as very rude behavior. Apparently, though, there were people who would inspect the horse, particularly the mouth region, in order to determine the horse's age. Yeah, you can do that. The length of a horse's teeth can be used as an indicator for their age; the longer the teeth, the older the horse.

### Dropping Like Flies

The origin of this phrase is unclear, but the expression seems to suggest how fragile these insects are. Flies do, for example, have fragile life-spans. In fact, the *Center for Insect Science Education Outreach* says: "The average life span of a fly in a Lab is 26 days for a female, and 33 days for a male." That's pretty short! Indeed, once a fly hatches from their pupal stage, it's not long before they drop dead. A fly's life is also fragile once they buzz their way into a person's home. When they are spotted by the people living inside, flies usually don't last very afterwards. All it takes is a determined person armed with a flyswatter and these insects start dropping rapidly in number. Fragile, indeed!

### Everything But the Kitchen Sink

The origin of this phrase is not clear. Some believe it may have originated from World War II, however, that doesn't seem to be the case because there are recordings of the expression that come before. For instance, the earliest I could find this phrase in printed form is in a newspaper called *The Syracuse Herald*, 1918, where it reads: "*I have I shall rather enjoy the experience, though the stitlons are full of people trying to get out and the streets blocked with perambulators, bird cages and 'everything but the kitchen sink.'*"

### Easy as pie

This phrase is believed to come from the pleasantness and ease involved when eating a delicious pie. Basically, something is as easy as eating a pie. Evidently, during the 19th century, the word 'pie' was used to describe someone as being delightful or to depict something as being easy. Consider the examples below: In the year 1885, the word 'pie' was used as a nice remark by Mark Twain in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, where it reads: "*You're always as polite as pie to them.*" The popular saying we're familiar with today is found just two years later in 1887. It's written in various newspapers from that year, one of them being a newspaper from Rhode Island called *Newport Mercury*, and it says: "*You see veuever I goes I takes away mit me a silver spoon or a knife or somethings, an' I gets two.*"

### Axe To Grind

Benjamin Franklin published a lot of stories, one of which he was the central character. Franklin was approached by a stranger who stopped to admire the family grindstone. He asked to be shown how it worked and offered Ben Franklin an ax to demonstrate. Once his ax was sharp the stranger walked off laughing. Today "having an ax to grind" means that someone has a selfish or mean motive behind their actions. It also means to have a grudge or dispute with someone in which that person seeks some confrontation, justice or reciprocated action. This can be openly known or a hidden agenda, also.

### No Spring Chicken

New England chicken farmers discovered that chickens born in the Spring bought better prices, rather than old birds that had gone through the winter etc. Sometimes farmers tried to sell the old birds as a new spring born chicken. Smart buyers often complained that a tough fowl was "no spring chicken" and so the term now is used to represent birds (and even people) past their plump and tender years.

### Throw in the Towel

In old boxing days many bruised fighters couldn't get to their feet when the bell for the new round began. Their managers knew they could do nothing but give up since they were too weak to continue. As a signal, one of them would toss in an article used to soak up blood ~ a towel or sponge. Today's boxing regulations are meant to limit the brutality of the past. But the saying today meaning when you are forced to give up of "throwing in the towel" still remains.

## A Great Man As A POW in Germany— Alfred L. Autrey

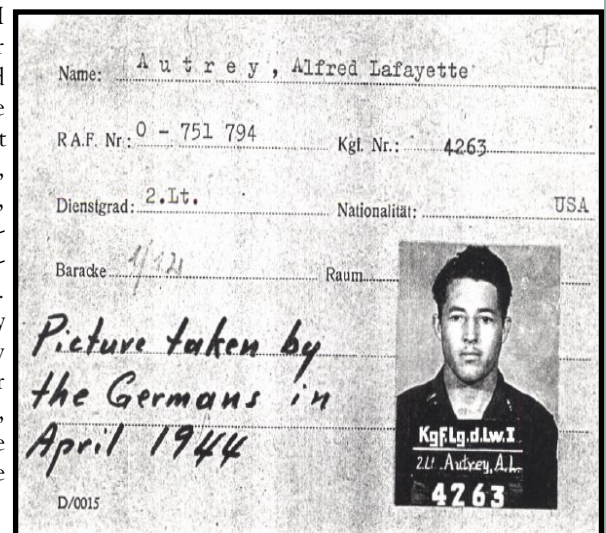
### Before The Military

I was raised on a farm, the oldest of six children, in Southern Oklahoma. My mother passed away when I was eleven years old. My father had the responsibility of raising our family and working as a tenant farmer to support us. My father was a proud veteran to World War I. He taught me so very much, especially love to God and country. I was raised with a deep respect and appreciation for the United States of America. At the age of 17, I joined the Oklahoma National Guard and served from July 2, 1937 to January 1, 1938. During the encampment, we were Infantry. Trained in the use of rifles, bayonets, grenades, and hand-to-hand Combat. These experiences convinced me that this was not the way I wanted to serve my country. This type of fighting was not for me. On February 11, 1939, at the age of 19, I registered for the draft. During this time I was attending Murray State Junior College, and graduated in 1940. During the next two years, I was a full-time student at Oklahoma's A and M. College. While studying in the library, I heard the news of the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and at that moment, I knew I would be in the military. I soon started the process to enlist in the United States Army Air Force Aviation Cadet Program.

In order to fully serve my country, on July 10, 1942, I was sworn in to the Army Air Force Aviation Cadet Program. I was sent to Santa Anna, CA for basic screening and training in February, 1943. On April, 18, 1943, I was selected and sent 6th Bombardier Training in Deming, New Mexico. I was commissioned on July 31, 1943 as a 2nd Lieutenant. Seven members of our class were selected to remain in Deming, NM as instructors and therefore. I was an instructor from July 31, 1943 through September 26, 1943. At that time I requested an assignment to the 396th Bomb Group AAB Moses Lake, Washington for active duty training. I was in that training from September, 1943 to January, 1944, in Moses Lake, WA, Ephrata, WA, Wendover, UT, and Grand Island, NE. Following this training, I was sent to England, with the 8th Air Force, 8th Command, 94th Wing, 401st Group, 614<sup>th</sup> Squadron. Upon arriving in England, we had needed additional training before our first combat mission. Being full of youthful ideals and enthusiasm, I was ready to fight the Germans.

Late in the evening on February 24, 1944, we were notified that we were being sent on our first mission the next day. Following hours of little or no sleep, we were "officially" awakened at 2:00 am.. At this cold, dark early hour we were to prepare ourselves both mentally and physically for what lay ahead. We were served breakfast, but food wasn't uppermost on our minds. We met for briefing to hear and see the details of our mission. We were given the opportunity to visit the Chaplain for a time of prayer and communion. This became a very important part of every mission that I took part in. We were then taken out to the flight line to inspect our airplane, entitled "Battlin Betty", a B-17G. We were airborne by 6:30 A.M., and 12 planes in our group were to rendezvous, heading for enemy territory within Germany. German anti-aircraft met us as we flew over the coast of France and became more intense as we flew over large cities. We never knew when German fighter aircraft would be attacking us from out of a cloud or from the blinding glare of the sun. These people meant business. We bombed the aircraft factory at Augsburg, and headed back to our base in England. I had an important job to do, but when I heard the Nazi planes being shot down, my mind wandered back to the hills of Oklahoma. I could see my dad and I out rabbit hunting. We would spot the rabbit, get him in our sights, fire the gun, and down he would go. I suddenly knew how the rabbits felt. From that day the life of this young farm boy from Oklahoma was never the same.

I flew and completed nine missions between February and April of 1944. On March 19, 1944 we were flying over the coast of France. We were unable to drop our bombs because of 100 mile an hour winds and crowded conditions caused by our own planes in the area. One of my Jobs was to defuse the bombs on board before landing, little did I know that I would soon be seeing the necessity of this procedure, As our plane landed at our base, we realized that one of our main tires had been destroyed by enemy ground fire. The skill of our pilot saved our plane and our lives. In addition to the tire, we found minor damage had been done to our fuselage and wings by anti-aircraft shells, we had been hit over 200 times. I was a very thankful man. Easter Sunday, April 9, 1944, also stands out in my mind. We successfully bombed our target, Poznan, in East Prussia, and were headed back to England. After reaching the Baltic Sea, we thought we were "home" the planes in our squadron were flying in formation, as usual, and I was able to see and recognize friends from our barracks. We acknowledged and waved to each other. Not five minutes later, a single enemy fighter plane came out of the sun, and scored a direct hit on that very plane. I saw my friend's plane come within a few feet of us as they roll right over the top of our plane. They had lost control and were completely disabled, as I watched in horror, I saw my buddies' plane crash into the freezing Baltic Sea. My crew and I were straining to see if anyone was able to parachute out. We saw no one. At that same instant I was thinking "That could have been us" and "Are there more coming?"



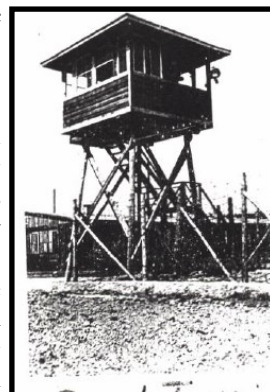
## A Great Man As A POW in Germany— Alred L. Autrey (Cont'd)



Crisis followed crisis that Sunday. As we continued on with heavy hearts, and heard the pilot ask the navigator how far we had to go. The navigator responded and the pilot said that we didn't have enough fuel to make it back to our base. He commanded us to throw any loose and nonessential equipment overboard so that we might be able to reach shore. We knew that we had been in the air almost 12 hours. Tension filled the plane and home base seemed so far away. Once again the power of prayer and the skill of our pilot was proved. We were able to land at the first airstrip on the coast of England. The next morning we flew into our base at Kettering, an hour and a half from that airstrip on the coast. After we had landed, we were made aware that we were scheduled for a mission the very next morning. Our barracks seemed so quiet and empty. Our friend's belongings were already being packed up and moved out. There was no time to mourn, rest or think. Little did I know that following this next mission that I would have too much time to mourn, rest, and think? This next mission, my breath, would be my last.

April 11th, 1944, 6:00am, waking, showering, dressing, briefing. The same procedure as every other, but on this day new concerns and feelings. At the briefing we were informed that we would be the lowest flying Squadron. At 20,000 feet enemy anti-aircraft was very accurate, we would be very vulnerable and a great target. I remember more people being at the Chaplains' for prayer and communion on that day than on any in the past. We remembered Sunday very well. We took extra care in our preparation - parachute harness and escape kits. We were very conscious to what this day could bring. We were a close-knit group and proud of our team. Words were not spoken or necessary, we knew what each was feeling and thinking. We knew we might not make it back. We knew what was required. We knew our mission. We were willing. Oklahoma, home and family, seemed so far away. We flew out of England, over the English Channel, and the air was filled with anti-aircraft. As we neared the Rhine River the sky was black and the noise was terrible. I could see planes all around us being hit. Five out of six planes in our squadron were shot down that day.

We were hit, a shell hit the binocular case at my feet and blew the lid off, and the plexi-glass around me had three holes in it big enough to stick my hand through. I heard that our ball turret gunner had been hurt. We had three engines out of control. The alarm went off and the pilot commanded us to bail out. I was further commanded to salvo the bombs, looking up ahead I could see a village, so I waited until we were over it to drop them. Now it was time for me to bail out, I had never parachuted before, we were told that there was no use practicing because it had to be perfect the first time. I jumped out, and I remember the quiet. The noise had been deafening during the air fight, now the drone of the engines could be heard moving away from us. I went down with three other members of our crew. We were close enough to talk to each other. Everything seemed to be moving very slowly, until we saw our own plane circling back and heading right toward us. Making sausage back home suddenly came to my mind. It veered away from us, and we watched our "Battlin' Betty" make a few last circles and crash into the middle of the Rhine River. One of my main concerns became our ball turret gunner that had been hit, I told him I would check his injuries as soon as we hit the ground. I thought we were going to land in the middle of the Rhine just like our plane, but the wind was strong and blew us over a field where armed German guards were watching a group of men doing forced farm labor. They were also watching and waiting for us to land. What luck, armed guards as a "welcoming" committee? One of the guards came up to me, saying "Pistola? Pistola?" I told him "No." Then he said to me in very broken English, "For you, the war is over." For the crew of the "Battlin' Betty" escape was not possible, this phase of the war was over, but a new phase was just beginning.



Our captain watched as I went over to check the injuries in the ball turret gunner. I was thankful to find that his injuries were not major, he did have a large bruise on his left hip. The guards then put my fellow crew members in the back of a military truck. I was the only officer, so I

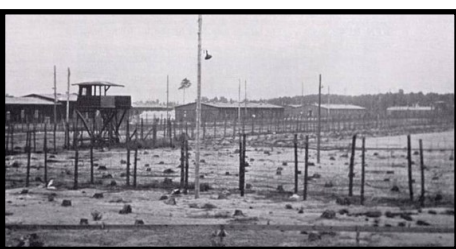


was given the "privilege" of riding in a motorcycle sidecar down the bumpy, cobblestone roads of Germany. We traveled approximately 15 miles to an airbase. I vividly remember German farmers raising their pitchforks and shaking them in our direction as we rode past. It hit me, we were the enemy. The German guards were our captors, but also our protectors. Throughout the day other member's in our crew were brought to the base as they were captured. We were kept in a large room. We found consolation that we were together, but there was no doubt that we were closely guarded prisoners. Every time the phone would ring, the guards would proudly answer "Heil, Hitler." This was the last time we were together as a crew. That night we were loaded onto a train and taken to Frankfort-am-Main During this and under the cover of darkness, I placed the silk maps from my escape kit into the back lining of my Jacket through a hole I made in my pocket. In the hem of my pants near the seam I hid two miniature compasses, and around my lower leg I had some 100 franc notes under my socks. In Frankfurt-am-Main, we were kept in solitary confinement.

## A Great Man As A POW in Germany— Altered L. Autrey (Cont'd)

We were individually taken out for interrogation and search. Name, rank, and serial number was the only information I gave them. The maps in my Jacket were found, but not the compasses or francs. The next week was spent riding on a train with about 20 other officers to Barth, Germany on the Baltic Sea. The officers and the airmen had been separated and sent to separate camps. The monotony of this long, tedious ride was broken up by air raid alerts. We would be taken from the train, and escorted into underground subway tunnels. Upon arrival in Barth, we were met and escorted by another group of armed guards and their six vicious German Police Dogs for the walk to Stalag Luft 1, my "home" for the next 13 months. I was signed-in, searched, and assigned to my barracks, Block 14 - Room 6. American P.O.W.'s greeted us and gave us an orientation to our new life. They told us if we had managed to get any contraband past the guards, to turn it in to them for the P.O.W. escape committee. If anyone could come up with a good escape plan, the committee would help them by supplying uniforms or equipment that might be needed. My compasses and money were willingly turned over to this group, when I arrived at my room, the German guards were throwing boxes of dirt out the windows. The P.O.W.S had been digging a tunnel and placing boxes of fresh dirt above the curling, which was now sagging under this weight. The guards had gotten wind of this plan, and were now falling in the tunnel. I quickly learned that planning escapes was always on our minds and in our dreams. six thousand men within a well-guarded barbed wire prison. During this incarceration the freedoms and ideals that we cherished were taken from our daily lives, but not from our hearts and minds. I quickly settled into my new life I had no other choice. Every day was the same, yet, every day was different. We had roll call twice a day every day. Little things brought some relief and pleasure, and things that had been important had no importance here. Time spent worrying and brooding about the past was wasted time. Time planning escapes and digging tunnels became productive time. I remember conversations in which we thought and rethought our war efforts, and that with each retelling became bigger and better. I spent my days thinking of ways to keep my mind and body active and stimulated. There were sports, such as track and football, organized and disorganized. There was a camp library, I read over 47 books, we had weekly church services, and a British Chaplain was available to us. Minimal medical care was available.

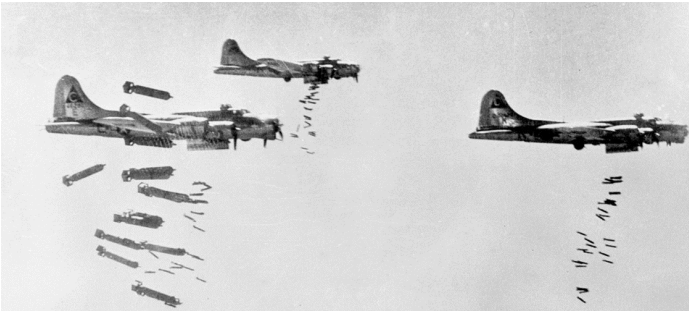
A group of men, wrote and performed a musical comedy that the whole camp enjoyed. I played chess and cards. When the numbers and pictures wore off the cards. We penciled them back on. I wrote letters, and occasionally received letters from home. It was 6 months after my capture that I got my first mail from home. Monthly showers were so great, and clean underwear was wonderful. The Germans fed us a loaf of bread a week, 1 bowl of soup a day, and some cheese, jam and sugar once a week. Red Cross packages were so appreciated and I looked forward to getting them. These parcels contained such things as Spam, cheese, raisins, coffee, candy, cocoa and cigarettes. I used mine to barter with other P.O.W.S for their candy bars. Someone in the camp had secretly gotten a radio. I never knew how they got it or where it was kept, but I did appreciate the daily news bulletins that were passed quietly by word of mouth. We got the German news and the English news. If the English said we had lost 30 planes that day, the Germans would say we had lost 200. I would think to myself, we must have lost between 50 and 100. We kept track of the war this way. I remember people chanting "Come on, Patton" over and over again. Two events that occurred during January, 1945 that brought changes to Stalag Luft 1, and impressed upon us the seriousness and uncertainty of our situation. Under direct orders from Hitler, the guards gather up all the Jewish P.O.W.S and moved them into a separated and isolated part of the camp. No



one knew from moment to moment what was going to happen to these men. Extreme tension and stress filled the camp because we knew from our English radio news of the atrocities that the Nazis were committing against the Jewish people. The next occurrence did not seem as serious at face value, but the long range implications were very serious. The Allied Forces had been continually bombing the German rail and transportation outlets, therefore keeping us from receiving our Red Cross food parcels. A food shortage soon became food stoppage. For months our only source of food became a vegetable, rutabaga. From January to May my weight dropped from 165 to 115 pounds, food was never far from my thoughts. Time slowly passed and in March we heard that the Allied Forces had crossed the Rhine River. As May approached we

knew that the Russians were in the area and we hoped that we would soon be on our way home. Beside the radio news that we heard, another sign that the war would soon be over could be seen outside the fences of our camp. Hundreds of German people passed by carting their few possessions with them fleeing the Russians that were sweeping the area. These people were terrified red of the Russian's. This is a sight I will never forget. On the morning of May 13, 1945, we awoke to find that there were no guards in the towers, In tact, all the Germans had left the camp. At long last the day had arrived that we had only dreamed about - we were liberated, we were free. Pandemonium reigned. Some men ran out to the camp heading west looking for the American troops. Some got to communication devices to contact the Allied troops. Many of us ran out the gate looking for food. The Russians had already slaughtered most of the animals and destroyed most for the food, but another prisoner and I found a duck and some eggs to take back to camp and we were thankful. A week later transport planes landed at the airfield in Barth to take us to Camp Lucky Strike in France. I remember looking out the windows on the flight and seeing the total destruction of the countryside, farms, villages and towns. WWII had been won, Hitler and the Nazis had been defeated, but many people had their lives destroyed. I was seeing this with my own eyes. After physicals at Camp Lucky Strike, we were taken to La Havre to board ships for the U.S.A. I spent the first two days on board ship losing all the food I had eaten in the past few days. After seven days we landed in New England, and then boarded trains for Camp Chaffee Arkansas. On June 27, 1945 | received orders for 60 days leave for rehabilitation, recuperation and recovery. I was told that when I reported back to be ready to go to the war in the Pacific I boarded a bus for Oklahoma and home. I couldn't call my family, they didn't have a phone. They couldn't have come to get me anyway, they had no car. There was no welcoming committee and no fanfare, but no soldier was ever any happier to be home.

## 70 Years Later



On March 15, 1945, the first of more than 1,300 bombers crossed the Channel coast north of Amsterdam at an altitude of almost five miles. They flew on into Germany, and around 2:40 p.m., 10 miles northwest of Berlin, the city of Oranienburg appeared beneath them. Sitting in the lead plane, the bombardier stared through his bomb-sight into the haze below. Five bombs tumbled into the sky.

Between 1940 and 1945, U.S. and British air forces dropped 2.7 million tons of bombs on Europe, half of them on Germany. By the time the Nazi government surrendered, in May 1945, the industrial

infrastructure of the Third Reich – railheads, arms factories, and oil refineries – had been crippled, and dozens of cities across Germany had been reduced to moonscapes of cinder and ash. Under Allied occupation, reconstruction began almost immediately. Yet as many as 10 percent of the bombs dropped by Allied aircraft had failed to explode, and as East and West Germany rose from the ruins of the Reich, thousands of tons of unexploded airborne ordnance lay beneath them. In both East and West, responsibility for defusing these bombs – and for removing the innumerable hand grenades, bullets, and mortar and artillery shells left behind – fell to police bomb-disposal technicians and firefighters, the KMBD.

Even now, 70 years later, more than 2,000 tons of unexploded munitions are uncovered on German soil every year. Before any construction project begins in Germany, the ground must be certified as cleared of unexploded ordnance. Last May, some 20,000 people were evacuated from an area of Cologne while authorities removed a 1-ton bomb that had been discovered during construction work. In November 2013, another 20,000 people in Dortmund were cleared out while experts defused a 4,000-pound "blockbuster" – a bomb that could destroy most of a city block. In 2011, 45,000 people were forced to leave their homes – the largest evacuation in Germany since World War II – when a drought revealed a similar device lying on the bed of the Rhine in the middle of Koblenz. German bomb-disposal squads are among the busiest in the world. Eleven bomb technicians have been killed in Germany since 2000, including three in 2010 who died in a single explosion while trying to defuse a 1,000-pound bomb on the site of a popular flea market in Göttingen.

Early one winter morning, Horst Reinhardt, chief of the Brandenburg state KMBD, told me that when he started in bomb disposal in 1986, he never believed he would still be at it almost 30 years later. Yet his men discover more than 500 tons of unexploded munitions every year and defuse an aerial bomb every two weeks or so. "People simply don't know that there's still that many bombs under the ground," he said. In one city in his district, the events of 70 years ago ensure that unexploded bombs remain a daily menace. The place looks ordinary enough: a drab main street, pastel-painted apartment houses, a McDonald's. Yet, according to Reinhardt, Oranienburg is the most dangerous city in Germany.

Between 2:51 and 3:36 p.m. on March 15, 1945, more than 600 aircraft of the Eighth Air Force dropped 1,500 tons of high explosives over Oranienburg, a cluster of strategic targets including rail yards, a Heinkel aircraft plant, and two factories run by the chemical conglomerate Auergesellschaft. As one squadron of B-17s followed another, almost 5,000 500- and 1,000-pound bombs fell across the rail yards, the chemical factory, and into the residential streets nearby. These bomb loads were unlike almost any others the Air Force dropped over Germany during the war. The majority of the bombs were armed not with percussion fuses, which explode on impact, but with time-delay fuses. The sophisticated, chemical-based fuses were intended to be used sparingly; U.S. Air Force guidelines recommended fitting them in no more than 10 percent of bombs in any given attack. But for reasons that have never become clear, almost every bomb dropped during the March 15 raid on Oranienburg was armed with one.

Screwed into a bomb's tail beneath its stabilizing fins, the fuse contained a small glass capsule of corrosive acetone mounted above a stack of paper-thin celluloid disks. The disks held back a spring-loaded firing pin, cocked behind a detonator. As the bomb fell, it tilted nose-down, and a windmill in the tail stabilizer began spinning in the slipstream, turning a crank that broke the glass capsule. The bomb was designed to hit the ground nose-down, so the acetone would drip toward the disks and begin eating through them. This could take minutes or days, depending on the concentration of acetone and the number of disks. When the last disk weakened and snapped, the spring was released, the firing pin struck the priming charge, and – finally, unexpectedly – the bomb exploded. Around 3 o'clock that afternoon, a B-17 released a 1,000-pound bomb some 20,000 feet above the rail yards. Quickly reaching terminal velocity, it fell southwest, missing the yards and the chemical plants, hurtling instead toward the canal and the two bridges connecting Oranienburg and the suburb of Lehnitz. Before the war this had been a quiet spot beside the water, leading to four villas among the trees. But now it was occupied by anti-aircraft guns and a pair of narrow, single-story wooden barracks. This was where the bomb finally found the earth – plunging into the sandy soil at more than 150 miles per hour before coming to rest deep underground, nose up.

## Iwo Jima World War II Remembrances

In February, seventy-one years ago in the climactic battle of the last year of WWII, more than 110,000 Americans and 880 ships began their assault on Iwo Jima, a tiny volcanic island in the Pacific approximately 700 miles south of Tokyo. At 0200 on June 6th 1944, battleship guns signaled the commencement of D-Day. Soon 100 bombers attacked the island, followed by another volley from the naval guns. At dawn, Iwo Jima was seen for the first time. It was unlike any other island our military had ever seen. Instead of palm trees and a white ribbon of beach or green cane fields, an ugly lump of volcanic sand and clay was seen. Mount Suribachi loomed like something out of the Inferno. The beach was not white, but black, and the vegetation was sparse, wilted, burned out. It was as if, prophetically, Iwo Jima was meant to support not life, but death. By 0730, troops were going over the side of the ships. While the United States Marines comprised the bulk of the landing force, early and increasing support was provided from elements of the United States Army - beach masters and shore party personnel performing spectacular feats to keep the advancing divisions fully armed and equipped moving over precarious beaches. At 0756, the Admiral's flagship broadcast encouraging news: "Very light swells. Boating: excellent. Visibility: excellent." Waves of B-29s, battleships, cruisers, and destroyers systematically continued to shell every target area. At that moment it seemed that taking Iwo Jima would be easy. And for a short time it appeared that it might be. When the first waves of an eventual 30,000 Marines of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions left the line of departure at 0830, there was no sign of life on the Japanese island. At 0849, eleven minutes before the first waves were to land, aerial observers reported: "No counter fire as yet." The island was strangely, frighteningly quiet. The first wave of United States Marines hit the beach at 0902 facing an equally substantial army of 23,000 Japanese defenders who fought from elaborate network of caves, dugouts and tunnels that Americans found difficult to penetrate and a battle for Iwo Jima commenced. Iwo Jima became the most populous 7½ square miles on the planet as our United States Military and Japanese soldiers fought a battle that would test American resolve symbolizing a free society's willingness to make the sacrifice necessary to prevail over evil - A SACRIFICE AS RELEVANT TODAY AS IT WAS THEN. Marines faced heavy fire from Mount Suribachi at the south of the island fighting over inhospitable terrain - rough volcanic ash which allowed neither secure footing or digging of foxholes. Nevertheless, by that evening the mountain had been surrounded and Marines had landed. About 40,000 more would follow. On February 20, Marines secured the southern end of Iwo Jima and moved to take the summit of Suribachi, the highest peak at an elevation of 546 ft. After 4 days of bitter battles, where gains were measured in mere yards, the climb upward on Mount Suribachi was perilous. At 0800 on February 23, 1945, the fifth day of the battle, a patrol of forty Marines began the slow, difficult climb up the steep slopes of Mount Suribachi. Their mission was to take the crater at Suribachi's peak and plant the U.S. flag at the top of the hill. The summit was reached. At 1000hrs records the first U.S. Flag raising atop Mt. Suribachi ~ the first place an invader's flag ever flew over Japanese home territory in WWII. Marines hoisted the Stars and Stripes signaling the capture of this key position. Though still watchful for enemy fire, the Marines took a few moments to relish this victory. The sight of the U.S. Flag waving atop Mount Suribachi is said to have sent a wave of strength to the battle-weary fighting men below and struck a tremendous mental blow against the island's defenders. The battle for Iwo Jima was still raging, but this moment raised the spirits of every American on the island. Many recall, "Marines on the ground, still engaged in combat, raised a spontaneous yell when they saw the flag. Screaming and cheering so loud and prolonged that we could hear it quite clearly on top of Suribachi. The boats on the beach and the ships at sea joined in blowing horns and whistles. The celebration went on for many minutes. It was a highly emotional, strongly patriotic moment for all of us." Although the smaller U. S. Flag had been planted, another patrol was dispatched to the top of Suribachi to raise another, larger flag. As the small first flag was coming down, the second, much larger, flag was going up a few feet away. By the end of the day casualties were high. This U. S. victory became a turning point in the Pacific War providing one of the most memorable photographic images of WWII, the planting of the U. S. Flag atop Mt. Suribachi five days after the Iwo Jima Landing. The famous photograph by Joe Rosenthal of the second raising of the U.S. flag at Iwo Jima became the symbol of hope during WWII and soon became the universal symbol that it still is today. Said of Iwo Jima: "It is difficult to imagine any battlefield more closely resembling the Biblical vision of Hell than the 8 square miles of volcanic ash, pumice and sand that even tanks, let alone Marines, could not easily move across - reeking of Sulphur and brimstone, swept by bombs, bullets and shellfire, and soaked in the blood of more than 26,000 dead. Truly the Prince of Darkness must have felt right at home." At 1800 on March 16, 26 days and 9 hours after the first troops landed, Iwo Jima was declared secure. Our U. S. Military paid a heavy price. There were many brave men and there were many noteworthy acts of bravery. It can be said that no one outfit deserves the credit. All regiments were involved. Engineers furnished sappers and demolitions teams. Joint Assault Signal Teams and artillery forward observers were at the front with riflemen. Quartermaster personnel brought up food and ammunition under fire. And Corpsmen, as always, were to be found. The skill and quick thinking of these corpsmen is best illustrated by the action of Pharmacist's Mates. "Moses asked God how to cross the sea, only to be told to look at what tool he had to use, which was a rod. When the Marines asked Navajo men what they could use to defeat the enemy in WWII, they looked at what they had and decided to use the Navajo language. Moses used a rod to divide the Red Sea, Navajo men used the language and won WWII in the Japanese theater." America's victory would have been much more difficult to grasp without the Navajo Code Talkers successfully transmitting messages on D-day from the beach to division and Corps commands and after the division commands came ashore from division ashore to Corps afloat. "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." "Marines discovered what is always being forgotten in modern war is that there are places which bombs and shells cannot reach. Instead, they must be taken by men alone, willing to die. And yet all knew that their flesh, blood and sweat told them that it was not shields of steel that counted but the iron hearts that men had carried inside them. Tanks and bulldozers and trucks were supported by the iron hearts of men who fell in the sand where they fought, through all battles. There was one constant reminder of this: the row upon row of glistening white crosses and slabs that marked a tiny part of Iwo Jima belonging to the dead seemingly as if they had agreed to occupy this black and windswept bit of beach so that home and Country, their ideals, their hopes and aspirations as Americans, might be shared by the living. And yet all knew that their flesh, blood, and sweat told them that it was not shields of steel that counted but the iron hearts that men had carried inside them."

# VVA Leadership Conference In Tucson



HILTON EL CONQUISTADOR, TUCSON, ARIZONA

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520-544-5000—July 19-23, 2016



## WD-40 Uses

01. Protects silver from tarnishing.
02. Removes road tar and grime from cars.
03. Cleans and lubricates guitar strings.
04. Gives floor that 'just-waxed' sheen without making them slippery.
05. Keeps the flies off of Cows, Horses, and other Farm Critters, as well.
06. Restores and cleans chalkboards.
07. Removes lipstick stains.
08. Loosens stubborn zippers.
09. Untangles jewelry chains.
10. Removes stains from stainless steel sinks.
11. Removes dirt and grime from the barbecue grill.
12. Keeps ceramic / terracotta garden pots from oxidizing.
13. Removes tomato stains from clothing.
14. Keeps glass shower doors free of water spots.
15. Camouflages scratches in ceramic and marble floors.
16. Keeps scissors working smoothly.
17. Lubricates noisy door hinges on both home and vehicles doors..
18. It removes that nasty tar and scuff marks from the kitchen flooring.  
It doesn't seem to harm the finish and you won't have to scrub nearly as hard to get them off.  
Just remember to open some windows if you have a lot of marks.
19. Remove those nasty Bug guts that will eat away the finish on your car if not removed quickly!
20. Gives a children's playground gym slide a shine for a super fast slide.
21. Lubricates gearshift and mower deck lever for ease of handling on riding mowers...
22. Rids kids rocking chair and swings of squeaky noises.
23. Lubricates tracks in sticking home windows and makes them easier to open.
24. Spraying an umbrella stem makes it easier to open and close.
25. Restores and cleans padded leather dashboards in vehicles, as well as vinyl bumpers.
26. Restores and cleans roof racks on vehicles.
27. Lubricates and stops squeaks in electric fans.
28. Lubricates wheel sprockets on tricycles, wagons, and bicycles for easy handling.
29. Lubricates fan belts on washers and dryers and keeps them running smoothly.
30. Keeps rust from forming on saws and saw blades, and other tools.
31. Removes grease splatters from stove-tops.
32. Keeps bathroom mirror from fogging.
33. Lubricates prosthetic limbs.
34. Keeps pigeons off the balcony (they hate the smell).
35. Removes all traces of duct tape.
36. Folks even spray it on their arms, hands, and knees to relieve arthritis pain.
37. Florida's favorite use is: 'cleans and removes love bugs from grills and bumpers.'
38. The favorite use in the state of New York, it protects the Statue of Liberty from the elements.
39. WD-40 attracts fish. Spray a little on live bait or lures and you will be catching the big one in no time. Also, it's a lot cheaper than the chemical attractants that are made for just that purpose.  
Keep in mind though, using some chemical laced baits or lures for fishing are not allowed in some states.
40. Use it for fire ant bites. It takes the sting away immediately and stops the itch.
41. It is great for removing crayon from walls. Spray it on the marks and wipe with a clean rag.
42. Also, if you've discovered that your teenage daughter has washed and dried a tube of lipstick with a load of laundry, saturate the lipstick spots with WD-40 and rewash. Presto! The lipstick is gone!
43. If you spray it inside a wet distributor cap, it will displace the moisture, allowing the engine to start.
44. In an emergency, it will successfully oil an M-16 and all of the other "M-" weapons



As for that **Basic Main Ingredient**.....Well.... it's **FISH OIL**....



## America Is Becoming “Strange”

As you read this last article of the AZ-LZ, I'd like for you to truly think about what is being said and look at it from an **“HONEST”** point of view. I am not picking on anyone or anything. However, just think about the way **“LIFE WAS WHEN WE WERE GROWING UP”**. I don't know about you, but I grew up in a **“FATHER KNOWS BEST ENVIRONMENT”** and that is not the way it is today. Today, times are **“STRANGE”**, the world is strange and it seems that **“AMERICA HAS CAUGHT UP WITH THE WORLD”**. There truly seems to be a lack of **DISCRESSION** as Americans and Christians are affected by this world. It seems whatever comes about, we seem apt to try it, do it, sample it, get involved with it, become a part of it and so on. **“WHAT HAS HAPPENED?!”**

Needless to say, I am concerned, and why? Well, nearly all of us reading this paper have grandchildren and many of us have great-grand-children, not to mention your own children, your nieces, nephews and so on. What am I trying to say?? A lot of things in our world today are extremely **CONTRARY** to the Christianity that our country was started with and things do not look good. Let's forget about the wars overseas for a moment, but look at what is happening in our country with our own people.

My parents were born in the early 1900's and that generation certainly knew better. They were not perfect, but they were wiser than us of today because look around us with the **“DECISIONS”** that are being made by those people I mentioned in the paragraph just above. None of us wants to lose our family because of drugs, the wrong crowd, explicit entertainment, doing the “wrong thing” and being in the “wrong place” at the “wrong time”. That is where **“WISDOM”** comes in. This generation needs to listen to the older generation (which is us) who hopefully has the wisdom to **“SEE WHAT IS GOING ON”**.

There are so many things in this world that our children, grand-children and great-grand-children, nieces and nephews can be tempted by and we and they are **“IGNORING IT”**. But why? Because the **“STRANGE”** and **“EVIL”** things of this world are drawing them into it. So, how do you avoid it? Be involved with your family, talk to your children to point out items that you have noticed about **“YOUR FAMILY IN GENERAL”** and help them straighten it out (if need be).

Show this younger generation **“THE WAY TO WISDOM”** and that is through the Bible. In Proverbs 2:1-22, it easily explains how to gain that wisdom and don't let your life or the lives of those you care for and love fall into a **“STRANGE”** circumstance.

We, as humans have one thing (for example) that a “Honey Bee” does not and that is the function of **“CHOICE”**. We have a choice to get up and go to work, go to school, go to church, shopping, the doctor, the dentist and so on. But a **“BEE”** is, you might say **“PRE-MADE”**, as it knows what to do. It never had to go to school, it doesn't earn money or anything like that. But it does know naturally, **“HOW TO DO ITS JOB”**. It knows naturally how to make honey”, protect the queen bee and itself. We on the other hand **“HAVE A MIND”** that has the **“CHOICE FUNCTION”** built into it.

And this also applies to our current generation of people in our lives. Question is, can you see America being in a strange state compared to when we grew up back in the 1940's? Daily, we need to **“NOT LET OUR HEART RUN OUR LIFE”**, but let God run our very short lived life. And if you are in your 70's, **“YOU ARE ON BORROWED TIME”**.

Many of us and way many more of our current generations **“UNDERESTIMATE FEAR”** because the world is enticing and America has become very strange. We have lost sight of God, we are reverent of the God that created us and all we trust is ourselves and only care for our delight. The bottom line is to get our own person straight and into action of applying living the right way, not the world's way.

We need to put the rest of our life into action and **“RID THIS COUNTRY OF ITS STRANGE WAYS”**, but better yet, we truly need to rid ourselves and our family members of the strange ways that our country has upon itself. We need this so we can have and maintain some preservation of ourselves and the country that God gave us.

## From The VVA Arizona President



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AMERICA

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This online and printed newsletter entitled "**The AZ-LZ**" is the publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America Arizona State Council, published quarterly.

Sue and I traveled by car to Silver Spring, Maryland last week for the State Council Presidents Conference, BOD and Committee Meetings. We had 44 State Council Presidents attend. It was one of the largest attendance in a long time. Friday and Saturday attended the BOD Meeting. Starting Friday afternoon and evening attended Veteran Benefits Committee, Planning Committee, Women's Veterans Committee, and Government Affairs Committee Meetings. Finished Saturday with the BOD Meeting. I think, we got done around 3:00PM or 3:30PM. Ended up walking in the cold windy weather with others to a Mexican Restaurant. The food was great. All the food is fresh not frozen or can. I was initiated into the Motley Crew with Jack the new State Council President from South Dakota.

We did get a new VVA National Grant for \$10,000.00. Reps. Martha McSally and Mate Salmon signed on to Bill #1769.

April 1st and 2nd, Sue and I were in Sedona for the 50th Anniversary Commemoration luncheon at 11Am to 2:30PM. I would say about 150 Vietnam Veterans showed up. Dan Ross from Chapter #106, Chuck Byers from Chapter #1011, and Don Cochran from Chapter #95 were in attendance. This was the first Co-Sponsored 50th Commemorative with AZDVS and VVA State Council.

The Elks served meat loaf, baked chicken, mash potatoes, gravy, vegetables, cake, water, coffee, tea, and lemonade. Key Speaker were Ret. Col. Thomas H. Kirk Jr. a former POW from 1967 to 1973. Other guest speakers were AZDVS Director Col. Wand Wright, Intern Director for the VAMC Prescott, VVA AZ. State Council President, and Master of Ceremonies was Ed Uzumekis who is an At-Large Life member of VVA and new VSO for VVA. He hopes to get a Chapter started in Sedona. Saturday, Sue and I visited the Traveling Wall. We spent most of the day with Chapter 95 from Prescott. The weather was beautiful. Michael Marks President from Chapter #1011 also attended.

Please remember Saturday June 18, 2016. The location will be sent in an email. This will be our 2nd VVA State Council Meeting for the year 2016, where we will hold elections

July 19th - July 23, 2016 is the VVA National Leadership Conference in Tucson. Please check with the VVA website for detail. Oh yes, the VVA National website has been changed. Please check it out.