



Jan-Apr 2017

Vietnam Veterans of America—Arizona State Council

Volume 7—Issue 1

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## Can You Believe 2017 Is Upon Us?

It seems funny that when we were kids growing up, our father and mothers were born in the early 1900's, somewhere around possibly 1917, maybe and now 100 years later, here we are living and breathing in the year 2016. It becomes really funny in a sense that here our life has passed by so quickly for those of us in our 70's.

When you look back, World War I had just been joined by the American's as Germany was sort of whipping the Allies of Western Europe and attempting to "take over the world" as they knew it. What if they had won? Mmm, I would not want that.

And then World War II came and the world was still civil and trustworthy and today things are a lot different than they need to be. During the 1950's things were pretty normal when it came to people and the trusting factor,

and then in the 1960's forward, it got worse, our country and the world started to go down hill and it has progressed in that fashion ever since. It is time to clean it up and it will be done.

We have a new President beginning on the 20th of January 2017 for four years and Lord willing He'll make a difference in the lives of America. Not everyone voted for him, but we all have to support him, give him a chance, pray for our country, work as we can for VVA as we and it are in its remaining years as an organization because as people reading this are mostly in their last years.

We seriously need to look at America when we went to school in the 1940's and 1950's and look what hap-

pened to America in the last 50+ years. We need to make America Great Again, but not by our thinking, but by God's standard and nothing else.

This world is all about people and no one else. We need to not take a life, steal, destroy and do things just to get "our way" and that has been the posture of many in our country and those that have beliefs of doing so.

In the end, we need to pray for America, but do not leave the world out either. It is all in God's timing and we need to rest and rely and have faith in Him, for He will be restitution to the world the way it should have been and will be in time to come. Are we ready to do the right thing to preserve our country? We should be.

## We Are In The Last Days

There are so many signs that tell us we are living in the last days of earth's history. Not only do we have the main Bible signs, and the 6,000 year timeline plan of God, we also have the apostle Paul's description of the last days in 2 Timothy 3. *2 Timothy 3:1-5. 'This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,*

*without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.'*

*Do you think we are in the last days? Look around at people, maybe our family, maybe us, the world, **just look around...***



"We" certainly are in our "last days" when it comes to aging as we are up there in years and maybe we need to seriously look around us as we can make a difference in our children, grandchildren and great grandchildren's lives. We need to do it now.



A Day to  
remember  
in Infamy



## USS Arizona—World War II— Day of Infamy

On Dec. 8, 1941, President Roosevelt declared, "Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941— a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked ...". He was referring, of course, to the massive attack on our Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

That attack left our nation stunned and shaken. It transformed our country—ending our isolationism, awakening a mighty war machine and economic engine, marking America's acceptance of world leadership, and reinforcing the invaluable lesson of always being prepared to defend our freedom.

Today, we honor the almost 3,600 Americans killed or wounded at Pearl Harbor 75 years ago. And we remember America's *greatest generation*—those who came forward to answer a great challenge: 16 million took up arms in the struggle, while Americans of every age and walk of life contributed to the war effort.

This anniversary reminds us not only of a solemn chapter in American history, but of the great courage and resolve demonstrated by those who answered the challenge of Pearl Harbor—qualities that have continued to define each succeeding generation of America's Veterans—as well as the young men and women in uniform today.

We honor the memory of those who gave their lives that day, as well as those who fought and survived. Inspired by their valor and selflessness, America emerged determined to triumph in the ensuing battle against tyranny.

In the last scene of *Saving Private Ryan*, the aged Private Ryan, Veteran of World War II, kneels reverently before Captain Miller's grave and says to Miller and to all Veterans, "I've tried to live my life the best I could. . . . I hope that, at least in your eyes, I've earned what all of you have done for me."

The anniversary of Pearl Harbor is a time for all of us to reflect on the service and sacrifices of Veterans, and to ask a question: Are we earning the freedoms and privileges Veterans secured for us all?

Today, we thank those who stood watch on Dec. 7, 1941. We honor those who lost their lives and were wounded on that December morning. And we salute all America's Veterans who shared in the monumental global struggle that followed the destruction at Pearl Harbor.

As we begin the Christmas season, take a moment to remember the events of Dec. 7, 1941, the heroism and valor of those who fought for our freedom yesterday and those who protect America's most precious gift today.



## 50th Commemoration SITREPS

## Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP" – 2016, Issue 10

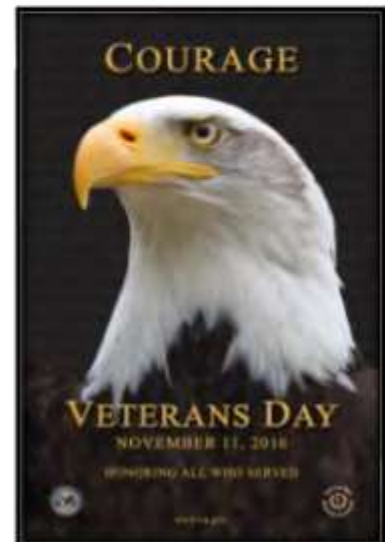
*"Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"***Dear Commemorative Partners,****Friday, October 14**

*As a nation*, we recognize Veterans Day next month. Originally known as Armistice Day, **Veterans Day** is officially observed November 11, and the poster at the right can be downloaded for printing [here](#). This day honors veterans from all wars but also gives us the distinct opportunity to: ***"Join the nation ... and thank a Vietnam veteran!"***

**One way** to do this, is to present these heroes a **Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pin** in honor of their service! Whether hosting or co-hosting an event, consider a ceremonial presentation of this "lasting memento of the Nation's thanks!" Lapel pins and other materials can be requested easily by submitting a request for support (DD Form 2956) found in the **Partner Portal**.

**Another way** to celebrate Veterans Day, is to pay tribute to these veterans. You can do this by simply sitting down and asking them to share a story. **This video**, narrated by Sam Elliott, was created as a tribute to Vietnam veterans, and highlights some of the history and experiences of that time period. Feel free to show it or any of our videos during your event or ceremony. These videos and other resources can be found in the **Communication Resources** section of our **website**.

**We welcome your feedback**, and encourage participation by filling out and **emailing us** your photos, along with your After Action Report (DD Form 2957), after the completion of each event. This form is also located in the **Partner Portal**.



*Courtesy of Veterans Day  
National Committee*

**Above & Beyond****Howard County:**

Sept. 15-17, Greentown, IN



Thank you to these 5 Commemorative Partners, who helped thank over 1,000 Vietnam veterans during their 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Vietnam Veterans Reunion!

- ~ Indiana Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- ~ 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade Association
- ~ Indianapolis Mobile Vet Center
- ~ American Legion Post 217
- ~ Indiana National Guard

**Remember to keep us updated** on your organization's Chairperson and Points of Contact information. This helps us ensure we're getting the most current information to you when you need it! Be sure to email any changes to us at: [whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil).

Thank you again for all you do, and for being a ... **"Proud Partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!"**  
Sincerely,

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

## 50th Commemoration SITREPS

## Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP" – 2016, Issue 9

*"Join the Nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"**Dear Commemorative Partners,*

Monday, September 12

*This year, National POW/MIA Recognition Day* is observed on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Traditionally the third Friday each September, this day honors the sacrifice and dedication of our nation's missing in action and prisoners of war, and also gives the opportunity to renew our commitment to the fullest possible accounting of our unreturned service members.

*At the right* is the official poster for the 2016 POW/MIA Recognition Day, and it is available for download and printing! The POW/MIA Flag will be flown this day at the White House and other major national sites including the U.S. Capitol, federal cemeteries, major military installations, U.S. Postal Service offices, Selective Service System headquarters, and the Departments of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs.



*At U.S. embassies and military bases around the world*, governments, schools, and communities across the nation will gather to hold ceremonies and honor prisoners of war from all conflicts and the unreturned veterans listed as missing and unaccounted for and their families. Today, there are 1,618 personnel listed as unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

*One way you can participate* in honoring this group of veterans and their families is to include a Missing Man Table in your event. The table represents all those still missing and unaccounted for. For a list of these veterans in each state, see the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency's website.

***Above & Beyond******The National League of POW/MIA Families***

*The POW/MIA Flag was adopted as the League symbol in 1970. By act of Congress in 1990, the flag became a national symbol of America's commitment to the fullest possible accounting for all wars. For further information visit [www.pow-miafamilies.org](http://www.pow-miafamilies.org) or [www.dpaa.mil](http://www.dpaa.mil).*

*A Certificate of Honor Program* is being launched this fall, and through it, we are honoring these groups:

- 1) Former, living American military Prisoners of War,
- 2) Immediate family members of American military still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War,
- 3) Immediate family members of a veteran listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and
- 4) Surviving spouses at the time of death, of veterans who served between November 1, 1955 – May 15, 1975. Email us or visit our website for more information.

Thank you for being a *"Proud Partner with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!"*

*The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration Staff*

## Preserving Our Legacy

### A Strategic Plan - Establish the Process – Support the Process

We need to maintain the process and understand our role as an organization. The future is coming and it will overtake us. Therefore, we need to state with an action of DIALOG. We need to do stuff by talking about it first. VVA Committees started talking about it twelve years and "today" it is in practice. We have to act and not react. Our purpose and value (how) and the goals (how we get there) are critical. Are "we" a leader or someone to be blamed in this process? In Fish Hill, NY there is a Revolutionary Cemetery of 500-1500 veterans that is to be replaced with a Home Depot. We need to care, after all there are our children, grandchildren, great grand-children for today and tomorrow. VVA formulates a VSO system and we need to get behind the "New VSO" and support them. There is a PROCESS (Leadership) and CONTENT (Membership) and we need to be the ownership by the membership. Process is #1 while CONTENT is #2. We have the time and talent to do it. A plan does not work if it is not executed. We will transition thru it when NEW IDEAS with "ID" Content required and "ID" Content Work with selected membership personnel for two days.

**PLAN and ACTION** is the hope of the organization.

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** Leadership, Shared and Supported, Broad, Comprehensive, Positive and Inspiring

**THREE AREAS:** Outcome: – Where it will be in the future? Method – Team Decides, Resources – Cost

**EXPLANATION:** Outcome: Defined in detail, Method: Defined by working group, What we need & use

**ACHIEVE and hope to AVOID:** Content, Ownership and Timeline

Step 1 – Admit that we are going to cease to exist

Step 2 – There will be an environmental transformation

Step 3 – Start with a content (macro/micro staff)

Step 4 – Utilize Legacy – what do we keep and throw away?

Step 5 – Measure and Track Progress – (Plan, Do, Check, Act)

**ACCOMPLISHMENTS:** VVA needs to create a DOABLE plan, From START to FINISH to OUTCOME With-Accountability, Leadership, Courage, Performance and Agree on dates quickly

**WORKING GROUP:** Knowledge Experience, Skills, Diversity, Implementation, Authority Power, Attitude

**TEAM DEVELOPMENT:** Inclusions, Control and Creativity

**HIGH PERFORMANCE TEAM:** Is the "Key to the Team's Success

**TIME FRAME:** 2017-2021

**MEETING GROUND RULES:** Are owned by the TEAM, How young an organization will we look at? Status of AVVA? Will anything be separate?

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The BOD has to agree to the process, Three officials oversee the process, Selected personnel will submit a resume and their experience. The Regional Director selects possible names

Appointments will be made of 9 individuals in each working group with 2 backup for each team or total of 22 on each panel or team

Team A – "Going Out of Business" headed up by Wayne Reynolds

Team B – "Creation of New Group" headed up by John Rowan

They will need to "Use the process and not the content", Ownership will be by the membership (members approval)

There will be "no pre-determination" on anything. The State Council has to talk to their membership about this. The

"Last Man Standing" has to be changed to a new concept

The concept of "Dying Nicely" or "Leave a Remembered Legacy" which would we prefer?

#### **LOOKING BACK**

In life, we don't have a plan for things in our attic, WWII Veterans are dying off pretty quickly, what do they plan on doing? They and we need to transition from one organization to another.

**VVA HAS:** Money, an infrastructure, employees, volunteers, ideas and the effort to continue.

#### **AT CONVENTION IN 2017, 2018, 2019**

Present the contents in the briefing and block out dates for the term.

Explain the timeline, present a proposed plan in 2019 and in 2021 amend it as necessary and start implementation.

Tell membership of the SW3 model in 2017, gain substantial Information in 2018 and vote on plan at the VVA 2019 Convention.

## What Is Involved?

Like any process and outcome, panels of VVA have to consist of volunteers that are smart, witty, conscious, think-out-of-the-box", respectful to create the outcome that will carry on for a number of years that will **"hopefully"** represent the Vietnam Veterans of America legacy from the 1970's to the end of its time in the 21st Century. Below are the folks that have volunteered to assist in this process to be on either Panel "A", the group to form the **"Going Out of Business"** process while Panel "B" that will guide the former into a **"New Group"** after it is all said and done.

The most important thing of this process is that we are all going to die, however, in the process of all of it, for those of us still around by then, it would be nice to see Vietnam Veterans of America have an executable plan for keep **"VVA still alive in the eyes of the American people."**

Since the end of the Vietnam War, we (Vietnam Veterans), have ALWAYS wanted to do was keep the "Vietnam Spirit Alive" and we have done a very good job. It is however, a difficult job with the latest generations in keeping them interested in it and learning about it. We, as students back in the 1950's certainly learned about WWII and this is our opportunity to "think out of the box" and come up with some curriculum about Vietnam, the war itself, the country, the people, the purpose, of what we did to save South Vietnam and SE Asia. Therefore, in our "last or later" years, let's get going and teach them, so they can teach their children and their children's children which may be into the 2050 time frame. Let's not lose this opportunity to do a great thing for the kids of today and people of the United States.

## Thinking Outside Of The BOX

This phrase often refers to **novel or creative thinking**. The term is thought to derive from management consultants in the 1970s and 1980s challenging their clients to solve the "nine dots" puzzle, whose solution requires some lateral thinking. This phrase can also be found commonly in dance, as encouragement to move creatively, beyond simple, geometric box steps and their basic variations, to literally step outside the box into more complex patterns of expression. **Thinking outside the box is more than just a business cliché. It means approaching problems in new, innovative ways; conceptualizing problems differently; and understanding your position in relation to any particular situation in a way you'd never thought of before.** Ironically, it's a cliché that means to think of clichéd situations in ways that aren't clichéd. We're told to **"think outside the box"** all the time, but how exactly do we do that? How do we develop the ability to confront problems in ways **other than the ways we normally confront problems**? How do we cultivate the ability to look at things differently from the way we typically look at things? Things to consider when **"thinking out of the box"**:

Study another industry, Learn about another religion, Take a class, Read a novel, in an unfamiliar genre, Write a poem, Draw a picture, Turn it upside down, Work backwards, Ask a child for advice, Invite randomness, Take a shower. **THINK.**





"PEOPLE are what this WORLD is ALL about. And to enjoy them and be there for THEM is critical for ALL of US that live here."



The **dessert** was simply delicious.

## Arizona Military Museum 50th Dinner—2016

Col. Joe Abodeely, the curator of the Arizona Military Museum presented this years 50th Commemoration Dinner at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort, October 29th. This is the sixth commemorative event he has put on and in two words, may we say: "WELL DONE". With a wonderful dinner, great music, superb fellowship, a wonderful gift in the way of a challenge coin, and a speaker that out did himself when it came to his topic of: What went on behind the scenes of the Vietnam

War? While many of us were in the field or in a base camp or on an Landing Zone, there was a lot of issues going on in the USA, not to mention those items that were beginning to manifest itself in other major countries of the world, such as Russian and China. This time of fellowship and honoring those Vietnam Veterans was simply "SUPERB". Another nice remembrance and great time bringing back good thoughts of a wonderful time in our lives.



### Enjoying the People

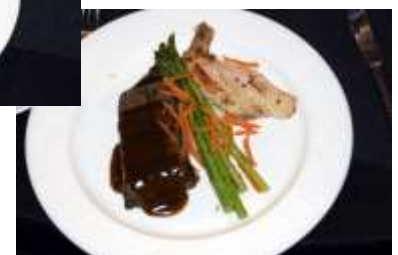


### A Wonderful Meal

The dinner at this 50th Commemorative event was simply delicious. Consisting of beef and chicken a vegetable made the whole meal simply superb for all of us to enjoy. If you like desserts this ended a superb dinner was the "Cat's Meow" Now, we are about to enjoy the guest speaker and finish a wonderful evening of what I'll call HISTORY that few of us knew at all.



The **beef dinner and vegi's** simply superb





The Flag and Map of South Vietnam



**"This will be that ANNUAL evening that we'll all enjoy as we, once again meet with those we've not seen since 365 days ago".**

## South Vietnamese Gather, Some For The First Time

It is **ALWAYS** an honor to see the friends we fought for and with in South Vietnam during the time of the war (1960-1975). The South Vietnamese have always been the best of allies in their situation of harm by their enemies and of course been friends of ours in Arizona. They always seem to have that rapport with each other and the Americans which is something we could learn something from to say the least. They, unlike most of us have not looked for a better country, but also to improve relationships with a variety of people in a "New World". We're proud and pleased to have them amongst us in a "Free World" as the United States.



## What We Sat Down To

The two hundred thirty people that attended this Vietnam Veterans 50th Commemoration event was simply one that certainly mimics the one's in the past five years. The gathering of people, the music, the topics to learn from and just seeing those we've not seen for a year bring a lot of memories for all of us. Another memory to remember.



## The Danny Kealy Band Plays On

The Danny Kealy Band always brings us some nice memories of some meaningful songs that we can understand and remember the tune and words to as we grew up in the 1950's and 1960's. They provide a lot of support for us over these past six years as we have had them available to play the service songs of the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines and Air Force. We appreciated their fellowship and songs for our remembering and enjoyment to our ears.





## Our Speaker— Dr. Robert Turner

Guest speaker Dr. Robert Turner was certainly was wealth of information and provided all of us with things and a lot of information we never knew of the Vietnam War. He was a consultant to Richard Nixon and Lyndon B. Johnson during the Vietnam War years. In fact, the Vietnam War, played huge roles for the future of other conflicts and world situations that would take place in the future that absolutely none of us knew about. Nixon's departure changed the entire concept of the war. North Vietnam was expected to surrender just a day or two after President Nixon resigned and then changed their mind when Congress cut off funds for the war when President Ford took office. In the early days of the war, it was referred to as a "soft war", but later on, military situations changed into a "hard war" and that was when Russia and China backed off from intense support for North Vietnam and North Vietnam slacked off from their pressure on the use with their Eastern help. The only way that North Vietnam thought they could win was through propaganda by "wearing down the United States".



## A Special Gift for Veterans



We should all be challenged every day of this coming year to perform "**something challenging**" every day of our life. We are **NOT** the only ones living on earth and we all need to make sure that we (ourselves) are challenged to make a difference in this short life that we have. We're all in our 70's and in the last few years of our life to make that difference for many other's in and out of our life. In the meantime, develop something **you can do to be challenged**.

"A nice gift for 2016 to add to our collection of CHALLENGE COINS"

## Some Other Smiling Faces





## Dignitaries Of The 50th Dinner



Joey and Mrs. Strickland



Bill Montgomery, Maricopa County Attorney



Dr. Robert Turner—Guest Speaker



Donna Abodeely, Coordinator

## The Setting Of The 50th Event

### "The events

such as these can truly make the day of a veteran who has fought and supported their country like the U.S. Soldier has.

They have truly been one of the most dedicated in our history of supporting the world from fear and takeover"





"To honor two people who have done so much for VVA and the Veterans of Arizona, Johnny and Annie, we thank you."



## VVA Arizona Honors Vietnam Veterans

The VVA Arizona State Council took the opportunity to take the time and make the effort to honor the Vietnam Veterans within VVA with a medal called the "VVA Achievement Medal" for a superb job done with in our organization. It is always a real honor to have someone recognize your talents and then act on it. We appreciate VVA-Arizona for honoring those that

have done great for the Vietnam Veterans for our state.

**a·chieve·ment**  
noun

*A thing done successfully, typically by effort, courage, or skill. "to reach this stage is a great achievement"*  
*The process or fact of achieving something.*  
*"the achievement of professional recognition"*



## Honoring Johnny and Annie Pancrazio



It's not often that you find two people as special as **Johnny and Annie Pancrazio** who have devoted their later lives to Veterans within Arizona. From the start of VVA, Johnny has played an important role as the Head-VSO and obtained millions of dollars for veterans in the benefits and played an important role in the role of VVA finances.



These two people have been part of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) and the Arizona State Council for many, many years and have been a blessing for more than a decade of service put towards others rather than themselves. Johnny headed up a lot of the finances (as was mentioned) and Annie was one of the first in the AVVA organization of Arizona and began a unique fund raising task to provide money for Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) and as it turned out "other AVVA's throughout the country have picked up on her recommendations to raise money for everyone involved". And in some cases even the State Council. We so appreciate them and pray their health stays good.





To Achieve Great Things Two things are needed: Plan and Dedication to Achieve..

**"To honor so**

many VVA Veterans who have done so much for VVA and the Veterans of Arizona, to all of you:

Thank You."



## VVA Arizona Honors "Achieving" Vietnam Veterans

**ACHIEVEMENT** is a good thing. We have an entire life to some good things, but you have to make it point to do just that. While we are reading this, we are likely Vietnam Veterans and the next few pages will illustrate those that received the VVA Achievement Medal on October 1, 2016. Some of it was for excellence in a **talent**, some of it was for **being** there for the staff of VVA at the State Level. Some of it was for **volunteering** for other people. Some of it might be that that special person gave of his **time** for a number of decades in a chapter or state council position. Nevertheless, all have given a lot and it is up to us to continue to do just that.



Recognition is nice, but you have to do something in order to earn it and "it" become a part of you that has done that **achieving** moment of you and the moment.

## State Council and Chapters in Arizona



## VVA Arizona Finds Achievement In These



"It takes very little to do something that is superbly achievable. All you have to do is THINK, ACT and WAIT"



Chuck Byers, Jim Covarrubias, Larry Brown, Henry Brown and Gene Grego (Presenter)



Joe Little, Pat Farrell, Sue Grego, Larry Mitchell, Paul Pitts and Gene Grego (Presenter)



Sisto Sanavol, Frank Sandell, Lionel Sanchez, Dan Ross, Sarge Rodrigues, Gene Grego (Presenter)

## VVA Arizona Finds Achievement **In These (Cont'd)**



"It takes very little to do something that is superbly achievable. All you have to do is THINK, ACT and WAIT"



Sue Wudy, Patricia Upah, Dick Southern, Walt Schumacher and Gene Crego (Presenter)



Andes Jaime Jr, Gene Rafanelli, Terry Araman and Gene Crego (Presenter)

## The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Medals



**"It takes very little** to do something that is superbly achievable. All you have to do is THINK, ACT and WAIT"



Gene Crego, Robert Hysko, George Cushing, Bob Dalpe, Judy Beischel, Carol Culbertson



Gene Crego, Reggie Yates, Bob Welch, Art Sloane, Rick Romley, Dick Palmatier, Ron Perkins

Many thanks to Marion Cartland for providing these photos to use in our publication.



"These 50th events are critical to the Vietnam Veterans in any city and this one became a living memory for those that attended"



### Arizona's 50th Commemoration Events

VVA Arizona has gone to great lengths to put on various 50th Commemorative events throughout the Great state of Arizona for the thousands of Vietnam Veterans in our state. Between the cities of Bullhead City, Tucson, Phoenix (from East to West), they have been recognizable events that have been noted in this publication and within the Department of De-

fense Program Office in Virginia. Many have photos, themes, coins, pins a great meal, guest speakers such as Wanda Wright from the Department of Veterans Services in Phoenix to bring a content of various things that went on in Vietnam. Her own father served three tours in that country and frankly, "we" all have a story and we need to tell it to our families before it is too late. As noted, many times, in this AZ-LZ, I speak of doing things that "MAKE A DIFFERENCE" by each of us towards someone else, or a group of people, your family. But, DO SOMETHING. Think on it, pray about it, and know you're not going to live forever and should make up for some of that "dead time" we have had in our lives. Invest in your grandchildren, great grandchildren and above all, tell your story of your life, else how will they ever know?

### Chapter 1011 - East Phoenix

I would like to thank and say job well done at the WELCOME HOME 50th Commemoration Party to each and everyone who helped. We served 151 lunches the number of Vietnam Veterans where 112 we had some 20 people who did not pre-register I would like to thank Dr. Baron Smith for his time to bring Deuce and a half and the chopper (below). We were set up for 200 per-

sonnel, but with 151 and am happy for the chapter and those who did a great job. John Dodge, our 1011-VP did opening ceremonies We had a senior from Seton high school sing our National Anthem. Our guest speaker was Lisa Rigler, President of "Operation Welcome Home", the person building the Vietnam Wall here in the Phoenix Valley. Our

keynote speaker was James Oliveri, a Vietnam Veteran and renowned author and then on hand was Wanda Wright, Director of Arizona Veteran Services gave out lapel pins. We also had Dr. Baron Smith with his gun ship. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch. Mike Marks is with Dave Hampton by the gunship helicopter below.





## Chapter 975—Bullhead City



Friday, November 4, 2016

- 1130 **Opening Ceremonies**
  - National Anthem
  - Pledge of Allegiance
- 1140 **Welcome Remarks**  
*Pat Farrell, Chapter 975 President*
- 1145 **Invocation**  
*Chaplain Name, Position*
- Lunch**
- 1230 **Keynote Speaker**  
Wanda Wright
- 1300 **Presentation of Commemorative Lapel Pins**  
*Col (ret.) Wanda Wright, Director, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services*

Between Chapter 975 of Vietnam Veterans of America and the Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs, this 50th Commemorative Event for the Vietnam War was a huge success. Pat Farrell, President of this Chapter provided a wonderful lunch at the Elks Lodge on the 4th of November to 94 personnel who attended. Wanda Wright the keynote speaker and formidable advisor and supporter of these type of events is a wonderful lady who provides a lot of insight to these gatherings and the men and women who attend them. These become nice memories for those that join in on this resurrect the memories that we all need to hear other's stories and happenings and have that one or two little things that will hopefully recall those times of the 1960's. We thank all the personnel of Chapter 975 who put on this glorious event for those **"in need of cheering up"**. We pray that they have enjoyed them and will look forward to another event in the very near future in the Chapter 975 area.

**Welcome Home**

All Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans are invited to join the  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Mohave County, Chapter 975  
for a  
**Luncheon**  
in honor of the  
**50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War**  
November 4, 2016  
11:30 - 2:00  
Elks Lodge #468  
900 Gates Ave.  
Kingman, AZ 86401-4072  
RSVP by November 1st at 928-565-7783  
Reservations accepted Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 8-4



## Chapter 432—Phoenix

**VVA Chapter 432** in Phoenix held their first 50th event on the 7th of November 2016 at the Heard Museum in Phoenix, Arizona. RSVP for the dinner, entertainment, and a display of local Veteran and Native American artists during the day. Arizona Department of Veteran Services Director Wanda Wright spoke at the event, and honored each Vietnam veteran with a Department of Defense lapel pin and Arizona Department of Veteran Services Commemorative Coin.

This event is our community's opportunity to honor the service and sacrifices of our Vietnam veterans, and provide the 'Welcome Home' that was often missed as our military men and women returned from the Vietnam war. The speaker was Richard H. Carmona, M.D., M.P.H., FACS, 17<sup>th</sup> Surgeon General of the United States and distinguished professor at the University of Arizona.

### **Comments by Local people:**

I can only add positive remarks. Honor Guards were well organized with Tony in charge. It was dinner hour so most were hungry. Great guests and Col. Wright is a star for sure. As the group did the planning they did a superb job. I do sincerely hope we can continue partnering with Heard. Many thanks to you Marcus, Heard, Terry, Jim and Lionel for a job very well done! I was very honored and proud to be a part of the program!

### **Bill Messer, President, Chapter 432, Vietnam Veterans of America**

We can't thank you enough for the support you provided personally, and for the entire Heard team that helped make this event a success. I also believe we can do a better job in getting major players from our state, local, and national government to attend and participate if we extend personal invitations earlier on, before their schedules get full. I would suggest that we extend a personal thank you to state Representative Richard Andrade, and Phoenix City Councilwoman Kate Gallego for their attendance, although they weren't able to stay for the entire program. And of course Director Wright hit it out of the park with her presentation as well. We look forward to collaborating with you, Marcus, and our Heard Museum partners at future events.

### **Terry Araman, VVA Phoenix Chapter 432**



### **"The 50th**

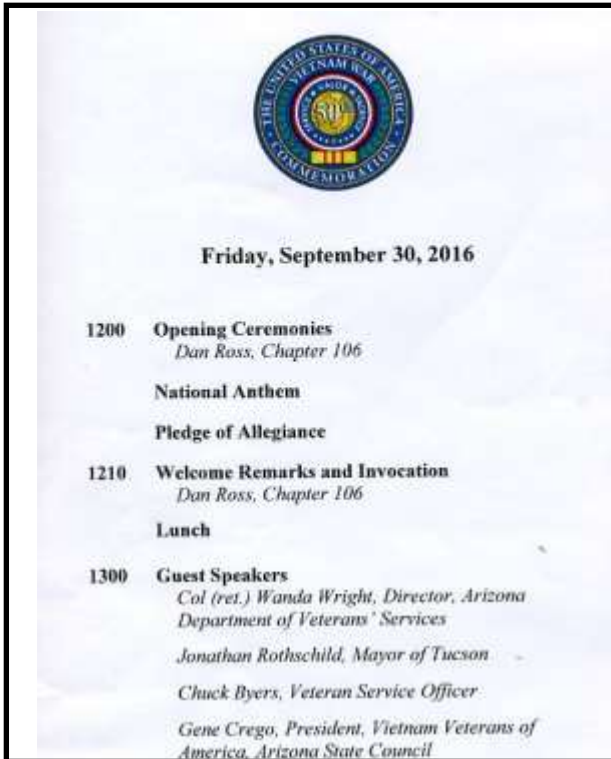
Commemoration

Events are critical to the men and women of the Vietnam War"

1960-1975



# Chapter 106—Tucson



Chapter 106 in Tucson, Arizona headed up by Butch Morgan held their 50th Commemoration event on 30 September 2016. On hand was VVA-Arizona President and the Director of Arizona Department of Veteran Affairs to give a warm welcome home speech on her father who served three tours in Vietnam.

Awarded to the men and women in attendance was a DOD Pin (as seen on the right) and a Commemorative Challenge Coin for those that served. Events like this are sweet and memorable times for those of us in our 70's and later. Memories like this should bring back the good memories of Vietnam when we were there fifty plus years ago.



**“Honoring**  
those that  
served in all  
six branches of  
**service”**



## Chapter 1011 Holds PTSD Town Hall

**PTSD**  
TOWN HALL MEETING

**ALL WELCOME**

**Address:** 1st UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
15 EAST 1st AVE, MESA AZ. 85210

**Date:** February 11, 2017

**Time:** 9am—1pm

**GUEST SPEAKERS:**  
Dr. Tom Hall—VVA National  
Dr. Tom Berger—VVA National

**Contacts:**  
Michael Marks—President VVA Ch. 1011 480-266-7883 mmch1011@aol.com  
John Dodge—V. President VVA Ch. 1011 480-323-8869 jdodge@hotmail.com

**PTSD**  
**PTSD 2**  
**SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

**PTSD**  
Does Not  
Mean You're  
CRAZY

**PTSD:**  
Post traumatic stress disorder is a disorder that develops in some people who have seen or lived through a shocking, scary, or dangerous event.  
**PTSD 2:** Family, Friends, Loved Ones, Care takers, etc.

**Hosted By:**  
VVA & AVVA Chapter 1011  
1st United Methodist Church-Outreach Center  
15 East 1st Ave, Mesa AZ 85210

Chapter 1011 in East Phoenix will be the first to hold a PTSD Town Hall Meeting coming up on the 11th of February 2017. PTSD has become a huge issue with the military in many forms.

PTSD is a disorder that develops in some people who have experienced a shocking, scary, or dangerous event. It is natural to feel afraid during and after a traumatic situation. Fear triggers many split-second changes in the body to help defend against danger or to avoid it. This “fight-or-flight” response is a typical reaction meant to protect a person from harm. Nearly everyone will experience a range of reactions after trauma, yet most people recover from initial symptoms naturally. Those who continue to experience problems may be diagnosed with PTSD. People who have PTSD may feel stressed or frightened even when they are not in danger.

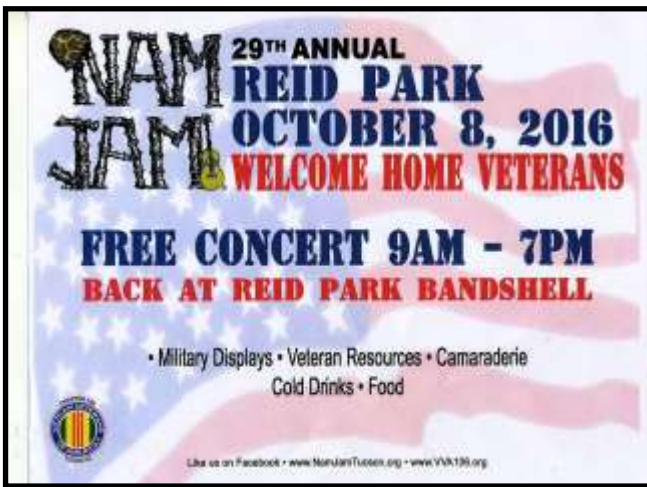
Not every traumatized person develops ongoing (chronic) or even short-term (acute) PTSD. Not everyone with PTSD has been through a dangerous event. Some experiences, like the sudden, unexpected death of a loved one, can also cause PTSD. Symptoms usually begin early, within three months of the traumatic incident, but sometimes they begin years afterward. Symptoms must last more than a month and be severe enough to interfere with relationships or work to be considered PTSD. The course of the illness varies. Some people recover within six months, while others have symptoms that last much longer. In some people, the condition becomes chronic.

In any event, we trust the medical doctors and information will truly help you

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates that PTSD afflicts: Almost 31 percent of Vietnam veterans. As many as **10** percent of Gulf War (Desert Storm) veterans. **11** percent of veterans of the war in Afghanistan.

As of September 2016, there are about 2.7 million American veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars (compared to 2.6 million Vietnam veterans who fought in Vietnam; there are 8.2 million “Vietnam Era Veterans” (personnel who served anywhere during any time of the Vietnam War). According to RAND, at least 20% of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans have PTSD and/or Depression. (Military counselors state that, in their opinion, the percentage of veterans with PTSD is much higher; the number climbs higher when combined with TBI.)

## “Honoring Those In Tucson—Chapter 106

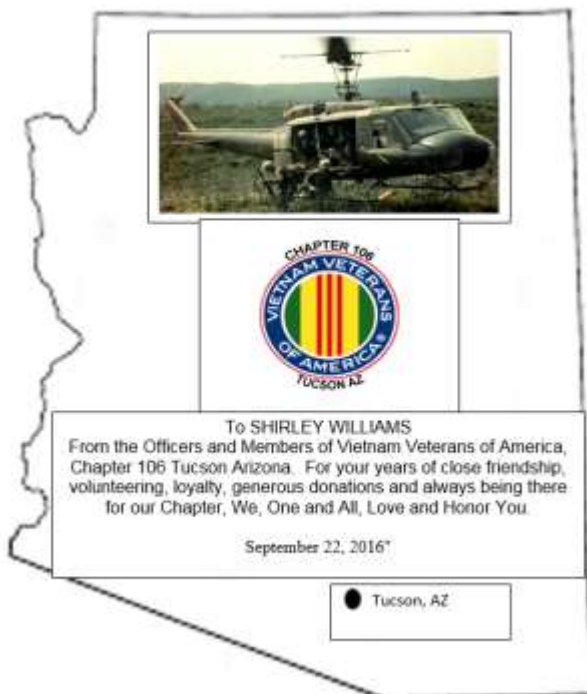


The opening of Nam Jam with Civil Air Patrol and awarding **Dennis St Germaine** his Achievement Medal, plus a plaque from his Chapter. As well, a plaque to **Shirley Williams** an AVVA Member who donated money to the chapter and has been there for everyone needed and at about every event in the last three years. She is moving back east to take care of a family farm left her and brother. The other event includes the Tucson Mayor reading Proclamation for the Nam Jam in its 29th year. “Nam Jam” this year was the best in three years. Coming and going in vets and other people we had between 3,000 and 4,000 people there.



They gave out to Vietnam Veterans the 50th pins for them enjoy. Most all most had tears in their eyes and could hardly talk. They were very thankful for it plus all the hand outs we gave because did not know about some programs for Vets. We also had some of the newer Veterans from the last wars that had gone on.

VVA membership forms were handed out to 15-20 people who said they didn't know about our organization and wanted to join. What a blessing and this could grow Chapter 106 in Tucson to be up in membership by fifteen to twenty people. All it takes is a little dedication to make a chapter grow and start attending events to pass on to their children and grand children in years to come.



## “NAM JAM”—Tucson 106—Does It Again



Chapter 106 in Tucson has truly performed well with their museum that they have put together and had in remarkable condition for just about three decades. Seeing all of this Vietnam memorabilia certainly brings back memories for a lot of us that were in the field, at a base camp, an LZ, a medical center or anywhere.



## “NAM JAM”—Tucson 106—The People That Make It Happen



VVA Chapter 106 in Tucson, Arizona has a new president and he along with his team of men and women truly make it happen to Keep the VIETNAM Spirit alive”.



## Three in Chapter 106 Honored



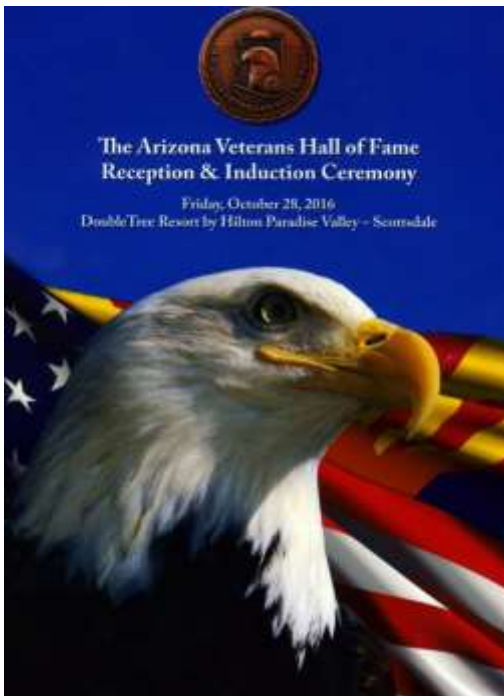
Rep. McSally 2nd District held a Special Congressional Recognition on 25 October 2016 in Tucson, Arizona. Recipients were Juan (Sarge) Rodriguez, Dan Ross and Henry Lawson. That afternoon, Martha McSally held the 21st Annual Veterans of Distinction Award 26 Oct 2016. VVA Tucson Chapter 106 had three of it's members in the Nominees mentioned above.





## You Have An Expiration Date

What will last? Food rots, buildings crumble, and money runs out. Jesus entreats us to store up treasures in heaven because the things of this world will not endure. He says in Matthew 6:21, “for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” What do you treasure? Will it last? Dare to invest in the eternal—in God, His Word, people. Pour yourself into what will last.


## Honoring a GREAT Man—Col. Robert Filbey



**ROBERT C. FILBEY**

Born in Champaign, Illinois in 1948, Rob Filbey served his country at home and abroad for 30 years, retiring as Colonel, US Army. His last assignment was Commander, US Army Yuma Proving Ground. Retiring in Yuma, Rob took on many leadership roles: President of the Salvation Army Advisory Board and avid supporter of its Boys and Girls Club, President of Hospice of Yuma's Board and Vice Chairman of Yuma Regional Medical Center Foundation Board. As Treasurer of Yuma Chapter, Military Officers Association of America, for 15 years, Rob was active in the establishment of a USMC JROTC program at Kofa High School, Yuma; the establishment of the "Young American Award" Scholarship Program (over \$11,000 in scholarships to 7<sup>th</sup> graders); and the annual delivery of Christmas baskets to 65 military families at MCAS Yuma and Yuma Proving Ground.





## I see a “HERO” and an “ANGEL”



Life is good, he loves his wife, but then he has not yet been to Afghanistan as yet, read on . . . .



He's on patrol everyday, looking out for the enemy, and then it happens, that nasty IED got him. . .



He's back home now, recovering from an injury, his spirit is still high, based on the love of his family



Enjoying friendship and fellowship



This is the way TRUE LOVE is supposed to be!! *Unconditional all the time*

Living life and getting back to normal

“We are trying to catch your attention on what it means to get hurt. But, it all starts with “life going well” and all is good (so they say). Then it can happen when you least expect it. An IED nails in more ways than YOU could ever imagine. Look at the pictures and do something REAL NICE for a veteran. You'll be VERY GLAD you did.

As you look at these photos, you see the HERO and the ANGEL. He served our country and got hurt while she became his angel and took care of him when he could not take care of himself. That is a really devoted wife who takes care of him all the time.

## City Flags in Arizona



MESA



BULLHEAD CITY



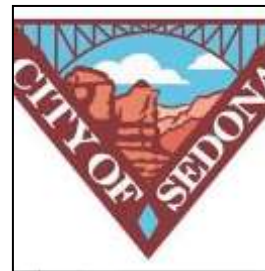
TUCSON



FLAGSTAFF



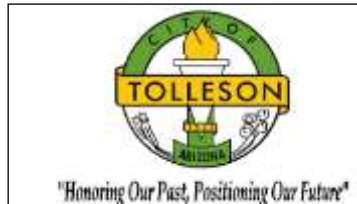
GILBERT



SEDONA



SURPRISE



TOLLESON



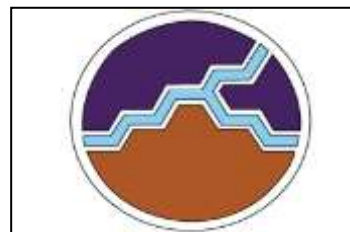
PEORIA



PHOENIX



SCOTTSDALE



YUMA

**“So few of us** know how many city flags in Arizona and **“WHAT THEY MEAN”**. I dare say, so few of us have ever been to many of the cities that are mentioned here. What was very interesting was there are very few city flags in our 48th state that became one in on February 14th 1912. One of the youngest ones **around.”**

**Yuma** (Cocopah: Yuum) is a city in and the county seat of Yuma County, Arizona, United States. It is located in the southwestern corner of the state, and the population of the city was 93,064 at the 2010 census, up from the 2000 census population of 77,515. Yuma is the principal city of the Yuma, Arizona Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Yuma County. Yuma’s population is about 113,247, and more than 85,000 retirees make Yuma their winter residence.

**Tucson** a city and the county seat of Pima County, Arizona, United States, and home to the University of Arizona. The 2010 United States Census put the population at 520,116, while the 2015 estimated population of the entire Tucson metropolitan statistical area was 980,263. Tucson with a total population of 1,010,025 as of the 2010 Census. Tucson is the second-largest populated city in Arizona behind Phoenix, both of which anchor the Arizona Sun Corridor. The city is located 108 miles southeast of Phoenix and 60 mi north of the U.S.-Mexico border. Tucson is the 33rd largest city and the 59th largest metropolitan area in the United States. Roughly 150 Tucson companies are involved in the design and manufacture of optics and optoelectronics systems, earning Tucson the nickname Optics Valley. The Spanish name of the city, *Tucsón* [tukˈson], derived from the O’odham *Cuk Šon* [tʃuk ʃoːn], meaning “(at the) base of the black [hill]”, a reference to a basalt-covered hill now known as Sentinel Peak, also known as “A” Mountain. Tucson is sometimes referred to as “The Old Pueblo

## You Know Those Things YOU Never Knew About?

We only live in one place, at one time and “rarely” hear about unique or goofy things that happen in our world, much less our lives. Can you imagine driving a car at 25mph? Or spending Christmas in a bunker during war? Or counting helmets or being afraid the world is eventually going to end. Well, look at these photos to see where a lot of these photos revolve around one thing, and that is “WAR”.



Traveling at 25 mph in 1924



1920, an 8 year old Chess Master



Christmas in London in 1940



Union & Confederates Shaking



A “Real Escape Artist”



A pyramid of German helmets



Hitler ‘s altered look during WWII



Sandbags in a church during WWII



Original “Mount Rushmore”



Wrong Carrier Landing—1942



Mortar fire in WWI in 1917



Triumphant dog atop a gun



Spin the record around the NAZI symbol on a supposed “Game Show”

A lot of UNIQUE photos appear here **and isn't it a shame** most of them provide a sense of pride, power, desire for someone **else's life. But** on the other hand, some of them show unique talent and for our next generation, that is important



A Jewish family that has really escaped a death train near the end of WWII.

## What If We Lived In The **Early 1900's?**

It's difficult to imagine living in a different time, but as we look at video and photos of "**that different time**", we think how much different life would have been back then. For example: no cell phones, fewer cars, inexpensive food, a very pleasant life and frankly a "**very different world**", can you imagine?? "***We too, could have it as well.***"



Bergen Tunnel in OH—1900



Children by the Bay in MI—1902



Northwestern Rail in MN-1900



A **much simpler life** we would all have and for the better I might add .



River boats in OH-1902



Hanging Rock in PA-1901



Jersey Shore in NJ-1902



Excursion Steamer in MI-1902



Labor Day in NY-1900



Delicate Lunch in NY-1908



Ship Afloat in MI—1905



Winter Morning in IL-1904



Spring Day in IN—1906



Life was **SLOW**, but **EXACT**. You got to know **PEOPLE**, you celebrated life and **ENJOYED** it. That is **not** the case in the year 2017.

For those of us born in the **1940's we truly** see a **big difference** in how busy America is in which the electronics and a lot of information exchange has become such a **VAST** part of our life that we cannot avoid it, or can we??

# The Front Page Of Some Of Your Life



Royalty to always be part of our lives to the end

Germany starts World War II— 1939

Propaganda always seems to be a part

German Troops Making Their Way



Europe Being Occupied

A Great Leader Assumes Allies Command

Italy Surrenders as Axis Member

The Loss of a Great President-FDR



WWII in Europe Is Over-1945

Hitler Is Dead — War To Continue

First Atomic Bomb Is Dropped

Japan Surrenders Ending WWII-1945



The Korean War Has Begun

Truce On Korean War Is Signed

N. Vietnam and S. Vietnam Split as Countries

Alaska Joins USA as 49th State



Hawaii becomes 50th State in 1960

The Beginning of Vietnam Is Just Starting

The Vietnam War goes on for 15 years

The 6-day War of 1967 with Israel



1969—Man Walks on Moon

Vietnam War ends—1975

POW's are freed along with a cease fire

Saigon Evacuation in 1975

## Why We Call the “Axis Powers” the “Axis Powers”



On this day in 1936, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini declared an **axis** between Berlin and Rome, coining a term that would be used by both sides in WWII. That particular speech was important not just for introducing the term axis, but because it indicated a profound shift in Italy’s alignments in Europe. During World War I, Italy had been part of the Allies—Britain, France and Russia—and fought Austria-Hungary along its border. But in 1935, a decade into Mussolini’s stint as dictator, he invaded the east African kingdom of Abyssinia, present day Ethiopia. It was an attempt to show his muscle and turn Italy into an “empire.” The Italians quickly conquered Ethiopia, but the power grab had consequences.



## Age Group of Vietnam Veterans

Age Group	Count
59_Under	239
60_64	4,960
65_69	35,018
70_74	26,522
75_79	5,754
80_84	1,785
85_89	608
90 and Above	153
Unknown	5,206
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80,245</b>

There is no questions that we Vietnam Veterans are aging quickly, but we still do have a few years left on us. It appears that within VVA our youngest group of VVA member are 59 and younger while 153 of us are over 90 years old. We are depleting at a rate of about 700+ per day, thus we need to take care of ourselves starting a long time, but that’s not possible, so start now. Drop the bad habits and live for others, the family, then you. Life is becoming real short all of a sudden.

“We all have a date to be born and we all have a date with death. And it all matters on how we live as to where we will go at the end of this life.”

## The Why of the 1960– On The Medal-Ribbon

I have wondered for a **LONG** Time why the “**1960-**” does not have a “**1960-1975**” ending year on it. And then a good friend of mine in Tucson discovered that there are two representations of the Vietnam Campaign Medal and date associated with it. The first period was from **March 1949-July 1954**. The second period was from **January 1, 1960 to April 30, 1975**. Obviously, the Fall of Saigon was the noted end of the Vietnam War for America. Hence the last award without the year illustrates that the war was never finished by the United States.



## The Mexican-American War

This year marks two key anniversaries in the conflict between the United States and Mexico that set in motion the Civil War—and led to the new state of California, Texas, and eight other states joining the Union.

On May 13, 1846, the United States Congress declared war on Mexico after a request from President James K. Polk. Then, on May 26, 1848, both sides ratified the peace treaty that ended the conflict.

In between those dates was enough drama to last for generations and the appearance of some familiar names that would dominate the Civil War, from President Abraham Lincoln to General Robert E. Lee.

To save space and make a long story short, the conflict centered on the independent Republic of Texas, which opted to join the United States after establishing its independence from Mexico a decade earlier.

The new U.S. president, James K. Polk, also wanted Texas as part of the United States, and his predecessor, John Tyler, had a late change of heart and started the admission process before he left office. Polk and others saw the acquisition of Texas, California, Oregon, and other territories as part of the nation's Manifest Destiny to spread democracy over the continent.

The U.S. also tried to buy Texas and what was called "Mexican California" from Mexico, which was seen as an insult in Mexico, before war broke out. Mexico considered the annexation of Texas as an act of war, and after border skirmishes, President Polk asked for the war declaration, since in Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, only Congress can declare a war.

In the fighting that followed, the mostly volunteer United States military secured control of Mexico after a series of battles, and the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848. It was the first large-scale success of a United States military force on foreign soil.

Mexico received a little more than \$18 million in compensation from the United States as part of the treaty. The pact set a border between Texas and Mexico, and ceded California, Nevada, Utah, New Mexico, most of Arizona and Colorado, and parts of Oklahoma, Kansas, and Wyoming to the United States. In today's terms, those 10 states account for 136 electoral votes, more than half of the votes needed to secure a win a presidential election.

The underlying issue of how adding new states and territories would alter the balance between free and slave states was critical. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo also set in motion a whole range of issues for Mexican-Americans and Native Americans. During the conflict, one of the vocal objectors in the Whig party was Representative Abraham Lincoln from Illinois. Key players on the political side included Jefferson Davis and Stephen Douglas.

Mexico still plays an important role for America and much of the world today. Spanish is the second most spoken language today in our country.



### "Mexico

obtained a lot of land from Spain during the 1600-1700's and lost almost one-third of it as a result of the Mexican-American war.



## My Letter to The World



The original photograph of Marines raising the American flag above Iwo Jima is well-known—possibly the most reproduced photograph in history. It may also be the most inspirational photograph of all time. Iwo Jima was a small, volcanic island of little strategic importance besides the fact that it held Japanese airfields, which the US hoped to capture and use for their own aircraft. After several days of bombarding the island by air, Marines made an amphibious landing on February 19, 1945, launching one of the fiercest battles of World War II.

The first major goal was the capture of Mount Suribachi. Only five days into the fighting, a patrol of Marines secured the summit and raised a small American flag to proclaim their success, although the island as a whole was far from won. Later that day a larger flag replaced the first, and became the official face of the battle for Iwo Jima and even the war itself. Combat raged for thirty-one more days following the flag-raising, ending in an American victory and the securing of Iwo Jima.

Seventy-one years later. The battle is history. Japan and America are no longer enemies. But that scene on the war-ravaged crest of a dormant volcano lives on. The triumphant ripple as freedom's banner was lifted to the breeze—the eager strain of those arms planting a promise in bomb-shattered soil—the stark circle of men holding up a symbol that thousands below their feet were fighting to destroy. This picture presents a question: why sacrifice so many precious lives to win the privilege of raising the victor's banner over a mass of rock and ash?

In a sense, the struggle for Iwo Jima was a reenactment of an even greater battle fought and won almost 2,000 years ago. The situation was surprisingly similar. A Man gave away His life on a hill just as barren and forlorn, dying for His friends, surrounded by multitudes of His enemies. A Banner was raised that day—not a square of cloth embroidered with bright colors, but a cross bearing the Son of God. That Banner was lifted to proclaim victory over sin—a victory shared by all who choose to stand with Christ—just as the Stars and Stripes were lifted to proclaim victory over Japan for America and all her allies.

**John 3:14-15** “**And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.**” In **John 12:32** Jesus stated, “**And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.**” So because Jesus was lifted up on the cross, whoever believes in Him has eternal life. Because He died and rose again, we can live. And to show this victory to the world, Jesus was raised like a banner for all to see. **Isaiah 13:2** “**Lift ye up a banner upon the high mountain, exalt the voice unto them, shake the hand, that they may go into the gates of the nobles.**”

*Every person in the world is an Iwo Jima.* A barren, eruptive dot in a vast ocean, occupied by the enemy. When we call on Jesus to save us from our sin, He fights the enemy for us, just as those armed forces did on Iwo Jima. We do not deserve rescue because of any virtue of our own. Iwo Jima means “sulfur island.” Interesting, considering that as sinners we face an eternity in the Lake of Fire, which burns with fire and brimstone, according to the book of Revelation. Brimstone is another word for sulfur. Our greatest value is in our greatest fault—that we are being used by the adversary. Liberty always desires to free the oppressed. God always wants to free those enslaved to sin. Jesus said in **Luke 5:32**, “**I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**” **2 Peter 3:9** “**Not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.**”

So why did those six soldiers plant a flag on Mt. Suribachi? They had not won the battle by scaling the summit and raising Old Glory; they had invaded but had not yet cleared the island of the enemy. However, both sides knew from the start who would ultimately conquer—the mere size and strength of the American army compared to the Japanese prophesied victory. Those men lifted their banner to the sky in faith that they would overcome not only the mountain they stood upon, but also the entire island. They were declaring to their opponents that this was now their territory.

**Isaiah 59:19** “**When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.**” When Jesus saves us, He delivers us from the *power* of sin and Satan, but not from their *presence*. While we live on this earth we will daily battle the world, the flesh, and the devil. But when Jesus indwells us, He “sets up camp”—He plants His standard to mark His territory and let everyone know He intends to win the final battle, just like those Marines did on Iwo Jima. **Psalms 20:5** “**We will rejoice in thy salvation, and in the name of our God we will set up our banners.**” **Psalms 60:4** “**Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Selah.**” **Romans 8:16** “**The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.**”

The battle for Iwo Jima was and still is controversial. Many wondered why a campaign against a volcanic outcropping became so costly in lives and materials, and whether the ground won was worth the blood spilled. I am sure the angels wondered how ransoming the lives of men could ever be worth the life of the sinless Son of God. I have often questioned why God bothered to die for me—I know I never could deserve the price He paid for my rescue. But I am forever grateful that He considered me a victory worth fighting for.

—Libby



Most of our generation of 60+ were **HOME SCHOOLED** in many ways

01. **My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.** — "If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."
02. **My mother taught me RELIGION** — "You better pray that it will come out of the carpet."
03. **My father taught me about TIME TRAVEL**— "If you don't straighten up, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week!"
04. **My father taught me LOGIC.**— "Because I said so, that's why...."
05. **My mother taught me MORE LOGIC** — "If you fall out of that swing & break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."
06. **My mother taught me FORESIGHT.**— "Ensure you wear clean underwear, in case your in an accident."
07. **My father taught me IRONY.**— "Keep crying, and I'll give you something to cry about."
08. **My mother taught me about the science of OSMOSIS**— "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."
09. **My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM.**— "Just you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"
10. **My mother taught me about STAMINA.**— "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."
11. **My mother taught me about WEATHER.**— "This room of yours looks as if a tornado went through it."
12. **My mother taught me about HYPOCRISY.**— "If I told you once, I've told you a million times, don't exaggerate!"
13. **My father taught me the CIRCLE OF LIFE.**— "I brought you into this world, and I can take you out..."
14. **My mother taught me about BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION**— "Stop acting like your father!"
15. **My mother taught me about ENVY.**— "There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do."
16. **My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION**— "Just wait until we get home."
17. **My mother taught me about RECEIVING.**- "You are going to get it when your Dad gets home"
18. **My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.**— "If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way."
19. **My mother taught me ESP.**— "Put your sweater on; don't you think I know when you are cold?"
20. **My father taught me HUMOR.**— "When that lawn mower cuts off your toes, don't come running to me."
21. **My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT**— "If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up."
22. **My mother taught me GENETICS.**— "You're just like your father."
23. **My mother taught me about my ROOTS**— "Shut that door. Do you think you were born in a barn?"
24. **My mother taught me WISDOM**— "When you get to be my age, you'll understand."
25. **My father taught me about JUSTICE.**— "One day you'll have kids, and I hope they turn out like you!"

## **We Don't Mess With** Smith and Wesson



When my friend goes to her ATM, she always takes along her favorite weapons named: "**Smith & Wesson**". She has never had any problems with muggers. **Smith** is the one on the left, and I'll let you decide where **Wesson** is. It's almost too bad we have to live in fear over people attempting to take advantage of you. But these two ".45's" will change a lot of minds in the process of doing right vs. wrong.

# Knowing **Who's Who** in VVA

# KNOW YOUR Committee Chairs



**Agent Orange/Dioxin**  
MAYNARD KADERLIK



**Disciplinary**  
BUTCH HUBER



**Constitution**  
LESLIE DeLONG



**POW/MIA Affairs**  
RICHARD DeLONG,  
GRANT COATES



**Economic Opportunities**  
FRANK BARRY



**PTSD & Substance Abuse**  
TOM HALL



**Finance**  
NED FOOTE



**Public Affairs**  
DENNIS HOWLAND



**Government Affairs**  
PETE PETERSON



**Veterans Against Drugs**  
DAVE SIMMONS



**Homeless Veterans**  
SANDY MILLER



**Veterans Benefits**  
TOM BURKE



**Membership Affairs**  
CHARLIE HOBBS



**Veterans Health Care**  
SANDIE WILSON



**Minority Affairs**  
JERRY YAMAMOTO



**Veterans Incarcerated**  
DOMINICK YEZZO



**Convention Planning**  
DAN STENVOLD



**Women Veterans**  
KATE O'HARE-PALMER

# CSCP Events in October 2016 in Maryland



VVA National Headquarters



A Silver Spring, MD City Street



Delicious Vietnamese Dinner



John Rowan Receiving Award



Dick Southern (Region 9) Reporting



Swearing In The New CSCP Officers



CSCP and BOD Members



Gene Crego Receiving the VVA Achievement Medal



POW-MIA Table



Honor Guard Ceremony



Cadets Received VVA Achievement Medal

## Devotion to God



Have you ever wondered why you are here on Earth? Most of us have a thought about it. Others of us look at it a different way believing that God Himself desires to have show those millions and millions the way to Heaven. This is a family we have know for over 20 years and they are all in their 80's and 90's except the younger looking guy who believe their mission is to show the people of the world the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They are devoted to Him and have traveled within the United States and Mexico since 1936 giving the plan of Salvation to those that have never heard it. **That is called devotion.** That is why they believe they were born and brought up to live their lives for God and God alone. None of them have

ever worked and they rely on the Lord to provide every need in their lives. Not many of us can say that. Together, they have a total amount of years of **430** years devoted to living their lives for God.

As we look at the world today, much of the world needs to look at how they are, how they react, what they say, what they do. We are all human and many of us need to look at why were we born? Well, in part to look after our family, protect our country, look after those that cannot and the list goes on. In light of how the world is today, compared to when "we grew up" is terrible and we need to, at least once look at "why were we born and what can I or we do to greatly improve it?"

## World War II Honoring

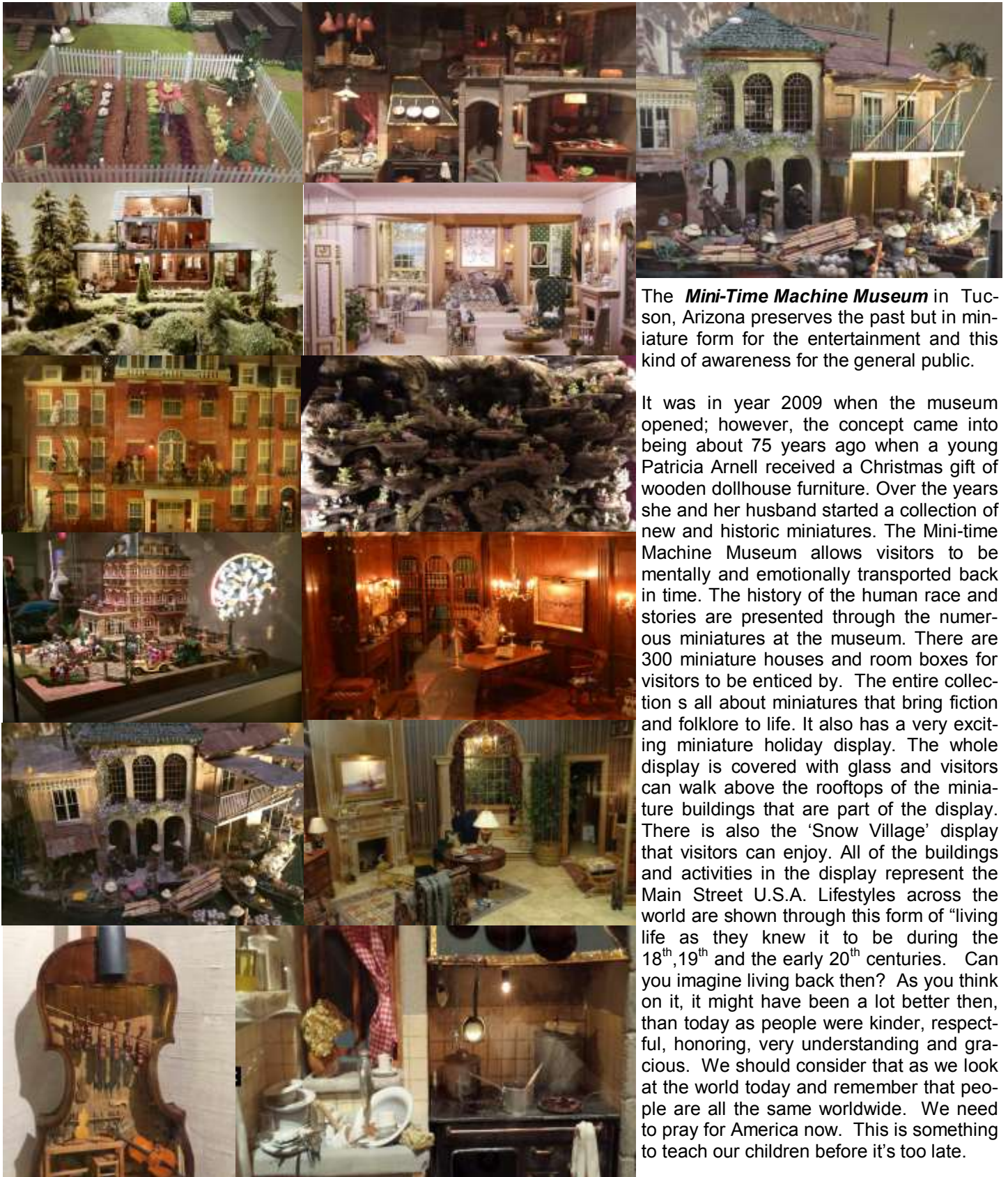


Roger Pollard and the group inside Gilbert, Arizona provided a nice "Welcome Home" for World War II Veterans on September 29th 2016. Held at Gilbert Town Hall at 50 E. Civic Center Road, they enjoyed some music by Days and Months, an Escort and Flag Procession by the Patriot Guard Riders and Posting of the colors by Dobson High School ROTC. Shannon Elizabeth sang the National Anthem and David Andelin led the Pledge of Allegiance. The Invocation was held by Councilman Jared Taylor and the overall Proclamation was given by Mayor Jenn Daniels. An honorary presentation of folded flags Dobson High School ROTC retired the colors and Roger Pollard provided the great closing remarks.

## It's ALL in the Numbers

Numbers, numbers, numbers. Did you know there are **five** million orphans in South Africa. About **five** percent of the people in the United States are starving. When we were teenagers, most of us had a waistline of **twenty-five** inches and now that same waistline is about **forty to forty-five** inches which means we "could" do without **ten** or more inches of the fast or slow food we eat everyday. Being in the military from **three to thirty** years, we have traveled more than most people in the world will ever travel by **seventy-five** percent and eaten on someone else's **ten** cent piece. How much do we share of our heart over the country much less our city? You'll live (on the average to be **sixty-seven and one-half** years of age and after that. Well, you know the rest of the story. But, if you have lived longer than the number just mentioned, you are on borrowed time if you are over **seventy** years old. **Fifteen** seconds--the time it took you to read this and the time it takes for another child to become an orphan or for you NOT to eat anymore than you should.

## Can You Imagine Living In Miniature?



The ***Mini-Time Machine Museum*** in Tucson, Arizona preserves the past but in miniature form for the entertainment and this kind of awareness for the general public.

It was in year 2009 when the museum opened; however, the concept came into being about 75 years ago when a young Patricia Arnell received a Christmas gift of wooden dollhouse furniture. Over the years she and her husband started a collection of new and historic miniatures. The Mini-time Machine Museum allows visitors to be mentally and emotionally transported back in time. The history of the human race and stories are presented through the numerous miniatures at the museum. There are 300 miniature houses and room boxes for visitors to be enticed by. The entire collection is all about miniatures that bring fiction and folklore to life. It also has a very exciting miniature holiday display. The whole display is covered with glass and visitors can walk above the rooftops of the miniature buildings that are part of the display. There is also the 'Snow Village' display that visitors can enjoy. All of the buildings and activities in the display represent the Main Street U.S.A. Lifestyles across the world are shown through this form of "living life as they knew it to be during the 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and the early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Can you imagine living back then? As you think on it, it might have been a lot better then, than today as people were kinder, respectful, honoring, very understanding and gracious. We should consider that as we look at the world today and remember that people are all the same worldwide. We need to pray for America now. This is something to teach our children before it's too late.

## Arizona Department of **Veteran's** Services

### Arizona Department of Veterans' Services



#### **Who We Are:**

**ENRICHING AND HONORING ARIZONA'S VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES THROUGH EDUCATION, ADVOCACY AND SERVICE.**

Arizona has provided services to Arizona Veterans since 1925, when it created the position of Veterans' Service Officer. This position was abolished in 1951 and replaced by the Arizona Veterans' Service Commission. In 1973, the Commission was integrated into the Department of Economic Security. Primarily at the request of various Veterans' organizations, the Governor reestablished the Commission as a separate agency in 1982. In 1999, the Legislature separated the Commission from the agency by making the Commission an advisory body and creating a separate Department of Veterans' Services headed by a governor-appointed director.

#### **What We Do:**

**SERVING ARIZONA'S VETERANS AS THEY HAVE SERVED US**

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services provides direct services to Veterans through the administration of Veterans Benefits Offices throughout the state to help Veterans connect with their VA benefits. We have two skilled nursing Veteran Home facilities one in Phoenix and the other in Tucson to provide short and long term care. We have three Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries, one in Sierra Vista, Marana, and Camp Navajo (Near Flagstaff). We also assist with fiduciary services to provide conservator and guardian services for incapacitated Veterans.

In addition, the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services provides critical, state-wide coordination and technical assistance to services and organizations serving Veterans. This includes activities such as coordinating services across private and public sectors in serving targeted populations such as Veterans experiencing homelessness and Women Veterans, as well as building community capacity to address Veteran employment and higher education.

#### **Southern Region Office Locations:**

**Tucson Office:** Phone (520) 207-4960  
1661 North Swan Rd, Suite 128 Tucson, AZ 85712

**Safford Office:** Phone (928) 428-3403  
624 5th Avenue Safford, AZ 85546

**Sierra Vista SAVMC Office:** Phone (520) 458-7150  
1300 Buffalo Soldier Trail Sierra Vista, AZ 85635  
AZ 85364

**Yuma Office:** Phone (928) 750-4488  
1450 E 16<sup>th</sup> St. Yuma, AZ 85365

**Tucson - DMAFB Office:** TBD

**ASVH Tucson:** Phone (520) 638-2157  
555 E Ajo Way Tucson, AZ 85713

#### **Hours of Operation:**

**Monday through Friday 8:00 am - 3:30 pm**

**Appointments Only for Tucson and Veterans' Home Offices**

## VA Awards \$6.8 Billion for **Medical Disability Examinations**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) today announced the awarding of 12 contracts between 5 firms totaling \$6.8 billion to improve the Medical Disability Examination process (Compensation and Pension or Comp and Pen Examinations) for Veterans. The awards are intended to reduce Veterans' wait times for examinations for service-connected benefits, thereby providing faster claims decisions in a more efficient and streamlined way. "This is good news for Veterans who are waiting for VA to determine whether a condition can be considered service-connected," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "For these Veterans, we want the process to be smoother – from beginning to end. When we announced the MyVA initiative in 2014 to improve Veterans' experience with VA, that meant looking at every process and every product. These awards represent a way for us to improve a significant process for Veterans."

### **Contracts were awarded to the following firms:**

-VetFed Resources, Inc., Alexandria, VA Logistics Health, Inc., La Crosse, WI, Medical Support Los Angeles, A Medical Corporation, Pasadena, CA; QTC Medical Services, Inc., Diamond Bar, California;

## **Bad Paper Veterans**

"Vietnam Veterans of America is calling on President Obama to pardon all Post-9/11 veterans who have been administratively discharged under less-than-honorable conditions without the due process of a court-martial. "These young men and women answered the call to serve and suffered for it. You must not leave office before acting to help them," wrote John Rowan, VVA National President, to President Obama. "President Jimmy Carter granted pardons for draft dodgers in 1977, erasing felony-level offenses from thousands of Americans who refused to serve their country in a time of war" noted Rowan. "Meanwhile, veterans who were administratively discharged without the due process rights of a court martial have been left behind for decades. President Obama must act immediately to help our nation's most vulnerable veterans before he leaves office." According to a memorandum from the Veterans Legal Services Clinic at Yale Law School that VVA delivered to President Obama: "The President has the legal authority to pardon veterans with an OTH whose misconduct stemmed from undiagnosed Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and other mental-health issues, including pre-existing conditions. The U.S. Constitution confers sweeping power on the President to issue pardons that forgive individuals of criminal and civil offenses. Past presidential administrations have issued far-reaching proclamations in military contexts and have specifically granted clemency and discharge upgrades to individuals who served, or were drafted to serve, during the Vietnam War. In one instance, President Ford issued a mass pardon for [qualifying] Vietnam veterans with [drug-related discharges] on his final day in office. Moreover, the Supreme Court has long upheld the expansive nature .

## **Chrysler and VA Merge Funds**

WASHINGTON – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is partnering with Chrysler Liquidating Trust to provide funds to support VA efforts to end Veteran homelessness. The partnership is part of the MyVA Strategic Partnership Initiative, which works with external organizations to improve the delivery and access of care for Veterans. Earlier this year, the Chrysler Liquidating Trust committed \$750,000 to support VA's efforts to prevent homelessness in Detroit, Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Leveraging VA's existing partnership with the Pentagon Federal Credit Union Foundation, more than \$233,000 of these funds have been awarded to cover rent and utility deposits for Veterans. As of July 2016, approximately 220 grants were distributed to support Veterans and their families. The Chrysler Liquidating Trust partnership grew out of discussions between Secretary McDonald and Bob Manzo, Trustee for the Trust on the importance of forging strategic partnerships and the ongoing work to end Veteran homelessness. "It gives me great pleasure to announce another VA partnership," said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "VA's new strategic partnership with the Chrysler Liquidating Trust is a great example of ways VA is opening its doors to new kinds of partners to better serve Veterans. Just this summer, President Obama announced a nearly 50-percent decline in Veteran homelessness. It's these kinds of collaborations that are helping us achieve results. Caring for Veterans is a shared responsibility and opportunity."

## VA NEWS—And CARING For People



You know there is going to come a time where we all likely be in a rest or care facility before we head home and here is what a few folks said about them and the people that have a **caring spirit**. When Linda Fraunfelter heard about the VA Medical Foster Home program she contacted Ruby Rideout, Medical Foster Home Coordinator at the Prescott VA Medical Center in Arizona. Two months later, after application, reference checking, training and multiple VA home inspections, Linda took in her first Veteran, Betty Dodd, 91. Medical Foster Home is an alternative to a nursing home in a personal home setting, for eligible Veterans who are no longer able to safely live independently. The Prescott VA implemented the Medical Foster Home Program in March 2012 and today has four homes in the community serving six Veterans. VA's Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) team is an integral component of the Medical Foster Home program, and staff from HBPC makes visits to provide home assessment, caregiver support and education. Direct patient care and oversight for the medically complex Veterans placed in homes is a vital aspect of the program. Linda describes herself as a natural caregiver and has worked in various settings as a caregiver over the years. She decided to give Medical Foster Home a try so she could be at home for her parents more and also to provide her mother with companionship.

Are you able to offer **PERSONALIZED** care? She identifies with the Medical Foster Home concept because it limits the number of people being cared for to three, allowing her to offer personalized care. "You have to have a big heart to do this work – a smile, kindness, gentleness and patience to bring joy into their life. Betty Dodd served in the Marines during the Korean War. When asked what she likes best about being in the Medical Foster Home, Betty replied, "It's sincerity. I feel comfortable. I think I belong here." A World War II Veteran says this: He appreciates that he has the freedom to move about the home and to take walks down the lane. Since moving into the Medical Foster Home, Mike says, *"I think my health has improved."* Robbin hosts a second Veteran, a 96-year-old WWII Army Veteran who believes: *"The VA is the greatest organization. They have been helpful to me. Robbin is a good caregiver. I give God credit. He saw me through a depression and a war. He's taken care of me."*

## The VA and Chiropractic Education

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) chiropractic residency programs have reached a historic first by receiving accreditation from the Council of Chiropractic Education. These are the first residency programs in the nation ever to be awarded this distinction, a significant advancement in the evolution of chiropractic education.

In 2014, VA launched its chiropractic residency program as a three-year pilot project at five VA facilities located in West Haven, Conn.; Buffalo NY; Canandaigua, NY; St. Louis, Mo. and Los Angeles, Calif. The programs provide postgraduate clinical training in integrated chiropractic practice, focused on team-based care and inter-professional education.

"Along with serving our Nation's Veterans, providing innovative training opportunities for health care professionals is a key component of VA's Mission," said Dr. Karen Sanders, Deputy Chief Officer, VA Office of Academic Affiliations. "The accreditation of our chiropractic residency programs demonstrates VA's commitment to preparing providers who will serve Veterans and the Nation."

Another commitment to the Veterans Administration for helping veterans from all conflicts and wars to get them back on their feet through Chiropractic medicine.



## The Why and How of the Vietnam War

- 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 Dien Bien Phu 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 Viet Minh remained in the south later forming, under instructions from Hanoi, the NLF.
- 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 NLF a Communist Viet political organization--formed to the overthrow of the S. Vietnamese government.
- On January 1961, newly elected President 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 So. 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 No. Vietnam took over So. Vietnam two years later on April 30, 1975. And North Vietnam conquered South Vietnam in 1975 after the U.S. left.

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 (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.

## Hawaii's 50th Commemorative Event



### The State of Hawaii

Invites you to the

## Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

### *Schedule of Events*

20-22 May 2017 (Sat, Sun, Mon)— Arrival of Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans from national and international destinations

23 May, 2017 (Tuesday): Aloha Reception-Registration

24 May, 2017 (Wednesday): Hawaii Night (A Taste of Hawaii)— Cosmopolitan and ethnic foods with local entertainment

25 May, 2017 (Thursday): POW/MIA/MOH and Gold Star Family Night at the Pacific Aviation Museum

26 May, 2017 (Friday): 50th Commemoration Concert (Local, national and/or international entertainers)

27 May, 2017 (Saturday): Waikiki Parade— Welcome Home Parade

28 May, 2017 (Sunday): Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War candlelight service at Punchbowl Cemetery

Register to attend at: <http://www.vietnam50years.org/>



## Veterans Day—50th Event—Yuma, Arizona



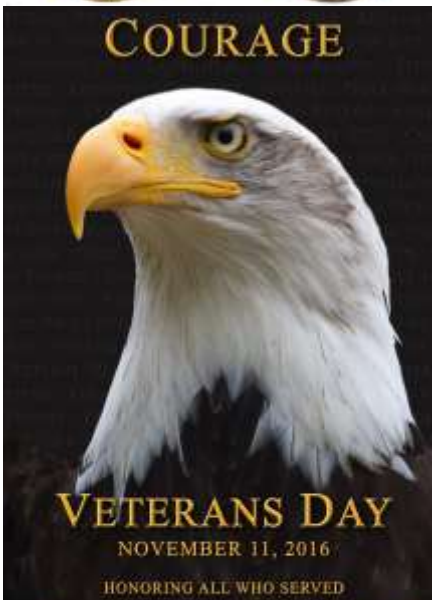
Faith Baptist Church in Yuma, AZ held a superb 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War event on 6 November 2016. With 310 visitors and regular attendees on hand, it was a very mixed crowd of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Panama and the Global War on Terror select set of Veterans.

All six of the service songs were sung to the congregation in beautiful harmony with their piano played music. A tremendous solo was performed by a young man having a great voice on “America”.

Special challenge coins marking the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War were given out which was a re-make of last years coin. The special speaker of the day was Pastor John Goetsch who spoke on **FREEDOM**, which is something America was born with and we as a nation are quickly losing.



A 21 gun salute was performed by various military personnel and the Star Spangled Banner was sung by April, Katie and Annie Goetsch. It was a moving day for the Veterans that have served in and out of Yuma, AZ.



## Honoring Their **Buddies' Sacrifice** in the Vietnam War

From 1961 to year 1975, tens of thousands of U.S. military helicopter pilots, crew chiefs, gunners and medics spearheaded U.S. efforts to secure the 67,000 square miles of South Vietnam. A half-century later, they are fighting once again, but their ranks thinned by age, they are fighting for a more modest piece of territory: five square feet in Arlington National Cemetery. Vietnam has long been known as the “Helicopter War.” The distinctive “*thump-thump*” of UH-1 Huey choppers is seared deeply into the memories of Vietnam veterans, and even many Americans who only heard it on the evening news or recall it from *Apocalypse Now*. It was where the Army rolled out its notion of “air mobility”—skies full of helicopters rushing troops to the front, plucking them from trouble, rescuing the wounded, and bringing home the dead.



About 12,000 U.S. military helicopters spent 7.5 million hours above Vietnam, flying 2 million missions. “The aviation units were the sole combat element of the U.S. Army that did not come apart under the stress of the war in Vietnam,” Neal Sheehan wrote in *A Bright Shining Lie*, his Pulitzer Prize-winning 1988 classic about the war. “The Army airmen never cracked.” A total of 5,086 choppers, about 42%, were destroyed by enemy fire, bad weather, mechanical snafus and the other bad hands war routinely deals those sent to fight it. The toll among those who flew for a living: 2,002 pilots killed and 2,704 crew chiefs and gunners dead. That’s about 7% of the 58,000 American troops killed in Vietnam. But along the way, they helped rescue more than 90,000 wounded—more than half of them American—and saved untold thousands of lives. “I was a combat medic, and I can give you a long list of guys who are alive today solely because of medevacs,” Steve Bird says. He spent 1968 in Vietnam with the 1st Air Cavalry Division. He witnessed the valor of the chopper crews that July near the Ho Chi Minh trail when his 110-soldier company stumbled into a North Vietnamese regiment of about 700 troops. The GIs spent two days pinned down as rescue choppers made repeated tries to come to their



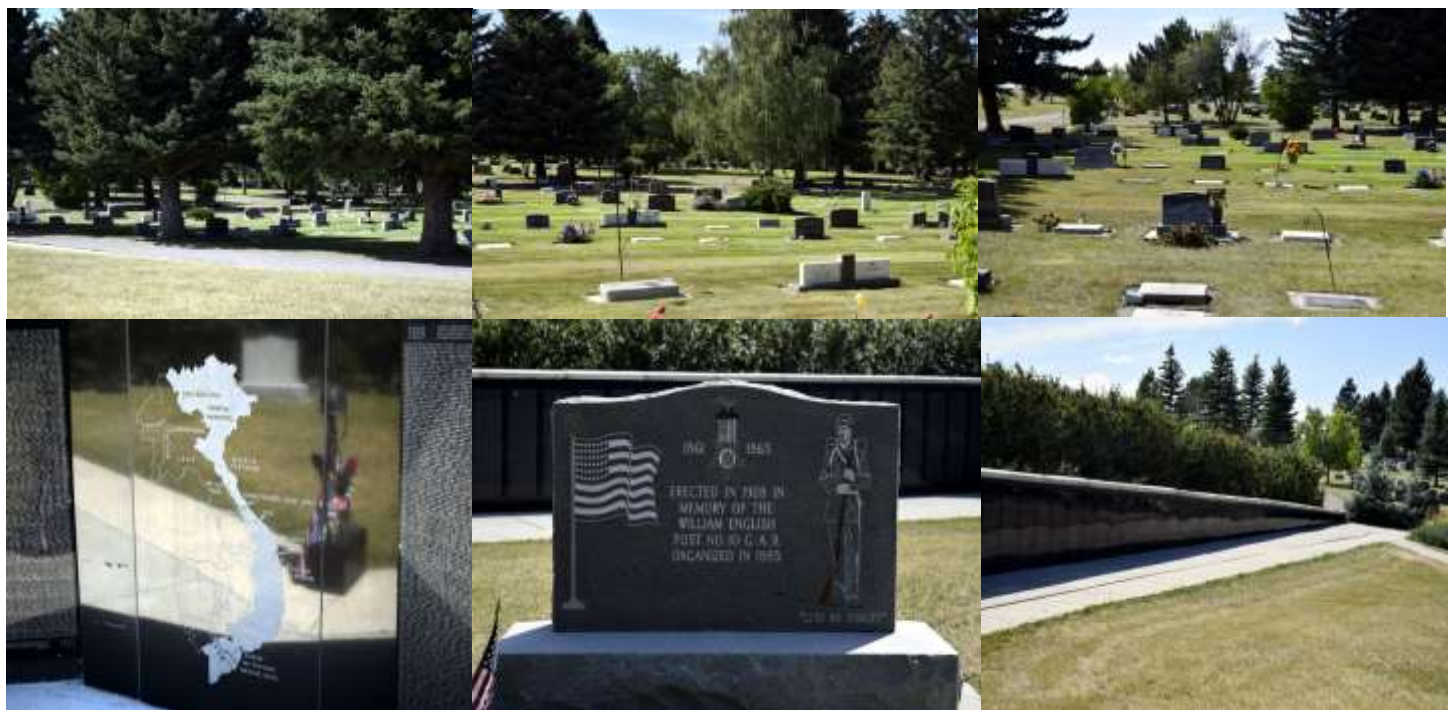
rescue amid enemy fire before finally getting them out. The enemy killed 14 U.S. troops, and wounded six others, including Bird, who took a round in his left shoulder. “In all the chaos and even controversy of that war, I had a mission that was pure, clean, and simple—go rescue the wounded,” says Art Jacobs, who was wounded aboard his Huey while trying to save Bird and his buddies on his third try. “For as long as I shall live, flying medevac was perhaps the finest thing I have ever done,” adds Jacobs, 70, of Brentwood, Tennessee.

# Remembering Those Who Served

Some cities in the USA go all out to remember their military personnel and what the conflicts of America have meant to the people who fought in them and bring some sweet memories to the public that is still alive today. It is **CRITICAL** that the younger generations “know what the people of America went through to keep them safe from danger from those that wish great harm and could have changed their life forever. Bozeman Montana took great strides to make this remembrance of a Memorial Park a wonderful place to see all wars and ***honor those that served with their life.***



Often times these memorials turn into another type of “**memorial**” and memory that we will all face when our time comes. This is also the time to remember our veterans from all of the service branches as they once again continued to give for America and the families of the past, present and future that will reap the benefits.



## Wreaths **Across** America

We need to remember our fallen on Memorial Day and other pertinent days and let them know the best we can that we love them and want to remember them. A unique idea is being sponsored by <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>, and the idea is to let those in Yuma, Arizona decorate the graves of our fallen military men and women during Christmas of 2016. A little more information is set below:

**GOAL:** To have a wreath on every Veteran's grave at **Christmas in Memory of their Service.**

**DATE HELD:** Saturday, 17 December 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

**LOCATION:** Desert Lawn Memorial Park on 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Yuma, Arizona

**EVERYONE** City of Yuma was invited there are approximately 2600 Veterans' graves at Desert Lawn Cemetery. To sponsor a wreath costs \$15.00 Make checks payable to Wreaths Across America and mail to: Doris Peeples, 2071 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Place, Yuma, AZ. 85365 or 928-446-1475. 100% of all proceeds goes to Wreaths Across America.



## Teenager Seeking To “KNOW” WWII Veterans



Rishi Sharma is on a mission to talk to World War II Veterans and record their experiences. “My biggest heroes are the combat Veterans of World War II,” Sharma said. The 18-year-old has completed more than 100 interviews with WWII Veterans and he films most of them. These in-depth interviews range from four to seven hours. Sharma is fascinated by the insight these Veterans share with him and wants to capture their stories. He wants to understand these Veterans and what they endured during the war. Sharma’s admiration for these heroes has him in constant pursuit for more stories and more subjects. His goal is to do an interview every day, as he knows his opportunity to talk with WWII Veterans lessens each year. He hopes his

efforts remind these Veterans how grateful he is for their sacrifice and he is trying to be an outlet for them to express their recollections and thoughts regarding the war in a “censor-free environment.” I am giving the Greatest Generation the opportunity to share their wartime experiences and life advice for future generations,” Sharma said. “There is no commercial aspect to this and the interviews are given to the Veterans so that they may pass it down to their families.” Now, we need a teenager to seek out those Vietnam Veterans and “find out something about them”. After all, they followed the “GREATEST GENERATION”

## First Ever Women’s HONOR FLIGHT

The Honor Flight Columbus organization out of Ohio sent the group’s first all-women Veterans’ Honor Flight to the nation’s capital. While there, 81 women—Veterans of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War—visited their respective monuments. The trip to Washington kicked off with a hosted event at the Women in Military Service for America (WIMSA) Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery, and included stops at a number of sites: the Iwo Jima Memorial, the U.S. Air Force Memorial and the memorials for World War II, and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught—one of the most decorated women in U.S. military history—was among those who greeted the group at the WIMSA Memorial; in 1966, she was also the first woman to deploy with an Air Force bomber wing. “It means so much to see this group of women come in and see what the memorial means to them, because it does mean something to them,” said Vaught. “It is seeing their service to our country paid tribute to by the nation. And yet with it all, there comes laughter and joy, and that’s the way it ought to be about serving our country.” As the pioneers of their times, these women blazed a path that until then was only traveled for men. And yet despite their contributions, they weren’t so readily accepted as equals. “My career field was supposed to be aerospace jet mechanic,” said retired Air Force Veteran Phyllis Collins, who goes by the nickname “Sunshine.” “And the guys didn’t like me there ... I was supposed to be working on a dead battery. They hooked it up, and I got zapped,” she said. “So I changed my career field real fast. I became a military cop.” Decades later, there are female Army Rangers, and the U.S. military continues the push to fully integrate women into front-line and infantry units. “It’s a lot different, what they do now,” said retired Air Force Sgt. Deb Millerberg, an aeromedical evacuation technician during Vietnam. “When I was in, I was an enlisted female, so they didn’t have female crew quarters. I got put off base when my crew was on base, or I was in TDY (temporary duty) quarters. They’ve come a long way.” Those who took that unconventional path did so because the opportunities were greater than the challenges. “There were a lot of difficult times, but I don’t regret a minute. Joining the Air Force opened up the world,” said Millerberg, who served in a number of overseas locations during the war. “We flew throughout Southeast Asia, all the bases, into Tan Son Nhut and Saigon (Vietnam); Japan; Korea; Okinawa, [and] Thailand. I went to Jungle Survival School in the Philippines. Everything was really exciting.”



## Did You Know?

Conflict	Years	Motives	Details and Outcome
WWII	1939-1945	Ideology, Power, Pride	German Nazism <b>Victory</b> Collapse of 3rd Reich, Japanese and Italian Empires Creation of the United Nations Emergence of the U.S. and Soviet Union as Superpowers
Cold War	1945-1991	Ideology, Power, Pride	Start / End of the Cold War <b>Victory</b> A state of political-military tension after World War II between powers in the Western Bloc and Eastern Bloc and the Soviet Union Collapsed.
Korea	1950-1953	Ideology, Power, Pride	Communism <b>Stalemate</b> North Korean invasions of South Korea repelled. Subsequent United Nations, Chinese and Russian invasion of South Korea repelled
Vietnam	1960-1975	Ideology, Power, Pride	Communism <b>Victory</b> Withdrawal of American forces from Indochina Dissolution of S. Vietnam Communism was not spread in the Eastern world
Desert Storm	1991-1991	Ideology, Power, Pride	Terrorism (Kuwait) <b>Victory</b> Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait; Emir restored Sanctions against Iraq
Grenada	1983-1983	Power, Pride, Position	<b>Victory</b> Military dictatorship deposed defeat of Cuban military Presence and restoration of Constitutional Government
Somalia	1991-1991	Ideology, Power, Pride	<b>Victory</b> UN humanitarian mandate fulfilled. 100,000 lives saved by outside resistance. Civil war is ongoing.
Bosnia-Kosovo	1992-1998	Power, Pride	<b>Victory</b> Internal partition of Bosnia and Herzegovina Deployment of NATO force to oversee peace agreement.
Global War On Terror	2001-Pres.	Ideology, Power, Pride	Terrorism (Iraq, Afghanistan) <b>On Going</b>

It's pretty important that our children, grand children and great-grand-children know what kind of conflicts we (the United States) have been involved in so they can and are willing to remember the Veterans of the United States and what they went through a lot of their lives.

In today's history books, they do not teach a lot of the details about each war or conflict the American Armed Forces have been a part of and to the left is a summary showing from World War II forward all of them in a little detail a slight understanding of those at least in our life time, so we can explain ,teach, etc. the importance of what the United States is there for.

This Veterans Day, we all need to remember the purpose of our Veterans and that is to honor them, love them, take good care of them as they age and show that they are so appreciated in all that they have done to some of their lives for all of their lives.

We also need to constantly teach the next two-to-three generations why the Veterans are so important to the United States. Make it a point to go to schools and explain in detail what all of the wars and conflicts were all about during the 20th Century and those at the beginning in the 21st Century.

If we do not do this small effort while we can, the apathy of not caring for Veterans, not loving them, not honoring them and not understanding what they did for America will go so unnoticed , that in time to come, America will be under a different world and will have lost any future battle or battles that are before them.

To the VETERANS of the 20th and 21st Centuries, we honor you, we love, we thank you, and consider you so important in our lives that we desire to fully understand all that you have done to give up your life, your time and protecting America for well over 200 years. Once again, THANK YOU.



## What Could Have Happened ??



World War II was certainly an interesting set of years for the United States and the rest of the world. We all pretty know how WWII got started and we all know how it ended. But, who knows, what could have happened “IF” things had been different. Obviously, they were not, but let’s consider what the Germans and the Japanese might have thought about if their thinking had been “more on the positive side” of them winning World War II. First off, we know Hitler had a plan to over take America up to the Rocky Mountains and Japan would have had the rest of the county. However, Japan had differing thoughts on the “over-taking of America” and here was their thinking: Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto of Japan is believed to having said the following words that prevented Japan from ever attacking the mainland USA. They would have left it to Germany and we all know that didn’t work.

*“You cannot invade the mainland United States. There would be a rifle behind each blade of grass.”*

The Huey is Gone From YPG

# End of an era: Proving ground bids farewell to long-serving Huey helicopters

By Mark Schauer

The UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, better known as the “Huey,” has been retired from Army service after a distinguished career spanning six decades.

Four of the Army’s final eleven served until the very last at U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground.

Their last YPG flight occurred on October 20th, with YPG commander Col. Randy Murray and Yuma Test Center commander Lt. Col. James DeBoer piloting two of the proving ground’s four Hueys.

Two of the aircraft ferried



An iconic airframe of the Vietnam War era, the Army’s final 11 UH-1 Iroquois helicopters, better known as “Hueys,” were retired in October. The final four airframes in YPG’s fleet had their last flight on October 20th, ferrying Airborne Test Force parachute jumpers and YPG dignitaries for one final flight across parts of the range. (Photo by Mark Schauer)

passengers on a ceremonial pass above YPG’s three cantonment areas, while the other two carried parachutists from the Airborne Test Force for a final parachute jump onto Philips drop zone as spectators from YPG watched from a nearby shade structure.

An iconic airframe of the Vietnam War, the Huey has served as workhorse of the proving ground’s air fleet for decades. The same airframe that supported testing of the Global Positioning System at YPG in the late 1970s



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VVA-Arizona

Jan-Apr 2017

## A Note From The President for 2016

**2016** has been a very eventful one for VVA-Arizona and I'd like to go over the many, many items that we did, accomplished, invented and in general made better for VVA and Arizona in general. We have accomplished a lot and below is a preview:

- Achievement Medal's given out to 44 personnel
- Developed a full stream of State Committee members
- Received a myriad of fund raising ideas for chapters to utilize.
- Received a series of annual grants from Arizona and VVA National
- Held multiple 50th Commemorative Events within VVA-Arizona
- Good turnout at VVA Leadership Conference in Tucson
- Working with Region 9 Director on ideas, location for VVA Regional Conference
- Elections of new State Council Officers in 2016-2018
- ADVS provide to chapters Funds for 50th Events
- Archived the entire VVA-Arizona State Council documents, save 2006
- Held multiple "Town Halls" throughout Arizona



A sign placed on behalf of the Veterans Administration Medical Center in Phoenix that has the support of those fraternity organizations including VVA that is truly supporting the veterans of Arizona.

## A Note From The President for 2017

**2017** will be an interesting in VVA-Arizona in that we (as getting older), have to adapt to doing things smarter. We need to **think out of the box** more and make "required things" more doable, but until then, let us utilize electronics and information technology to cause that to happen. Below are some events to work on and produce in this New Year of 2017:

- Introduce annual chapter plans throughout the state
- Archive all of the chapter documents into books and CD's NLT April 2018
- Develop an annual ongoing fund raising plan in chapters and state council
- Re-introduce scholarships to Chapters/State Council
- Ensure all expense reports and other pertinent documents are met
- Create a new strategic plan for all of VVA-Arizona
- Start considering personnel for the 2018 Officers election
- Develop and keep a budget within VVA-Arizona in 2017
- Where does VVA-Arizona go from January 2017 forward?
- Help determine where VVA itself is going in the next 6-8 years
- Ensure all VSO reports are current from October 2016
- Hold a VVA Arizona-wide 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration Dinner in 2017
- Attempt to locate all of those "Absent Members" within our chapters
- Re-create the Arizona By-laws in 2017
- Develop goals for the years coming 2017-2018
- Increase membership in Arizona with "new" and those "not-in-attendance" members
- "Electronicize" VVA Arizona to ensure all reports to/from VVA National and within VVA-Arizona and its chapters are accomplished in a timely manner