

# The "AZ-LZ"

[The Arizona Landing Zone]

## VVA - Arizona State Council - Phoenix, AZ

### Merry Christmas to Vietnam Veterans

#### Special points of interest:

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- A Great [New Year](#) Coming Up
- The Christmas of [Yesteryear](#)
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- Only 9 years left of the [50th](#)
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Enough cannot be said when the Christmas and Thanksgiving holiday come our way. It is a time that we all look forward to and it also seems that the best in us also comes out in our person. I personally like it as it clearly illustrates in or heart what kind of person we can be toward ourselves and especially toward others.

As Vietnam Veterans, we have a lot to give. And we too have given a lot, but that was a long time ago and we can Vietnam Veterans can still give more. All we have to do is make up our minds to do something with our life rather than lead it. Keep in mind, we do not have to stop here in 2016, because there are a lot of kids out there that do not know anything about Vietnam and what it took to win the war in 1975. And

always let them know it was the first of a guerilla war. It was the first of a modern day jungle war. It was a war that we lost 58,000 men, it was a war that lasted longer than any war the US has ever been involved in.

So, do something special for a school, a fraternity such as American Legion, VFW, VVA or other military organization that is near you in your city.

Spread good Christmas cheer among everyone this Thanksgiving and Christmas to let them know you are a true Vietnam Veteran.

Be a hero to a young person this Christmas, celebrate a WWII veteran, honor a Korean War veteran and let yourself be honored. You need it.



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### The Happiest of New Years in 2017

It seems the years of the 21st century are **FLYING** by and there is no way to stop them. Except live the way we should, doing it the right way, doing it God's way and being a blessing to Him, others and then yourself. There is a word that describes that and it is called: "**JOY**", which is **J**esus, **O**thers, **Y**ou. That

is usually not a lot to ask, because we usually, put ourselves first, then others, sometimes and rarely Jesus. So, let's reverse it this year and you'll likely wind up getting the best of everything in your life in this next year, 2017 which will really fly by and by the time you read this again, it will be October 2017 and push-

ing into the year 2018. Then you will really wonder where the time went. SO, let's start off January 2017 the "**RIGHT WAY**" and be blessing to others and who knows, someone you don't know may just buy you that needed meal or cup of coffee. Think on that and see what you can come up with for others in your life.



## Enjoy the *Holidays to the Fullest*—*They Can Be Precious for Family*

I don't know about you, but a different "me" comes out of this body and mind and heart when the holiday season of Christmas becomes talked about towards the end of the year. Yes, I like to give, but, I also prefer that "others" in my community should do the same. Have you "**ever thought**" of doing something great for several people that you know or have seen and they have a lot less than you? Well, how about skipping your family for Christmas this year and allow your heart to bless others with some nice "**needed**" gifts such as

clothes, shoes, some groceries, a nice meal at your home, and maybe take a nice meal to their home. In other words "**surprise**" them to the hilt. Neglect yourself and "**bless someone else**". You will never know how it will make you feel. So, take that \$600.00 you intend to spend on your family and pick out a family that "**needs to be blessed**". Those extra Starbucks drinks, or money that you have spoiled away on yourself could be put to a better use than on you. I have written many an article on "OTHERS" that always need help. I realize

we have to be a little careful, but we are all smart enough to make that assessment as to their real need versus a not-so-real-need and once we determine that, it should be too much to make that gift-idea pop into your head and buy some "needs", not wants. We all have those and Christmas is truly the holiday that makes a difference in all of us to remember someone. It truly costs nothing (in reality) to give a little something to someone you don't know. That shows "you care" and that is what we should be doing and that is "caring".



## The Gift of *Giving*

The best of us can come out, but we also need to continue that throughout this season of giving and being thankful for what we have and for what we will likely have in these days of Christmas. Frankly, what we should do is consider what we "should do in our heart" during this entire season and pass it on into the New Year 2017. Giving

and being friendly all year long is giving of yourself and not thinking about giving back or getting back. A thank you one of the nicest things anyone could say to someone that does "anything" for someone they know or a stranger. But, you might not always get that, because we are all "different". Make a commitment to give this year.

Consider giving to the folks in your church that truly need something. All of us have an abundance of people, organizations, or something along these lines that "**need something**" in their lives. Don't you recall when our folks would tell us when they gave to someone, gave to the church or something along these lines. Please give.



## Give All Year Long

**gen·er·ous**  
adj 1: free in giving or sharing 2: noble syn open-handed

Are you considered generous? I think we all try to be, but in this day and age of cell-phones, internet media, working sixty-plus hours per week, driving forty miles one way to work, having dinner before you go home, putting the kids into bed for five minutes, got back to "work at home" and finish up a project until mid-night or later and then getting about

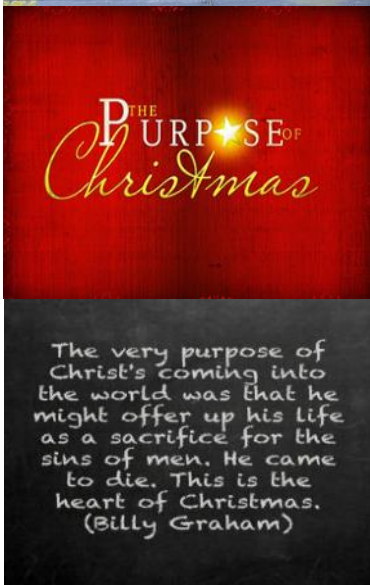
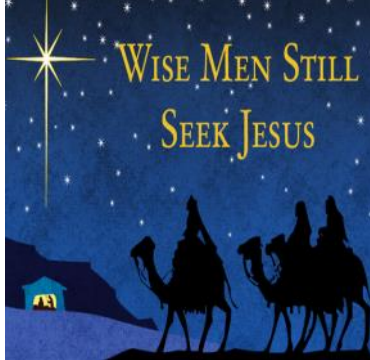
five hours of sleep (or less) and then starting all over again the next day. Mmm, when does it end?

It should begin to end when you make up your mind, to get your life back and think of others first. America has an abundance of homeless living on the streets. But them a breakfast on your way to work, get-to-somewhat-know-them on a first name basis

and allow them to feel wanted in "someone's life" and have them feel that "someone (you) care about them. Give them one of your old pair of pants or shirt, jacket, etc. Provide them with a McDonald's gift card, you know where the money goes. You are giving to someone in real need, Please recall that "we are all one step away from being homeless".

*Spirit of*   
—GIVING





## The Christmas That We Know

If you stop to think about it, it is astounding that the simple, unassuming birth of a peasant baby boy more than two thousand years ago in the Middle East can today cause traffic jams every December in places like New York City, Tokyo, and Rio de Janeiro.

The night Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem, a small group of poor shepherds were quietly tending their flocks of sheep in a nearby field, looking up at the stars. Nothing seemed any different from a thousand other nights. But what was about to happen would

transform not only their lives but billions of other lives as well for the rest of time as we know it today.

The world would never be the same again. Regardless of your religious background, you need to know how the three purposes of Christmas solve your three greatest needs. Understanding and receiving God's Christmas gifts to you will transform your life...forever!

Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy. It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be

a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event.

They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child.

## And One Note Of The Origin of "The Christmas Carol" by Dickens

Dickens was particularly concerned with the health, treatment and well - being of children, always among the most vulnerable members of any society. By the mid nineteenth century, it is believed that well over 100,000 children in London had never attended a school of any kind. And of those who did receive some sort of education, many attended either schools run by private owners for the purpose of making a profit or more

often, "ragged" schools. Ragged schools were charity institutions created to provide at least a rudimentary education for destitute children. In many instances, the ragged schools also provided food, clothing and lodging for their students. These schools received no government support and existed solely on charitable donations. As a result, the schools were usually found to be in slum like conditions in disreputable sections of town. The

buildings were often in disrepair, poorly ventilated, severely overcrowded, overrun with various strains of disease and covered in the soot and filth resulting from the growing industrialization of the country hardly an environment conducive to proper teaching and learning. We need to have men like Dickens to care for those that don't have Christmas of any sort in their early life time. Let's do more for mankind loving Christmas.

## And Its Purpose?

It's that time of year again. December has come and with it all the joys of Christmas. But what is the real meaning of Christmas? Is it the gifts under the tree, the lights in the windows, the cards in the mail, turkey dinners with family and friends, snow in the yard, stockings hanging in the living room, and shouts of "Merry Christmas" to those who pass us in the streets? Is this really Christmas? Yet, Christmas can be a season of great joy.

It is a time of God showing His great love for us. It can be a time of healing and renewed strength. You see, Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child. God sent His Son, Jesus, into the world to be born. His birth brought great joy to the world. Shepherds, wise men, and angels all shared in the excitement of knowing about this great event. They knew this was no ordinary baby. The prophets had told of His coming

hundreds of years before. The star stopped over Bethlehem just to mark the way for those who were looking for this special child. Why did He come? Why did God send His son to this sometimes cruel and hard world? He sent Jesus to us so that one day, He would grow up to become a very important part of history. His story is one of truth, love, and hope. It brought salvation to all of us. Without Jesus, we would all die in our sins.



## Enjoy the Holidays to the Fullest—They Can Be Precious for Family

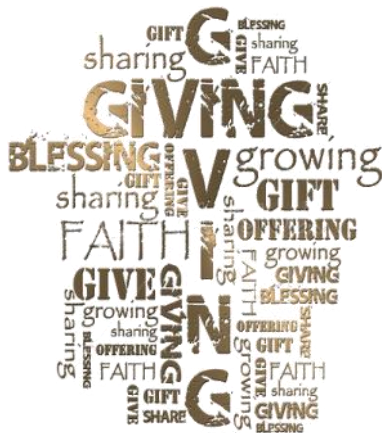
Christmas can be a special time for everyone as family gets together for some events and sharing the love that you have for them and planning for a few months that special something that you think they would like. Giving those gifts, taking those pictures, spending the holidays together and doing something special for that special person can mean a lot to the person. It seems that those special pictures taken at the mall or with that sophisticated camera

become a hit for months to come as you display them. Those are nice remembrances. How about that special recipe you make once maybe twice yearly and this seems to be the appropriate time to make those delicious sweet potatoes for the family that love them so much and then you get to share the ingredients with everyone as they are not that secretive. Those discussions around the table about what has gone in in the last six months or so with the fami-

ly and you mention detail after detail about it and it becomes interesting to many and inspiring to others.

Here is an idea for the family. Consider writing your family history and give it to an author that can put together a book about "everyone in the family and provide a printed bound copy of everyone in your family. Just think of the history, facts, stories and information you'll have about your family for years to come. **Merry Christmas.**

## Giving of YOURSELF



With as many people as there on Earth, one would think more people would give more of themselves rather than "forget" or "do nothing" at all. That, is called selfishness. We all only have so much time on earth and no one knows their time, thus, we should all take the time to think of someone on their birthday, their anniversary, Father's

day, Christmas, take your pick of occasions and remember someone, "just because". The best time is when **we think of them** and one should make a call to them and tell them just they mean to you. How about when we are watching TV, make a written note to them. A few lines is better than nothing. It only costs 49¢ and the price of

card. Doing this on a regular basis is a nice thing and one never knows what it might mean to receive something in return, and that also can be very nice as well. Do you want to be remembered? Well, sometimes, you should act first. One thing we all have to fight is **PRIDE** is stuck right at the front of all of us. **So write, call, stay in touch.**

## Lost Time Is To Be Never Found Again



You one thing that is certain in life and that is we all die and have to pay taxes. You may think that is so bad, but that is only part of it, read on. The other thing that is likely a little worse is the title of this article, that "**lost time is never to be found again**". Mmm, that is so true, that the time that we "**throw away is likely never thought of much less lost**". How much time do we spend on each other?

Why don't we **call** each other? Why don't we **write** each other? Why don't we **visit** each other? Why don't we **remember** each other? The point is, with Christmas coming, we should invest in each other to the point, we may **NEVER** see them again. At our age, this may be our last Christmas, therefore, we need to invest it and spend that precious time with each other and make it count.

You know there will be those thought on our death bed that will go through our mind saying "**Why didn't I visit my son or daughter more often than I did?**". Time is something we all have the **same amount** of in any given day. When you are older, it goes faster, when you are younger, it goes slower, why is that? It doesn't matter, recapture that lost time and make it count this Christmas for your family, make it count.



## Only Nine More Years

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The 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War has only nine more years to go starting in **January 1, 2017 to 2025**. As I mentioned on the previous page, we need to get to work and finish honoring those of left to know anything about Vietnam.

We are quickly becoming the last generation of the 1940's (Greatest Generation) and it is our responsibility to teach our kids, in schools, neighborhoods, grand children and document, document and document.

Attend at least 2-3 annual events, put one on yourself, volunteer to your chapter to hold one, but do something and have some **sweet remembrances** about Vietnam, because, all in all, we did have a good time, **we just simply have to recall it.**

## 50th Commemoration Logos and Seals



As you attend your first meeting or event, you will see this flag and DOD seal on many things and these are the important ones to know. DOD has done a lot of work make sure that we (Vietnam Veterans) are honored in many facets and all we have to go is help out and attend them. Having been to about 25 events, I find them all dif-

ferent as they should be, but honoring to people like me, but they are for everyone that has served in Vietnam.

With just nine years left to have and hold 50th Commemoration vents, we all have a lot of work to do by introducing and attending these 50th events as long and as often as you can.

These events can and should a lot to you. Annually, there is a dinner hosted by the Arizona Military Museum, usually in October (See this issue for details).

There are usually plenty of these events going on in any large city, so search the web for them and find one close to you.

## VA Flag and Logo

So, you don't belong to any military fraternal organization? Well, the one to your left is only for Vietnam Veterans. Many former military people joined decades ago and it has been a real honor to be part of this organization.

If you would like to be part of your former military life which we all know you have a some great memories , please consider joining this one by going to

<http://vva.org> and downloading the form to join. While you're at it, seek the site map to locate the nearest chapter within your city or state and visit it a few times, to see "what goes on" at a chapter meeting.

You might be pleasantly surprised as to what happens and that in itself, might make a difference for you and your family, by revealing your past in Vietnam, Basic Training, AIT,

and so forth. Your tours, be they in Vietnam, Germany, Korea, Japan, Hawaii or some island in the Pacific Ocean had some good things behind it and that is something you can count on. You'll be included in having the public-at-large in your city or state remember Vietnam Veterans thru parades, gathering, events, dinners, etc., so go to vva.org and join this great organization. You enjoy it if you do.

## Only **Nine (9)** Years To Go – **2017 to 2025**

### January 1, 2017

What if I told you that you **ONLY** had nine years left to live? Well, if you are a Chairman or assistant or in charge of putting on 50th Commemoration Events for the Vietnam War and working with the DOD Office in Washington D.C., then guess what, you have only nine years left.

The 50th Commemoration for the Vietnam War Program ends in 2025. And many of us are already in our 70's and may not be around by then to help with them, celebrate it and simply enjoy it and be apart of something that places us in the "**Winter of our Life**". Needless to say, time goes by very quickly and when Vietnam was going on full time, and we were certainly in the "**Spring of our Life**", then back in the 1960's, but life is different now. Some of us have a lot of health problems, due to Vietnam or maybe something we did through habits that we regret. The time should be now, because we do not know our time and it could end before tomorrow morning.

If any of us do pay attention to the various fraternal organizations, Arizona State Government agencies or the Federal Government Departments or private concerns, you can plainly see that "they are trying to get your attention" to attend as many of these events and be honored. For example:

1. Vietnam Veterans of America
2. Arizona Military Museum
3. Department of Defense
4. Arizona Department of Veterans Services
5. Individuals who make it a point to honor that special someone or someone they don't know.

These are simply a few what I will call "**COMMON NAMES**" of organizations and people that are working overtime to honor people like you and I. And **ALL** we have to do is simply attend them and make it a point to invite our family, such as your children, grand children, great-grand-children (if any) and of course the one that has stuck with you through thick and thin. It would be an honor to have your family see you be honored as I've mentioned in the winter of our lives.

I don't need to tell you that the vast majority of us have NOT told our family too much of our military history in our life. Or have you taken the time to write your autobiography. After all, if **YOU** don't do it, who will Well, frankly there is no one else as they (your children, wife, grandchildren) would have no clue as to any knowledge of your family, much less your wife's family.

Putting together a detailed scrap book for you to pass on or a 12"x12" picture book (by SNAPPFISH) with some details of your entire life would be better than nothing.

So, how many years do you have left, nine? Mmmm, maybe you only have 1 or 2, but then we don't even know that, so we. No one is being morbid here, simply real. We don't know our time and I would hate to have to read your name in "The Veteran" which is VVA's Newspaper, seeing your name that passed on-such-and-such a-date.

See the logo below? This is the 50th Commemoration Logo for the 50th Commemoration Directorate of the Vietnam War, sponsored by DOD to honor people like you. So, join VVA, ask about when any and all events are taking place in your area, attend them with your family, be honored, enjoy it and remember it and pass it onto your family. You may only have nine minutes or nine hours or nine days to make it after you read this article.

Let me tell you the very one you could attend and that is the annual dinner sponsored this year by Arizona Military Museum. This is one of the very best events you could ever attend. It will be filmed and presented with great speakers and a delicious dinner. One event you will **NOT** want to miss.

Date: **29 October 2016**

Reception Time: **5:30pm**

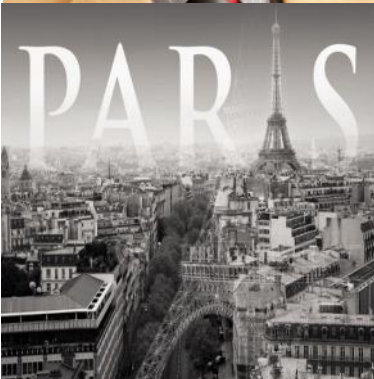
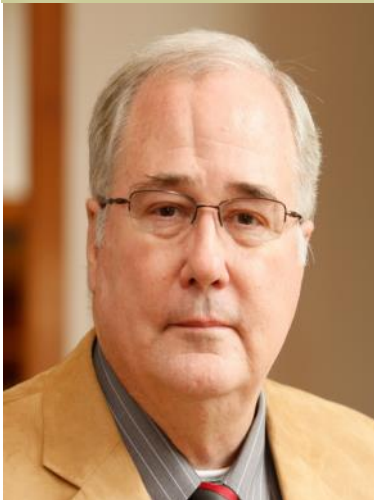
Dinner Time: **6:30pm**

Location: **Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ**

Cost: **\$50.00 per person** ([Reservation page later in this document](#))



## Robert F. Turner—Guest Speaker



Professor Robert F. Turner holds both professional and academic doctorates from the University of Virginia School of Law, where in 1981 he co-founded the Center for National Security Law.

A former Army captain who served two tours in Vietnam, he has also served as national security adviser to a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, as Special Assistant to the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, as Counsel to the President's Intelligence Oversight Board in the White House, as Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Legislative Affairs, and as the first president of the United States Institute of Peace.

He first became interested in the Vietnam War while a student in Paris, France, at the time of the August 2, 1964, North Vietnamese attack on the U.S.S. *Maddox* in the Gulf of Tonkin. He published his first commentary on the conflict on August 7<sup>th</sup> of that year in the Paris edition of the *New York Times*, and upon returning to America changed his college major so he could focus his studies on the war. He wrote a 450-page honors thesis on the conflict, and in his capacity as director of research for the National Student Committee for Victory in Vietnam participated in more than 100 debates, teach-ins, panels, and other discussions on the war across the nation. Upon graduation, he turned down a law school deferment to enter the Army through ROTC and immediately volunteered for duty in Vietnam.

Following the death of Ho Chi Minh, Lieutenant Turner authored an article predicting that Le Duan would emerge as "first among equals" in Hanoi's leadership struggle. When East European sources confirmed his prognosis, the U.S. Embassy in Saigon asked that he be detailed by MACV to work in the North Vietnamese/Viet Cong Affairs Division, where the new position of "Assistant Special Projects Officer" was created for him. In that capacity he traveled extensively throughout South Vietnam—visiting 42 of 44 provinces—to investigate incidents of terrorism, debrief defectors and POWs, and for other purposes related to strategic psychological warfare. Upon leaving Vietnam and the Army at the end of 1971 he accepted a position as a Public Affairs Fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace—where he authored the first major English-language history of *Vietnamese Communism* and warned that a Communist victory in Indochina would produce a tragic bloodbath. He returned to Vietnam for the fifth time in April 1975 to assist in the rescue of orphans, and came out during the final evacuation at the end of that month. He has taught seminars on the war at UVA for the past 25 years. In 2010, Dr. Turner was selected as the first "Person of the Year" by the Saigon Arts Culture and Education Institute (SACEI) human rights organization.

Dr. Turner is author or editor of more than fifteen books and has published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, and most other American newspapers. He has testified as an expert witness before more than a dozen congressional committees. Further information can be found in *Who's Who in the World* and *Who's Who in America*.

*We look forward to listening to Mr. Robert Turner as he speaks to us in October this year about the Vietnam War. May I recommend that you too, reading this article that you seriously consider attending this event and superb evening that has made the hundreds of us Vietnam Veterans re-attend this 50th Commemoration event year after year.*



## Arizona Military Museum Dinner—#6

One does not have to say too much about these dinners each and every year when one has attended all six of them. Each one is quite superb when it comes to the fellowship, the dinner, the music, the speaker, seeing the Vietnamese community again to bond with them again and to re-create those "**fond memories**" of you being in Vietnam 50± years ago. All of us had some very good times that we in the back or the front of our can and should enjoy. What is more important is to share them with your wife and children to express those times

when "**YOU**" served your country to rid Communism from S.E. Asia. And we did it. It was not a WWII ending, but it ended and it ended well at that. So this is the time "**YOU**" will be honored and thanked for what "**YOU**" did in Vietnam. It makes no difference if you were a cook, supply or combat, "**YOU**" did something. The museum is currently operated by the Arizona National Guard Historical Society, a non-profit corporation. It contains a chronological display of military activities related to Arizona

starting with the Spanish Conquistadors and continuing through operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also houses a military library which contains an extensive collection of books, documents, and maps of military actions all over the world. Information is: 5636 E. McDowell Road, Phoenix Arizona 85008. Phone numbers are: 602-267-2676 and alternate phone: 602-509-8762. The hours are Saturday - Sunday 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm.

[Visit it, you'll like it](#)



## "What Was Your Favorite Time At The Dinner?"

I asked a few people "what they thought" about the dinners in October to honor the Vietnam Veterans and here is what they said:

*"I particularly enjoy the fellowship in seeing some of my 'old buddies that I only see once a year".*

*"I like the food, the speaker and gathering to see all of us getting together to be honored, it's pretty neat".*

*"The fellowship was simply wonderful. You get to know someone that you like and it becomes a nice friendship".*

*You get to talking about your tour and it becomes that you knew someone else over there through the people sitting at the table".*

*"I enjoyed the people with the different conversation we had. We have become fast friends"*

*"The entire event was very nice. This is a great time to recall when my husband was in Vietnam 48 years ago.*

*"You only get to enjoy this once a year and now that I know of it, I'll make it a point to come to these on an annual basis. My wife certainly enjoys these events as well, and I'm planning on starting my auto-biography for my family, thanks Joe Abodeely".*



## The Meal is ALWAYS Good

I don't need to tell you that many of us live in the "**Garden of Eatin**". We just need to look at our waistlines and nothing else be said.

But, on this evening of the 50th Commemoration Dinner held by the Arizona Military Museum every October, this event is certainly enjoyed by a delicious dinner provided by the Scottsdale Plaza Resort. Meal

time has always been special with peoples all over the world. After all, this is the time for conversation, trying out a few new foods that you thought you didn't like, but in your old age you really do, eating slow (something we likely do not do at home) and enjoying the fellowship with folks you likely don't know. It's funny, when you go to a restaurant, the food AL-

WAYS tastes better, why is that? Well, we did not prepare it and someone that did knows what they are doing.

The meal is \$50.00 per-person, but that is the cost for the **ENTIRE** evening, so you're getting quite a deal knowing or not knowing what is coming about within the next four hours or so. So, enjoy that night and think on it for next year.



**Teach "Someone" About Vietnam**



It seems like an eternity ago that any of us were in Vietnam. First off, if YOU have not returned to Vietnam for a visit, you are truly missing out. Vietnam is a first class county to visit. It is easy to get there, inexpensive to visit and travel, extremely interesting to see and extremely worthwhile. A lot of us have forgotten quite a bit about the country, but teaching it to your children and grandchildren, I imagine they would find it very powerful knowing their grand father was in that country so long ago. You know the one thing we and your family have missed out on? It is **HISTORY**. And frankly, it is up to you (Vietnam Veteran) to teach that part of it anyway. So much could be brought back to your mind, if you'd sit down to a computer and just write about it. If there is any article in any of the AZ-LZ's that you like, simply copy it and use to your liking to teach your family. If you don't do it, who will? Create

An outline to teach your grand children, make a movie using your photos and video or generic stuff to make it interesting for them to see "what it was like back then". Make it a point to create and generate interest in it.

There is a military museum in Phoenix, and it is called the Arizona Military Museum on 56th Street and McDowell Road that has a myriad of military items on nice displays with information about all of the wars and conflicts within America. It is well worth it to visit it and donate something to keep it going. Museums have become a thing of the past and this should be on your critical list.

You might be surprised about what you gain, learn yourself as you teach about this to people in your life.

**Wear The DOD Pin With Honor**



At our age, a lot of us wear suits either to church or to take our wives out for dinner. The DOD pin you see to your left is given out to all Vietnam Veterans at events. So, make it a point to attend one or more of these and receive one of these and wear it to church, dinner, or just because. This DOD pin just started to be awarded to

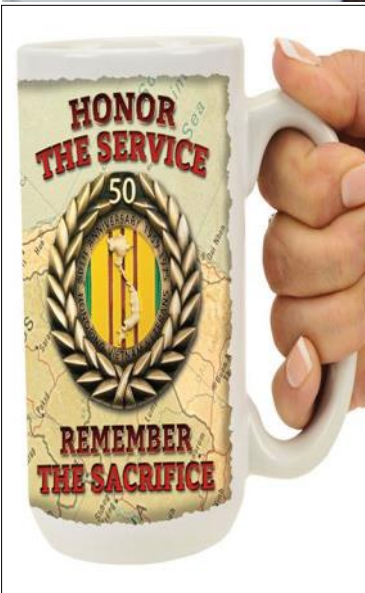
Vietnam Veterans last year and has become a hit with us all.

This very distinctive pin created by the Department of Defense, 50th Commemoration Office to be awarded by those organizations desiring to honor us—Vietnam Veterans. We should all wear it with a lot of pride that we served

our country, and served it well.

Bottom line, wear the pin with pride, be involved in an event which you might present one to another Vietnam Veteran and make him or her just as proud as you were when you received your own. These are nice keepsakes we can always remember.

**A Coffee Mug With Remembrance**



Yes, Starbucks Coffee makes good coffee, but the cup at home will cost you a lot less. And in fact, the cup you see here likely cost about \$10.00.

Looking for something to bless someone with a nice gift. These cups "typically" cost about \$10.00 and if you buy several, you'll have a supply on hand to give to people over time. To honor that special someone that you think a

lot of. Maybe that young person who is way-too-young to remember much know about Vietnam. If they drink coffee or hot chocolate you have that person before you. Consider buying a \$5.00 bag of coffee as a nice gift. It does not take much to "simply think about what you'd like to do for someone", but give it some thought before you act. After a while, you'll have a lot folks on your mind to

bless someone in your life.

You know 50th Commemorations only come around once in a life-time and if YOU don not take advantage of it now, you never will again, so make a difference in someone's life so that it counts.

Go to these events that come up, invite someone and leave the details to your family so they know as well. Do your best



### Be Challenged With A Challenge Coin

Challenge coins become a part of America's life in the late 1980's and now are a big part of the lives of those in government, with State and Federal and now those associated with fraternal organizations, such as Vietnam Veterans of America. As you know there a plethora of coins out there representing the various MOS's we all held, or the jobs we did and in theory, we could all have many, many coins based on those companies offering different ones, such as Infantry, Huey's, the weapon we carried, the area of Vietnam we were at, our Division, and so on.

your coin arena box, and the next time you look at them, you'll know exactly where it came from, who gave it to you, why they did, and the when it happened. These my friend are nice remembrances for all of us. As we approach or have approached our later years, things of this nature become very important to us in the military portion of our lives.

The coins you see to the left are particularly nice and handsome as they display a lot of "visual things" about the coin and us as a former military soldier.

Challenge coins always have a story to them. When they are given to you, the who, what, when, where, how and why always plays a role with that particular coin. From the person who gave it to you the occasion and meaning of it and the looks of it ALL play a role with it. So, when you place it in

These coins typically cost about \$12.00 and for you to provide one to a good friend of yours, might be a nice gesture on your part. Pick up the phone and call Northwest mint or see them on line at NWTmint.com



### History of Vietnam As We Know It Today

The country, we fought for almost 50 years ago, provides the same kinds of things our country has and those around us. Some of those little things in every country are things as you see here, we call stamps and currency. Stamps and currencies from foreign countries actually tell a lot about that country. You look at the bills from the

USA and they have been the same for more than a century, but countries that "change" their currency provide a lot of history about their land.

Consider purchasing some used stamps and currency online and providing it to your grandchildren and great-grandchildren and give them a history lesson

of what it was like it Vietnam for you when you were there. Then introduce them to coin and stamp collecting as it can become a nice hobby and introduce them to the history of some of the world in which you were a part of it. Things of this nature can open their eyes to what is not around them and is part of you, the VETERAN.



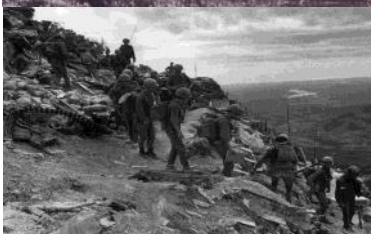
### The Man With A Mission and Vision

This guy to the left is a much respected man in the DOD world. His name is Claude Kicklighter and he served in the United States Army for many years and earned the rank of a three star General, not many of us can say that. Many of us wound up being up to E6 and others higher, but this man devoted his life to the US Army. And after that, he was appointed the job of managing the job of the 50th Commemoration

of the Vietnam War. Opening the office and overseeing the operation for a number of years, he became a well liked and fully respected man of his talent and being. As it did during the Vietnam War, when the Defense Department then tapped retired Army Lt. Gen. Claude M. "Mick" Kicklighter to run the Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration, it was once again sending the officer to where he was

most needed. With the general's logistical and planning experience both in Vietnam and after the war, his appointment to lead the massive and multi-faceted venture was a natural. Kicklighter has built an organization to plan and execute a decade long, nationwide effort to deliver a grateful nation's "thank you and welcome home" to every Vietnam veteran. Thank you sir, very much.





**Our Allies – Australia**

Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, beginning with a small commitment of 30 military advisors in 1962, increased over the following decade to a peak of 7,672 Australian personnel following the Menzies Government's April 1965 decision to upgrade its military commitment to South Vietnam's security.<sup>[2]</sup> By the time the last Australian personnel were withdrawn in 1972, the Vietnam War had become Australia's longest war, and was only recently surpassed by Australia's long term commitment of combat forces to the War in Afghanistan. It currently remains Australia's largest force contribution to a foreign conflict since the Second World War and was also the most controversial in Australian society since the conscription controversy during the First World War. Although initially enjoying broad support due to concerns about the spread of communism in Southeast Asia, a vocal anti-war movement

developed in response to Australia's program of conscription.

The withdrawal of Australia's forces from South Vietnam began in November 1970 when 8 RAR completed its tour of duty and was not replaced. A phased withdrawal followed, and by 11 January 1973 Australian involvement in hostilities in Vietnam had ceased.

Nevertheless, Australian troops from the Australian Embassy Platoon remained deployed in the country until 1 July 1973, and Australian forces were deployed briefly in April 1975, during the Fall of Saigon, to evacuate personnel from the Australian embassy. Approximately 60,000 Australians served in the war; 521 were killed and more than 3,000 were wounded.

**The Start of Something Big and Different**

The first infantry combat units arrived in Vietnam in 1965. They were the 1st-2nd Bn., 503rd Infantry, of the 173rd Airborne Bde. These units were joined in July by 3 battalions from the 1st Infantry Division and three battalions from the 101st Airborne Division, and in September by eight battalions of the 1st Air Cavalry Division. The

infantry battalions organic to the 173rd Airborne Brigade and 101st Airborne Division were airborne, those assigned to the 1st Infantry Division were standard infantry, while the elements of the 1st Cavalry Division were a new type of unit called "airmobile." Although the infantry battalions had no organic aircraft, the division was au-

thorized 428 helicopters, enough to give all of its elements tactical mobility by air. Military strategists had long dreamed of air-mobile units that would introduce a true third dimension to the battlefield. The first application of the airmobile concept, the organization of the 11th Air Assault Division, was made possible by great strides.

**Do You Remember?**

I watched the flag pass by one day,  
It fluttered in the breeze,  
A young Airman saluted it,  
And then he stood at ease.  
I looked at him in his uniform,  
So young, so tall, so proud,  
With hair cut square and eyes alert,  
He'd stand out in any crowd.  
I thought how many men like him,  
Had fallen through the years,  
How many on foreign soil,

How many mother's tears.  
How many planes shot down,  
How many died at sea,  
How many foxholes were soldiers graves,  
No, Freedom is not free.  
I heard the sound of taps one night,  
When everything was still,  
I listened to the bugle play,  
And felt a sudden chill.  
I wondered how many times,  
That taps had meant "Amen",

When a flag had covered a coffin,  
Of a brother or a friend.  
I thought of all the children,  
Of the mothers and the wives,  
Of the fathers, sons, & husbands,  
With interrupted lives.  
I thought about a graveyard,  
At the bottom of the sea,  
Of unmarked graves at Arlington,  
No, Freedom is not free.



## The Guest Speakers in 2015

Needless to say, the guest speakers at ALL of these dinners have been superb. We have always learned a lot from them in terms of the politics, the military aspect of how the military had to sometimes work. Along with that, the honoring of Vietnam Veterans and documenting the war was critical. That should be paramount to the generations of today, so they understand and hopefully get involved in these wars that have been critical to the world in that location, but also to the United States. You never

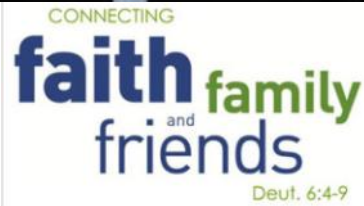
know what conflicts, battles and outright wars can do to a country or a region if something were to happen that a loss or wrong decision is made.

On another note, the people put in charge of honoring those veterans is also critical. World War II was a different sign-of-the-times, when the people of America fully recognized the veterans from the Pacific and Europe side of the war and they themselves made it a point to honor those men and women for doing what they could. Often times,

the civilians that stayed home and built planes, ships, grew food, made uniforms, medical supplies, and so on.

Korea, the Forgotten War is sad that we "don't remember those soldier's from helping Korea". They are dying quickly and we should do that very thing is remember them.

For the Vietnam Veteran, too may thought ill of the war and took it out on the men and women that fought and lost their lives or made sacrifices. Thank you speakers very much.



## Did You Enjoy Fellowship This Evening?

I have likely said this a few times, but this Earth is "**ALL ABOUT PEOPLE**" and we try to encourage anyone to come to the 50th Commemoration Dinners and Event to thoroughly enjoy themselves and be that proud military person that you were back in the 1960's- 1970's. Everyone of these events gives us an opportunity to actually re-

visit someone we had not seen since last year at this time and get re-acquainted with the same folks or someone new.

I don't need to remind you, we are all in the winter of our lives and doing what we can for our country, our families, our friends, our neighbors, our veterans and ourselves is a little on

the critical side. God provided us with America and we should also do for Him as well as much as He has done for us.

Let' give more, do more, be friendlier, less judgmental, much more gracious. Have the faith we had back in Vietnam for you are alive today and we always need to appreciate that a lot.



## Catching up and Thinking About The Vietnam of Today

You hear all too often about the Vietnam of today. I won't say it is a 1st World Country, but it is not that far behind either. I was ALWAYS told, never to judge a book by its cover and that is something we should not do based on our remembrances of Vietnam 50+ years ago. Vietnam today, is a different place than when we were there. I don't ever recall seeing

any sky scrapers, well paved and marked roads. How about stores that look very similar to ours in America. Mmm, guess who they copied?

Part of the reason, we have these annual dinners is to bring the best out in us the Vietnam Veteran. Having the honoring of the Vietnam Veteran along with encouraging the Vi-

etnam Veteran seriously consider returning back to the country they helped free from Communism. Part of it still is, but it is also a capitalistic nation as well and they well receive the tourists and former soldiers who were there decades ago. Why not put aside those "thought's of Vietnam" from way back then and shake hands with the Vietnamese and return





### Let Joe Know Your Thoughts on the 50th Event

You know it is very often nice to know how the 50th Vietnam Commemoration event was presented. Many times, it may go longer than expected or the food may be cold, the speaker is long winded. But, then it may just be that this event is something that you truly enjoyed and this is your opportunity to let the organizer know how you feel about it. There is always the introduction, the presentation, the color guard, the band, the food, the speakers, the gifts, the fellowship. Just simply everything you can think of

would be great to pass on to the organizer of this program just for us. His name is Joe Abodeely, and he is the Director of the Arizona Military Museum located near 56th Street and McDowell Road. Please consider dropping him an email at this address at: [joeabo7@gmail.com](mailto:joeabo7@gmail.com)

Joe is always looking for comments about his 50th events and dinners to certainly improve upon and make a little different each year to cause "you" and "new folks" to attend this worth-while event that is a nice remembrance for all of us that were in Vietnam.

Or possibly a telephone call at **602-509-8762**.

In addition, it is also a worthy event to have our wives and children attend to have the m see and enjoy "what Vietnam was all about."

His address at the AZ Military Museum is:

**5636 E. McDowell Road  
Phoenix, AZ. 85008-3495**

Consider bringing your children to this in 2016 and 2017.

### Invite Your Fraternal Organization Next Year



Many fraternal organizations that support veterans from World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam and the future conflicts we are involved in, do not have gala events such the 50th Event we attend in October of each year. Therefore, if you happen to belong to one of the ones to left or maybe a different one, why not make the attempt to

invite them to this Arizona Military Museum sponsors 50th Vietnam Commemorative Event? If you have in fact attended this gala, it would be worth your while to invite those that would certainly enjoy it as you have. As Vietnam Veterans, we are all simply "Brothers" that support each other and to have a nice remembrance such as

this will be juts that a nice "Remembrance" for anyone who attends to truly enjoy it. Keep in mind, there will be a movie made of this entire event and it is available for \$10.00. If you are interested, please contact Joe Abodeely at 602-509-8762 and he will arrange to obtain a copy of it for you. You will see things you may have missed.

*"Would you do me a favor at this upcoming 50th Dinner sponsored by the Arizona Military Museum? Might you consider donating \$20 or \$25 to help support for the entire event and the only Military Museum in Arizona? We have very few museums such as this and this event is for us. And a lot of work has been put into it for honoring us at this time of year. Thanks"*

### Support The 50th Event This And Next Year

I am seriously asking those of you attending this year's 50th Commemoration Dinner, please consider donating what you can to help pay for the event itself you'll be attending?

other items that night will be equally great as previous years, but a small donation would certainly be greatly appreciated by all of us.

So, all that said, the author of the AZ-LZ is asking that all of us contribute something to this dinner if in fact you go to it this October 29th 2016.

The Arizona Military Museum is solely putting on this event for us this year and it will be equally as good as the previous times.

This dinner and event will be presented each and every year, but it costs money to put it on and for those of us that enjoy it every October should taker small part in it and make the effort to have it put on the following year.

The smallest amount will mean a lot, but, please do what you can for the Arizona Military Museum and this 50th Event that you're certain to enjoy. You will be very glad you did to be a part of the next generation. It is important.

The food, the entertainment, the speakers and

## Medals and Ribbons



While there are several medals for the soldier, sailor, airman, marine, merchant marine or coast guardsman that went to Vietnam, these two to the left are the most prominent illustrating the "CAMPAIGN" and "SERVICE" to the serving in Vietnam.

that the **Vietnam Campaign Medal** may be awarded to any service member who, while serving outside the geographical limits of the Republic of Vietnam, provided direct combat support to the Republic of Vietnam armed forces for a period exceeding six months. This stipulation most often applies to members who performed Vietnam War support from Thailand and Japan. In such cases, a U.S. service member must have been awarded either the Vietnam Service Medal or the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (for service in a South Vietnam campaign) to be eligible for the Vietnam Campaign Medal. For those members who were wounded by an enemy force, captured by the enemy in the line of duty, or killed in action, the Vietnam Campaign Medal is automatically awarded regardless of total time served in Vietnam.

I have a question for anyone reading this article. Why is the "1960-" on the label without the "1975"? We have likely all read the various years of Vietnam include 1959, 1961 and maybe a few others, and then the end of the war includes the year 1973. Why is that. We all knew WWII was 1941-1945 and Korea 1950-1953, but the Vietnam War seems to be stuck in numerous years. Why is that? I'm open to an interpretation.

The medals should mean a lot to each of us as we "SERVED" in Vietnam in campaigns receiving the **Vietnam Service Medal**. With



## South Vietnam Service Medals



The **Gallantry Cross** military decoration of the former Government of South Vietnam (Republic of Vietnam). The medal was created on August 15, 1950 and was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and organizations in recognition of deeds of valor or heroic conduct while in combat with the enemy.

The **Civil Actions Medal** is a military decoration of the Republic of Vietnam. It was created on May 12, 1964 during the Vietnam War. It was awarded to military personnel, civilians, and organizations in recognition of outstanding achievements in the field of civil affairs. It is awarded in two classes, with the first class for commissioned officers and enlisted personnel.

The **Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation** awarded to all personnel in the MAAG, Indo-China and other units who during August-September 1954, participated in humanitarian assistance. The Republic of Vietnam Presidential Unit Citation is considered obsolete since the bestowing authority.



## South Vietnamese Personal Medals

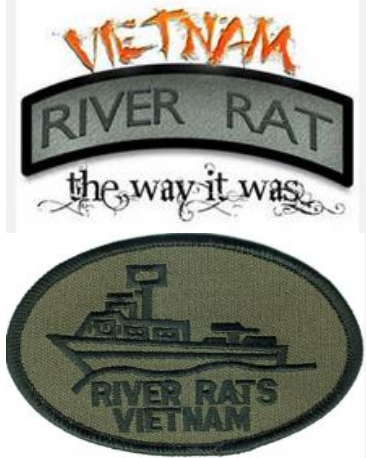


The **Vietnam Wound Medal** was a military decoration of South Vietnam first created in 1953. The decoration was the South Vietnamese equivalent of the Purple Heart, awarded to any personnel of the South Vietnamese military who, while engaged in armed combat with enemies of Vietnam, were killed or wounded in action. By authorization, the South Vietnamese government issued this medal to American Soldiers.

The **Armed Forces Honor Medal** was a military decoration of South Vietnam that was first created in 1953. The medal was awarded in 1st and 2nd class grades and reached its height of bestowals during the Vietnam War years. The medal was also one of the more commonly awarded medals to members of foreign militaries and was frequently bestowed to members of the United States Armed Forces, Australia, Korea and New Zealand.

The **Vietnam Navy Gallantry Cross** was a military decoration issued during the years of the Vietnam War. The Navy Gallantry Cross was awarded to any member of the military who displayed meritorious or heroic combat while engaged in naval operations to benefit South Vietnam. The medal was awarded both for combat and non-combat service and was the equivalent of the United States Legion of Merit.





### The River Rats of Vietnam

Without the U.S. Navy in Vietnam, our job as Infantry would have been a lot harder than it already was. I can't say I don't know many "River Rat's", but the job was sometimes awfully dirty and stinky in the various rivers of Vietnam. The brown-water navy is a term that originated in the United States Navy, referring to the small gunboats and patrol boats used in rivers, along with some of the larger ships (including converted WWII LCMs, LSTs, etc.) that supported them as "mother ships," from which they operated. A

broader meaning is any naval force that has the capacity to carry out military operations in river or littoral environments, commonly known as **riverine warfare**. The term brown-water generally describes river environments carrying heavy sediment loads, such as from soil runoff or flooding.<sup>[1]</sup> Since presence of "brown water" requires a soil source, whether riverine or coastal, the term has become associated with littoral navies. The term "brown-water" can be either river or amphibious in contrast to "blue-water na-

vy" which is capable of independent oceanic operations.



### The Huey NEVER Goes Away

What is it about a piece of equipment in Vietnam that seems to "stay with you" forever? Maybe it is because we rode it all the time, saw it frequently and certainly heard it 24x7. But I think there is more to it than that.

We all or many of us depended on the UH-1 (Huey) a lot, it had to be there for us when we were in trouble or just having fun on it going to our next Landing Zone (LZ). The sound is certainly refreshing and it was quiet I might add. You heard it, but then

you didn't hear it. You always knew in your head and heart something was going on with the tens-of-thousands of those helicopters through out the country are always on the move helping in a situation or airlifting someone out of a dangerous place. How about bringing us "Hots" especially when we are sick of C-Rations. And then there is the air strike on the bad guys or some reconnaissance in seeing who is where or where they shouldn't be. Seeing a "whole mess" of those ships was certainly pretty

impressive as the take of in groups of however many and they all seem to fly together and it seems like they land together t the same time. Pretty impressive pilots, I'd say. How about that start-up time and taking off within a few seconds and landing on a dime. Here it is 50 years later, the Huey's are out of military service, but still in service in our hearts and mind for those of us that flew on them on a daily basis. It seems like the older we get, the Huey just never goes away. Maybe that is the way it should be.





## Sharing Those Good Thoughts Of Vietnam

You know, each of us that were in-country has had good thoughts, and most of us can say "[we did have a good time](#)", at least part of the time we were on our tour. If we think for a few moments, we can easily come up with those great times and remembrances that we can and should pass along to the family. We understand that there of course some rough patches in that tour, but it is always better to focus on the [positive](#) part of our life rather than the [negative](#). If you don't relay them precious times in print to your family one way or another,

you will regret it for a long time. And, frankly, as we get older, it is going to be hard on us as the memory will fade as we later into our years. Some ideas for you could be the time you met that General or the Red Cross young lady who provided you with a snack, drink or just great conversation. How about that Nurse or great Doctor who healed you from a wound or infection. I imagine you also took R&R to a country that was "out of this world" and there likely was superb times for that seven days, you'll never forget. And if you were with your wife in

Hawaii on your R&R, you might also help her remember some of those times you can pass onto the children and grandchildren. [Life is short](#), I don't need to tell you that, but being in the winter of your life, it is important to keep your mind and heart in the "[Spring](#)", graduate to the "[Summer](#)" and stay there. "[Autumn](#)" approaches us quickly enough, the one good thing about "[Winter](#)" is Thanksgiving and Christmas quickly approaching for us to spend that wonderful time with who? Family!! [That is a whole lot of life for us. Enjoy it!!](#)

## You Are Being Honored

These 50th Commemoration Dinners have one purpose in mind and that is to "[HONOR](#)" you, the Vietnam Veteran. Each year, there have been many speakers that provide insight as to what the Vietnam Veteran has done for S.E. Asia and Oceania in general, but in the end, the person that attended these dinners receives a real blessing

with being recognized for performing with a certain division or MOS or something along these lines, but your keepsake is over-and-over reminding that you, the Vietnam Veteran from all walks of life, from all of the service branches, from any and every job you did in Vietnam or nearby areas or ships or air fields did what they were supposed

to and that take care of your fellow man and support your branch of service and get the job done. Your tour of duty was 12-13 months or longer with an extension. But you did your job and you should be proud of it as you [came home to talk about it](#). In the end, talk about it, share it with your family and let them know what you did.

## Learning Something New

Every time you come to one of these 50th Commemoration Dinner's one can learn a lot. All the way from the speaker to the movie that is shown to the fellowship that is provided for all of us. That can be important for each of us as we attempt to remember the events of 50+ years ago and assimilate them into our today's thinking. Not all of us were every-

where it is nice to be able to "recall something that we forgot" as well as have it "interpreted for us" (as our memories are failing, but to also pass it on to our families and that special lady that is with us tonight. But, then let us not forget those children and those grandchildren and great-grandchildren that are ever so precious to us. That is learning something "new".

The wisdom that we have and can gain everyday is critical for all us as we get older. When we were in high school, the word "Vietnam" was just another word, but then it became reality and now it is a well meant and well thought out word for those who escaped from Communism with the help of people like you and I and that is a most critical thing that we can all learn to pass on.



“ Knowledge is learning something new every day. Wisdom is letting go of something every day. ”



## Pass On Sweet Thoughts With the Family About Your Tour



I have passed on my sweet thoughts of Vietnam with many people to include you readers looking at this issue of the AZ-LZ. This next year (2017) will be my 50th year since I have "GONE" to Vietnam as my tour was 1967-1968 and that is extremely hard to believe. Wow, are we getting old or what? You know we are expected to pass onto our children and grand-children our remembrances, thoughts writings, family history and so forth. If we don't do it, who will? Sit and think about it as to WHAT you'd like to

do for your family. Whether your father and mother passed it on to you, it is your obligation to write up and leave it in a nice format and content for your family. You likely know plenty of your parents and in-laws, and you have **PLENTY** of time to start the project now, MS Word is a great tool to begin and get a subscription on Ancestry.com to look up those folks back in the 1600's or earlier and inform your family of those way back in time. It is quite a project to begin this process, but you'll regret it if you don't

begin it now. I have great thoughts about Vietnam then and now and since I have returned, I can conjure up many, many "things in my head" about my tour in 1967-1968. The question is do I want to repeat it? Well, my answer is yes, because if I don't who will? One only has one life to live and then it is over and if we don't relay and come to grips with Vietnam and the varying commemorations done for us, shame on us for not having a positive side to that part of our lives. So, stay positive and live life while you have it.



## Recalling the Weapon You Used

We did not have the number of weapons back in the 1960's as they seem to have today. And the ones back then are pretty much gone. The M14, M16, M60, M19 (.45) and the M-this and M-that are all replaced by those "new-fashioned" weapons that would take us a while to figure out. But, as long as they work,

what is the difference. And our Armed Forces are doing a good job today with weaponry that the enemy has almost the same kinds. Introduced in 1957, it has served with every branch of the U.S. military and still serves with other armed forces. Its manufacture and continued upgrade for military and commercial purchase continues into the

21st century, although it has been replaced or supplemented in most roles by other designs, most notably the M240 in U.S. service. The M60 machine gun began development in the late 1940s as a program for a new, lighter 7.62 mm machine gun. It was partly derived from German guns of World War II



## Consider Going Back For a Visit To Vietnam

Even if you cannot afford to travel back to Vietnam, how about renting a movie that might illustrate "What Vietnam Was Like in the 1960's". They have plenty of tourist type movies, check out YouTube, look on Netflix, Hulu or another streaming entity.

You'll likely be very surprised to find out what it is like today. Maybe that might change your mind

about going over there. In fact, you don't know what you are missing by NOT seeing it. I will offer this to about 5 or 10 of you, if you'd like to see a series of my Vietnam trip on DVD, let me know and I'll send them at no charge to you.

In the mean time, see Vietnam through the Internet and enjoy a meal of Pho, rice, noodles and all of the other good things a Vi-

etnam meal is made up of. You will be pleasantly surprised by what it taste like and it is extremely easy to make and obviously enjoy.

In the meantime, make a book of your time over there via SNAPPISH, paper scrapbook with your photos, junk items and precious things you did not want to lose. Now is the time to do that before you get any "OLDER".



### Letter From A Friend

I can't believe it was five years ago I saw you, you and the sky were such a beautiful sight. I wish you to know me better.

When you asked this morning, I answered a brilliant answer through your wisdom, being to get your attention, but you smiled all without even realizing.

Later, I noticed you were walking with some friends in a field, you were wearing a red shirt and you looked like you were having a great time. I was so happy to see you and still you didn't notice me.

As you passed by, I thought to myself, I wish I could have been there with you.

Thank you for the beautiful memories in the sky and the ground. I wish you to know me better.

In the morning, I smiled myself out of your face and as you passed by me, you didn't see me. I was so happy to see you and still you didn't notice me.

I have always been a happy person and I will always be. I wish you to know me better.

I see you, I see you and I see you very much.

Your friend, Mike

### Write A Friend About The 50th Dinner

If you have been to ANY of the dinners held by the Arizona Military Museum and the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, you might consider writing a letter to the people responsible for holding these dinners and share your thoughts about it.

ervations. But, the best part of knowing someone like you is not to feel obliged to do something when we're together, is to be able to watch TV without saying a word, not feeling bored or wanting to be by yourself; and I miss you when you're far away, taking care of mine. To be a friend is to be able to enjoy the best things the other person has to offer, to recognize their faults but to know they are bearable and, on the other hand, to be a friend is to offer our virtues with all the generosity in the world and to live without masks or farces to hide our faults, habits or differences.

I've been thinking about writing to you for a while now, to tell you about the meaning of friendship, something that surrounds us in such a natural way that we don't even bother much to understand what it truly means. Maybe I can't really express that meaning, but it's good to know that there's someone supporting us, even if sometimes they don't fully agree with what we are thinking or doing and they don't hesitate to show their point of view. That's what true friends are like, because they know that a different opinion will not change a deep feeling of mutual and sincere trust.

Your Friend Joe

A best friend to me is a person who will never cease to believe in me. who will never stop smiling at me. who will never gossip about me behind my back and who will always stick up for me.

And I'm obviously talking about you, Mittha :-)

My friend:

It's always nice to have you near and to enjoy your company and your loyalty; it's important to have the friendship and affection of someone with whom we can share our joys and sorrows, and discuss our problems without fear or res-

### Invite A Good Buddy Next Year

"Hey, friend, I'd like to buy you a ticket to the Arizona Military Museum's 50th Vietnam War Commemoration Dinner on October 29, 2017. Plan on coming with me.

You will enjoy it for along time to come. Be my guest at this great event that you'll truly enjoy. . . ."

We get only so many chances to attend some pretty nice glittery and fancy events in our life and often times, and that special friend of ours may not have that opportunity to the very same things, maybe because of money, a ride, hotel or just not knowing about it. Sit down for thirty-minutes and go through your book of friends and

discover in your mind who might to attend events such as these.

It may or may not be their birthday, but consider buying their ticket for them as it can be a nice gesture for you to do as a special friend of yours.

You'll enjoy a great dinner dessert, music, spending

some time, conversing about the old days fifty-years plus ago, listening to some great speakers, fellowship with the people in the event, meeting some Vietnamese, re-thinking what it was like in Vietnam all this time later, receiving a challenge coin and recalling about what you just did and **that was being very a friend to a great friend.**

### Visit The Arizona Military Museum



Do you want to get some real history about the U.S. Military and from the Civil War forward to the Global War On Terror? This is the place to go.

May I highly advise you to take you children there and stay for as long as you like, but....leave a donation for what has gone into it. It is a remarkable piece of work that will last your life time and your children. So often, we do not visit muse-

ums the way "we used to in the old days".

Many of us in the Infantry flew on the Huey's (UH-1's) and we truly enjoyed it. I for one sat on the floor of the bird with your feet on the skids. That was fun as you banked with the helicopter as they turned to land or begin swirling in the air. You almost didn't need to hang, but did "just in case". It was always a great time, with the sound

of the blades, knowing it was nearly to pick up the wounded, bring us "hots" or the always wondering-if-I-have-a-letter-in-the-mail, or a change of clothes. Often times, they would bring a Chaplain to have service or the Red Cross girls to surprise us with donuts. All in all, how could any of us forget the Huey. The noise, sound, looks of it and idea that it was there for us all the time when we truly needed it. Keep it close.

**Arizona Military Museum Dinner—Reservation**

**DINNER HONORING ARIZONA VIETNAM VETERANS**

The Arizona Military Museum (Official Partner of the Commemoration of the Vietnam War) is pleased to host the 6th Annual Event Honoring Arizona’s Vietnam Veterans to thank and honor veterans who served in the Vietnam War. We are honored to have as our very Special Guest Speaker, Professor Robert F. Turner, who holds both professional and academic doctorates from the University of Virginia School of Law, where in 1981 he co-founded the Center for National Security Law. Dr. Turner served two tours in Vietnam. He is the author or editor of more than fifteen books and has published in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, *Washington Post*, and most other American newspapers. He has testified as an expert witness before more than a dozen congressional committees. He is in *Who’s Who in the World* and *Who’s Who in America*.

This special experience includes a Vietnamese Color Guard, a wonderful dinner, good music, short speeches, videos, TAPS, and a special presentation to Vietnam Veterans. These events are outstanding patriotic events honoring our largest group of living veterans. We look forward to seeing many Vietnam and Vietnam era veterans, their families, and friends to honor them.

DATE/TIME: **October 29**, 2016. Check-in **5:30 pm** for table seating. No-host bar 5:30 to 6:30.

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

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

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

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

Scottsdale Plaza Resort rooms are set aside for your convenience at only \$125.00 per night plus tax to stay at this beautiful resort, particularly if you’re travelling from outside the Phoenix area. Just call the hotel for room reservations at (480) 948-5000 or 1-800-832-2025. For other questions call Joe at 520-868-6777 or 602-509-8762. Tickets are not issued. Send RSVP and check to REGISTER. Attendees will be checked off a list when they attend the event.

**MAKE CHECK FOR \$50.00 PER PERSON PAYABLE TO: ARIZONA MILITARY MUSEUM, AND MAIL WITH THIS FORM TO: ARIZONA MILITARY MUSEUM, 9014 NORTH WEALTH ROAD, MARICOPA, ARIZONA 85139 NOT LATER OCTOBER 22, 2016.** Please legibly print names, addresses, and contact phone numbers of attendees. Seating (table of ten) will be assigned to those who respond by RSVP first.

**RSVP:** I (we) will attend the event in *Honor of Arizona Vietnam Veterans* on October 29, 2016 at Scottsdale Plaza Resort, 7200 North Scottsdale Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85253. THE TABLES ARE ROUNDS OF TEN PEOPLE EACH. Attendees’ names are listed below. Check-in and no-host bar are at 5:30 to 6:30pm when the program begins.

ENCLOSED IS PAYMENT FOR THE ATTENDEES LISTED:

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Colonel Joe Abodeely, USA (Ret)  
Director, Arizona Military Museum  
[joeabo7@gmail.com](mailto:joeabo7@gmail.com)  
602-509-8762.

## Veterans Day—2016



This is a day that all of us can relate to. It is a day to remember our grandfathers, our fathers, our sons and daughters and even ourselves.

Veterans Day is coming up in a few months and it is our responsibility to provide that type of history and reasons we celebrate that day as it is extremely important to the Veterans of America.

It is our responsibility to most instrumentally honor those veterans from World War II and Korea as they are declining in numbers and soon we will be among

them as well.

Make it a point to go to a Retirement home or center and put on an event or simply visit them and honor them with a challenge coin. They are available at Northwest Mint, located on the web at (nwtmint.com) for about \$10-12.00. What a nice keepsake for the veterans in their later years. We all, no matter who we are like to be remembered on this day, much less our birthday and Christmas. Make it a point to get some information to honor these men and women. They'll not forget it.



## A Veteran—What It Means to You??

It means that YOU have protected America in one fashion or another. Maybe in combat, maybe in the kitchen, maybe in the supply room, maybe in Europe or the USA, but you did something. We all can't be everywhere, but we all did our job and did it well. You should be proud of you time in service, be it 2 years, 3 years, 4 years or

20 years, but you did something and you and your family should be extremely proud and honored that you served your country the way you did. Your sisters, brothers, aunts and uncles and grandparents all look up to you. And for you, "VETERAN", make the day for another veteran that you know, see around town and "Welcome Them

Home" and thank them for their service. For the WWII and Korean War and even Vietnam Veterans, they are slipping away fairly quickly, so if you have the opportunity, take the time to honor them with a dinner, lunch, challenge coin or something they and their families will not forget. We don't have many opportunities left. Don't forget them.

## How Many Vets In Your Family—1,2 or 3?

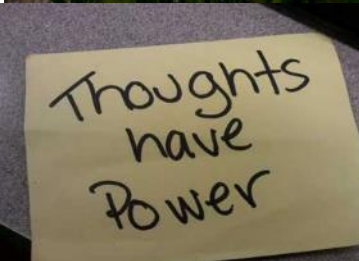
I typically think of WWII, Korean War and Vietnam Veterans the most, because of my age. But when we grew up, we likely had our grandfather alive in our midst and of course our father, so we had the "two" generations at hand in our life in our younger years. The main question here is, how much of your grandfather and father do your children and grandchildren know about?

They should aware they were veterans and what they did in the service and should access to their history in the military. If it is not known, would you consider writing something concrete about the service of these two great men in your life? I realize it will be important, but once you are gone, it will be too late for them to know any details of the service of their time in World War I and World

War II that has saved the world two different times. If it is possible, create a picture album with their history, their documents, (DD214, etc.) and the story of their lives in the military. It is a small task you will not regret.

In conclusion, do it for yourself as well, so your children and grandchildren will have it for you as well. Don't wait on this too long.

Learn things from those around you. Enjoy life with those beside you. Don't underestimate those below you.



*"To my family, these are my thoughts to you about my tour in Vietnam. To say the least, it was wonderful...."*



## What Did You Enjoy The Most?

I don't know about you, but I loved the people the best. They were not all bad, most were not Viet Cong sympathizers or NVA-related, but just normal, like you and I. Within that group, I truly enjoyed the children. There is something about Asian kids that really stands out, They are a lot of fun, very inquisitive about anything, want to know everything, willing to learn, they ask questions, and they want an answer pretty quick, so make up your mind to answer before you can't anymore. They seem to always have a smile on their face, and

yes they try to get that candy bar from you knowing you must have a quite a few of them on you, as America is known as the "Land of Chocolate". Hey, that is something special for them as you always have plenty, maybe not now, but when you get home, they will still cost 5¢ a bar for the big one no less.

The other thing I liked was helping them out with a some food. As we truly "enjoyed" the C-Rations, there was always "something" in the box we did not enjoy, such as those

Beans and Ham, in that can. Ugh!!

Well, how about sharing one of your cans of our supply with them so they can have a meal, and that is what I did. If someone needed some help with their home, maybe we were in a situation, we could lend a hand to them for fixing up something that would make them more convenient and much less of a hardship. There was ALWAYS something we enjoyed in that life in Vietnam, simply think on it and write it down, so you can pass it on to them.

## How About Writing Your Auto-Biography?

1 January 2017

Dear Family:

*I'd like to write you about my life when I was in my early 20's. It was late 1966 and I was notified by my draft board to report to a local board for a physical and possibly be drafted into the U.S. Army for a period of two years. I then passed the physical and*

*was on my way to Basic Combat Training (BCT) at Fort Ord, CA. for a period of ten weeks. I was promoted to PVT-E2, and on my way to Fort Polk, LA. for AIT (11B10),(Advanced Infantry Training) for another 10 to 11 weeks in which I came out an expert with the M-60 and the M-16 weapons, I then took leave for two weeks to say good-*

*bye to my Mother and Father and my wife and off I went across to a country I barely heard of—Vietnam. I was attached to the 1st Cavalry Division as a Machine Gunner with the 1/5 Battalion, 2nd Brigade.*

*Gents, this is a start, now you finish it. It wrote this in 1 minute about myself, and you can do it faster on you.*

## Remember Your Dad in WWII

As a Vietnam Veteran, I have sweet memories about my Dad volunteering for World War II in early 1942. As he was searching for the best service to join, he asked my Mother, "Which service should I join", and she said "Join the Navy, you'll have three meals a day and a place to sleep". And that is what he did. For a little more than three years, he was

an Electrician's Mate 1CL, aboard the USS Stockton in the Pacific region and was involved in the various battles of the islands over there to include Iwo Jima and many others. After the war, he went on a 'Round-the-World cruise'. around Africa and wound up in New York in 1946. He served proudly along with the other sailors in the U.S. Navy and you should be

proud of your Dad, Uncle and the rest of the family that also was in World War II. A lot of the kids today don't know anything about that war and it is up to us to "**TELL THEM**" about your (and their) relatives that served in a huge conflict that saved the world from something they cannot relate to at all. Honor your Dad this Veterans Day, will you?



## Giving Thanks This November 2016

Giving thanks to God has taken place since the creation. There is a unique repetitive term that runs through much of the Old Testament: *Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever.* Repeating such a phrase can bring joy to followers of God, through any circumstance. This quote came from [1 Chronicles 16:34](#), but the exact phrase is repeated in [2 Chronicles 16:41](#), [Psalm 106:1](#), [Psalm 107:1](#), [Psalm 118:1](#), and [Psalm 136:1](#). Giving thanks for God's goodness and his enduring love was a theme

that the Old Testament writers wanted the children of Israel to remember. A second notable repeated phrase occurs five times in Psalm 107 which says a lot: *O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth for ever.*<sup>2</sup> *Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*<sup>3</sup> *And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south.*<sup>4</sup> *They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to*

*dwell in.*<sup>5</sup> *Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.*<sup>6</sup> *Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.*<sup>7</sup> *And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.*<sup>8</sup> *Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*<sup>9</sup> *For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.* This should tell you enough about Thanksgiving. Let us all put it onto practice for the good of the Lord and America.



## Celebrate With Someone Else

How many of us would consider inviting a homeless person or family into our home for Thanksgiving? I dare say not many, but why don't you consider it and make it wonderful blessing for them. You might consider taking them out and buying them a new set of clothes, shoes, etc., possibly having them stay the night or you put them

up into hotel and **"make their Thanksgiving"** week something they would have never expected. It would not take that much to do it except uplift them and you a lot. Do some research on "how" you do it, when, where, etc. to make it safe for you and them and be that person that cares for others. In reality, we are all the same no matter

what. There are countless people in this country who have little to no hope when it comes to living the kind of life we live, and when it comes to the holidays, life is truly in a sad state for them emotionally, and they have no one in their lives. Make it point to do something "BIG" for a family you don't even know. It will make you feel special too.

## Give More Than You Plan On

We all know the world is full of homeless people and believe it or not it can be our job to help them out once in a while. If everyone did something for a homeless person and had the heart to do it, especially, when we too could be homeless at any time, it would certainly be worthwhile to provide a few meals during the Christmas and Thanksgiving season. If we would simply give up our Starbucks coffee for

two weeks or one month, we would be able to provide multiple meals and needed Christmas gifts for a family that truly needed them. Would you pray about that this upcoming season do what you can. If you know of no one, provide some funds to the local shelter or food bank to make the truly needed difference for a family in need. Consider adopting a family for a month or so and help them out.



## An Island From No Where with No One From Anywhere

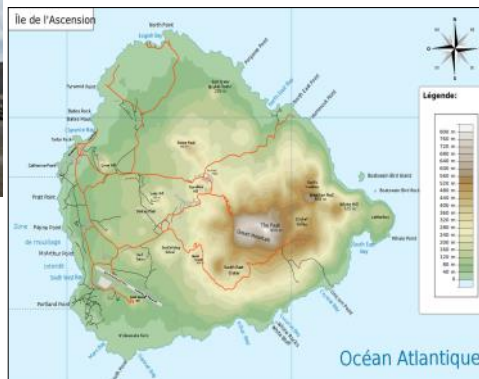
Ascension Island is an isolated volcanic island in the equatorial waters of the South Atlantic Ocean, around 1,600 kilometers (1,000 mi) from the coast of Africa and 2,250 kilometers (1,400 mi) from the coast of Brazil, which is roughly midway between the horn of South America and Africa. It is governed as part of the British Overseas Territory of Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, of which the main island, Saint Helena, is around 1,300 kilometers (800 mi) to the southeast. The territory also includes the sparsely populated Tristan da Cunha archipelago, some 3,730 kilometers (2,300 mi) to the south, about halfway to the Antarctic Circle.

The island is named after the day of its recorded discovery, Ascension Day, and is located at 7°56'S 14°22'W coordinates: 7°56'S 14°22'W, about as far south of the equator as tropical Venezuela is to its north. It played a role as an important safe haven and coaling station to mariners and for commercial airliners during the days of international air travel by flying boats. During World War II it was an important naval and air station, especially providing antisubmarine warfare bases in the Battle of the Atlantic. Ascension Island was garrisoned by the British Admiralty from 1815 to 1922.

The island is the location of RAF Ascension Island, which is a Royal Air Force station with a United States Air Force presence, a European Space Agency rocket tracking station, an Anglo-American signals intelligence facility and the BBC World Service Atlantic Relay Station. The island was used extensively by the British military during the Falklands War. Ascension Island hosts one of four ground antennas (others are on Kwajalein Island, Diego Garcia, and Cape Canaveral) that assist in the operation of the Global Positioning System navigational system. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the United States Air Force operate a telescope on Ascension Island for tracking orbital debris, which is potentially hazardous to operating spacecraft and astronauts, at a facility called the John Africano NASA/AFRL Orbital Debris Observatory. Ascension is a geologically young formation, the tip of an undersea volcano which rose above the waves only a million years ago. Its last eruption may have occurred in the 16th Century. Due to its short above-water history, its soil consists mostly of clinker. In 1503, the Portuguese navigator Afonso de Albuquerque sighted the island on Ascension Day (which fell on 21 May that year) and named it *Ilha da Ascensão* after this feast day. Dry and barren, the island had little appeal for passing ships except for collecting fresh meat, and was not claimed for the Portuguese Crown. Mariners

could hunt for the numerous seabirds and the enormous female green turtles that laid their eggs on the sandy beaches. The Portuguese also introduced goats as a potential source of meat for future mariners. In February 1701, HMS *Roebuck*, commanded by William Dampier, sank in the common anchoring spot in Clarence Bay to the northwest of the island. Sixty men survived for two months until they were rescued. Almost certainly, after a few days they found the strong water spring in the high interior of the island, in what is now called Breakneck Valley (there is a much smaller water source, lower on the mountain, which was named Dampier's Drip by people who probably misinterpreted Dampier's story).

It is possible that the island was sometimes used as an open prison for criminal mariners, although there is only one documented case of such an exile, a Dutch ship's officer, Leendert Hasenbosch, set ashore at Clarence Bay as a punishment for a crime in May 1725. British mariners found the Dutchman's tent, belongings and diary in January 1726; the man's remains were not found.





## Israeli S-m-a-r-t-s

The Middle East has been growing date palms for centuries. The average tree is about 18-20 feet tall and yields about 38 pounds of dates a year. Israeli **date trees are now yielding 400 pounds** per year and are short enough to be harvested from the ground or a short ladder. Unlike the U.S. which grows one half of that in major desert regions. Israel is the 100th smallest country, with less than 1/1000th of the world's population, can lay claim to the following:

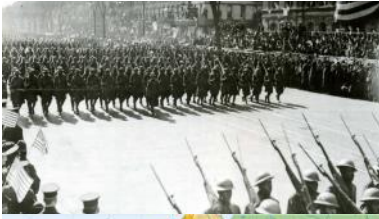
The **cell phone was developed in Israel** by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola, which has its largest development center in Israel. Most of the **Windows NT and XP Operating Systems** were developed by Microsoft-Israel. **The Pentium MMX Chip technology** was designed in Israel at Intel. Both the **Pentium-4** microprocessor and the **Centrino processor** were entirely designed, developed and produced in Israel. The Pentium microprocessor in your computer was most likely made in Israel. **Voice mail technology** was developed in Israel. Both Microsoft and Cisco built their only R&D facilities outside the U.S. in Israel. The technology for the **AOL Instant Messenger ICQ** was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis. Israel has the world's **highest percentage of home computers** per capita.

Israel has the **fourth largest air force in the world**, (after the U.S., Russia and China). In addition to a large variety of other aircraft, Israel's air force has an aerial arsenal of over **250 F-16's**. This is the largest fleet of F-16 aircraft outside of the U. S. Israel's **\$100 billion economy** is larger than all of its immediate neighbors combined. According to industry officials, Israel designed the airline industry's **most impenetrable flight security**. US officials now look, (finally), to Israel for advice on how to handle airborne security threats. Israel has the **highest ratio of university degrees** to the population in the world. Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation by a large margin - 109 per 10,000 people -- as well as one of the highest per capita rates of patents filed. Israel has the **highest average living standards** in the Middle East. The Israeli per capita **income in 2000 was over \$17,500**, exceeding that of the UK. On a per capita basis, Israel has the largest number of **biotech startups**. **Twenty-four per cent of Israel's workforce holds university degrees**, ranking third in the industrialized world, after the United States and Holland, and 12 per cent hold advanced degrees. Israel is the only **liberal democracy** in the Middle East. In 1984 and 1991 Israel **airlifted a total of 22,000 Ethiopian Jews** (Operation Solomon and Moses), at Risk in Ethiopia, to safety in Israel. When Golda Meir was elected Prime Minister of Israel in 1969, she became the **world's second elected female leader in modern times**. When the U. S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya was bombed in 1998, Israel rescue teams were on the scene within a day -- and **saved three victims from the rubble**. Israel has the **third highest rate of entrepreneurship** -- and the highest rate among women and among people over 55 - in the world! Relative to its population, Israel is the **largest immigrant-absorbing nation on earth**. Immigrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity, (hundreds of thousands from the former Soviet Union) Israel was the first nation in the world to adopt the Kimberly process, an international standard that certifies **diamonds as "conflict free"**. Israel has the world's second highest per capita of **new books**.

Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a **net gain in its number of trees**, made more remarkable because, this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert! Israel has more **museums** per capita than any other country. Medicine - Israeli scientists developed the first fully computerized, no-radiation, **diagnostic instrumentation for breast cancer**. An Israeli company developed a computerized system for ensuring **proper administration of medications**, thus removing human error from medical treatment. Every year in U.S. hospitals 7,000 patients die from treatment mistakes. Israeli company Given Imaging, developed the first **ingestible video camera**, so small it fits inside a pill, used to view the small and large intestine from the inside, to view potential Cancer and other digestive disorders. Researchers in Israel developed a new device that directly helps the **heart pump blood**, an innovation with the potential to save lives among those with heart failure. The new device, synchronized with the camera, helps doctors diagnose the heart's mechanical operations through a sophisticated system of sensors.

Israel leads the world in the number of **scientists and technicians** in the workforce, with 145 per 10,000, as opposed to 85 in the U.S., over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany. With over 25% of its work force employed in technical professions. Israel places first in this category as well. A new **acne treatment** developed in Israel, the Clear Light device, produces a high-intensity, ultraviolet-light-free, narrow-band blue light that causes acne bacteria to self-destruct -- all without damaging surrounding skin or tissue. An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a **large-scale solar-powered and fully functional electricity generating plant**, in southern California's Mojave Desert. All the above while engaged in regular wars with an implacable enemy that seeks its destruction, and an economy continuously under strain by having to spend more per capita on its own protection, than any other county on earth. America, too has invented a lot of items, but, we could do better. Let's not let this generation get away from us where they don't know very much and don't care to. **Caring is "some of what it is all about"**.

## The History of World War I



World War I was so long ago and some of us may have had our grandfathers in that war, but how much do you know of it? Did you know, it was the break-neck conflict that was supposed to end all wars of the 20th Century.

They called it the "**Great War**" because it was a great war and nothing should have followed it, but we all know World War II was the next "Great War" and we have had "World Wars" since then that never seem to end. In fact, World War II was the last "declared war". And all oth-

ers have been noted as "Conflicts", but we as veterans of Vietnam and beyond know that is not true. If there is shooting, it is a war. Never the less,

World War I changed the entire world as we know it today. But, more important, but what was life like back then. I'm talking about everyday life which was fairly simple and the beginning of the Industrial and the "somewhat-modern-age" as it has turned into in today's language.

It seems that **PRIDE**, **POWER** and total **AU-**

**THORITY** always captivates a family or a people that think they own it all.

The holdovers from World War I still captivate the world as the follow on generations "still want things to be the way they were back in the early 1900's and even earlier when power was important.

Land, power and money seems to be one of the major mainstays of "empires back in the 1800's leading into the "wishful grab" for more land, power and money,

## The Gist of The World War I



In late June 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated by a Serbian nationalist in Sarajevo, Bosnia. An escalation of threats and mobilization orders followed the incident, leading by mid-August to the outbreak of World War I, which pitted Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Ottoman Empire (the so-called Central Pow-

ers) against Great Britain, France, Russia, Italy and Japan (the Allied Powers). The Allies were joined after 1917 by the United States. The four years of the Great War—as it was then known saw unprecedented levels of carnage and destruction, thanks to grueling trench warfare and the introduction of modern weaponry such as machine guns,

tanks and chemical weapons. By the time World War I ended in the defeat of the Central Powers in November 1918, more than 9 million soldiers had been killed and 21 million more wounded. Have you considered honoring your grandfather to your children and grandchildren. That would be a nice tribute to do so.

## Who Was Involved in World War I From The Start?



Though tensions had been brewing in Europe—and especially in the troubled Balkan region, for years before the conflict actually broke out, the spark that ignited World War I was struck in Sarajevo, Bosnia, where Archduke Franz Ferdinand, nephew of Emperor Franz Josef and heir to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, was shot to death along with his wife by the Serbian nationalist Gavrilo Princip on June 28, 1914.

The assassination of Franz Ferdinand and Sophie set off a rapid chain of events: Austria-Hungary, like many in countries around the world, blamed the Serbian government for the attack and hoped to use the incident as justification for settling the question of Slavic nationalism once and for all. As Russia supported Serbia and Austria-Hungary waited to declare war until its leaders received assurances from

German leader Kaiser Wilhelm II that Germany would support in their cause in the event of a Russian intervention, which would likely involve Russia's ally, France, and possibly Great Britain as well. You may know that the European world was set up in multiple empires that did not want to be dissolved. and that in itself became some of the reason for reason for the start World War II. Will it ever end?



## The Four Major Causes of World War I

### Mutual Defense Alliance

Over time, the countries throughout Europe made mutual defense agreements that would pull them into battle. These treaties meant that if one country was attacked, allied countries were bound to defend them. Before World War I, the following alliances existed: Russia and Serbia, Germany, Austria-Hungary, France, Russia, Britain, Belgium and Japan.

**Imperialism** is when a country increases their power and wealth by bringing additional territories under their control. Before World War I, Africa and

parts of Asia were points of contention amongst the European countries. This was especially true because of the raw materials these areas could provide. The increasing competition and desire for greater empires led to an increase in confrontation that helped push the world into World War I.

**Nationalism** was much of the origin of the war was based on the desire of the Slavic peoples in Bosnia and Herzegovina to no longer be part of Austria-Hungary but instead be part of Serbia. In this way, nationalism led directly to

the War. But in a more general way, the nationalism of the various countries throughout Europe contributed not only to the beginning but the extension of the war in Europe. Each country tried to prove their dominance and power. The immediate cause of World War I that made the aforementioned items come into play (alliances, imperialism, militarism, nationalism) was the **Assassination** of Ferdinand. In June of 1914, a Serbian was sent to kill him and that started the War the next day. The rest is history as we know it today and **likely tomorrow**.

Belligerents	
<b>Allied Powers</b>	<b>Central Powers</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> France</li> <li> British Empire</li> <li> Russia (1914-17)</li> <li> Serbia</li> <li> Montenegro</li> <li> Belgium</li> <li> Japan</li> <li> Italy (1915-18)</li> <li> Portugal (1916-18)</li> <li> Romania (1916-18)</li> <li> Hejaz (1916-18)</li> <li> United States (1917-18)</li> <li> Greece (1917-18)</li> <li> Siam (1917-18)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Germany</li> <li> Austria-Hungary</li> <li> Ottoman Empire</li> <li> Bulgaria (1915-18)</li> </ul> <p><i>and co-belligerents</i></p>

Strength	
12,000,000	13,250,000
8,841,541 <sup>[1][2]</sup>	7,800,000
8,660,000 <sup>[3]</sup>	2,998,321
5,615,140	1,200,000
4,743,826	<b>Total: 25,248,321<sup>[4]</sup></b>
1,234,000	
800,000	
707,343	
380,000	
250,000	
50,000	
<b>Total: 42,959,850<sup>[4]</sup></b>	

## Strengths and Losses in World War I

The strengths and losses of World War I were simply phenomenal. It made the Civil War, and The Revolutionary War look like a picnic. Hence the name "The Great War". And people in the world at that time took it seriously as they had **NEVER** seen that much death and destruction over ideology. And to this day, it is still about ideology. Since world War II, count the wars that we have had or been involved in. It covers more than our existence as a country since our very beginning.



## Ending The "First" Great War On Veterans Day

The Armistice of 11 November 1918 was an armistice during the First World War between the Allies and Germany – also known as the Armistice of Compiègne after the location in which it was signed – and the agreement that ended the fighting on the Western Front. It went into effect at 11 a.m. Paris time on 11 November 1918 ("the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month"), and marked a

victory for the Allies and a complete defeat for Germany, although not formally a surrender. The Germans were responding to the policies proposed by U.S. President Woodrow Wilson in his Fourteen Points of January 1918. The actual terms, largely written by French Marshal Ferdinand Foch, included the cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of German troops to behind their own borders, the preservation

of infrastructure, the exchange of prisoners, a promise of reparations, the disposition of German warships and submarines, and conditions for prolonging or terminating the armistice. Although the armistice ended the actual fighting, it took six months of negotiations at the Paris Peace Conference to conclude the peace treaty, the Treaty of Versailles. Hence, we today, have Veterans Day in 2016.

## The Last of the **Gentlemen's War**—World War II

### What the Nazis said to Gen. Eisenhower upon surrendering 71 years ago in May 1945



At the time of their surrender on May 7, 1945, Nazi forces had all but disintegrated. Adolf Hitler had committed suicide and Soviet forces had already taken Berlin, which resulted in 70,000 Nazi soldiers putting down their arms.

The failure of Nazi troops to check this advance resulted in them having no choice but to sign a treaty of unconditional surrender. The declaration of surrender stipulated that Nazi Germany recognize the authority of the Soviet Union and Allied forces. Nazi forces also had to immediately cease hostilities and remain in their bases. The signed Act of Surrender went into effect on May 8, 1945.

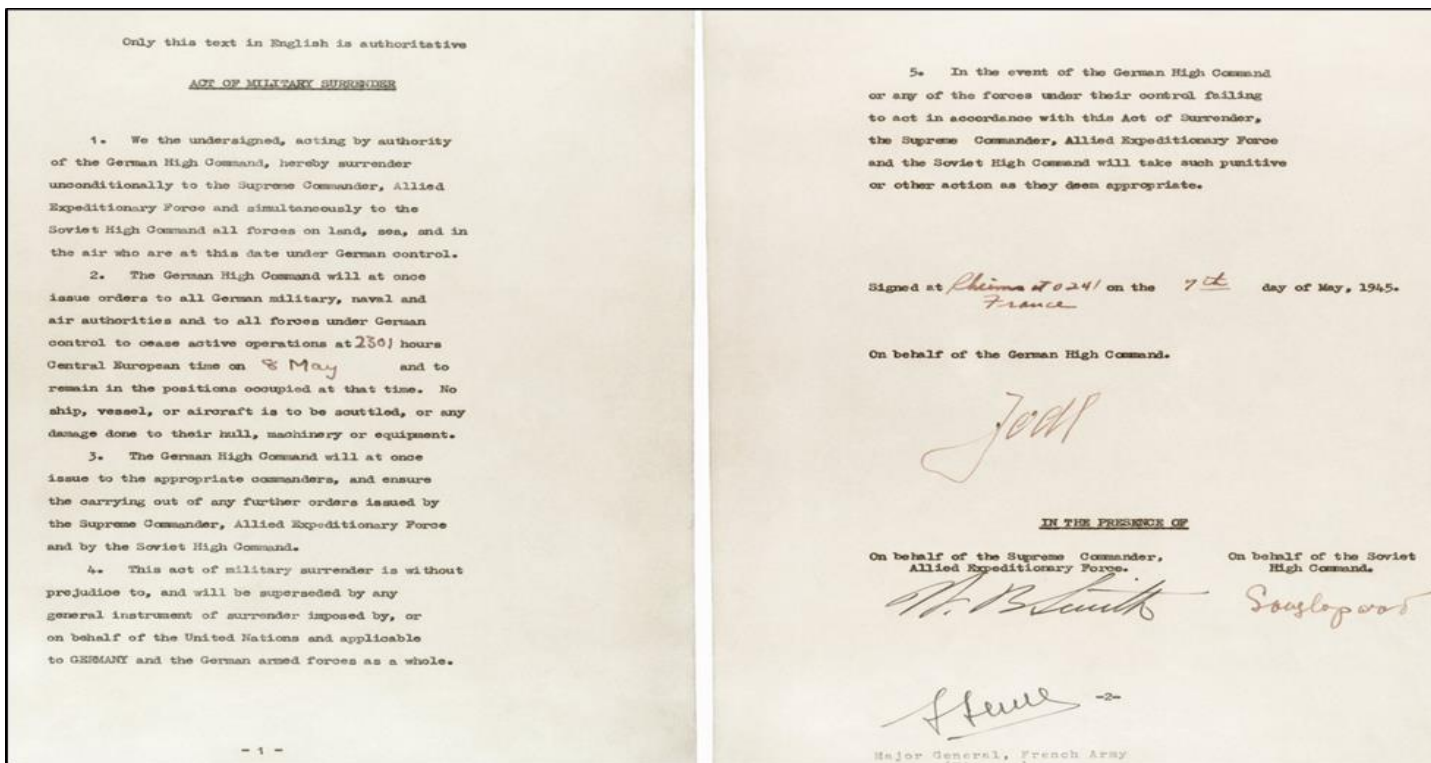
Immediately after the surrender, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme Allied commander, sent out a top-secret cable announcing the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany and the victory of the Allies.

General Eisenhower was sitting in his office awaiting the outcome of the surrender negotiations. Past the desk of his secretary and into the office came the Nazis, erect and cold. Eisenhower stood up. Rigid, and fixing a cold eye on his enemies, he demanded, "**Do you understand all the provisions of the document you have just signed?**"

"Ja!"

***"You will, officially and personally, be held responsible if the terms of this surrender are violated, including its provision for German commanders to appear in Berlin at the moment set by the Russian High Command, to accomplish formal surrender to that government. That is all."***

The Nazis saluted and left, and Eisenhower relaxed. A few minutes later he sent a message to the Combined Chiefs of Staff: "The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 0241 local time, on May 7th, 1945." V-E Day is here.



Today, 2016 is a different time when your friends and your enemies don't treat you with respect, but that can change with **you** doing that very thing, treating "**your friends and enemies with respect**".

## A Quick History of the Vietnam War

France had colonized Vietnam since the mid-1800s, and after WWII, the U.S. and France wanted to prevent Communist takeover of Vietnam. On March 6, 1946, France recognized Vietnam as a free state, but not an independent state, and agreed with a Leninist front to enter into negotiations on the future status of Indochina. The Leninist front wanted to unite all of Vietnam under Communist rule although the Vietnamese had never been a "united" people. By December 1946, the French Indo-Chinese War had begun. On June 5, 1948, France agreed to recognize an independent "State of Vietnam" within the French Union with former Emperor Bao Dai as its head, and on February 7, 1950 the United States recognized this "State of Vietnam" as an independent state within the French Union. During the same year, the Soviet Union recognized the Vietminh regime in North Vietnam as The Democratic Republic of Vietnam. Each regime claimed authority over the whole of Vietnam.

In 1954, the French Indo-Chinese War ended in military defeat for the French Union Forces at Dienbienphu and in political capitulation at the Geneva Conference. The 1954 Geneva Accords drew a demilitarized zone and required phased regroupment of Vietminh Forces from the south to the north. But the Vietminh remained in the south later forming, under instructions from Hanoi, the National Liberation Front. Also, in 1954, the US and several other nations signed the SEATO Treaty which obligated the U.S. to defend South Vietnam against Communist aggression. A treaty is "the supreme law of the land" and was one of the major reasons why the U.S. military acted in its national interest without a declaration of war by Congress. On Dec. 20, 1960, The National Liberation Front--a Communist Vietnamese political organization--was formed to effect the overthrow of the South Vietnamese government.

On January 1961, newly elected President John F. Kennedy pledged to the world: *"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."* In 1962, Hanoi published the Third Party Congress' multi-volume proceedings in English and mailed copies to many American university libraries. Volume I noted that the Communist Party passed a resolution for "our people" in the south to set up a "national united front" in South Vietnam under the leadership of a Marxist-Leninist party.

Some alleged that LBJ either fabricated or provoked the so-called "attack" in the Gulf of Tonkin on the U.S.S. Maddox on August 2, 1964—but after the war, North Vietnamese Defense Minister Vo Nguyen Giap told Robert McNamara that the attack occurred. In August 1964, Congress enacted the Southeast Asian Resolution by a vote of 504-2 because of the Gulf of Tonkin incident which involved attacks on two U.S. destroyers. Congress' joint resolution made clear the United States was responding to *"a deliberate and systematic campaign of aggression"* by Hanoi; and this attack was another reason for the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. The 1965 State Department's February "white paper" titled "Aggression from the North" was called a "lie" by scholars who portrayed the conflict as a struggle within South Vietnam for "freedom" and "human rights."

A 1967 Hanoi English-language translation of the NLF Program matched paragraphs verbatim with Hanoi's English translation of the 1955 Fatherland Front program. The NLF flag was a direct copy of Hanoi's flag except for adding some blue to the background. Hanoi wanted Communist domination over South Vietnam. There were several years of bitter fighting in Vietnam in which the average infantryman served 240 days under hostile fire in only one year while an average infantryman in WWII served only 40 days in combat in four years. The point is to emphasize that Vietnam veterans' service was extraordinary. Eventually, due to extensive U.S. bombing of Hanoi and Haiphong Harbor, the U.S. and its allies forced North Vietnam to sign the Paris Peace Accords in January, 1973.

South Vietnam got some concessions, the U.S. got its POWs back, and the U.S. promised to continue to resupply South Vietnam with weapons, ammunition, and equipment if North Vietnam renewed its aggression. The vast majority of U.S. forces left Vietnam in 1973 having won its involvement in the war then. In May, 1973 Congress ceased all logistical support to South Vietnam preventing it from defending itself. Our Vietnamese allies fought valiantly as long as they could until they ran out of ammunition and supplies, and North Vietnam took over South Vietnam two years later on April 30, 1975.

It has been said, "The first casualty of war is truth", and the truth is that the United States military won the Vietnam War in 1973. Why is that the truth?

The United States military won all of the major battles in the Vietnam War and forced the North Vietnamese to sign the Paris Peace Accords in 1973 and ended its involvement.

The U.S. saved a huge continent from Communism (Australia and New Zealand).

The U.S. saved Oceania (Fiji, Marshall Islands, etc.) from Communism.

The U.S. saved Southeast Asia (Thailand, Burma, Cambodia, Laos, etc.) from Communism.

The U.S. saved the "Island Countries" of the Pacific Ocean (Papua New Guinea, Philippine Islands, etc.) from Communism.

The foregoing equates to 25% of the world being saved from Communism which started in North Vietnam in 1945 at the conclusion of WWII.

Although, Vietnam, today, is a Communist State, it operates as a capitalistic nation and wants to be part of the economic trade deals with the U.S. Now, Communist Vietnam needs U.S. economic and political help to deal with China. So, the U.S. ultimately won the Vietnam War after all.



### Had You Ever Considered This?

For those of us being in Vietnam for a year or longer has seen their share of "orphans" in the street, in homes they usually did not live in, in orphanages. Had any of us ever considered helping out these kids. I have seen pictures with GI's caring for these little boys and girls and that is simply remarkable. We have all bought that occasional coke for \$1.00 and add \$.50 deposit to it making it \$1.50 total and back in the USA they were usually \$.20 each. The girl in the upper picture (blue-white shirt) is my "coke girl", and she was sweet.

In many ways, we did some of our share in helping them raise money for food for the family and assisted them where we could. As you look at these pictures to the left, you see young children that you knew 50+ years ago and where are they now? They likely have not seen these photos and I have always wondered where are they? The young girl in the bottom picture to the far right is the one that sold me her cokes for \$1.50 per bottle. At the time, I thought it was high priced and now looking back, I am glad I did

that as it hopefully and prayerfully made life for her and her family a lot better off had I not done that. Having been back to Vietnam 2011, we saw a lot of children. They were usually with their parents, but none that we saw were in droves or appeared to orphans. I look at the children of the world today and that is a responsibility of adults, no matter where they live, come from, their background, etc. When you see kids in America in need, make it a point to help them out. Provide a nice Thanksgiving for them and also a nice Christmas.

A noble person attracts noble people, and knows how to hold them to them.



Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

There isn't anything noble about being superior to another person. True nobility is in being superior to the person you once were.

### A Noble Person

Any idea as to what it takes to be noble? Well, some other meanings and their "character traits" include: Honorable, Principled, Moral, Decent, Upright, Gallant, Self-Sacrificing, Virtuous, Just, Dignified, Gracious, Righteous, Good, Splendid, Dignified, Fine, Great, Superior, Impressive and the list goes on. We could all do a lot better

than we do in our current life, however, we seem to let "things" get the best of us a lot of the time.

So, what is holding us back. PRIDE is one thing, that is man's #1 sin which translated means arrogance, smugness, conceit, self-importance, egotistic, superiority, vanity, big-headedness, boastfulness

and this list too goes on. Why this topic? Well, as we get older we "think we know more" than anyone else and we become opinionated about a lot of things to everything in "our world". Are you looking to have more friends? This is not the way to do it. Let's look more towards the "NOBLE" side of things and see where it goes.



### Ending The "First" Great War On Armistice Day

Armistice Day began on November 11, 1918 and has been something all of America looks forward to each November of that year. It remained under that name until

The name "Veteran's Day" set in with WWII, Korea, Vietnam and others that were on the horizon that no one knew of as yet. Since 1954, it has been incorporated into the observances of Veterans Day and cele-

brated regularly with parades, events and the honoring of the service men and women from the US Army, US Navy, US Marines, US Coast Guard, US Merchant Marines and the US Air Force. There is also another day on the second Sunday in November, which is the Sunday closest to November 11, the anniversary of the armistice of 1918 that ended World War I, on which the dead of both World Wars are commemorated. Also called:

**Remembrance Day.** This might be a new term to you, but it also means the act or process of remembering and/or the state of being remembered. This is something we NEVER want to forget to do. It is very correct to remember our veterans who have fought in every war since World War I and kept America free from various aggressions of other countries who tried to "truly make a point in their actions".



## Something to Laugh At, But True

1. the female human being, as distinguished from a girl or a man.
2. an adult female person.
3. a female attendant to a lady of rank.
4. a wife.
5. a sweetheart
6. a female employee or representative:
7. a female person who cleans house, cooks, etc.; housekeeper:
8. women collectively:
9. **The best thing that EVER happened to me**

## Fifty Facts About Lincoln Most Of Us NEVER Knew

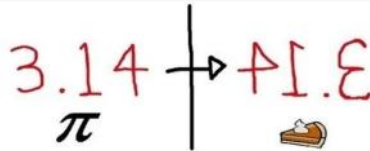
1. He was the only president to have a patent: Lincoln invented a device to free steamboats that ran aground.
2. He practiced law without a degree. Lincoln had about 18 months of formal schooling.
3. He wanted women to have the vote in 1836. The future president was a suffragette before it became fashionable.
4. He was a big animal lover, but he wouldn't hunt or fish. If he were alive today, Lincoln would be running an animal shelter.
5. He really was a wrestler. Lincoln was documented as taking part in wrestling bouts. We don't think he wore a mask or had a manager.
6. He lost in his first bid for a presidential ticket. Lincoln was an unsuccessful VP candidate in 1856 at the Republican convention.
7. He never belonged to an organized church. Lincoln read the Bible daily, but he never joined an organized church in his lifetime.
8. He didn't drink, smoke, or chew. Lincoln was a simple man of tastes, and he never drank in the White House.
9. He didn't have a middle name. Lincoln went through his life with two names.
10. He hated being called Abe. Apparently, he preferred being called by his last name
11. Lincoln established Thanksgiving as a national holiday.
12. He was the first president born outside of the 13 original states.
13. Lincoln loved to eat oysters.
14. Lincoln's cat ate at the White House dinner table.
15. His dog was named Fido.
16. His cat was named Tabby.
17. His favorite food was fruit.
18. He was also a big fan of chicken casserole.
19. Lincoln was the first president to use the telegraph.
20. He used the telegraph like email to communicate with generals.
21. Lincoln's mother was killed by poisoned milk.
22. Lincoln's life was saved twice when he was young.
23. Grave robbers were foiled in 1876 when they tried to steal Lincoln's body.
24. He was the first president with a beard.
25. Lincoln argued a case before the Supreme Court in 1849 and lost.
26. Lincoln failed in his first business.
27. Lincoln's shoe size was between 12 and 14.
28. His coffin has been opened five times.
29. Lincoln was estranged from his father and didn't attend his funeral.
30. Lincoln didn't play musical instruments.
31. Lincoln served one term in the U.S. House of Representatives.
32. He ran for the U.S. Senate twice and lost.
33. Lincoln won the popular vote in Senate campaign against Douglas but lost the election.
34. Lincoln was shot on Good Friday.
35. Lincoln was photographed with John Wilkes Booth at his second inauguration.
36. There are no direct living descendants of Abraham Lincoln.
37. Booth's brother saved the life of Lincoln's son on a New Jersey train platform.
38. Lincoln was part of séances after his son died in the White House.
39. Lincoln's animals also died in a White House stable fire.
40. Someone shot at Lincoln in 1864 and put a hole in his stovepipe hat.
41. Lincoln was the first president to be assassinated.
42. He was a judge on the circuit court in Illinois.
43. Lincoln defended the son of his most famous wrestling opponent from murder charges.
44. Lincoln battled depression for much of his life.
45. Lincoln was seemingly obsessed with cats.
46. He was set to take part in a duel, but it was cancelled at the last second.
47. Lincoln kept his important documents inside his hat.
48. Lincoln's dog Fido was killed by a drunken assailant a year after Lincoln died.
49. Lincoln's suit was made by Brooks Brothers.
50. Lincoln's guest at Ford's Theater was Ulysses S. Grant, who cancelled at the last second.





The YKK on your **ZIPPER** stands for Yoshida Kogyo Kabushikigaisha, a Japanese company that is the worlds largest manufacturer of zip-pers

### Some Interesting and So-So Interesting Stuff

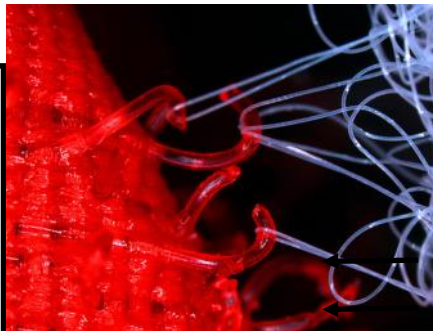


Did you know that the math of 3.14 is **PIE** backwards. Enjoy a piece of on me, make it pumpkin.

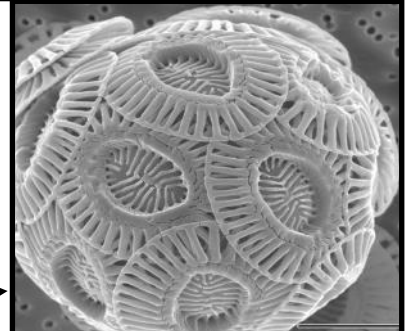
This is the way **PINEAPPLES** grow.



Below is what **CHAULK** looks like up close.



This is what **SAND** looks like under a microscope. How many pieces of sand can you count? Most give up at 25-30 pieces, cuz you "would lose them".



1. Tittle

# jib

The dot over an 'i' or 'j.'

Did you know the dot over an i or j is called a **TITTLE**



Speaking of sand, there are more **STARS** in space than there are grains of sand on every beach on the entire Earth.



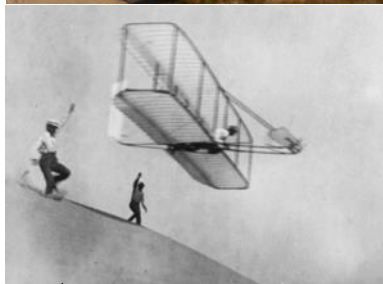
Did you know John Tyler, the 10th President, has a **GRANDSON** that's alive, John Tyler had a son, Lyon, when he was 63. Lyon had a son, Harrison Tyler, at 75.

**1,000,000,000 seconds**  
(one billion)  
**is**  
**32 years**

There's enough **WATER** in Lake Superior to cover all of North and South America in one foot of water.



Here's what **JUPI-TER** would look like if it were the same distance to Earth to the Moon.



Here's one more: In 1903 the Wright Brothers **FLEW** for the first time, and 38 years later, in 1941, the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Hawaii,

Light from the **closest spiral galaxy** takes 2.5 million years to reach Earth.



We would not be able to see it if that time had not already passed.



## A Long Forgotten Man—But Now Remembered



Joseph Noil is not exactly a household name and even those that know him best will admit that he is shrouded in mystery. Best guesses surround not only his name, but also his hometown, his period of service and the exact cause of his death. About the only things that are certain about Joseph Benjamin Noil, is that he served in the U.S. Navy, he was an African American and he was an American hero. Noil's story starts in 1839, or maybe as late as 1841 – no one really knows for sure – but experts believe he was born in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, Canada, as that information was pieced together by historians from naval records. Noil enlisted in New York on Oct. 7, 1864. He was described simply as "Negro" and "5 feet 6 inches tall." His birthplace was noted as Nova Scotia and he bore at least one tattoo. His age was recorded as 25; his previous occupation was listed as a carpenter, but this could be a clerical error as historians also found his name misspelled in other documents as "Loil" instead of Noil. Gayle Alvarez and Bart Armstrong of Medal of Honor Historical Society provide a concise look at his service— removing a portion of the mystery surrounding Noil:

*"He served with the North Atlantic Squadron and then on Jan. 27, 1865, transferred to the Nyack. In March 1866, he transferred to the Dacotah and served until March 18, 1867 when he was discharged. Noil re-enlisted on Dec. 18, 1871, again in New York. This time his age was recorded as 30. Then dawned Dec. 26, 1872. The Powhatan's ship log noted that the weather was overcast and rainy with a moderate gale of wind from the northwest. It also contains this very brief excerpt: "At 11 Jack Walton, boatswain, fell overboard but was saved in an exhausted condition."*

Unfortunately, there was no mention of Walton's rescuer in the ship's log. But the next day Captain Peirce Crosby, commander of the *Powhatan*, identified Walton's hero in a memo that would be published in a January 11, 1873, Army and Navy Journal. The entry reads:

*"Sir: I have the honor to bring to the notice of the Department the gallant conduct of Joseph B. Noil, seaman, (negro,) one of the crew of this vessel. The circumstances are as follows: On yesterday morning the boatswain, I .C.[sic] Walton, fell overboard from the forecabin, and was saved from drowning by Joseph B. Noil, seaman, who was below on the berth deck at the time of the accident, and hearing the cry 'man overboard,' ran on deck, took the end of a rope, went overboard, under the bow, and caught Mr. Walton, who was then in the water, and held him until he was hauled into the boat sent to his rescue. The weather was bitter cold, and had been sleeting, and it was blowing a gale from the northwest at the time. Mr. Walton, when brought on board, was almost insensible, and would have perished but for the noble conduct of Noil, as he was sinking at the time he was rescued."* No award order was noted for Noil saving his fellow sailor's life, however, the Navy's Medal of Honor log book notes that he was in fact awarded the Medal of Honor. Records indicate the medal was sent to him on Jan. 27, 1873, and he acknowledged receiving it on March 4, 1873. Historians presume that the Medal was presented to him aboard the "*Powhatan*".

If it were not for that entry, Noil's service may have been lost to the ages, but once again, his life and service fades in and out of the unknown. He was discharged on December 17, 1874, but re-enlisted a few days later on Dec. 29 in New York, but this time his full name is listed as Joseph Benjamin Noil. Documents reflect that he was again discharged in 1877, but reenlisted in February 1878. Records of the Bureau of Naval Personnel include "Conduct Book" entries for the U.S.S. Powhatan from 1874 to 1884. The book notes Noil's service and includes the comment "Always 1st class and on time." Sometime in May 1881, Noil left the U.S.S. Wyoming, a 198-foot sloop. Records indicate that he was admitted to the Naval hospital in Norfolk, Virginia with his rank listed as Captain of the Hold. As with most things surrounding Noil, his illness remains a mystery – the diagnosis is listed as "Paralysis; his mind and body were failing him." He was transferred to the Government Hospital for the Insane in Washington, D.C., on June 3, 1881.

### Amazing Woodworking—Can You Do This?



Not a lot to say about this assortment of wood except they are **exceptional**.

Only an expert in wood could put something together as we are seeing here. Everyone of us has a lot of gifts and talents and we should use them to the Glory of God.

Think about what you might do for the good of God, Man, your family then YOU.

You might make a real difference in someone's life if you start today.

**Why? Why? – Why and Why?**



Often times, we ask the question "WHY"? And that is a fair question, because often times, we don't know the answer to a given question. So, it is perfectly natural to ask the question from us as to "WHY"? Look at some of these to ask yourself the question "WHY"?

For example why do supermarkets make the sick people walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front?



Why do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries, and a diet coke?

Why do banks leave vault doors open and then chain the pens to the counters?

Why can't women put on mascara with their mouth closed?

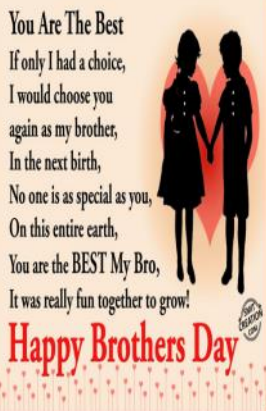


Why is it when a man shaves, he leaves about 15% of his whiskers when he feels his face and they all "appear" to be gone?

Why do men "typically go bald" rather than women or "why do we go bald at all?"

Why do each of the services have totally different uniforms? When they could save a lot of money and "get together" and make minor changes to the "same one"?

**Happy Brother's Day**



**HAPPY BROTHERS' DAY** You may have served in Combat or in non-combat. You may have retired out or you may have served for a short time. You may have been a draftee or a volunteer. You may have served in the Corps, Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard or the Merchant Marines, BUT YOU SERVED. YOU DID YOUR JOB HONORABLY and for that I am PROUD to call you Brother. You may have served during Korea, WWII, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq or Afghanistan, But you served, you did not run. You have a DD 214 with those words "HONORABLY DISCHARGED" two of the most noble words in the world. Again I am proud to know each and every one of you. \***Today is Band of Brothers' Day**\* ; send a card to all your brothers, fathers, sons and fellow veterans you know. Happy Brothers' Day! To the cool men that have touched my life: Here's to you!! I was never a hero, but I am thankful and proud to have served among them. **A real Brother walks with you when the rest of the world walks on you.**

Here it is folks! Delivered to school and ready to be graded for Jacob's art project!! 4,466 army men painted red, white and blue. Not sure of total hours but I know it's more than 52 hours. I will add also most of the painting was done in single digit temps sometimes with a negative windchill (thank you also to [Angie Maxwell](#) and my brother [Robert Bishop](#) 🇺🇸🇺🇸🇺🇸)



## Miracles Can and Do Happen

On April 12th, my wife fell on the front porch and I found her lying face down. As I looked around and there was no blood, I said to her "*can you hear me,*" she said "*Dan, I said I am right here*". Her response was "*I can't move my arms*". I helped her roll over on to her back then she could move her arms. Keep in mind that she has had four hip surgeries on her left hip, she was not screaming with pain so I knew that her hip did not dislocate. She got up with the assistance of a chair and her little right on her right hand was pointing about 00 degrees to the right from the first joint. I took her to Urgent Care where they x-rayed her hand and right foot. The little finger was put in a splint. We were referred to St Joseph Hospital for a CT Scan of her head and they also did one on her neck and it was no surprise that they saw the arthritis was real bad. The next day we went to see a hand doctor and he put her in cast from the tips of her finger to her elbow.

She went to her Primary Care Doctor and complained about some pains in her neck. He referred her to Pima Heart Cardiologist to have her arteries checked out. On May 6th, she had a pet-scan done. I don't know how they had her lying for the test but when she came out she was almost in tears from the pain. We got her home as quickly as we could and she went to bed for a couple of hours.

On Mother's Day was the first time in three weeks that she had been to church. The Pastor gave the altar call and after a few minutes he ask for all the Mothers to come forward for pray. As I was already up in front I motioned for her to come up in front close to the altar. Now this is where I want to add something. I was at the Dental Clinic at the VA Hospital a week before and was having a conversation with another veteran, and in out conversation he paused and looked straight at me and said "*I have a word for you*", when someone I don't know says they have a word for me, I am a little skeptical about that. But I listened to his word, "*He said when I look into your eyes I see healing. I was stunned for a few minutes and then said yes, as I help veterans with the disabilities claims and heal finances, he said "but it go further than that it is physical healing"*". So on this Mother Day's I got a bottle of oil and I anointed by wife and prayed for her with another lady. We went and has dinner with the Daughter, Son-in-Law, Granddaughter and two Great Grandchildren. We got home and that afternoon she came into the family room and said, that since she been getting into the hot tub and me working on her back seem to be helping with the pain. I said I would give more credit to God as you were anointed and prayed for this morning. She said "you are right I was". From that time to this she has been pain free and is able to walk with me and our dog something she has not done in months.

Here is another interesting part of the story. On the Friday after this we had our senior luncheon at Church. After lunch we have a service and the leader of the group is a retired pastor and he said the topic for today is Healing. As I sat in my chair and heard that it was like a shock went through my body. I has not even said a word to him on what I have been getting into the scriptures and doing research on the Spiritual Gift of Healing, But all I can say is that God gave me an honor and privilege to anoint my wife and see His touch on her. We have been married for almost 18 years and I know the difference before and now.

To the Arizona State Council of the Vietnam Veterans of America From this day forward as Chaplain appointed by Gene Crego, I am a different man. I am hoping that the Membership of this Organization will accept my offer to the Spiritual Leader for them that I feel God has lead me to be. I am available anytime someone needs special pray they call me at 520-730-6069, I will pray with them right there. I am holding myself accountable to God to be what he wants to be in this office.

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### **Editor's Note:**

The man speaking above is a man I truly admire and have a lot of respect for, and that is **Dan Ross**, the Chaplain for Chapter 106 in Tucson and VVA-Arizona State Council.

Have YOU readers ever wondered why you were born? What purpose do you think you serve in life. Well, a short answer, we were ALL born to serve God. We all gifts and talents and desire to be a better person, however, we have to do His will and that is to serve God in whatever He wants for us, not what we want.

Sometimes, it takes a wake-up call to get our attention and while we still have breath and life in our "older bodies", let's do for God in the last few years of our existence. You may make the biggest difference in many people's lives or just one, then, you pray and ask the Lord to give you someone else you make a he difference in. I so appreciate the man that wrote this story as he has a true in the Lord as "**miracles can and do happen**".

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**Chapter 1011's—50th Commemorative Event**



# WELCOME HOME LUNCHEON

Free Luncheon with guest speaker for ALL Vietnam Vets (+1)

**RSVP by Sept. 5 to Michael Marks 480-266-7883**

**Brats/Cheeseburger/Hamburger and Fixin's**



**@**  **FAT WILLY'S**  
**FAMILY SPORTS GRILL**  
 650 N Hawes Rd. Mesa AZ 85207 480-373-4444  
 At Viewpoint Country Club

**Date: September 10, 2016**  
**Time: 11am–2pm**

### Hosted By:

**WELCOME HOME!**



Open To All In-country and Vietnam Era Veterans

**Michael Marks**  
 President  
 480-266-7883  
 mmchlhn434@aol.com

**John Dodge**  
 1st Vice President  
 480-323-5869  
 sjpdodge@hotmail.com

### 50th Event in Sedona

Roughly 120 to 150 Vietnam Veterans attended their first 50th Event for Arizona. Held in Sedona which is an up-and-coming Chapter, they had some star studded and very involved people to provide us with some good publicity about Arizona and what the Vietnam Veterans did for them. The Master of Ceremonies for this event. Held at the Elks Lodge in Sedona included some guests named: COL. Thomas Kirk, and selected others.



Vietnam Veterans of America  
State Council – Phoenix, AZ  
50<sup>th</sup> Vietnam Commemoration  
Presents to

**Col. Thomas H. Kirk Jr, USAF, (Retired)**

For your military service in the United States Air Force and your dedication in the Vietnam War saving Southeast Asia from Communism. The role that men like you play in the Air Force is always critical to the United States as you "always have the fire power". We are here to honor the "Vietnam Veteran" and you as well, and we so appreciate you being our key-note speaker today as take the time and effort to honor Vietnam Veterans in our region of Arizona. Your dedication to America has been more than any of us could perform and we admire you for your history in the service that is so required among our five military branches. May we add that you are a real credit to Vietnam Veterans, the U.S. Air Force and yourself.

Eduard Uzumekis, PhD  
VSO for VVA-Arizona

Dated: 1 April 2016

Gene Crego, Wanda Wright (L). **Ed Uzumekis** provided a wonderful lunch for those living in Sedona, Arizona. In attendance was Vietnam Veterans from within the region of Sedona, Arizona area as well as Phoenix, Arizona. Here he is presenting COL. Thomas H. Kirk with a certificate from VVA and 50th coin. Wanda Wright mentioned that Ed has "...set the standard when it comes to holding a 50th event". We are pleased that this occurred for the first 50th event for 2016 within VVA-Arizona.

### National Mammal of the United States

In Argyle, Texas, there is An 8-year-old bison named Bullet has outgrown its Texas home and the owner wants to find a new place for the 1,000-pound pet to roam. A lady and in fact the owner named Karen Schoeve, of Argyle, told different media outlets that "Bullet" is occasionally allowed inside the family's house but needs more space and grassland. She says the bison is tame and housebroken.

The family has posted a Craigslist ad listing Bullet as for sale for almost \$6,000, as long as the new owner will allow the bison to continue interacting with people. Schoeve says Bullet is used to being around people but warns that the big animal should never be left alone inside a house or with children.

So, if you have a small pickup truck and would like to drive to Texas, you can drive "him all the way back to Arizona" and give him your entire backyard and one day, you may have "Buffalo Burgers". Mmm, they taste good already.



### VVA-Arizona 50th Commemoration Events



Vietnam Veterans of Arizona will be presenting Vietnam Veteran 50th Commemoration events later this year and throughout next year, 2017 in the State of Arizona.

A major event will take place in several cities throughout the state to include chapters 106 out of Tucson. President **Butch Morgan** of that chapter will be holding their event on 30 September 2016. POC will be Dan Ross.

Chapter 1011 out of East Phoenix is also hosting a 50th event headed up by **Michael Marks** and is expected to host several hundred men and women veterans to a great breakfast and honoring gathering in September 2016.

Chapter 975 in Bullhead City hosted by **Pat Farrell** will be putting on a 50th luncheon for the area Vietnam Veterans in the September 2016 timeframe.

The Arizona State Council 50th Commemoration, sponsored by 50th Commemoration Chairman **Walt Schumacher** will hold a large 50th Commemoration Vietnam Veterans event for the Desert Southwest in Yuma, Arizona sometime in 2017. Chapter 835 will also be included in the event which will include winter visitors and hopefully Canadians that also served.

Chapter 1093 in Sierra Vista, Arizona along with its members and Chapter President **Bill Beecher** will also hold a 50th Commemoration gathering in the Fall of 2016.

Phoenix Chapter 432 in the capital city of Arizona headed up by Chapter President **Bill Messer** will hold a 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War on the 7th of November 2016 at the Heard Museum in Phoenix. Part of the event will revolve around the Native American's within the State. They will combine their anniversary celebration with the annual Native American veteran event at the Heard. Vietnam Veterans of America—Arizona State Council should be able to have multiple 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War throughout years 2016 and 2017. We so appreciate the help of Wanda Wright and Tera Scherer for us to celebrate at least one event for the Veterans of Vietnam in the state of Arizona.

**Vietnam Veterans**  
**WELCOME HOME LUNCHEON**  
 Free Luncheon with guest speaker for ALL Vietnam Vets (+1)  
 RSVP by Sept. 5 to Michael Marks 480-266-7883  
 Brats/Cheeseburger/Hamburger and Fixin's

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**WELCOME HOME!**

**DID YOU SERVE IN THE MILITARY DURING 1961 THRU 1975? YES? YOU ARE A VIETNAM ERA VETERAN!**

Vietnam Era Veterans, you and a guest are cordially invited to attend a luncheon honoring your service  
(sponsored by AZ Department Veterans Services with the Vietnam Veterans of America)

**September 30, 2016 at 1200**  
 1749 E Broadway, Tucson AZ 85711

Seating is limited. Please RSVP by September 15, 2016 call Dan Ross at 520-730-6069 or email at danwet22@gmail.com

**Welcome Home**

**Vietnam War 50th Anniversary Commemoration Luncheon**

Spring 2017  
 Yuma, Arizona

### VVA Chapter 1093—Sierra Vista's 50th Event



## 'Welcome home'

#### Free lunch for vets coincides with national Vietnam War 50th Commemoration

**SIERRA VISTA** — Two simple words echoed across the room full of Vietnam veterans on Saturday. "Welcome home," they said in one another during the Vietnam War 50th Commemoration free lunch held in the gym of the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church.

"This 'welcome home' thing was so delayed, and it should have never happened," said Earl Schuler, who served in Vietnam from June 1965 through June 1968 and would go on to be a counselor at Boston High School for 25 years. "Master of fact, when Vietnam was mass each other for the first time, it's typical to say 'Welcome home' to each other because we didn't know it then. I'm so glad that people coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan are received so much better. That's the way it always should be."



Veteran Earl Schuler, left, and Richard Bell warmly greet each other at the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam Veterans at the Sierra Vista United Methodist Church. Both were served in Vietnam from 1965-68.

Saturday's lunch was sponsored by the Cochise chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America and featured state and national officials whose speeches offer words of appreciation for Vietnam veterans' service that, for some in the room, had been delayed for decades.

The event's keynote speaker, retired Army Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, is the director of the national Vietnam War Commemoration. His 25 years of military service began in 1971, and he explained that nearly every person he trained under was

**INSIDE**  
Feelings of an Army Vietnam Vet, AT  
Cochise County Veterans Resource Fair  
Third annual Stand Down event presented by Cochise Serving Veterans  
Space to go on, Friday, Aug. 18  
Cochise Educational Services Center (former Apache Middle School), 2285 E. Fry Blvd.  
Drove to and from transportation from Douglas, Silver, Harlow, points in Sierra Vista, Milcox, Benson, St. David and Huachuca City by calling Red Cross at 520-722-8222.

a Vietnam veteran who had a hand in re-punctuating a broken or graduation and building the military that exists today.

"The Vietnam vet-

vice to your country. The country walked away from you years ago. But you saved the country, that guy didn't appear. When you did years ago is needed more than ever today: selfless service to the country."

This was the second of 12 events to be held this year in communities across Arizona to commemorate the service of Vietnam veterans and reach veterans and reach

back and went to work, contributed to society. If you think about this legacy, your legacy will be the continuation of an unbroken chain of ser-

Chapter 1093 in Sierra Vista Arizona under Bill Beecher's command held a very successful 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War event for the people and Vietnam Veterans living in their fair city. Sponsored by the VVA Chapter 1093 in this southeastern city of Arizona, they were not short of people that truly made the difference for this event. **MG James Jackson**, the Commander of the 50th Commemoration Program Directorate in Washington, D.C. along with **LTC. Wanda Wright** who is head of the Arizona Department of Veterans Services in Phoenix, Arizona and part of the Arizona State Government. There were approximately 176 Vietnam veterans and 234 total personnel in its attendance. Also included was the Tucson Jr. ROTC who presented the colors for the event. There were 100 door prizes where tickets and prizes were passed out. A delicious meal was provided consisting of bratwurst sausage, potato salad, fruit and a cake. Speeches were made by MG Jackson on the support of Vietnam Veterans as we are quickly becoming the World War II veterans that America has before them. LTC Wanda Wright provided a talk on those Arizona veterans that went to Vietnam and their honoring is of foremost importance in welcoming them back to America and remembering them especially in their later years. Vietnam Veterans are just any other one and with the World War II and Korean declining over time, And with Vietnam Veterans also quickly declining, it is of utmost importance that we do all we can to honor them in their later years. Thank you **Bill Beecher** for a superb event for the 200+ personnel that attended this great event and this is one that will not be quickly forgotten. We appreciate you a lot, you provided a nice memory.

**VETS**  
MEMORIAL  
out in the service name  
bars of that area. It's  
years past, since we've  
held annually in the  
Phoenix area, but Gen  
Chgo, president of the  
Vietnam Veterans of  
America, said it was  
part of the 14 million  
to other areas of the  
same.

The first of this  
year's string of events  
was held in April in  
Sierra Vista, where the  
event was held as an  
included chapter and  
will be events in Mesa,  
Tucson, Mohave County  
and Yuma, as well as  
the Desert Museum in  
Phoenix, along with  
our State American  
and our Veterans War  
Commemoration.

When you returned,  
you didn't have the  
10 events across the  
state this year would  
likely "encompass the  
any generation and  
ventured stand on the  
borderline of you who  
are gone before us."

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A superb "Welcome Home" Cake



MG James Jackson

and place to hold this  
event because you have  
a wonderful military  
community and there  
are many people here."

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President Bill Beecher-1093



Director Wanda Wright