

JANUARY TO  
APRIL 2018

# “The AZ-LZ”

## Vietnam Veterans of America—Phoenix, AZ Welcome to the Year 2018

Special points of interest:

- WWI and its history
- Life Before WWI
- The 20th Century Effects
- Why the US Waited to Join In
- The Legacy of WWI on today
- 50th Commemoration Events in Yuma and Sierra Vista
- **Future “50th Thinking”**
- Honoring VA Personnel
- Flag Raising in Yuma
- Weird But True

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Every January 1st, it seems we all say “I can’t believe another year has come and gone”. “Or, where did the year go?” “Wow, time does fly”.

Let’s look back at 2017 and see what significant things occurred this previous year.

- Solar Eclipse occurred
- Twins were born with different birthdays
- California had >200 earthquakes
- Korea is putting the world on edge
- New U.S. President
- Massive wild fires
- Tremendous storms
- Terror attacks everywhere

A member of the German Parliament has made an offer to bring Europe into “its own country”. Basically, all of the European countries would become states similar to the United States and be-

come its own. And the name? Drum roll. THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE. Mmm, this sounds like an “end times” scenario. And what would it really do for Europe? This is somewhat expected to

God made this earth and the people in it and the thinking that mankind has had for these thousands of years since the beginning of time has made this world a bad place and each year it seems to get worse.

With us in VVA, may we be a blessing to everyone around us, say and do the right thing that this honoring to those in our midst and knowing we are quickly aging, our time is our time and it will end without us knowing it.

We have 365 days to make a difference, let’s start on January 1st to begin that process.

### Have You Heard?

And the name? Drum roll. THE UNITED STATES OF EUROPE. Mmm, this sounds like an “end times” scenario. And what would it really do for Europe? This is somewhat expected to

happen within eight years from now in 2025. Supposedly, this will give one money, one government, one leader, one set of economic conditions and it may will work and then it may not.

## Predictions for 2018

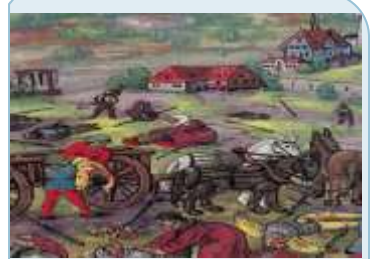
- China completes the construction of the largest city in human history, Jing-Jin-Ji.
- London's new £15 Billion Subway Line, the 'Crossrail' opens to the public.
- There will be one Wi-Fi hotspot for every 20 people.
- Russia hosts the FIFA World Cup for the first time
- Aquaculture provides the majority of the world's seafood
- China expects to land its Chang'e-4 lander on the dark side of the moon
- Tesla plans to build and sell roughly 500,000 electric vehicles
- Apple Inc. transition to OLEDs screens, marking shift in smartphone industry
- State-sponsored attacks will increase
- Attacks via compromised IoT (Internet of Things) devices will get worse
- Trust will be a casualty of the war on cyber crime
- Iran, Russia and North Korea will blow bigger than ever before
- In China, 10Gbps Wi-Fi becomes available at 5GHz frequency bands
- Scientists begin testing reverse aging techniques on humans after success with mice
- The first 3D printed car will be created
- On one half of surgeries they will be perform by robots
- World population forecasted to reach 7,597,175,000
- World sales of electric vehicles reaches 5,200,000
- Predicted global mobile web traffic equals 10.5 Exabyte's
- Global Internet traffic grows to 132 Exabyte's (Quintillion)
- Consumer devices with 100 Gbit/s transfer speeds
- Enterprise-grade SSDs (Sold State Drives) to reach 128TB of capacity

## Better Predictions for 2018

- Be a better friend
- Be content with what you already have
- Help some out that you don't know
- Give someone the Gospel
- Use your gifts and talents to bless others and be a blessing to God
- Pray the world would become a better place in which to live
- Be a help to the homeless
- Do something unique for your best friend
- Remember your family, all of them on their day
- Don't forget anyone's birthday
- Write to your parents, grandparents, grandchildren and great grandchildren
- Give your last dollar to someone who really needs it
- If you can afford Starbucks, you can afford a gift card from them
- Teach your grandchildren about Vietnam
- Give your grandchildren a token from Vietnam
- Live your life like you know you should — RIGHT
- Know you're going to die someday and be prepared for it
- Teach children the values of life and work with them on it.
- Stay off your cellphone and "talk to them" instead.
- I'm out of room, but I think you get the drift.

# What WAR Has Done To The World

**War** is a state of armed conflict between societies. It is generally characterized by extreme aggression, destruction, and mortality, using regular or irregular military forces. An absence of war is usually called "peace". **Warfare** refers to the common activities and characteristics of types of war, or of wars in general. Total war is warfare that is not restricted to purely legitimate military targets, and can result in massive civilian or other non-combatant suffering and casualties. While some scholars see war as a universal and ancestral aspect of human nature, others argue it is a result of specific socio-cultural or ecological circumstances. The deadliest war in history, in terms of the cumulative number of deaths since its start, is the Second World War, from 1939 to 1945, with 60–85 million deaths, followed by the Mongol conquests at up to 60 million. As concerns a belligerent's losses in proportion to its prewar population, the most destructive war in modern history may have been the Paraguayan War. In 2013 war resulted in 31,000 deaths, down from 72,000 deaths in 1990. In 2003, Richard Smalley identified war as the sixth (of ten) biggest problem facing humanity for the next fifty years. War usually results in significant deterioration of infrastructure and the ecosystem, a decrease in social spending, famine, large-scale emigration from the war zone, and often the mistreatment of prisoners of war or civilians. For instance, of the nine million people who were on the territory of Soviet Belarus in 1941, some 1.6 million were killed by the Germans in actions away from battlefields, including about 700,000 prisoners of war, 500,000 Jews, and 320,000 people counted as partisans (the majority of whom were unarmed civilians).



Deaths (millions)	Date	War
60–84	1939–1945	World War II
60	13th century	Mongol Conquests
40	1850–1864	Taiping Rebellion
39	1914–1918	World War I
36	755–763	An Shi Rebellion
25	1616–1662	Qing dynasty
20	1937–1945	Second Sino-Japanese War
20	1370–1405	Conquests of Tamerlane
16	1862–1877	Dungan revolt
5–9	1917–1922	Russian Civil War

Since ancient times, war has been a common occurrence with mankind. And **PERSONAL PRIDE** and the **WANT OF POWER** has been the desire to take a life over and over again.

Here is ONE startling question for you? How many years has the world had war on this planet? The ONE startling statistic is that the year 3062 B.C. to 2017 A.D., the world has seen only 292 years of peace. If you're looking for peace, this world is not the place to find it. Looking at the death statistics to the left shows a lot, can you imagine the NEAR ENTIRE NUMBER OF DEATHS on earth since the very beginning of time.



## The Start, But Not The Finish

World War I profoundly changed America and the world. After World War I, war was fought in the air and under the sea, and new weapons on land gave war an industrial scale and a technological savagery it had never had before. War became "total," in that all the resources of society supported the war effort, and civilians became victims as never before. At the same time, diplomatic calls for a league of nations and for treaties banning war brought forth new aspirations for international cooperation, non-aggression, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

The war destroyed four empires – the German, Russian, Austro-Hungarian, and Ottoman – and redrew the political map of the world. The new nations and borders created after the war sowed the seeds for new conflicts in the Baltics, the Balkans, Africa, and throughout the Middle East, many of which ravage the world today.

More immediately, the aftermath of the war created resentments in Japan and, especially, Germany that helped lead to another world war twenty years later. Indeed, most if not all of American military history throughout the following century can be traced directly or indirectly to World War I. Not only can a straight line be drawn from the first to the second world wars, but the Communist Revolution in Russia in 1917 gave rise to the Soviet Union.

The Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States after World War II led to "hot" wars in Korea and Vietnam. And the creation of arbitrary nation-states in the Middle East such as Iraq and Syria, as well as the establishment of the state of Israel, decisions rooted in the diplomacy of World War I, gave rise to conflicts that are all too current today.

America in 1918 was the world's strongest industrial and military power, and while it again let its standing army dwindle, it was now a leading player on the world stage. Two million Americans had gone to Europe and returned, and America now looked at the world across the oceans with new eyes. A generation of national leaders emerged from the war: Mitchell, Marshall, MacArthur, Patton, Truman, Eisenhower, Donovan and Dulles.

Most importantly, the world no longer doubted the ability of the American fighting man. U.S. forces no longer fought only Native Americans or small armies in Central America, the Philippines and China, but had fought toe-to-toe alongside and against the strongest armies in the world. The courage, heroism, and tenacity that Americans had seen for themselves 50 years earlier, at Shiloh and Gettysburg and a hundred other battles in their civil war, had now been witnessed by the world at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood and in the Meuse-Argonne.

In all, the U.S. suffered 53,402 battle deaths in World War I, in less than six months of serious fighting – more than in eight years in Vietnam, and a fatality rate half again as high as World War II. Another 63,000 died from accident and disease. After the Civil War and World War II, World War I is the bloodiest war in American history. As members of the 21st Century, we need to and ensure that future wars to not take place. Everything can be resolved from the worst argument to anything much worse than that.



*"We ALL need to remember what war and conflict does to a person and a nation."*

*One war leads to another and then another and then to another. Having peace in one's life is the ONLY way.*



## Life Before World War I

Certain parts of an era always brings changes to our world and “War” seems to do just that. Living in what we’d call a “Victorian Age” was a period in which you might say: “the United States was still somewhat innocent”, not to mention the rest of the world.

But, World War I, brought us into a state of life where “*modernism seemed to set in*”; we sort of had a “*new stage of life*”. And the “*historical periods of yesteryear*” seemed to vanish. By the time 1918 arrived, the world’s innocence for what we had at the time, seemed to be gone. And today??

Men would be modest and polite to ladies, their hats would be tipped, and ladies would curtsy and also very more modest. Bad words were never heard of much less spoken. Gentlemen would be gentlemen and ladies would be ladies and both genders would act like it in any natural setting of their life. Respect, well that was always 100% and when you worked, you worked and didn’t do anything else but...work. Politeness was a natural and respectful setting and perfect point of life in that historical period in which we (then) remembered our ancestors, for several generations backwards. When one became of legal adulthood, one acted like an adult, nearly all of the time. Generations among families were close, not tolerant, but gracious. Yes, we all (even today) have differences, but being gracious is much better than being tolerant. When one got old back then, the “family cared for that one person” and did all they could to bring them back to good health and would be there for them until their passing on or fully recover. The elders would contribute mostly in writing “life things” that happened in the past of their lives to provide history to the next set of generations of the future, so they knew “first hand” what occurs in the lives of their families, the country, etc. Education was critical to the point that “you learned something everyday”, sometimes at the expense of the older generation because they lived it and knew it and they were respected and honored.

So, here we have before the beginning of World War I when “life was much different, more respectful, honest, worthy”. In some cases it was prominent, hard working, the ability to take care of others, caring of others, having character, avoiding violations, thoughtfulness, esteem, giving, polite, doing the right thing.

So, what happened? World War I came in 1914 and ended in 1918. And today, we live in the day that World War I shaped. It brought us into the “new 20th Century and the mindset” that would live with us forever. “New Things” came into our lives such as: planes, ammunition, armor, hatred of man and their nationalities. Women’s rights came into being along with new technologies of building big ships, the ability of assembly line creation of anything man could conjure up in his head. And it has multiplied into much more in the year 2018.

One big thing of the end of WWI was the “onset of germs” which led to death, and multiple deaths during and after the war. The “one disease” that killed manifold numbers was the “flu”. The combination of violence and looking at “man as just a thing” that manifolds all the way to our current year of 2018. Life has become expendable. During WWI, entire generations of life was lost and we often wonder, what would life have been like as result of World War I not occurring, and then of course World War II. Would man be like he was before?





## First Casualties of World War I



It was a warm Sunday afternoon on May 20, 1917, as nurses and doctors of Chicago's Base Hospital Unit No. 12 gathered on deck of the *U.S.S. Mongolia* to watch Navy gunners conduct target practice.

Laura Huckleberry, one of the nurses standing on deck, had grown up on a farm near North Vernon, Indiana, and graduated from the Illinois Training School for Nurses in 1913. With Huckleberry were her roommates, Emma Mat-

zen and Edith Ayres, also graduates of the Illinois Training School Class of 1913 and Red Cross Reserve Nurses selected for coveted spots in the hospital unit.

Also enjoying the Atlantic breezes while lounging in deck chairs or standing at the ship's railing, the group included Scottish-born Helen Burnett Wood, a nursing supervisor at Evanston Hospital. Wood's mother had protested her daughter's decision to join the unit, but the 28-year-old Wood had written just before the ship sailed to tell them not to worry.

But Wood's mother's worst fears soon materialized.

"We watched them load and fire and then Emma said, 'Somebody's shot,'" Huckleberry later wrote of the event in her diary. "I turned and saw two girls on the deck and blood all around."

Pieces of flying shrapnel struck Ayres in the left temple and her side, while Wood's heart was pierced. Both were killed instantly. Matzen suffered shrapnel wounds to her leg and arm. As doctors and nurses attended to their fallen comrades, the ship turned around and returned to New York. The wounded Emma Matzen was taken to the Brooklyn Naval Yard Hospital, then transferred to New York Presbyterian Hospital and later to convalesce at Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, D.C.

These three women became the first American military casualties of World War I. But it was unclear whether they were entitled to military benefits. Before their bodies were shipped home, Ayres and Wood were honored by the American Red Cross in a memorial service at St. Stephen's Church. Their coffins, placed side by side, were draped with the Allied flags as New Yorkers paid their respects.

Although technically not buried with full military honors, the two nurses were honored in their local communities in elaborate public services described as "similar to those accorded the sons of Uncle Sam who fall on the field of battle."

In honor of their martyred patriot, 32 autos in a "slow and solemn march" accompanied the hearse carrying Edith Ayres' casket from the rail junction to Attica, Ohio. Area schools were closed for two days and most of the community paid their respects as her body lay in state in the Methodist Church. The burial concluded with a 21-gun salute.

### CHICAGO'S FIRST WOMEN VICTIMS OF ACTUAL WAR



Left to right—Mrs. Edith Ayres, Miss Emma Matzen and Miss Helen Burnett Wood, all members of Red Cross Hospital Unit No. 12, the Northwestern University unit. Mrs. Ayres and Miss Wood were killed and Miss Matzen was wounded accidentally during practice firing at sea aboard the armed American merchantman *Mongolia* carrying the unit to Europe for nurse service.

## Why Didn't the USA Join the War in 1914?

The United States was not part of the interwoven system of allied nations that was designed to prevent war much like NATO and the UN are today. The Central Powers were Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy and Turkey versus the Allied Powers of Great Britain, France and Russia. The Archduke of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in Sarajevo by a Serb nationalist named Princip. Germany backed Austria in retaliating against Serbia but Russia is the protector of the Slavic peoples of the Balkans and vowed to defend them. France was tied to Russia in a treaty agreement that if Russia went to war with Germany then France go to war with Russia against Germany. France had long wanted to have it's revenge against Germany since Germany defeated them in 1870. Great Britain was also tied to join France if France went to war against Germany. Therefore Germany in a preemptive move declared against France thus setting the great war in motion. The United States rightfully sat out of the and should have stayed out completely. In 1915 the Germans sank the ship which carried passengers and ammunition. The Germans had warned all ships and any ship going toward England was fair game to be sunk. The British helped letting the Germans know the precise course of the ship so that if it were sunk by this Germans then America might enter the war on the Allied side. The ship sank and America warned Germany about it's open season on all shipping so Germany played fair until 1917 when it decided to go after all shipping again in order to end as Germany was in the process of knocking Russia out of the war. The US finally declared war on Germany in 1917 as Russia signed the Brestlitovsk Treaty that ended the war between Germany and Russia. America enters the war and saves France and Great Britain from certain defeat.

Germany had not wanted the United States involved as another power would have been another problem for the Axis. On the other hand, the United States was not ready for war. It took a long time to mobilize soldiers for the army, and US forces were not fully engaged in France until the Spring offensive of 1918. This allowed the US forces to be engaged to the greatest effect along many of the lines of battle. After Germany lost most of its territorial gains from the early part of the war, they were forced to end the war on November 11, 1918.

Although Woodrow Wilson opposed the US involvement, he came to see it as unavoidable, given Germany's submarine warfare against American shipping. An attempt to draw Mexico into the conflict (the Zimmerman Telegram) also helped to sway US opinions. America entered World War One on April 6, 1917. This was a declaration of war by the US Senate. The United States declared war against Germany on April 6, 1917 and later the same year against Austria - Hungary, December 7, 1917. The war came to an end on November 11, 1918 [the Armistice]. The Versailles treaty was signed on June 28, 1919.

Although this would be considered "The Great War" and "The War To End All Wars", it was the best thing for the world that the United States did enter as the end result could have been and would have been much different. Many of the empires that then ruled Europe, both Western and Eastern had collapsed by this time and by the end of this huge conflict, there was a lot damage to both land, infrastructure and people and "a lot of firsts" that occurred that during the four years when it took place. By 1918, the world was about to become a different place in which to live. As a result of this war, we now have "Veterans Day".





# Who, What, When, Where, How and Why of World War I

Belligerents	
<b>Allied Powers</b> France British Empire Russia (until 1917) Serbia Montenegro Belgium Japan Italy (1915-18) Portugal (1915-18) Romania (1915-18) Hejaz (1915-18) United States (1917-18) Greece (1917-18) Siam (1917-18) ...and others	<b>Central Powers</b> German Empire Austria-Hungary Ottoman Empire Bulgaria (1915-18) ...and co-belligerents
Commanders and leaders	
<b>Allied leaders</b> Georges Clemenceau Raymond Poincaré H. H. Asquith David Lloyd George Nicholas II Vittorio Orlando Victor Emmanuel III Woodrow Wilson Yoshihito Peter I Ferdinand I ...and others	<b>Central Powers leaders</b> Wilhelm II Franz Joseph I † Karl I Mehmed V † Three Pashas Ferdinand I ...and others
Strength	
12,000,000 8,841,541 <sup>[1][2]</sup> 8,660,000 <sup>[3]</sup> 5,615,140 4,743,826 1,234,000 800,000 707,343 380,000 250,000 50,000 Total: 42,959,850 <sup>[4]</sup>	13,250,000 7,800,000 2,998,321 1,200,000 Total: 25,248,321 <sup>[4]</sup>

Events leading to World War I	
Triple Alliance	1882
Franco-Russian Alliance	1894
Anglo-German naval arms race	1898-1912
Entente Cordiale	1904
Russo-Japanese War	1904-1905
First Moroccan Crisis	1905-1906
Anglo-Russian Entente	1907
Bosnian crisis	1908-1909
Agadir Crisis	1911
Italo-Turkish War	1911-1912
Balkan Wars	1912-1913
Assassination of Franz Ferdinand	1914
July Crisis	1914



World War I, then in 1914 to 1918 would be the war to end all wars.

One would never know until it was all over with what World War I would do to the world by that time.

The world as we knew it then was guilty of much and yet still innocent of atrocities against of mankind.

Little did we (the world) then, know what World War I would do to generate World War II and in many cases, it has generated a lot of conflicts since then as well.

All because of one thing in the leaders then of the "belligerent countries" and that was PRIDE and POWER.

When you look at the deaths and damage done to every continent on earth, one (those former leaders) would regret what had happened and make it right for the generations that have been lost and those coming up.

## THE GREAT WAR

### THE ONSET OF WAR

On June 28, 1914, Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria-Hungary was assassinated in Sarajevo by Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb nationalist.

### WAR FIRSTS

- chemical warfare
- gas masks
- flamethrowers
- steel helmets
- tank battles
- aerial warfare
- aircraft carrier
- ID tests
- guide dogs
- a blood bank
- women enlisted
- filmed propaganda
- military use of X-rays
- wireless communication

### THE WAR TO END ALL WARS

### TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

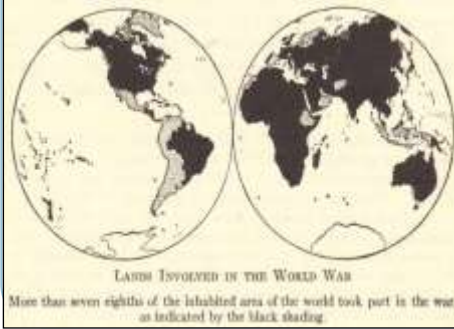
1914	1915	1916	1917	1918
Austrian Archduke Francis Ferdinand assassinated	First Battle of the Marne	Battle of Jutland	Russian Revolution	Russia leaves the war
World War I begins	First use of poison gas by the Germans	Battle of Verdun	United States declares war	Germany signs armistice

### CASUALTIES OF MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED

<b>Russia</b>	<b>France</b>	<b>Romania</b>	<b>Serbia</b>
78%	73%	71%	47%
<b>Italy</b>	<b>British Empire</b>	<b>Belgium</b>	<b>United States</b>
39%	36%	35%	8%
<b>Austria-Hungary</b>	<b>Germany</b>	<b>Turkey</b>	<b>Bulgaria</b>
90%	65%	34%	22%

82% ALLIES, 18% CENTRAL POWERS

### EUROPE BEFORE/AFTER





# The Physical and Spiritual Look of Europe



World War I really engulfed nearly the entire world which has changed “our world today” From the ending of the 19th century (the end of the 1800’s), men and leaders and politics are trying to take what is not theirs and make the other party pay for it whether they were wrong or not.

If you look at the map just above of the world, you’ll see every continent had some involvement in it. Of course it began and ended in Europe which is where World War II would begin as well. But the end of World War I, evolved into World War II because the hate, envy, “I’m going to teach you a lesson thinking”, “pride from the top of their heads to the bottom of their feet”, the desire of power to overthrow whomever they wanted. And why? Because they were “used to having their own way” and pride gets in the way.

**Proverbs 11:2** When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

**Proverbs 16:18** Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

**1 John 2:16** For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.





## Operation Michael

Operation Michael was a First World War German military operation that began the Spring Offensive on 21 March 1918 to April 5 1918. It was launched from the Hindenburg Line, in the vicinity of Saint-Quentin, France. Its goal was to break through the Allied lines and advance in a north-west direction and seize the Channel ports which supplied the British Expeditionary Force (BEF) and drive the BEF into the sea. Just two days into the operation, Ludendorff changed his plan, and pushed for an offensive due west along the whole of the British front north of the Somme. This was designed to separate the French and British Armies and crush the British forces by pushing them into the sea. The offensive ended at Villers-Bretonneux, a little to the east of the key Allied communications center of Amiens, where the Entente managed to halt the German advance. The German advance stalled largely through very heavy casualties, an inability to maintain supplies to the advancing troops and the arrival of Entente reserves. Since much of the territory involved consisted of the shell-torn wilderness left by the 1916 Battle of the Somme it was known to some as the 1918 Battle of the Somme, and to the French as the Second Battle of Picardy (French: 2ème Bataille de Picardie). The German armies involved were the Seventeenth Army under Otto von Below, the Second Army under Georg von der Marwitz and the Eighteenth Army under Oskar von Hutier, with a Corps (Gruppe Gayl) from the Seventh Army supporting Hutier's attack. Although the British had learned the approximate time and location of the offensive, the weight of the attack and of the preliminary bombardment was an unpleasant surprise. The Germans were also fortunate in that the morning of the attack was foggy, allowing the storm-troopers leading the attack to penetrate deep into the British positions undetected. By the end of the first day the British had lost nearly 20,000 dead and 35,000 wounded, and the Germans had broken through at several points on the front of the British Fifth Army. After two days Fifth Army was in full retreat. As they fell back, many of the isolated "redoubts" were left to be surrounded and overwhelmed by the following German infantry. The right wing of Third Army became separated from the retreating Fifth Army, and also retreated to avoid being outflanked.

### Erich Ludendorff

Erich Friedrich Wilhelm Ludendorff (9 April 1865 – 20 December 1937) was a German Army officer, victor of Liège, with Paul von Hindenburg. From August 1916 his appointment as Generalquartiermeister made him joint head of Germany's war effort. From this point on he ran Germany's war effort in World War I until his resignation in October 1918. After the war, Ludendorff became a prominent nationalist leader, and a promoter of the Stab-in-the-back myth, which posited that the German loss in World War I was caused by the betrayal of the German Army by Marxists, Bolsheviks, and Jews who were furthermore responsible for the disadvantageous settlement negotiated for Germany in the Treaty of Versailles. He took part in the failed Kapp Putsch with Wolfgang Kapp in 1920 and the Beer Hall Putsch of Adolf Hitler in 1923-1925, he ran for the office of President of Germany against his former superior Hindenburg. From 1924-1928, he represented the German Völkisch Freedom Party in the *Reichstag*. Consistently pursuing a purely military line of thought, Ludendorff developed after the war, the theory of "Total War", which he published as *Der totale Krieg* (*The Total War*) in 1935.



General Erich Ludendorff



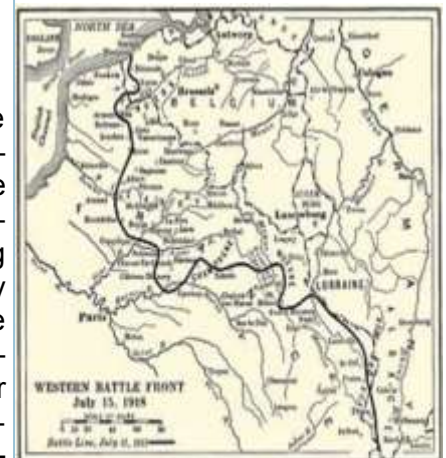
## The Battle of Lys

The Battle of the Lys (also known as the Lys Offensive, the Fourth Battle of Ypres, the Third Battle of Flanders (French: 3ème Bataille des Flanders) and as the Batalha de La Lys in Portugal) was part of the 1918 German offensive in Flanders during the World War I (also known as the Spring Offensive), originally planned by General Ludendorff as Operation George but scaled back to become Operation Georgette, with the objective of capturing Ypres, and forcing the British forces back to the Channel ports (and thereby forcing Britain out of the war). Starting on 9 April 1918, the battle lasted until April 29. The attack was similar in planning, execution and effects, although with smaller dimensions, to the earlier Michael operation, also from the Spring Offensive. The German attack zone was in Flanders, from about 10 kilometers (6.2 mi) east of Ypres in Belgium to 10 kilometers (6.2 mi) east of Béthune in France, about 40 kilometers (25 mi) south. The front line ran from north-north-east to south-south-west. The Lys River, running from south-west to north-east, crossed the front near Armentières in the middle of this zone. The front was held by the Belgian Army in the far north, by the British Second Army, the north and center by the British First Army.



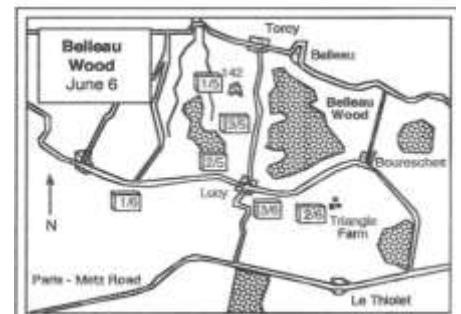
## Third Battle Of The Aisne

The Third Battle of the Aisne (French: 3e Bataille de L'Aisne) was a battle of the German Spring Offensive during World War I that focused on capturing the Chemin des Dames Ridge before the American Expeditionary Force could arrive completely in France. It was one of a series of desperate offensives, known as the Kaiserschlacht, launched by the Germans in the spring and summer of 1918. The American Buffalo Soldiers of the 92nd Infantry Division (United States) and the 93rd Infantry Division (United States) were the first Americans to fight in France, albeit detached from the AEF and under French command. The 92nd & 93rd would continue to fight under French command for the duration of the war. The crisis led to the appointment of Ferdinand Foch as Allied Generalissimo, initially with powers to coordinate and deploy Allied reserves where he saw fit. The third offensive, "Blücher" in May 1918, saw major German advances on the Aisne, as the French Army Commander (Humbert) had ignored Pétain's instructions to defend in depth, and had his men to be hit by the German bombardment.



## The Battle Of Belleau Wood

The Battle of Belleau Wood in the country of France dated from 1 June 1918 to 26 June 1918 occurred during the German 1918 Spring Offensive in World War I, near the Marne River in France. The battle was fought between the U.S. Second (under the command of Major General Omar Bundy) and Third Divisions and an assortment of German units including elements from the 237th, 10th, 197th, 87th, and 28th Divisions. In 1917, he assumed command of the 1st Brigade, 1st Expeditionary Division, and in June he sailed for France. As a division and corps commander during World War I, he participated in the occupation of the Toulon and Troyon Sectors near Saint-Mihiel, served in the Aisne-Marne operations, and took part in the occupations of Château-Thierry. Following the war, he commanded Fort Lee, Virginia, the 7th Corps Area, the Philippine Division, and the 5th Corps. This particular battle has become the lore for the U.S.M.C.



## First Over There

On the foggy morning of June 14, 1917, 12 steel-gray transports filled with four regiments of American soldiers weighed anchor at their berth in Hoboken, N.J., and sailed for France. It had been 69 days since the United States entered the world war, answering President Woodrow Wilson's call to make the world "safe for democracy." In the weeks since the April 6th War Declaration, British and French delegations had come to personally ask Wilson for an immediate U.S. presence on the front, and these dozen transports carried Wilson's direct answer: America's first combat troops to voyage "over there." The transports were escorted by destroyers for a two-week voyage across the U-boat patrolled Atlantic. They carried the U.S. First Expeditionary Division, composed of four infantry regiments hand-picked by the newly promoted commander of the American Expeditionary Forces, Gen. John Pershing. While a national draft was still being debated by lawmakers, the ranks of this first contingent were Regular Army – veterans of the recent "punitive expedition" for Pancho Villa in Mexico, a few who had fought in the Philippines against the Moro rebels, and a handful who had seen combat in the Spanish-American War. Augmented by a few thousand young men who had flooded enlistment offices in the previous two months, the division infantry numbered than 12,000 soldiers – "doughboys," as they were affectionately called – and represented the 48 states.

The transports berthed at Saint-Nazaire, France, and the troops disembarked. Pershing, who with his staff had arrived two weeks before, was present to greet them. The second soldier down the gangplanks, following the division commander, was the newly appointed division operations officer, 36-year-old Capt. George C. Marshall. The man who would one day lead the U.S. Army through a second world war saluted and shook hands with the man who was about to lead the AEF through the first. And as the troops formed up on the waterfront, the First Expeditionary Division – soon to earn the title the "Fighting First" and destined to be called the "Big Red One" – stood as one for the first time. Of the more than 2 million men the United States would send to Europe before the war's end, these were the first, and their division became the first face of American military might on the global stage.

**BY MID-JULY**, as a blindfolded War Secretary Newton Baker pulled the first registration number from a jar in Washington, D.C., to begin the national draft, across the Atlantic the soldiers of the 1st Division began their training on the northern French plains. In dummy trenches and mock-up enemy lines on drill grounds near Gondrecourt, the green American infantry trained under their veteran French counterparts. In addition to sharpening their marksmanship with their own Springfield rifles and Colt .45, doughboys learned how to operate and employ the Hotchkiss machine gun for suppressive and destructive fire, and how to use the Chauchat automatic rifle to provide covering fire. They learned the noise and light discipline required to hold front-line trenches and go on night patrol through no man's land, how to effectively use grenades and how to launch raids on enemy trenches. In late October, the division moved up into front-line trenches near Sommerviller under French command. Three field artillery regiments, which had arrived in August and trained under French gunners on 75 mm and 155 mm guns, joined the four infantry regiments to work for the first time as a combined-arms division. And even though 1st Division soldiers were restricted entirely to defensive action, under orders to not go beyond their own barbed wire, the sector immersed them in the realities of trench life, the frustrating helplessness of riding out occasional artillery bombardments and the ever-present danger of enemy snipers.

With lines unmoved since being originally clawed out in the fighting of late fall 1914, Sommerviller was a relatively quiet sector. But for the German units holding the lines across no man's land, the propaganda value of inflicting casualties on – or better yet, capturing – American troops proved too great, and in the early morning hours of Nov. 3, 1917, more than 300 German soldiers crossed no man's land behind the cover of an artillery barrage. The attackers swarmed a short stretch of trench held by a single platoon of the 16th Infantry Regiment, capturing 11 and killing three – the first Americans killed in front-line combat in a world war. Eleven more were killed and three dozen wounded by the time the 1st Division left the sector in late November. And while the doughboys of three newly arrived American divisions began their own training, the troops of the 1st – now veterans of the front lines – moved to the rear for more training as their ranks swelled with fresh recruits and draftees.



## First Over There (Cont'd)

**WHILE AMERICA MOBILIZED** and its doughboys trained, the war continued. A costly defeat of the Italian army at Caporetto, and the collapse of the bulk of the fighting on the Eastern Front after Russia withdrew its massive army from the fighting, made Allied prospects bleaker and the urgency of America's role greater. Pershing understood that Allied pleas to split up and amalgamate American units into veteran French and British forces would only increase, and his resistance to such pressure – thus far stubbornly intractable – depended in large part on American success when U.S. soldiers finally entered battle. And of the growing number of American divisions landing and training in France, Pershing knew the first one to enter battle would be the 1st Division. Thus, Pershing made his first command change of the war, replacing the 1st Division commander – whom he considered adequate for training but not fighting – with Maj. Gen. Robert Lee Bullard. Bullard, like Pershing, had spent his career as an infantry officer and was a West Pointer (one class ahead of Pershing), but there their similarities ended. Pershing was a stern Midwesterner, known for his fondness of regimented uniformity and distant formality with subordinates. Bullard was a folksy Southerner who sanded off the edges of his words and was known to appear in the front lines with his soldiers to personally ensure their morale was up. Like Pershing had in the Spanish-American War, Bullard had led men in combat in the Philippines, and for all their differences, Pershing was confident Bullard was the man to lead the 1st Division into battle. Bullard wisely kept Marshall – recently promoted to lieutenant colonel – on as division operations officer and shifted a few infantry commanders. And in a move that would carry lasting consequences for the AEF, he brought in Brig. Gen. Charles Summerall as division artillery commander. As a young lieutenant, Summerall had given Bullard's infantry effective gun support in combat in the Philippines. Since then, he had studied the hard-won lessons of the French and British in the role of modern field artillery along the Western Front, and most recently earned renown – and stepped on a few toes – urging Pershing and the AEF to update its tactical doctrine to elevate the role of artillery, in line with Allied gunnery advances over the past three years of fighting. With his team assembled, Bullard moved the division back into the front lines in the midst of the bitter cold January of northern France, this time near Seicheprey, an active, deadly sector south of Verdun. Doughboys took over muddy trench lines just as the weather began to thaw and entered a harsh schooling under fire. Enemy artillery barrages were frequent, mustard gas attacks daily and casualties high. Bullard ordered his men to respond, to “be active all over no man's land.” It was here the division earned its name “Fighting First,” as patrols went out to probe German positions almost nightly, Summerall's artillery kept enemy batteries and trenches under constant fire, and raids on enemy lines captured German prisoners. Spring broke, and over 100 miles up the Western Front from the 1st Division's sector, the German army struck. Sixty-four divisions – many recently transferred from the Eastern Front – attacked the British army in the Somme Valley, an offensive aimed at knocking the Allies out of the war before the Americans could arrive in force. Within a week, German troops captured more than 90,000 Allied troops and in some places advanced 40 miles, shocking success on a front thus far frozen in three years of strategic rigor mortis. In the face of this great crisis, Pershing offered the supreme Allied commander, French Gen. Ferdinand Foch, any military help America could give: “Infantry, artillery, aviation, all we have is yours.” Touched, Foch asked that a U.S. division take over the lines at the point the Germans had pushed furthest west, a small hilltop farming village named Cantigny, and Pershing sent the Fighting First. As Bullard's soldiers entered the lines facing Cantigny, the town's stone buildings, deep cellars and newly dug trenches were thick with troops of the German 18th Army. If the fate of topography can spell fortune or doom, the town's hilltop position afforded the Germans a dominant – and fortunate – position. One U.S. officer complained, “The Germans could look down our throats.” Artillery shells – shrapnel and mustard gas – fell into the new American lines almost hourly, enemy snipers took aim at any movement visible above the trench-tops, and casualties mounted. Summerall unleashed his artillery on German lines and known gun positions, but Bullard wanted to take a turn no U.S. troops had yet taken in the war: go on offense. The objective, approved by Pershing, was simple and limited: take Cantigny and hold it against inevitable counterattacks. Bullard directed his able operations officer, now Lt. Col. George Marshall, to construct the plan. Marshall sent word to the front-line infantry to send out patrols for enemy intelligence, and nightly, dozen-man teams quietly crawled into the dark of no man's land, cut barbed wire, and went into, and in many cases beyond, enemy trenches. They brought back locations of every machine-gun nest, ammo dump, command post, outpost, dugout, all of which Marshall and his team plotted on their map.

## First Over There (Cont'd)

**AT 5:45 A.M.**, the world erupted as 386 guns hurled high-explosive shells at German positions in and around Cantigny. Each gun crew fired at its assigned target – an enemy gun pit, an enemy machine-gun post, a brick home here, a stone barn there – all into a space smaller than a square mile. The explosions were massive, the noise deafening, and by the end of the hour the village was nearly completely leveled. At 6:45 a.m. – “zero hour” – the artillery fired a barrage wall out in no man’s land, platoon leaders stepped up on trench parapets and blew their whistles, and the infantry went “over the top” and toward the barrage in three waves. Every two minutes, the barrage leapt forward 100 meters forward, and the men followed, tanks chugging forward among them.

In the center around the village itself, there was little resistance, as doughboys walked through piles of stone and jumbles of timber all concealing Germans either trapped or buried alive. Tanks pounded strongpoints, flamethrower crews cleared out all deep cellars, and over 250 of the enemy, stunned and shell-shocked, were taken prisoner. But on the north and south, where the bombardment did not hit German lines, resistance was stiff and casualties high, most at the mercy of well-positioned German machine-gun crews. But the doughboys fought forward and by 7:25 a.m., they had taken nearly every objective. Just as soldiers halted, dropped their packs and began to dig new lines on the east side of the village – in most cases in open fields – the heavy French gun batteries which had helped fire the bombardment and supported the barrage abruptly ceased fire, exited the battlefield and headed south to strengthen Allied defenses where the German army had renewed its offensive. German artillery – no longer under counterbattery fire by the long-range French guns – opened up, and the khaki-clad doughboys lit by the morning sun in open fields made easy targets.

Soldiers of the 1st Division clawed for cover with everything they had: shovels, helmets, even mess tins. In many cases, they leaped into newly blasted shell craters. The high-explosive onslaught only ceased long enough for German infantry – reserve and rest units that regathered in the woods facing the new American positions – to counterattack. The Germans attacked the first hour, they attacked again at noon, and they attacked again at 5 p.m. Each time, 1st Division troops fought them back with rifle and automatic-rifle fire. Between each attack, German artillery pummeled the fresh American lines, and each doughboy could do nothing but hug his patch of dirt and hope the next blast was not his. After dark, 1st Division soldiers buried their dead, and used the cover of darkness to dig their lines deeper to strengthen their defenses for the next onslaught. The second day the Germans counterattacked again, and again that afternoon, and again that night. German artillery kept the fields between Cantigny and the former American lines under constant fire, making medical evacuations perilous and resupply impossible. By the third morning, the doughboys had exhausted their rations and water and were desperately low on ammunition. The Germans launched one final counterattack, and 1st Division soldiers – many at the end of their physical and mental tether – repulsed the enemy once again. By that afternoon, Bullard ordered their relief. After dark, soldiers of the 16th Infantry Regiment went forward and relieved the men of the 28th, who staggered back across the former no man’s land and to the rear for well-earned rest.

There was no flag-raising or grand finale, but the battle’s outcome was unmistakable: the Americans had captured their objective and held it. Pershing effused that the victory had “an electrical effect” on the Allies, and Marshall said it “demonstrated conclusively the fighting qualities of the American soldier.” Of the 1st Division, the French Corps commander declared, “You, Sons of America, we are happy to call ‘The Men of Cantigny,’” and soldiers of the 28th Infantry Regiment would forever be named “The Black Lions” after the region’s coat of arms. Across the Atlantic, newspapers coast to coast carried triumphant headlines: “Americans Take Town Alone” and “Yankees Yell As They Take Cantigny.” It was followed by more American victories, each of increasingly greater consequence to the Allied cause: a brave stand by soldiers at Château-Thierry and Marines at Belleau Wood; American divisions fighting with the French and British in a pivotal victory at Soissons; the first all-American offensive victory at Saint-Mihiel; and the greatest Allied victory of the war – and still the largest American battle ever fought – the Meuse-Argonne, which led finally to the Nov. 11th Armistice.



## Communism Enters The World

The beginning of 1917 saw troops in the Russian ranks expressing many of the same complaints offered by the French later that year. In the rear, the Russian economy had reached a full war footing, but the boom that resulted brought about rapid inflation and led to the break down of the economy and infrastructure. As food supplies in Petrograd dwindled, unrest increased leading to mass demonstrations and a revolt by the Tsar's Guards. At his headquarters in Mogilev, Tsar Nicholas II was initially unconcerned by events in the capital. Beginning on March 8, the February Revolution (Russia still used the Julian calendar) saw the rise of a Provisional Government in Petrograd. Ultimately convinced to abdicate, he stepped down on March 15 and nominated his brother Grand Duke Michael to succeed him. This offer was refused and the Provisional Government took power.

Willing to continue the war, this government, in conjunction with the local Soviets, soon appointed Alexander Kerensky Minister of War. Naming General Aleksei Brusilov Chief of Staff, Kerensky worked to restore the spirit of the army. On June 18, the "Kerensky Offensive" began with Russian troops striking the Austrians with the goal of reaching Lemberg. For the first two days, the Russians advanced before the lead units, believing they had done their part, halted. Reserve units refused to move forward to take their place and mass desertions began. As the Provisional Government faltered at the front, it came under attack from the rear from returning extremists such as Vladimir Lenin.

Aided by the Germans, Lenin had arrived back in Russia on April 3. Lenin immediately began speaking at Bolshevik meetings and preaching a program of non-cooperation with the Provisional Government, nationalization, and an end to the war. As the Russian army began to melt away at the front, the Germans took advantage and conducted offensive operations in the north which culminated in the capture of Riga. Becoming prime minister in July, Kerensky sacked Brusilov and replaced him with anti-German General Lavr Kornilov. On August 25, Kornilov ordered troops to occupy Petrograd and disperse the Soviet. Calling for military reforms, including the abolition of Soldiers' Soviets and political regiments, Kornilov grew in popularity with Russian moderates. Ultimately maneuvered into attempting a coup, he was removed after its failure. With Kornilov's defeat, Kerensky and the Provisional Government effectively lost their power as Lenin and the Bolsheviks were in the ascent. On November 7, the October Revolution began which saw the Bolsheviks seize power. Taking control, Lenin formed a new government and immediately called for a three-month armistice.

## One Minute Before The Armistice



The last soldier killed in WWI died one minute before the war ended. **Sergeant Henry Gunther** was actually a private the day he charged a German machine gun nest for the last time in World War I. He had just been busted down in rank for criticizing the war in a letter he wrote home, and he wasn't happy about it. Luckily for millions of other soldiers and civilians in Europe, everyone knew the Armistice would come into effect on the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918. Gunther and his unit came across a German position north of Verdun on Nov. 11, 1918. As they took cover from the machine guns, they received word that the war would be over in less than an hour. That's when Sgt. Gunther charged the position with a fixed bayonet. The Germans fired a number of warning shots and tried to yell at

Gunther – in English – to stop. But Gunter wasn't the only troop to die in that last hour of World War I. Some 3,000 men died in that short time. Even though so many others died around the same time, the commander of the American Expeditionary Force General John J. Pershing declared that Gunther would be known as the last man killed in action in the war. Sergeant Henry Gunther was engaged before the war started and just secured a job as a bookkeeper in the Baltimore area before he was drafted in 1917. After his death was recorded at 10:59, his fellow troops moved his body and buried him near where his company was posted. His remains were moved to the United States in 1923.

## The Ending of WW I and “The Beginning of WW II”



In 1919, a defeated Germany was presented with the peace terms by the victorious powers of World War I. Germany hadn't been invited to negotiate the process at all and was presented with a stark choice: sign, or be invaded. Perhaps inevitably given the previous years of mass bloodshed German leaders did, and the result was the Treaty of Versailles. But from the very start, the terms of Versailles caused anger, even hate, sometimes revulsion in parts of German society. Versailles was called a 'diktat', a "dictated peace". The map of German Empire from 1914 was split up, the military carved to the bone, and huge reparations had to be paid. It was a treaty which caused turmoil in the new and highly troubled German republic. But born of the German Revolution, Weimar survived and lasted into the thirties. Versailles was criticized at the time by voices from among the victors, including economists like Keynes. Some claimed all Versailles did was delay a resumption of the war for a couple of decades, and when Hitler rose to power in the thirties and started a second World War, these predictions seemed prescient.

Indeed, in the years after the war, many historians and commentators pointed to the Treaty of Versailles as making war, if not inevitable, then being the key enabling factor. Versailles was damned. Later generations have revised this, and it's possible to find Versailles being praised, and the connection between the treaty and the Nazis being reduced, even largely severed. Yet Stresemann, the best-regarded politician of the Weimar era, was constantly trying to counter the terms of the treaty and restore German power. There are key areas connected with the Treaty which can be argued contributed to the rise of Hitler.



The collapse of the German economy is truly what got Adolph Hitler into the politics of running the country. But things for him really did not start until 1933, although he was semi-instrumental in the previous war. A massive economic depression struck the world, including Germany, in the late 1920's and early 1930's. Hitler did promise a way out, and a disaffected populace turned in large part to him. The powers of victory in World War One had spent a lot of money, and they wanted payback financially. The ruined continental landscape and economy also had to be rebuilt. The result was also France and Britain in facing bills as well. Politicians wanted to have Germany pay. Versailles Treaty stated payments of a sum to be assessed later on. The published amount was 132,000 million gold marks. It was a sum which caused desperation in Germany, a French occupation of German land,

hyperinflation, and an eventual deal which would allow everyone to survive. But just as Britain trying to make the American colonists pay for war backfired. It wasn't the cost of the sums going out of Germany which proved the problem, and reparations had been all but neutralized after Lausanne in 1932. The American economy was going fine until 1929 and Wall Street Crash, Germany's economy was ruined as well.

Hitler found himself investigating the German Workers Party, which had been founded by Anton Drexler on a mixture of ideology which still confuses to this day. It was not, as Hitler then and many now assume, part of the left wing of German politics, but a nationalist, anti-Semitic organization which also included anti-capitalistic ideas such as workers' rights. In one of those fateful decisions Hitler joined the party he was meant to be spying on and discovered a talent for speaking which allowed him to dominate the admittedly small group. Hitler wrote a Drexler a 25 Point program of demands, and it was pushed through, in 1920, a change of name: the National Socialist German Workers Party or Nazi. There were socialist-leaning people in the party at this point, and the Points did include socialist ideas, such as nationalizations. Hitler had little interest in these and kept them to secure party unity while he was challenging for power. World War II would commence internally within Germany and officially start on September 1, 1939 and last until September 1945.





## The Legacy of World War I



World War I took the lives of more than 9 million soldiers; 21 million more were wounded. Civilian casualties caused indirectly by the war numbered close to 10 million. The two nations most affected were Germany and France, each of which sent some 80 percent of their male populations between the ages of 15 and 49 into battle.

The political disruption surrounding World War I also contributed to the fall of four venerable imperial dynasties—Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia and Turkey. In addition, it affected the countries of Great Britain, France and the United States, not to mention scores of others not mentioned here or possibly even knowing of them.

World War I brought about massive social upheaval, as millions of women entered the workforce to support men who went to war, and to replace those who never came back. The first global war also helped to spread one of the world's deadliest global pandemics, the flu epidemic of 1918, which killed an estimated 20 to 50 million people. World War I has also been referred to as "the first modern war." Many of the technologies we now associate with military conflict—machine guns, tanks, aerial combat and radio communications—were introduced on a large scale during World War I.

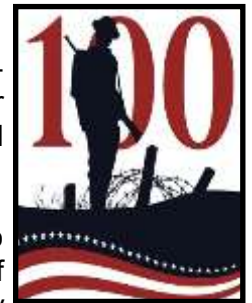
The severe effects that chemical weapons such as mustard gas and phosgene had on soldiers and civilians during World War I galvanized public and military attitudes against their continued use. The Geneva Protocol, signed in 1925, restricted the use of chemical and biological agents in warfare, and remains in effect today.

It changed the entire world forever and the beginning of the word MISTRUST came into being. And it has continued unto today, 2018. People have been changed as a result of World War I as it was the worst war in history by that time. The general public of every country in the world were changed forever when it came to losing their brother, father or other close relative. Leaders changed their thinking by that time in knowing "*how to act with other leaders*". At least four to five generations were destroyed and what God would have wanted to have happened did not as a result of what pride and power has done to men's hearts. Looking at the various articles in this newsletters can provide information and the thinking that mankind has a long way to go to catch up with "*what they are supposed to do*" when it comes to following God's will.

The war destroyed Kings, Kaisers, Czars and Sultans; it demolished empires; it introduced chemical weapons, tanks and airborne bombing; it brought millions of women into the work force, hastening their legal right to vote. It gave independence to nations like Ukraine, Poland and the Baltic countries and created new nations in the Middle East with often arbitrary borders; it brought about major cultural changes, including a new understanding of the psychology of war, of "shell shock" and post-traumatic stress. The end of the Cold War was in a sense a return to the end of World War I, restoring sovereignty to the countries of Eastern Europe, one reason they are so eager to defend it now.



The poppy is one of the most obvious inheritances of the Great War — made famous in the 1915 poem by a Canadian military doctor, Lt. Col. John McCrae: "In Flanders fields, the poppies blow, between the crosses row on row, that mark our place." The short poem was written as a eulogy and a call to solidarity from the dead to the living, that they not "break faith with us who die." Not far away is the tiny Flanders Field American Cemetery and Memorial, an exquisitely kept six acres containing only 368 graves, including 21 unknown, while the names of 43 more, missing in action, are carved on the walls of a small chapel.



# Patriotism Is Throughout America



The Great War has finally ended at quite a loss of life and change to its people. The world has dramatically changed. America became quite patriotic as a result. "Everyone did their bit" as they say. But, it cost the country a lot. The "Axis" was put throughout quite a lot as a result because the "Allies" wanted to teach them a lesson in all of this hoping they would not forget it. The military and civilians pulled together to "stop the enemy" from doing more harm and they did. Countries that usually have little or nothing to do with one another became quick friends and their relationship grew over time. This, hopefully would be the last of the



As a result of World War I, a lot of "new technology" (a new word for the early 1900's), came into being. The United States as well as other countries had a lot of change into their system. People would have new thinking and advanced processes would come into place. America had to open its eyes with its new development and progression and innovation that would take it to the next level. The 1920's brought a new way of life to the USA. We just brought into the fold the last two new states (Arizona and New Mexico in 1912) and loyalty and nationalism would become a new sign of inventiveness, freshness would engulf the country for several years before the Great Depression would consume the world.



America was on a new high. God took care of our of country. The "world of Industrialism and Modernism" was beginning to show its ugly head, for the next two decades we didn't learn our lesson and today, we still have not. "War and Pride" are a big part of the lives nearly everyone that desire it





## The 100th Anniversary Mark of World War I—1918-2018



This year marks the 100th anniversary when the United States entered World War I on April 6, 1917. On this Bastille Day, Friday, July 14, the French people will honor our continuing commitment as trusted allies by inviting the United States military to lead the traditional military parade. Nearly 200 American service members will march along the Champs-Elysees in commemoration of the U.S. entry into “the Great War.”

The Veterans Administration (VA) is a proud participant in the United States World War I Centennial Commission tribute to our past Veterans. Nearly five million men and women served in WWI with 116,516 giving their lives in the line of duty. More than 320,000 were injured in service to our nation. Frank Buckles, the last surviving American Veteran died in 2011. We should never forget these dedicated service members whose commitment in a new kind of warfare forever changed the world. World affairs, military technology and geopolitical maps formed during the war from 1914 – 1918 remain today.

Across our country, efforts are underway to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Great War’s ending on Nov. 11, 2018. Several partners with the World War I Centennial Commission, are supporting initiatives to honor those who served, help educate our citizens about the war and its consequences, and to commemorate through public programs our noble mission to support Veterans, their families and their survivors.

In Fall of 2017, a ground breaking ceremony is planned in Pershing Park in Washington, D.C. A new memorial plan has been approved and construction of a new National World War I Memorial will get underway. In the meantime, Veterans and VA employees are encouraged to support local community initiatives to honor our World War I Veterans legacy. In fact, most state governments are commemorative partners and are leading efforts in local and regional areas to restore monuments, host historical and educational forums and conduct fund-raising for the national monument.



The Commission’s goal is to create a dynamic urban space and, more importantly, a timeless memorial that will duly honor the service of America’s World War I veterans while inspiring Americans today and tomorrow to better understand this profound event in our nation’s history. The vision of this World War I park is to be at the same time, the Memorial – located on “America’s Main Street,” one block from the White House – will be at the confluence of vehicular and pedestrian circulation patterns, as well as commercial and institutional activities, and will continue to serve as a commemorative space, as the front door to adjacent uses, and as a park.

World War I was one hundred years ago, and not many of us alive can say we know something about it. If you are a World War II, Korea or Vietnam, then you likely knew your grandfather which was in the Great War of 1914-1918. However, if you did not know him or her, then we need to find out and support them from that war to our children and grandchildren and great-grand children as they will not know anything about it and it is important that they do. If you are a Vietnam Veteran, make it a point to talk to your children and entire family about what your grandfather did in World War I as throughout this set of articles in this newsletter will be mentioning from time to time about your entire family and especially what they did during the Great War (or World War I). For, what is set in motion today is a direct result of what happened back one hundred years ago. Do not let this opportunity escape you, for one day too, you will be in the “history book of America’s 2nd longest war.” Time is of the essence, do not waste it or lose it, because it goes by too fast for us.

# Provide a Memory for Those World War I Veterans



**WORLD WAR I**

DR. LESTER O JOE RALPH JTT. JAMES JTT. L. H. ERMANN, ELMER RIGBY, GEORGE SON, ANDREW STOT, WILLIAM LASSEN, SOREN O ERSON, CARL ERSON, CHRIS ERSON, FRED ERSON, HERMAN ERSON, VIGO ERSON, EDWIN	DAHL, GERHARD DANK, GEORGE DAVID, FRANK DORNEN, RUSSELL EDWARDS, FRANK EICHENS, FRANK EEN, JOSEPH EMBERS, AXEL EMERIG, JOHN ENGLISH, ROY ERICKSON, GEORGE FARJNE, ELMER FENSKA, WALTER O FOUJE, OSCAR FLANDERS, MARK FOUL, FLESTON	RANSTRUP, PETER RAPELL, CECIL O RUELLEN, EARL RUELLEN, EDWARD ALAN, I. W. ROUSIER, OTTO ROUSIER, ANTON ROEM, EDWIN RUMERT, FRED RYDGE, JOHN LAMAR, WILLIAM LARSON, EDWIN LARSON, WALTER LEWIS, CLARENCE LERICK, EDWARD I LEE, GUST HAROLD, FRANK HANSEN, HENRY	PETERSEN, WALTER PHILIP, CLARENCE PHILIP, LEWIS PHEL, RICH PHEL, JOHN PLATT, GEORGE PORTER, CLAUDE RABBIT, GUSTAV RANDEL, HARRY RANK, CARL RANTON, ROBERT RICHARDSON, HAROLD RICHTEL, ROBERT ROLLER, T. I. RORSTAD, SAM RUEL, GARRET RUDOLPH, DA RUTHERFORD, ROBERT RYAN, LAWRENCE
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## A Generation Worth Celebrating

They called it the **Great War**. It was the bloodiest conflict the world had ever seen – no small feat – and by April 1917, millions were dead or wounded, and much of Europe was in ruins.

For more than two years the United States had sought to stay neutral, but Germany's repeated aggressions demanded action. Americans understood that if the world was to be made "safe for democracy," as President Woodrow Wilson declared, they must fight.

More than 4,700,000 people were mobilized, half of whom served overseas. That was a huge commitment for the United States, whose military was decades away from the height of its power. But when the guns at last fell silent, the world could not deny America's doggedness in battle and willingness to share in the sacrifice for freedom. Across France and Belgium, thousands of gravestones testify to that sacrifice.

The "war to end all wars" was, of course, no such thing, and its horrors were soon eclipsed by an even bloodier, costlier conflict. World War II is fresher in our collective memory, partly because we still have nearly one million of its participants among us. But the First World War deserves far more attention than it receives in our classrooms and national remembrances. Its centenary is an opportunity to elevate its story in the context of our American journey and a challenge to do better by those who died fighting for the freedom of others, thousands of whom are honored namesakes.

The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission is raising awareness through channels about the personalities, places and effects of the Great War. Working with the Library of Congress, the National Archives and others, it has built an incredible online resource center for educators, ready for use. Among key initiatives is the creation of a long-awaited National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park in Washington, D.C. Plans call for starting construction in Winter of 2017, and a dedication on Nov. 11, 1918.

There's also 100 American Cities and 100 Memorials, a project of the commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library to encourage restoration and maintenance of World War I monuments nationwide.

Those of us who serve or have served in the military owe a debt to our Great War predecessors. They broke the dawn of air and undersea combat. They pioneered military technology that we take for granted today. More, they recognized that the struggle to stay free isn't just an American one, but a human one. The men and women who went to war 100 years ago founded fraternal organizations that help preserve the bonds of service and to support their fellow veterans and their communities. In uniform and out, and we benefit from the World War I legacy every single day. **It is a generation worth celebrating, now and forever.**

They were a people whom you and I could rely on and they were always there for us. I am speaking of our grandparents who were apart of the World War I era. They were a people whom you knew, whom were honest, whom were you might say of the Victorian Age. People that were honest and forthright.

These were a people who built the country that we live at the start of the Industrial Revolution. And it has continued for these several decades and in some cases it is still going on even in the 21st Century although under a different name.

They were magnifiers of things to come such new phases of combat. They also began the Information Technology revolution which still exists today in 2018. The medicines of yesteryear in the early 1900's played a huge role now available to us in the 2000's. These are a people whom I wish were still around today for they have always in there for us and in our hearts and minds, they'll always be there for us. Let us seriously consider telling our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren about our Grandparents and let them how great they were and what they did as they served or did something tremendous during the Great War in 1917. If you have photos and information about your grandparents or even earlier than that, create a book of memories for your children, grand-children and great grandchildren, they will enjoy it.

## We Need To Pass This On



Those of us in our late 60's and 70's are old enough to have known our grandparents and we should thank them for their insight into us becoming who we are. Throughout this article on World War I, it has been mentioned about that generation and who they were and what they did to pass onto the next generation of their children becoming "**THE GREATEST GENERATION**". There is a lot to be said for the generation of those born in the late 1800's that have become special people in our lives. Just think back of what they did for you. In some cases, they raised you, they babysat you, they may have paid for college, but most all of them set a great, superb example for you to become who you are. Likely most of you reading this is of the Great Generation and you should acknowledge that especially to your children and grandchildren and spell it out for them.



Those born prior to World War I, would have likely served in that Great War as it changed the world a lot. It turned us into different people than what we were and changed our culture, but they (back then) were a people that kept their heads about them and their traditions and still set their examples for us who were born in the mid-1940's. That is an important trait for all of us "*still born in the Greatest Generation*". We need to keep our heads about us and pass onto our families (those two or three generations that are after us), the "things that they need to know" such as remembering who their great-great



grandparents were. What they meant to you. How they were in their day. The difference they made in our lives in the 1940's and 1950's. It is our responsibility to pass onto our families the important things of our entire family. Writing a family history would be the best you could do, however, a picture book of "remembrances, words, thoughts, etc." would be a phenomenal gift for your grandchildren.

People in our life come and go all the time whether they be family or not and it is our responsibility to keep those memories and most personal remembrances alive in our life and for those in our family. At a moment without warning, so many in our lives (or not) pass on and especially if they are in our family, we need to provide a sweet celebration of their life into ours. Actually it is really better that we keep in touch with them so "we know who they are" and "they know who we are". People come and go throughout life and so often we don't have a clue of knowing anything about them and that is shame.

You look at these pictures and "they are family to someone". Someone and hopefully, they are and will be remembered by the people in their family and we should do the same. They are the ones that protected America from the Great War. I often think, what if we had lost World War I and World War II?



The man to the left was the last living World War I veteran. He lived from 1901 to 2011. What a life, what a story he must have had to see the world from the beginning of two centuries. And to be a hero is in his own right and relate to a war none of us could've ever known much about. But he did it. The people from West Virginia are very proud of his life and what he did for America along with the millions of others who gave their life desiring to protect this country of ours. They should in fact be truly remembered for always.





## VVAARIZONA.ORG Web Site Statistics

This is a little bit of understanding in what it takes it takes to run a website and I'd like to thank Aaron Possein for doing a superb job. He uses terms such a JavaScript, binary code and other items that are very foreign to us. The website servers are upgraded automatically so any code in web pages that isn't compliant usually won't work. Most of the upgrades deal with security and some others deal with actual display of items. There are a little over 700 pages of code used in the VVA Arizona website that I created, some 60,000 lines of code. Most of the pages are generated through programming. This makes it much easier to make changes, additions, and deletions. About 90% of the changes I can make through a program I wrote that searches for the old code, evaluates it and changes it. It's just that 10% that I have to fix manually. Aaron puts a lot of work into it and we need to thank him for all he has done for many, many years. To you: **THANK YOU**, Aaron. Look at the stats below



**THE "AZ-LZ"**

50th Commemorative Events

Arizona Department of Veterans Affairs

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2017	5,503	9,152	40,363	206,885	5.65 GB
Feb 2017	2,410	3,424	15,385	82,050	2.20 GB
Mar 2017	10,640	19,466	91,771	467,690	11.94 GB
Apr 2017	10,344	18,483	90,366	441,535	10.49 GB
May 2017	10,936	20,736	98,953	480,521	11.19 GB
Jun 2017	11,184	20,539	92,909	441,732	9.45 GB

## Fabian Cornejo and Dave Clark of 975 Receive Awards



## Honoring Two Veterans Administration Personnel



I learned a long time ago, it does not take any effort to **“thank someone”** for what they do for you. Especially when you get to be our age (70’s), we will all eventually need a lot of help and when the Veterans Administration does something nice for you, I think it is imperative that we make the effort to think of them and provide some sort of thank you for them. Yes, it is their job, however, *“we all like to be remembered”* in one fashion or another when we *“help out someone else”*. Dr. Philip Miceli and Kathleen Rath provided great insight in helping veterans and *“placing some kind words on paper”* and *“having kind words come from your mouth”* can be a real blessing for them as they see veterans on a daily basis. The Yuma CBOC has employed these two people for many years and they treat and see people on a daily basis and they provide a “longer life” for the Veterans of World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War and the Global War on Terror (GWOT) on a daily basis.

We know the Veterans’ Administration is not perfect, but they are trying. They will make mistakes, but we all need to be forgiving and understanding and willing to work with them. And keep in mind, not all of us always know what is going on with ourselves to be able to relay it to the VA and the nurses, doctors and so forth. So the next time you are in a CBOC or VA office or the Hospital of the VA, then thank them, buy them a Starbucks drink, just to let them know you appreciate them for all they do for you. I had the opportunity to purchase a Starbucks Pumpkin Coffee for a clerk in the Yuma clinic, after being gone for about 40 minutes, she was surprised that I brought it back for her. It does not take a lot to put a smile on someone’s face, especially when they are taking care of you.



## Yuma's 50th 2017 Commemoration Event

The Arizona State Council, Chapter 835 and the Faith Baptist Church held their first Commemorative Event on 03 November 2017 and about 110 Vietnam Veterans attended.

Col. Wanda Wright, Director of AZ Department of Veterans Services provided a wonderful talk on veterans within Arizona and especially of her grandfather, father and herself serving among the last few wars and to be a Colonel herself says a lot.

Julio Dominguez, Technical Director of Yuma Proving Ground spoke of what YPG tests today and their contribution to the Vietnam War during the 1960's. This extremely informative speech provided a lot of good insight of what the military does for war.

Pastor John Goetsch's talk was on on God Being in Vietnam during those fifteen years when America was in that country. There is always a purpose that God provides when he sends men into combat and to keep the Eastern world free of Communism which He did.

**Welcome Home**

DOWRY

All Vietnam and Vietnam Era Veterans are invited to join the  
Vietnam Veterans of America, Yuma Chapter 835 and the  
Arizona State Council for a  
**Vietnam Veterans Dinner**  
in honor of the  
**50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War**  
**Friday, November 3, 2017**  
**5:30pm to 9:00pm**  
**Faith Baptist Church**  
(Commemorative Partner)  
**1535 S. 8th Avenue**  
**Yuma, AZ 85364**

Visit [http://vvaarizona.org/st\\_events.php](http://vvaarizona.org/st_events.php) to register

If no computer. RSVP NLT October 26th to  
Andy Noriega at 928-580-5190

We had the pleasure of having fifteen (15) youth be our servers and others helping along and honoring the Vietnam Veterans throughout the evening. It was a wonderful time, needless to say and everyone that attended had a great time with listening to what was said and done that was all with respect. For their great help and diversity of being there for the Veterans, they were given a Starbucks gift card for the time spent working to help providing veterans with an Olive Garden meal.



# Yuma's 50th Commemoration Event-2017



Yuma's first 50th Commemorative event was held on behalf of VVA State Council, Chapter 835, 50th Commemoration Program Office, the Arizona Department of Veterans Services and Faith Baptist Church. It was held on 3 November 2017.



## The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration



A 50th Commemorative event is something everyone should do in their lifetime. Yes, a lot of work, but the people that you run across is tremendous. The opportunities to have them come to an event like this is a memorable time for them and you. We wound up meeting a lot of folks we would not normally run across and having the occasion to make a difference in their lives and possibly yours. A nice dinner, celebration, honoring, remembrance of what Vietnam was in a "GOOD WAY", a challenge coin, making new friends, passing it on to your neighbors and family and keeping it stuck in the front of you heart. Most of all, having that loved one with you as she sees it first hand.



## Yuma's 50th Commemoration Guest Speakers



Arizona Department of Veterans' Services Director Wanda Wright is the third generation of her family to serve in the U.S. military. She has three decades of military experience. As a 1985 United States Air Force Academy graduate, Colonel Wright began her military career as Deputy Budget Officer with the Tactical Air Command at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina with a follow-on assignment to Davis-Monthan AFB as the Budget Officer. Leaving active duty in 1990, Colonel Wright joined the Arizona National Guard. During the next 21 years, she served in various positions including accounting and finance officer, communications officer, executive officer and, finally, as the Director of Staff for the Adjutant General in Phoenix. Among her proudest achievements was to serve as Air Commander of Operation Jump Start from June 2006 – December 2008 during which she commanded more than 4,000 airmen from 52 states and territories on our Southwest border. Colonel Wright holds a B.S. in Management from the U.S. Air Force Academy, a M.B.A. from Webster University in South Carolina, a M.P.A. from the University of Arizona and is completing her M.A. in Educational Leadership from Arizona State University. Colonel Wright's decorations and awards include the Legion of Merit, the Meritorious Service Medal with oak leaf cluster and the Air Force Commendation Medal.



When I, (John Goetsch) was 14 years old and I had just come home from church with my family when my father asked the family to sit with him in the living room. He proceeded to explain that our country had declared war on Iraq for invading Kuwait and that we needed to pray for the men and women who were putting their lives in great danger to defend freedom. We stayed up rather late that night and sat and by the radio, listening to the news reports. I will never forget those sounds of war that evening as, for the first time in my life, war became reality. Since that night twenty-six years ago, I have retained an authentic sense of gratitude for those who have defended my freedom. I have thought many times that it never seems to enough to simply say "thank you." Surely there must be more that I can do. Now these many years later as a father of five children and as the Pastor of Faith Baptist Church in Yuma, Arizona, God has given me the opportunity and the sense of responsibility to do more. For the last nine years our church family has held a Veterans Appreciation Sunday on the first weekend of November. It has been our opportunity to express our deep gratitude to those who have served this great nation in the armed forces. What a privilege it has been to host hundreds of veterans over the years, and to honor them and recognize them for their service. Every year as I have opportunity to present each veteran with a challenge coin and a handshake I can't help but feel a sense of indebtedness to each one of them for what they have done. I want my children and our church family to never forget that freedom is not free. We enjoy what we have today because someone was willing to pay the price of freedom. In a day where patriotism is getting lost, you will still find it very much alive at Faith Baptist and I pray that you always will, for we have a responsibility to remember, thank, and honor those who have defended this nation. The next time you see a veteran wouldn't you also sense the responsibility to perhaps give a handshake and say "Thank you for serving?"



Mr. Dominguez is currently the Technical Director/Chief Engineer of the Yuma Proving Ground. Prior to selection to this position, he worked in various YPG engineering and technical positions, including Test Project Engineer, Chief of the Munitions Branch, Chief of the Munitions and Weapons Division, Director of Ground Combat Systems, and Technical Director of the Yuma Test Center. In these roles, he worked on and led developmental and production testing of a wide variety of armament and combat support systems, including the majority of artillery, mortar, mine, and vehicle systems fielded to the U.S. Army and U.S. Marine Corps during the past 3 decades. He also led development and improvement of the YPG technical personnel certification, test quality, and safety protocols that support safe, effective, and efficient testing. Mr. Dominguez enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps immediately upon graduating from high school. During his service, he was trained as an ammunition and explosives specialist and as an artilleryman, and he attained the rank of sergeant. He served in overseas assignments in Okinawa, Japan and in the Republic of the Philippines, and earned parachute wings at the Army airborne school at Ft. Benning, GA. Prior to joining the YPG team in 1985, he worked as an underground miner and mining engineer in New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. His education includes a Bachelor of Science degree in mining engineering from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, a Master of Science degree in gun systems design from the Royal Military College of Science, Cranfield University (in England), and a Master of Science degree in management from Northern Arizona University. He completed a Senior Executive Fellowship at the Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government and a Senior Service College Fellowship at the Institute for Advanced Technology, University of Texas-Austin. Mr. Dominguez has been awarded the Superior Civilian Service Award, the Commander's Award for Civilian Service, the Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, and the Test and Evaluation Command Professional Award. He was inducted into the Ancient Order of St. Barbara by the U.S. Field Artillery Association for his lasting contributions to Army and Marine Corps artillery. His hobbies include woodworking, reading, and helping children learn math and science. He and his wife Cathy, a 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, have four daughters and six grandchildren

# The History of French Indochina



Vietnam became its own country in 1975, but not before the Chinese, the Japanese and the French had their hand in a possible takeover.

From 1848 to 1954, Indochina held its occupation by the French which was a startling time in their life however, they have recouped their country and become one of the most versatile trading partners in the Far East.

You're looking at the front and back pages as well as a middle page of a 20 page 12" x 12" color book of the history of Indochina known also as "**French Indochina**" from 1848 to 2017. It has full color imagery of all of Indochina when France had colonized that part of the world. These books were made up for the special speakers at Yuma's 50th event in November 2017. If anyone is interested in a copy of this book, the cost is \$20.00 including the mailing to you. Email Walt Schumacher at [prov2007@hushmail.com](mailto:prov2007@hushmail.com) if you are interested in having this historical document about Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos and the history of Vietnam from 1848 to the current day. This would be a nice keepsake for you or for your grandchildren who may not know very much about Indochina and your tour in Vietnam.





## Photos of the Yuma 50th Event





## Photos of the Yuma 50th Event



Memories of the 50th Commemorative Dinner in Yuma, Arizona on November 3, 2017 at Faith Baptist Church. Sponsored by the Arizona State Council, Chapter 835 and Faith Baptist Church.



## The Teens That Helped With The Dinner

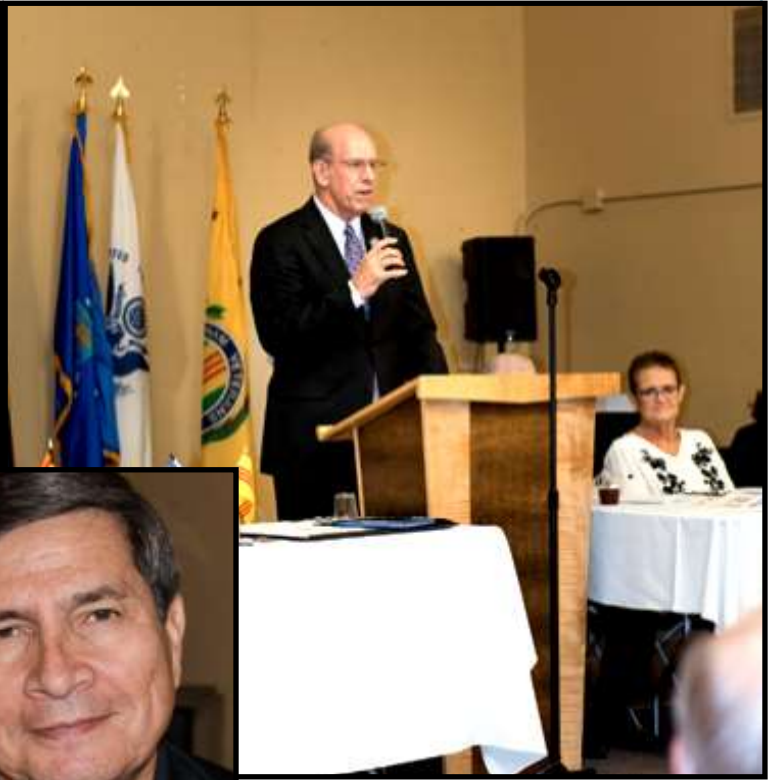


## Helpers Making All of the Difference





## Speakers for Yuma's 50th Event



The speakers for the 50th Event in Yuma. Wanda Wright, Dir, AZDVS, Walt Schumacher, 50th Chairman for Arizona, Julio Dominguez, YPG, Pastor John Goetsch, Faith Baptist Church and Andy Noriega, President of Chapter 835 in Yuma, AZ.



## Photos of the Yuma 50th Event



Guests: Andy & Brenda Noriega President Chapter 835 -Yuma and the Dominguez'.who was one of three guest speakers at the 50th event. Below is the American Legion Post 19 Color Guard who posted and retired the flags for the event. A superb group of folks.



## Honoring and Recognizing Those Vietnam Veterans





## The Families of Those Veterans





## The “Olive Garden” Dinner



Enjoying a wonderful Olive Garden meal of salad, bread sticks, Lasagna and Alfredo Pasta with a superb Italian dessert. And our teens made it all possible.



## A Nice Memory From This 50th Event





## Thanking Wanda Wright



Presenting Wanda Wright, Director of Arizona Veterans Services out of Phoenix, Arizona. She has over 25 years of military service in the US Air Force while her father has nearly 30 years in the Air Force. She has been a blessing to all of Fraternal Organizations throughout Arizona by blessing them with funds to hold an event such as this one. We are indebted to her and shall remember this event for many years to come. We thank you Wanda Wright.

## Thanking Pastor John Goetsch



Honoring and thanking a dear friend, Pastor John Goetsch of Faith Baptist Church who spoke on the Vietnam Veteran and what it means to him as he grew up around the time the war started in 1960. Presenting him with a book on French Indochina and a map of Vietnam that will remind him of those who served.





## Thanking Julio Dominquez



We have so much to thank in Julio Dominquez, the Technical Director of Yuma, Proving Ground, Arizona. He has been out there for 28 years and is retiring in December 2017. Yuma Proving Ground (YPG) has been a huge resource in the Vietnam War during the 1960's and 1970's and still play a monumental role in the defense of our Nation. We thank Julio and the entire YPG crew of over 2,000 personnel for their role in protecting America. They have done a superb job for 75 years.

## Ending The Program With “God Bless America”



We would like to thank April Goetsch (wife of Pastor Goetsch) and their daughters, Katie and Annie (l-to-r) for their great and blessed singing on this evening. Their music was great and loved by everyone present.



## Honoring The Allies of The United States



Two personnel that attended the 50th Event in Yum were honored on behalf of their being born of the two countries that were Allies to America during the Vietnam War.

Helen Maxwell was born in South Korea and is a stout American and full supporter of this country as we (the USA) attempted to get rid of Communism during the fifteen year war.



Ranie Jadromio is a naturalized born person of the Philippine Islands and has made his way over to America and will become a citizen soon.

We appreciate all of the allies that helped America such those below: South Vietnam, Thailand, Australia and New Zealand. It made life easier on the United States during that time.



## Giving The Vietnam Veterans A Coin From Arizona





## Thank you — Wanda Wright



You don't find many people that go out of their way to honor so many people. Well, we have that very one in Wanda Wright who is the Director of Arizona Veterans Services Department for the State of Arizona in Phoenix.

She makes it a point to honor and honor veterans of Vietnam by attending the various 50th Commemorative Events throughout the State of Arizona. She has deliberately selected Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) Arizona as a group of people she could rely on to honor those Vietnam Veterans from the bottom of the state to the top.

With losing over 500 Vietnam Veterans on a daily basis, we have no time to waste in honoring them one last time and allow them to remember that particular event to their last day.

However, it takes ingenuity and faithfulness to provide the funds and expertise to hold these events and make it worthwhile. And we have COL. Wanda Wright (Retired) to do just that. And we so very much thank her for that.



## The Allied Nations of the Vietnam War

The Vietnam War, also known (to Vietnam) as the Second Indochina War was a war that occurred in Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia from 1 November 1960 to the fall of Saigon on 30 April 1975. It was the second of the Indochina Wars by those in Vietnam and was officially fought between North Vietnam and the government of South Vietnam. The North Vietnamese army was supported by the Soviet Union, China and other communist allies and the South Vietnamese army was supported by the United States, South Korea, Australia, Thailand, Philippine Islands, New Zealand and South Vietnam.

The ultimate goal of North Vietnam was the consuming the Southern portion of their country and to finally spread Communism throughout their entire country with the help of China and Russia and as a final point extend it throughout the Eastern part of the World such as all of Southeast Asia (Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand as well as the Philippine Islands, South Korea the islands throughout Oceania and the major countries of Australia and New Zealand.

In the end there were two attempts to have Russia and China “lend a hand” in spreading Communism and that was directly after World War II in 1945 when the world was in chaos and the second time when directly after France left Indochina when they lost the war in Dinh Binh Phu in 1954.

After the French war, South Vietnam quickly and directly appealed to President’s Eisenhower and Kennedy in the 1950’s and 1960’s which is what propagated the Vietnam War which ultimately lasted from 1960 to 1975. Of course, America had to move quickly and did so with over 300,000 men to fight the North Vietnamese and Viet Minh (Viet Cong) enemies for fifteen years.

The joining in of these countries: South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, South Korea and the Philippine Islands prevented that from happening. Once the war of Vietnam was over in 1975, only Vietnam wound up being the only country that turned Communist.

We would like to honor those countries who have a representative from their nations and they are **South Korea and the Philippine Islands**. Both of these nations provided troops, air bases, seaports, supplies and their full backing to overthrow North Vietnam and their ideology. As well, we should also fully honor and thank the nations of **Australia, New Zealand, and Thailand** and of course **South Vietnam** in its attempt to turn all of Vietnam into a capitalistic and free nation.

The end of the war was not exactly the way any of us would have wanted it to end, but fifteen years was a long time and in the 1960-70’s, when “technology was just getting a foothold”, there was too much happening to be that far away and yet so close. Progress was being made and yet when President Nixon resigned from office, the North Vietnamese Army General in charge was getting ready to surrender and upon the political scene in the United States, they saw the opportunity to make one mad dash for South Vietnam and the rest is very much history.





## How Smart Are You When It Comes To Vietnam?

How long was America involved in the Vietnam War?

- 08 years
- 10 years
- 15 years
- 09 years

Which of the following allied countries participated in the Vietnam War?

- America, Korea, Australia, South Vietnam, Fiji
- New Zealand, America, South Vietnam, S. Korea, Australia, Philippine Islands
- United States, Korea, North Vietnam, Canada, Papua New Guinea
- America, Canada, South Vietnam, Turkey

Name all of the military branches that served in Vietnam

- Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, Merchant Marine, Coast Guard
- Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, Coast Guard
- Army, Marines, Air Force, Navy, Merchant Marine
- Army, Marines, Air Force

Name the largest Battleship that fought in the Vietnam War

- USS Iowa
- USS Arizona
- USS New Jersey
- USS Missouri

Who were the President(s) during the Vietnam War?

- Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon
- Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon
- Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford
- Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Reagan

Name the Commanding General's that headed-up the Vietnam Forces

- General MacArthur, General Westmorland
- General Abrams, General Westmorland
- General Patton, General MacArthur
- General Grant, General Abrams

What is the difference between the NVA and the VC?

- They are both from North Vietnam
- They are different peoples from the same country
- The VC were "southerners" and the NVA were "northerners"
- They were the same, but in a different political party

The Viet Cong typically wore "Black Pajamas", why?

- This was their uniform
- It was all they had
- Because they traveled at night
- So they could not be seen

The money of Vietnam was called

- Dollars
- Piaster and Dong
- French Indo-china Francs
- All of the above

The most powerful plane the United States had in Vietnam was the

- B-57 Bomber
- B-52 Bomber
- B-29 Bomber
- B-24 Bomber

Consider this test for your children or grandchildren and see what they know. You might find the results interesting.

## Did You Know This About Vietnam?

- Vietnam produces more concrete than any country within the former Indochina area, all because of the sand under the Saigon and Mekong Delta Rivers.
- Indochina, back in the day, was France's "get-a-way" from it all place to visit and it's quickly becoming that of America, Australia and other Oceania nations.
- The Vietnamese people are known as extraordinary as they make anything out of anything.
- The three red stripes on the South Vietnam flag represent the three regions known as Tonkin, Annam and Cochichina. The yellow color indicates the race of the people
- Because of France's well known international infrastructures, some of Vietnam has a resemblance of Paris France with the two versions of Notre Dame Cathedral, one being in Saigon and the other in Hanoi, not to mention other smaller structures located throughout Vietnam such as the "Parisian Cafés".
- Vietnam has approximately fifteen languages that are spoken in their country today. However, when France owned Vietnam approximately better than 70% of the people could speak French fluently. Today, only less than 1/2% now only speak French.
- Over time, Vietnam has had at least fifteen different flags, some related to European, Asian and African origin.
- The national constitution and declaration of independence documents that were used to proceed to declare Vietnam a free country were facsimiles of America's.
- Several decades ago, because, most "older Vietnamese" did not have pockets on their clothes, when coins were first developed, they drilled a small hole in the middle of it to tie a rope or chain around them to avoid losing their change.
- France was the first country to have their currency be in full color and they passed that trait onto the Vietnamese money as well.
- From after decades of war, Vietnam has made a "come back" to rebuild their country as a result of their friendly relations with much of Southeast Asia, Australia, Oceania and the United States. They are looked upon as a very reliable country when it comes to production of ten major industries.
- The average age today of the Vietnamese is 30½ years old.
- There is more information technology going on in Vietnam today than all of Southeast Asia put together.
- Vietnam has got more "different" fruits and vegetables than most other Southeast Asian countries. They also grow what we called "Stop-light-bananas", because they grow in three different colors as "red", "yellow" and "green".
- The local salary today in Vietnam for what we call a very good job is close to \$500.00 per month.

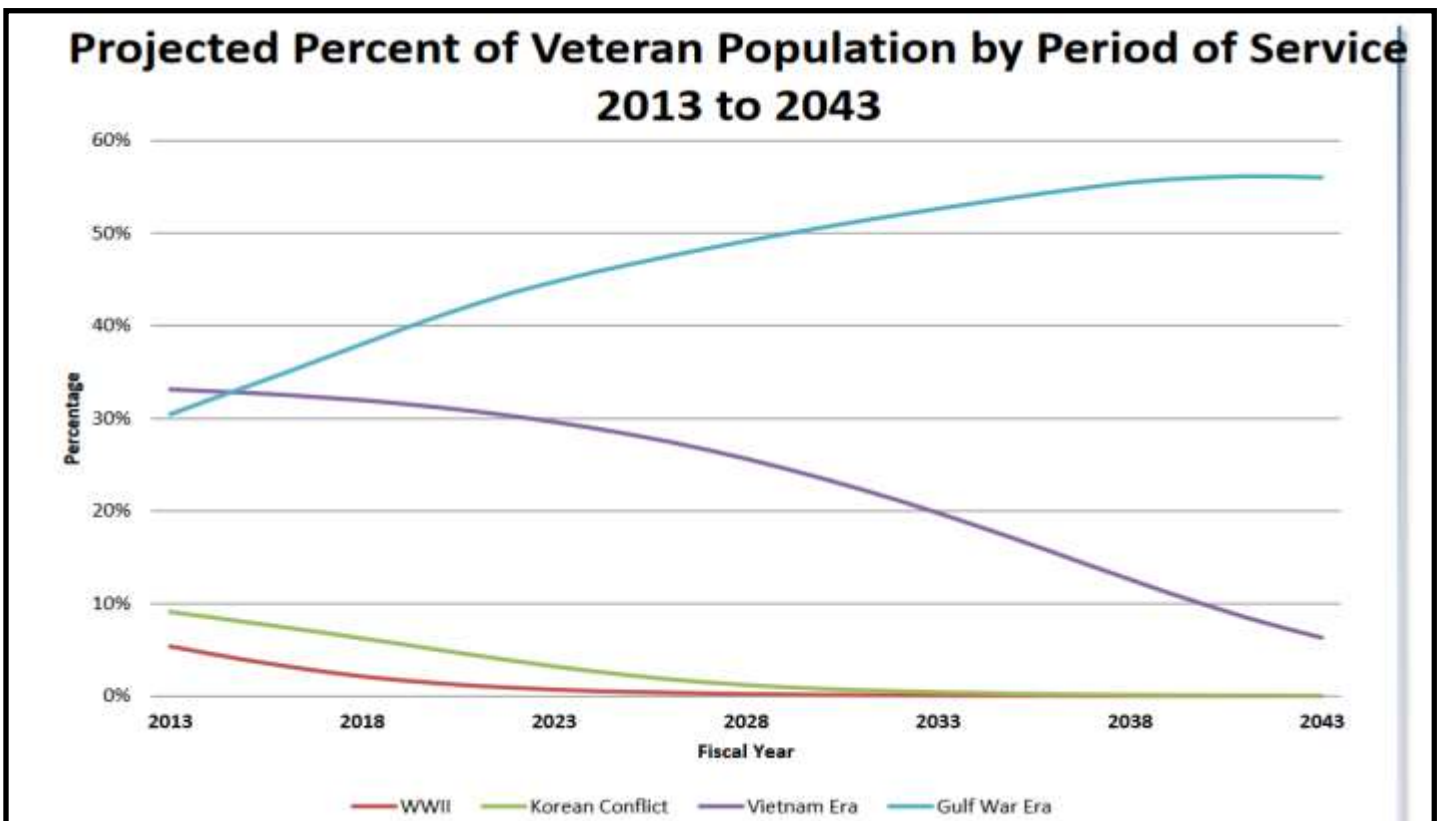


## “Future 50th Thinking”

The year 2025 will be here before we even realize it and many of us reading this may not be around or able to actually perform is what being said here. I’ve repeated said in previous “AZ-LZ’s to include your family on your military experience and pass it on so they have written and visual knowledge of your time in Southeast Asia. That would include Basic Combat Training (BCT), Advanced Individual Training (AIT), your Vietnam Tour, other tours in Germany, Korea, Japan or somewhere else.

The reason for this is to ensure your children know all about you just as you know of your father in World War II and your grandfather in World War I. Start your autobiography on “you”, “your military”, “something” to safeguard that your history will **not** be forgotten. Drag out those old fatigues, Greens, Army Blues, souvenirs from Vietnam you may have kept. Write a history lesson about Vietnam or a book on it, meaning your experience. You’ll never realize how important this can be and mean to your children, grandchildren and grand-children and those later on. If it does not come from us, where will it come from?

You likely have photos and maybe some video. You might consider having a movie made of your experiences in the military. Your family, just like any family would find it interesting and to say the least “old fashioned”. In case you haven’t been paying attention these past few decades after you returned from Vietnam, the clock has been ticking. The following are some statistics that are at once depressing yet in a larger sense should give you a HUGE SENSE OF PRIDE. “Of the 2,709,918 Americans who served in Vietnam, Less than 850,000 are estimated to be alive today, with the youngest American Vietnam veteran’s age approximated to be 60 years old.” So, if you’re alive and reading this, how does it feel to be among the last 1/3rd of all the U.S. Vets who served in Vietnam? Considering this is the kind of information I’m used to reading about WWII and Korean War vets So the last 14 years we are passing on too fast, only the few will survive by 2025.



## Weird But True

You know it is pretty neat to have your grandson show you some things, you had NO idea about. This little guy of nine years makes it a point to read up and study about: **WEIRD BUT TRUE** things. Look below and see what you did not know. Thank you Eli Schumacher.

Snow Leopards can't roar

Only female bee's sting

The average dream lasts only 20 minutes

Avalanches travel more than 100 mph

Bats have thumbs

Popcorn can travel three feet in the air

Some butterflies ears are on their wings

Finger nails grow faster than toe nails

Gel otology is the study of laughter

Men hiccup more than women

Nothing can escape from a black hole

A 95 mile river was found underground in Mexico

Honey bees have two stomachs

Chewing gum puts you in a better mood

Hummingbirds flap wings eighty times per second

You don't sneeze while sleeping

Lifting weights may improve your memory

Tortoises can crawl one mph

The arches of a McDonalds in Sedona, AZ are turquoise

A group of goats is called a trip

Babies born in winter crawl faster than those born in summer

Mexico had three presidents in power in one day

Australia's Great Barrier Reef is the size of Italy



## Sierra Vista's Vietnam 50th Event

In Sierra Vista Arizona, on 30 September 2017, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1093, Cochise County held its 2nd 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative of the Vietnam War. Chapter 1093 built on its successes from last year's 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative with attendance of 224 to bring in 324 people for their 2017 event. Vietnam Veteran attendance increased from 96 to 204; not included in the count were the Vietnam Era Vets that accounted for 2016 total Vets of 196 to the 2017 number of 286 qualified Vets in attendance, others being family members supporting their veteran. Special to this event was the effort in the community to recognize those spouses that are in a widowed status. Twenty-six spouses responded to the invitation to be publicly recognized for their personal sacrifices, supporting their veteran spouse while serving their country and 23 of the 26 attended and brought a special light in the community recognizing these brave spouses that are about as forgotten as we were upon return from our service in the 1960's and 1970's. As witness to this presentation were many tears and hugs of thanks as their names were called and they were presented with a special VVA National Certificate of Honor and a special recognition lapel pin. Thanks to the Arizona Department of Veterans Services Grant Program award, Chapter 1093 was able to cater the food, purchase the desserts, pay for advertising, and other event costs that allowed for attracting so many veterans from across Cochise County. Also, special to this event was having contacted and in attendance, an American Red Cross volunteer, made famous through their volunteerism in combat zones over several wars as the "Donut Dollies". Janet Woods graced us with her presence from Phoenix and gave a very heartfelt account of her time in Vietnam and shared stories of her interaction with us young veterans. Some very serious in the spectrum of memories and others quite hilarious as she shared her experience. There were 132 veterans that were presented with their service recognition pins. Supporting veterans service groups were also recognized, special guests and VIP's including the Mayor of Sierra Vista gave their words of encouragement and support for the efforts given to recognize our veterans. Many businesses in the local area supported our group by giving gifts of services, free food coupons, gift certificates, and discounts on purchases that was well received, not just by the winners. Through their participation they gained name recognition and presented with Certificates of Appreciation as a service group to business partnership.



## A Randy Schriver — "At The Top"



Born in Melrose Minnesota in 1947, **Randall L. Schriver** joined the US Army and the Army Security Agency after High School in Dubuque Iowa. His training after Basic in Ft Leonard Wood Missouri was attending the Defense Language Institute West Coast in Monterey California for Vietnamese. He gained a Top Secret Crypto clearance while studying in Goodfellow AFB in Texas. He was sent to Vietnam in March 1967 as a Linguist, DF and Voice Intercept Operator. 98G/04B MOS. He spent 27 months and 1 day in country working for different Radio Research Detachments (ASA was not in Vietnam, I was told) with the 4<sup>th</sup> Div, the 101<sup>st</sup> ABN, and lastly the 11<sup>th</sup> ACR. These military units took him throughout the country from Saigon through Nha Trang, Pleiku, Da Nang and south again along the Cambodian border. His job was to

provide intelligence on the location of enemy activity by voice and direction finding means. One interesting fact was during his tour with the 11<sup>th</sup> ACR, his track (ACAV), "The Outcasts" was painted on the turret due to the number on antennae on the track for his job. Most other tracks & tanks stayed a respectable distance when they assembled for the evening when not on patrol. It seemed that the numerous antennae made a favorable target for the enemy. His fondest memory with the 11<sup>th</sup> ACR was receiving the "Blackhorse Trooper Award" in March 1969. The award came with a Zippo lighter that he still has. He received an Early Out in May 1969 to attend the University of Dubuque in Iowa. After returning home he joined the Police Department in Dubuque and stayed until 1975 when he moved to Phoenix. He worked at SRP for 37 years as a Senior Substation Maintenance Technician until his retirement in 2012. Randall is a life member of the VFW, VVA, the 11th ACVVC and a member of American Legion, 101<sup>st</sup> ABN, In Country Veterans, SE Asia ASA, and the Arizona ASA Association-where he is on the Board of Directors and the Benevolence Committee. This committee researches and brings forward many non-profit organizations that the body votes on to provide funding for their organizational missions. The AZASAA has provided numerous organizations with thousands of dollars over the last few years. He is most active within the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 432 in Phoenix as a Vice President and member of the Car Show and Golf Committees. These events have brought the Chapter thousands of dollars over the years to support our Scholarship Program and our Veterans Assistance Program. He is a member of the Chapter Color Guard, volunteers at his Chapter's Table at the VA, and has designed and implemented the Chapter's Web Site and Face Book page. He has written articles for The VVA Veteran magazine and the National Veterans magazine. He is currently working on a booklet about the Field Cross Memorial (at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona) to be presently to their office later this year. He travels throughout Arizona with Larry Mitchell (Agent Orange Director for Chapter 432) to various Town Hall Meetings providing any assistance as needed. He works with Terry Nolan on the Arizona State Council Constitution Committee and attends as many meetings as possible. He also is a member of the VA Veteran and Family Advisory Council providing input to that Council and reporting back to his Chapter all significant information discussed there. In short, Randall tries to provide whatever is needed whenever asked. Chapter 432 does not know how fortunate and blessed they are to have this guy on their team, (actually they probably do). For as old as he is not, they have a great guy to do a lot of things for them in a way no one else could. Randy, to you **THANK YOU, THANK YOU.**





## Flag Raising in Yuma



One man in Yuma, Arizona had the insight to notice that the city's largest flag pole on the busiest street in this southwest city in Arizona did not have a flag on it. As thousands of us would drive by the "Big Curve of 32nd Street and 4th Avenue", this lonely very tall flag pole has remained empty for decades. Around it is a shopping center, so in defense of us "not noticing", it remained empty for some time. Well, all that to say that a Mike Haley who belongs to VVA Chapter 835 and the American Legion Post 19, sought permission of the owner and he granted it. Well, on October 16th 2017, a group of folks namely: Motorcycle Rough Riders, the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 835, American Legion Post 19 and the Motor Cycle Club hoisted this 20' x 30' American Stars and Stripes upward and in the above photo you can see how big it is and what it meant to all of us standing there.

We all need to keep in mind and fully recognize what the American flag has been for America. It is backed by people like you and I that have fought for our country. It's too bad that our world is getting worse, but all we can do is pray God will intervene and make it better for all of us to live on this planet and live in peace with our families and friend's and worship our Lord Jesus Christ as He put this here for us to begin with. May we ever be grateful we were born in America for what if we had been born somewhere else? Be content, be loving, be thankful, want for nothing and love all.

## VVA and FBC—Veterans Day—2017—Yuma, Arizona

Veterans Day in Yuma, Arizona is always a wonderful time with scores of Veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War and the Global War on Terror come out to be recognized. This is a time when the general public says “thanks” to those men and women that supported the United States and countries all over the world from a chaos and more terror than they might have expected. This time of year is important to all of America as we think back on World War I when on November 11, 1918, the Armistice was signed in France and the Great War had finally ended. This was one of the longest, most terrible and most frightening and deadly wars ever on Earth. And of course, it led to World War II, Korea and Vietnam and the ones to follow. And it is still “leading to more horrific conflicts”. Below are some photos of the service held at Faith Baptist church on 5 November 2017 with 300+ members on hand and 150 veterans that came to be recognized.



Glenn McKinnon fought in WWII in Alaska in the 1940's and passed away on 7 November 2017. He was a blessing of a veteran and a great soldier.





# Veterans Day—2017 (Cont'd)





## 50th Commemoration SITREP

### Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP"

2017 – Issue 11

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

Tuesday, December 19

*Dear Commemorative Partners,*

*Thank you for your incredible dedication to honor America's Vietnam veterans!*

Across the nation, communities large and small have been *inspired by your steadfast commitment and leadership*. Your hosting of more than 11,000 commemorative events has enabled Americans to *publicly and individually recognize 1.8 million Vietnam veterans and their families ... remarkable!*

At the genesis of this Commemoration, our early leadership *resolved to honor all U.S. veterans who served on active duty from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location*. This resolve has not changed ... it will continue to guide our efforts as we move forward.

There is no doubt that everyone who served during these difficult years knows the difference between service "in country," "in theatre" and as a "Vietnam-era" veteran. More importantly, each of these patriots knows that after they raised their hand, *swearing "... to support and defend the Constitution ..."* not one of them could self-determine where they were stationed. Regardless of where they served, these warriors were all "painted with the same brush" by American citizens who could not separate their distaste for the war from the warriors they sent to fight it. Thankfully, that mindset no longer exists in America. The bottom line ... *anyone who served during this period of time is worthy of the nation's gratitude and thanks!*



*Retired Army Maj. Gen. James T. Jackson, director of the Vietnam War Commemoration, presents a lapel pin to a Vietnam veteran at Navajo Technical University in Crownpoint, NM. (Jon Austria/The Daily Times)*



***Above & Beyond!***

**11,000+ Commemorative Partners**

- Hosted 11,482 events from 2012-2017
- Inspired millions of Americans to thank & honor 1.8 million Vietnam veterans & families



Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates we are *losing 506 Vietnam veterans daily* and that by the end of 2017 only 6.6 million will be living of the original 9 million who served during this period. Clearly, our time is limited to reach those that have not been thanked and honored, so I encourage each of you to *continue this noble pursuit!*

To order Vietnam Veteran Lapel Pins and other free materials for your commemorative events, **contact us** and remember to share the number of veterans and families you reach during your events. We're here to help so call (877) 387-9951 or email [whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil](mailto:whs.vnwar50th@mail.mil).

*Please accept my personal thanks for your efforts and warm wishes for a joyous holiday season!*

*Jim Jackson, Director*



## Powerful Stories About LIFE

These twelve short stories are all very good stories and make us think twice about the daily happenings in our lives as we deal with others!!

1. Today, I interviewed my grandmother for part of a research paper I'm working on for my Psychology class. When I asked her to define success in her own words, she said: "Success is when you look back at your life and the memories make you smile."
2. Today, I asked my mentor - a very successful business man in his 70s what his top 3 tips are for success. He smiled and said: "Read something no one else is reading, think something no one else is thinking, and do something no one else is doing."
3. Today, after my 72-hour shift at the fire station, a woman ran up to me at the grocery store and gave me a hug. When I tensed up, she realized I didn't recognize her. She let go with tears of joy in her eyes and the most sincere smile and said: "On 9-11-2001, you carried me out of the World Trade Center."
4. Today, after I watched my dog get run over by a car, I sat on the side of the road holding him and crying. And just before he died; he licked the tears off my face.
5. Today at 7AM, I woke up feeling ill, but decided I needed the money, so I went into work. At 3:00PM I got laid off. On my drive home I got a flat tire.. When I went into the trunk for the spare, it was flat too. A man in a BMW pulled over, gave me a ride, we chatted, and then he offered me a job. I start tomorrow.
6. Today, as my father, three brothers, and two sisters stood around my mother's hospital bed, my mother uttered her last coherent words before she died. She simply said, "I feel so loved right now. We should have gotten together like this more often."
7. Today, I kissed my dad on the forehead as he passed away in a small hospital bed. About 5 seconds after he passed. I realized it was the first time I had given him a kiss since I was a little boy.
8. Today, in the cutest voice, my 8-year-old daughter asked me to start recycling. I chuckled and asked, "Why?" She replied, "So you can help me save the planet." I chuckled again and asked, "And why do you want to save the planet?" Because that's where I keep all my stuff," she said.
9. Today, when I witnessed a 27-year-old breast cancer patient laughing hysterically at her 2-year-old daughter's antics, I suddenly realized that, I need to stop complaining about my life and start celebrating it again.
10. Today, a boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better soon."
11. Today, I was feeling down because the results of a biopsy came back malignant. When I got home, I opened an e-mail that said, "Thinking of you today. If you need me, I'm a phone call away." It was from a high school friend I hadn't seen in 10 years.
12. Today, I was traveling in Kenya and I met a refugee from Zimbabwe. He said he hadn't eaten anything in over 3 days and looked extremely skinny and unhealthy. Then my friend offered him the rest of the sandwich he was eating. The first thing the man said was, "We can share it."

## Arizona Hall of Fame Recipients (Billee Culin, Gene Wood, Gene Crego)



The Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Ceremony was held in Phoenix, Arizona on 27 October 2017. There were four veterans associated with Vietnam Veterans of America-Arizona. Three of them are located on this page and the other one is located on the following page. At the top left is **GENE CREGO**, President of VVA-AZ; top right is **BILLEE CULIN** (1043), at the bottom is **GENE WOOD** also with Chapter with 1043.



## Arizona Hall of Fame Recipients



Our last recipient is from VVA-Chapter 1011. His name is **EDWARD MANGEN** and you see here he was in the U.S. Air Force and has been a real tribute to his family, Vietnam Veterans of America and his local Phoenix Chapter. We in VVA-Arizona certainly recognize all the recipients that received their medal and trust they will use to the good of the organization that they received it from and help the veterans within our state. It's a real blessing to know all of them personally and work with them for the good of Veterans, especially "**VIETNAM**".



## AVHOF Class of 2017



## VVA-AZ President Summary of 2017 and 2018

### Looking back at 2017

- Stayed active for veteran issues and bills at State Level, and on Capitol Hill.
- Membership though November 30<sup>th</sup> 2017 is at 1,221. We continue to grow. Thank you State Membership Chairman Noel Stephens, and Chapter Membership Chairs.
- The VSO Program continues to show progress. Phoenix Office at the VARO is now open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday. Tucson is open Monday through Thursday. Southeast Clinic is open on Mondays. We have other areas with VSO's in Mohave County, Sedona and Camp Verde Valley, Sierra Vista, Mesa, and Sun City areas. We are showing an increase in benefits for ALL Veterans.
- We continued partnering with Arizona Department of Veterans' Services for the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative Events of the Vietnam War.
- Chapters had held Agent Orange and Suicide Town Hall Meetings.
- We attend monthly VAMC Phoenix Meetings with Director/ Staff. This includes State Council and Chapters 432, 1011, and 1043.
- We participated in Town Hall Meetings sponsored by members of U. S. Congress and Staff.
- We attended quarterly meetings at the Governor's Conference Room.
- We attended meetings given by the Arizona Legislative Veterans Caucus.
- We had the best attendance at the VVA Convention in August with 22 delegates.
- We had four members be inducted into the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame: Billee Culin (1043), Gene Wood (1043), Edmund Mangan (1011), and Gene Crego (975).
- Congratulations to all for your dedication of helping veterans, family, and caregivers.
- Attended the grand opening of the Boulder Crest Retreat in Arizona near Sonoita Southeast of Tucson with Chapter 106 President Butch Morgan and Chapter 1093 President Bill Beecher.
- Attended the Conference of State Council President's, VVA BOD Committee Meetings with Chuck Byers.

### Looking Forward to 2018:

- VSO Program with grants and adding new VSO's for VVA and AVVA.
- Announcing Elections for the VVA State Council for the meeting to be held on Saturday, June 16, 2018 at the VAMC in Phoenix. All Offices are open. If you are interested please see Larry Mitchell and Terry Nolan for information and forms at the January State Council Meeting.
- Please look into submitting members for the Arizona Hall of Frame for 2018.
- Please submit name(s) for the VVA National Achievement Medal. They can be members and non members.
- Please submit name(s) of a non member for Honorary Life Member.
- January State Council Meeting to update and vote on the Arizona State Council By-Laws.
- We'll be adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> VP. The reason is have a separate Vice President (VP) for Northern, Central and Southern Arizona.
- Help cover and report, and assist the State Council President. Even though, we are a smaller VSO. This has helped the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services, American Legion, and Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- Increase membership drives by the Chapters. There are over 40,000 veterans in Arizona that qualify for VA. I know it is hard work. Mohave County Chapter 975 gave out hundreds of applications each year.
- We used the media. Still not many joined, or had heard of Vietnam Veterans of America. That is where networking helps a lot.
- We need to focus on support for Women and Minority Veterans. Work with and support Organizations for Homeless and Incarcerated Veterans.
- We continue partnering with the Arizona Department of Veterans Services for the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemorative honoring Gold Star Families.

Hope to see you at the January State Council Meeting Saturday, **January 20, 2018.**

Sister and Brothers Forever,  
President Gene Crego



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## The Start of NEW YEAR—2018

Good Morning to all Arizona Chapters of VVA and AVVA Presidents and Members. This is wishing you and your families that you had a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy New Year from our family. First picture from your left is all 10 grandchildren. Gene & Sue Crego {VVA AZ SC President, AVVA Arizona State Council VP}.



## Wanda Wright Elected



The Department of Arizona Veterans' Services Director COL. Wanda Wright has been elected to be on the VA Advisory Committee on Women Veterans. **We offer her a big congratulations.** "As VA continues to work toward modernization, the committee's guidance will assist the department in meeting the important and evolving needs of women veterans," said Shulkin. The department also elected four new committee members that include Moses McIntosh, a retired U.S. Army chief warrant officer; Yareli Mendoza, a U.S. Air Force veteran; Keronica Richardson, and an Army veteran; and **Wanda Wright**, a retired U. S. Air Force Colonel who serves as director of Arizona's Department of Veterans Services.

## Honorary VVA Members

Gene Crego, President of VVA-Arizona State Council presented to the **Arizona State Senator Sonny Borelli** and Former Bullhead City, **Arizona Mayor Jack Hakim** an Honorary Vietnam Veterans of America Life Membership.

