

Vietnam Veterans of America—Arizona

“The AZ-LZ”

“Time”

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I don't need to talk very much about this topic, as we're all old enough to know that none of us knows our time here on Earth. Vietnam Veterans are leaving us by the hundreds every day. I'm only telling you this to make the most of your time. We have appointed time to pass on, and with that we don't know how long we'll live either. I don't need to mention that *the days are swift*. In the January-April 2018 issue of this newsletter, I have often mentioned that: where does the time go?

Some of us take time seriously and some of us don't. When you get to be in the age group of the 7th and 8th decade, we're already on borrowed time. God is the decider of our time, and I'm mentioning all of this to tell you that we need to use our time wisely. It doesn't go backwards and never will. We had a fixed birthdate and we'll have fixed death date. Live your life for the Lord. He took care of us in Vietnam or other locations we may have been stationed at and after having lived this long we are a blessed people to have had what we do in our lives. Take good care of your children, love them, adore your grandchildren, stay in close touch with them. Remember their birthday's, Christmas, and just because. Treat them to a special vacation, it may be your last one with them. Do things for them. Remember them always. They are a gift that can never be replaced, The last thing I'll say on this is this topic. Once we are gone, time goes away and merges into eternity. The clock, the 24 hours, et al will be no more. There are no clocks in Heaven or Hell. Time is passing away, everything with it is also decaying. Mmm, just look at our bodies. They are not exactly that 20 year old frame we used to have. Remember time is leaving us quickly. Do something about it before it is too late. With that, enjoy the rest of the New Year.



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“Half The Year” Is Left

This issue of the “AZ-LZ” is going to try and point you to some things that we in our 70's (for the most part) and the population of Vietnam Veterans will die off more quickly than we like. I'm not trying to be negative, but practical and real. Take the LAST HALF OF 2018 and make it count. Consider your **will**, consider your **life**, consider your **children**, consider your **grandchildren**, consider what you have not done in your life and make it count. Invest in people that have made a difference to you and your life. What would God want you to do while you still have breath? Pray about what you could and should do with the bountiful life you have and make it count for something. That legacy is important, and time is running out.

VVA Leadership and Education Conference—2018



Vietnam Veterans of America Held Its National Leadership & Education Conference in Palm Springs, July 25-28, 2018

Vietnam Veterans of America held its biennial National Leadership & Education Conference in Palm Springs, California, July 25-28, 2018. Hundreds of Vietnam War veteran leaders will come together at the Renaissance Palm Springs Hotel took part in seminars, meetings, and other activities, including the Saturday night Awards Banquet. VVA's affiliate organization, the Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America, cosponsored the conference.

Vietnam veteran—**Rick Francona**, a retired U.S. Air Force intelligence officer and renowned on-air TV Middle East analyst, delivered the Keynote Address at the opening ceremonies on Wednesday morning, July 25. Col. Francona served most of his 27-year career operating in the Middle East. He worked with the NSA, DIA, and the CIA, dealing with crises in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Gulf nations.

Following the opening ceremonies, VVA and AVVA leaders from across the nation took part in four- and-a-half days of activities, including more than two dozen seminars and workshops. The subjects range from the elements of leadership--parliamentary procedures, the duties of the officers and boards of directors-- to updates on veterans' healthcare and advocacy issues.

Among the special guests at the conference are the recipients of the 2018 VVA Excellence in the Arts and Sciences Awards, which will be presented at the Awards Banquet on Saturday evening are:

Wayne Newton, the legendary Las Vegas headliner, received the President's Award for Excellence in the Arts. The award honors Newton for his decades-long support of American active-duty troops and veterans, as well as his long, illustrious show biz career.

Dr. Peter A. Singer, a professor of Clinical Medicine, the Chief of Clinical Endocrinology, and the Director of the Thyroid Diagnostic Center at USC's Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles, received the Excellence in the Sciences Award. He is also a Vietnam Veteran.

John Olson—received the VVA Excellence in the Arts Award, is one of the most accomplished photographers to cover the Vietnam War. Olson was drafted into the Army when he was 19. Upon arriving in Vietnam in mid-1967, Olson was assigned to a signal battalion. Nine months later, he extended his tour and began working for *Stars & Stripes* as a photographer.

Troy Evans—the veteran character actor best known for his role in the TV series "China Beach" (as Motor Pool Sgt. Pepper) and "ER" (as the clerk Frank Martin), and in *Ace Ventura, Pet Detective, Article 99, Under Siege, Planes, Trains and Automobiles, Black Dahlia, and Demolition Man*,—emceed the awards banquet.

A great time was had by all and made a big difference in our lives, thank you VVA National.

VVA National Planning Committee for Palm Springs—2018



Dan Stenvold

Director At Large, Chairman



Steve Mackey

California State President



Pete Peterson

Director At Large



Sharon Hobbs

Associates of Vietnam Veterans of America (AVVA) President, Special Advisor



Dick Southern

Region 9 Director



Marc Leepson

Senior Writer, The VVA Veteran magazine

A **huge host of thanks** to the Planning Committee for their work and a lot of effort to make this Leadership and Education Conference to be a tremendous success for all of Vietnam Veterans of America members, including the Associates arm of VVA.

This is always a “**remembrance**” for all of us that attend and we’ll not forget **your** efforts.



Wes Guidry, CMP

Vietnam Veterans of America Staff, Director of Meetings

Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA—2018



Keynote Speaker and Guests in Palm Springs CA-2018



Rick Francona, a retired U.S. Air Force intelligence officer, a veteran of the Vietnam War, and a renowned on-air TV Middle East analyst, will deliver the Keynote Address at the Opening Ceremonies on Wednesday morning, July 25, 2018

Col Francona, a fluent Arabic speaker, served most of his 27-year intelligence career operating in the Middle East. He has worked with the National Security Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, and the Central Intelligence Agency dealing with crises in Syria, Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Gulf nations. He served as DoD liaison to Iraqi military intelligence during the Iran-Iraq war; as an advisor and interpreter with Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf during the First Gulf War; and as Defense Attaché in the UAE, Air Force Attaché in Syria, and on other operational missions in the region. A former Middle East analyst for NBC News, Col. Francona has provided on-air military analysis to CNN since 2013. His books include *Ally to Adversary: An Eyewitness Account of Iraq's Fall from Grace* and *Chasing Demons: My Hunt for War Criminals in Bosnia*.



Wayne Newton who is a performer in Las Vegas, NV and has performed all over the world for the veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces.

Then John Olson who photographed his way through Vietnam and came up with some tremendous pictures for the history of Vietnam



Troy Evans was our Master of Ceremonies and is an actor on many television shows.

Dr. Peter Singer who provided new medical techniques to improve health in Vietnam and is still doing that very thing for veterans in America.

Leadership Conference 2018—Opening Ceremony



Those Honored At The Banquet



Wayne Newton, the legendary Las Vegas headliner, received the President’s Award for Excellence in the Arts at the Saturday night Awards Banquet. The award honors the entertainer known as “Mr. Las Vegas” for his decades-long support of American active-duty troops and veterans, as well as his long, illustrious show business career.

Wayne Newton went to Vietnam with the USO the first time in 1966 when he was sixteen-years old, came back again in 1968, and has entertained American troops in every military conflict since then, including those in Afghanistan and Iraq. Since that first trip to Vietnam, when he promised an American nurse that he’d call her mother when he returned home, Newton has made some 50,000 calls on behalf of service members to folks back home.

John Olson, who received the VVA Excellence in the Arts Award at the Saturday night Awards Banquet, is one of the most accomplished photographers who covered the Vietnam War. Olson, who was working as a UPI technician, was drafted into the Army when he was 19. When he got to Vietnam in mid-1967 Olson was assigned to a signal battalion. Nine months later he extended his tour, and began working for *Stars & Stripes* as a photographer.



During the Tet Offensive in February 1968, he spent three days photographing some of the fiercest fighting during the Battle for Hue. His memorable image of wounded Marines being evacuated on a tank was published in *Life* magazine and around the world, and he won the prestigious Robert Capa Award for “superlative photography requiring courage and enterprise abroad.”

After he came home, Olson went to work at *Life*. At twenty-one, he was the youngest staff photographer ever hired at *Life*. He soon returned to Vietnam and spent two years there shooting the war, and went on to cover the White House from 1969-70. He started his own company in 1972 to shoot advertising campaigns for some of the world’s top corporations. In 1994, and his wife co-founded NancyScans Corp., which produces high-end scanning and printing services. An exhibition that featured twenty of John Olson’s Tet ’68 photographs, “The Marines and Tet: The Battle that Changed the Vietnam War,” opened in January this year at the Newseum in Washington, D.C.

Those Honored At The Banquet (Cont'd)



Troy Evans—The veteran character actor best known for his recurring roles in the TV series “China Beach” (as Motor Pool Sgt. Pepper) and “ER” (as the clerk Frank Martin), and in the movies “Ace Ventura, Pet Detective,” “Article 99,” “Under Siege,” “Planes, Trains and Automobiles,” “Black Dahlia,” and “Demolition Man,”—emceed the Saturday Night Awards banquet.

Evans, a native of Kalispell, Montana, was drafted into the Army and served a sixteen-month tour of duty with the 25th Infantry Division in Vietnam in 1968-69. He received the VVA Excellence in the Arts Award at the 2003 National Convention in St. Louis, and hosted the Awards Ceremonies at the 2005 Convention in Reno. He will be available for meeting, greeting, and signing autographs for fellow VVA members during the week.

Dr. Peter A. Singer, a Professor of Clinical Medicine, the Chief of Clinical Endocrinology, and the Director of the Thyroid Diagnostic Center at USC’s Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles, will receive the Excellence in the Sciences Award at the Saturday night banquet.



Dr. Singer received his medical degree from the University of California, San Francisco, and then joined the Navy to take part in the Vietnam War. He served as a U.S. Navy medical doctor in Da Nang and San Francisco. While in Vietnam, Dr. Singer began what has become a lifetime work of serving those living in poverty in Vietnam and elsewhere in Asia.

For nearly thirty years, he has returned to Vietnam to do humanitarian work as Chair (and now Chairman Emeritus) of “East Meets West” by Thrive Networks. “East Meets West/Thrive” is an NGO founded by Le Ly Hayslip, the Vietnamese woman best known as the subject of the Oliver Stone film, “Heaven and Earth.”

It works throughout Asia, including in Vietnam, to “improve the health and well-being of those underserved communities,” specializing in “programs in the areas of water, sanitation and hygiene and education.” During the last thirty years, the group has helped more than one million people living in poverty.

Entertainment During the Week

- **Featuring: Dave Karl in "A Touch Of Kenny"**
- Friday, July 27, 2018
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm at Catalina/Madera Room
Pasta Salad, Baked Potatoes, Barbeque Tri-Tip with Smoked Potatoes Barbecue Beans Cornbread



- **Featuring: Woodie and the Longboards**
- Tuesday, July 24, 2018
- 6:00pm – 9:00pm at Catalina/Madera Room
Beach Salad, Mixed Greens, Toasted Nuts, Dried Cranberries & Honey, Lime Vinaigrette Grilled Barbeque Skewers | Grilled Chicken Thighs | Port Barbeque Sauce, Island Sliders, Beef Patties, Charred Pineapples, Island Spice Ketchup, Hawaiian Bread. Charred Vegetables | Sea Salt & Togarashi Chili



A good time was had by all and we **thank everyone** for a nice remembrance

Leadership Conference Seminars—Wednesday



Strategic Planning for Transitioning VVA, Our Future

Working Group 1 will present status of the strategic planning for transitioning the VVA that Working Group. Between this Leadership Conference and the 2019 Convention in Tacoma, WA, VVA will determine and allow a vote as to the continuation or end off VVA itself



Introduction to Basic Parliamentary Procedure

This workshop shall provide participants with knowledge of basic rules, Principles and fundamentals of parliamentary law and procedures and how to apply them help expedite business of the assembly, maintain order.



Membership – How to submit Chapter transmittals online

Chapter attendees will be given a step by step view of how they can submit chapter transmittals for new and renewing chapter members. Each Chapter will have a designee to be given access to make dues payment.



VVA State Treasurer? How did this happen?

We will talk debits and credits but we will talk about your SC or Chapter financial relationship with National.

VA’s Connected Care Programs for Veterans: My HealtheVet, Telehealth & VA Mobile

VA’s Office of Connected Care brings VA digital technology to Veterans, Caregivers and health care professionals, extending access to care beyond the traditional office visit. Through virtual technologies,

Ask a “Top Gun” Service Officer

Veterans and their families will be able to ask VVA Accredited Service Officers general questions about the VA Claim Process. Answers will help explain the process, documentation, appeals and other issues.



Duties and Responsibilities of the Secretary

This seminar will give new and current Chapter and State Council secretaries the information and tools to perform their duties Topics will include: Responsibilities as outlined in the VVA Constitution, record keeping essential documents and how to organize them, the fundamentals of writing meeting minutes, forms, etc.

What Does It Take To Be President

Provide overview of the position of President of State Councils or Chapters. Give some examples of what to expect, i.e. reports deadlines, etc.



Federal Laws Covering Children with Disabilities

The seminar discusses the current federal laws that cover children with disabilities. The key parts of each law are covered as well as the pitfalls that you may encounter when attempting to access services that the law mandates. You’ll learn the basic procedures of working with your local officials including the do’s and don’ts.

Leadership Conference Seminars—Thursday



Perpetuating Our Legacy

Working Group members will present information developed on designing a new Veterans Organization to perpetuate our legacy solicit input from attendees.

From billboards to Bullet Points: In your face with Agent Orange

Arm yourself with the latest updates and explore ways to keep Agent Orange/Military Toxic Exposures issue in the forefront of the American Psyche.

Recognizing Secondary PTSD

Peer support occurs when people provide knowledge, experience, emotional, and social support to each other. Secondary PTSD is commonly referred to as “the stress resulting from helping or wanting to help a traumatized or suffering person.”



Legislative Advocacy 101

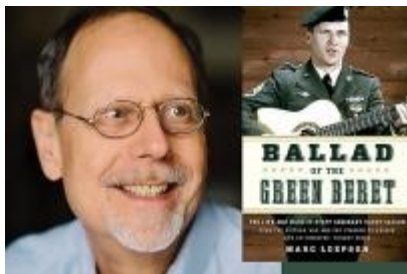
Attendees will learn the legislative process from an idea, to how the idea becomes a bill and finally how the bill becomes a law. The seminar will walk the attendees through the steps that are necessary to become a knowledgeable and elective advocate from background research to what actions are taken after your office visit.

Veteran Suicide Risk & Prevention

Suicide prevention requires a combination of universal, selective, and indicated strategies. Universal strategies target the entire population. Selective strategies are appropriate for subgroups such as veterans that may be at increased risk for suicidal behaviors.

Veterans Health Care - Diversity

This will be a seminar where we will have a panel with a moderator to explain the history of minorities in the Military since the revolutionary war to date wars. The roll that they have played on all wars. We will be demonstrating the valor of these heroes by showing their valor through awards received through the wars.



“Book Talk”—“Ballad of the Green Beret” The life and wars - Sgt. Barry Sadler

VVA Arts and Editor and Senior Writer Marc Leepson will give a talk on the life of Barry Sadler, the Green Beret Sergeant who had the Number One hit song of the year of 1966, “The Ballad of the Green Berets.” The talk is based on his new biography of Sadler.



Leadership Conference Seminars—Friday

Chapter Bylaws (1 of 2)

The seminar will address bylaw basics; how to write, amend or revise them; how they integrate with the VVA Constitution and other governing documents; what should be in the bylaws and what should not. Emphasis will be placed on making sure bylaws do not conflict with the VVA Constitution and other governing documents.



New rules of Engagement. The key to respectful relationships

This will be a seminar about identifying discrimination and types of harassment for both men and women. Following up with identifying methods of communication and use of tools to gain awareness and styles that will positively change our workplace, meetings, and social interactions.

Bylaws workshop (2 of 2)

We will create a fictitious chapter and/or State Council bylaws and work through the process of presenting them to the members for approval. Attendees who bring copies of their Chapter or State Council bylaws will have the opportunity to review them with a committee member or to discuss them with the group.



Hope for Homeless Veterans: Finding their way to help and home

This seminar will provide updates on recent Homeless Veteran program through The Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Housing and Urban Development. We will renew our commitment to the goal of ending Veteran Homeless in this country by providing resources to Chapter and State Councils representatives on how they assist local service providers in their fight to end this most disheartening life situation.

Memorialization

Draft 10, Randy Reeves, the Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs for the Department of Veterans Affairs will lead a seminar outlining the complete package of Memorial Benefits for Veterans and their families. This seminar will consist of: Memorial Benefits (Plot allowance, headstone, etc.).

Educating your Health Care Providers about Exposures & Health.

Hazards associated with your military service. This seminar is designed to increase awareness of Veterans and their families about risk factors, exposures and associated health conditions that their care Providers need to consider when taking care of any veteran and their families

Veterans Incarcerated and in the Justice System

This seminar will cover the following issues: 1. Veterans Incarcerated including PTSD and TBI issues 2. Veteran Treatment Courts the mentoring process 3. The connection between Veterans Incarcerated and Veteran treatment courts. a. Including using incarcerated veterans as a resource for veterans who face prosecution.



Getting ready for the Rest of Your Life

This seminar will provide guidance on long-term planning considerations for the final chapter of your life. How you can help prepare yourself and your family for whatever the future brings. Health care options, psychological and emotional aspects, and practical planning considerations. We have also to think about in our last years and we should not waste any time in doing it so our family is also prepared to serve our wishes.

Editor's Note: A few of these seminars were video taped and will be made into DVD's within a few weeks and will be available a VVA National for them to be mailed to you. We hope they will be of interest to you and your chapter and/or State Council. If you need any extra issues of this newsletter "THE AZ-LZ", please notify me at prov2007@hushmail.com.

Leadership Conference Seminars—Saturday



VBA Benefits and Vietnam Veterans

The seminar will provide an overview of VBA bene'ts and the relation to Vietnam Veterans. Following the presentation, there will be a Q&A with the Under Secretary for the Army



Have you prepared your will yet?

How to go about preparing a will. Do you have a DNR? What is a DNR? What is an Executor? The answers to these questions and many more.



Strategic Planning Work Group Questions & Answers

Both Working Groups will be present to handle Questions and Answers you might have.

POW-MIA Ceremony at Leadership Conference—2018



VVA Banquet Reception at Palm Springs—2018

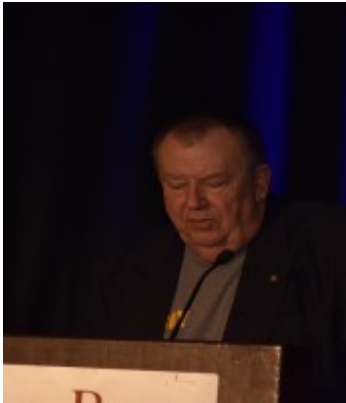


Leadership Conference Banquet Palm Springs—2018



A marvelous time was had by all. Having this opportunity to learn some new things, enjoy the fellowship and meet some important and gracious people in our generation was hit of the week. Thank you so much VVA National for a splendid time, we so enjoyed it.

Leadership Conference Honoring — Palm Springs—2018



Troy Evans, M.C.



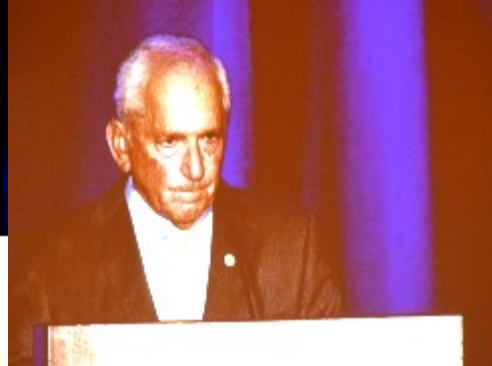
Dr. Peter Singer in Vietnam



Dr. Peter Singer Treating A Patient



Dr. Singer Receives an Award



Speaking to the Award Banquet Guests



John Olson Photography



John Olson Battle of Hue



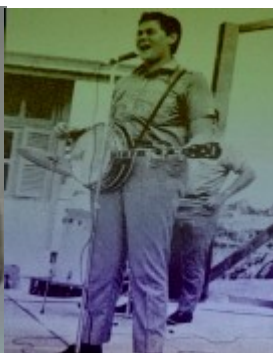
Presented an Award



Speaking to the Award Banquet Guests



Wayne Newton in Vietnam



Presented an Award



Speaking to the Award Banquet

NM Chapter 431 – Memorial Park Photos



The Chapter President of New Mexico Chapter 431 provided some beautiful photos of their Memorial Park located in their area of the U.S. Army UH-1 "Huey" Helicopter mounted on a stand. For those of us that were in the UH-1's or "Huey's" during the Vietnam War, it's nice to see this perfect machine that could take off in just a few seconds and land anywhere. Thank you **Chapter President Bruce Fonnest**, we appreciate your taking the time to allow us to see these beautiful photos and have remembrances of our time in Vietnam over fifty years ago. Keep the memorial in good shape for the future.

Getting Connected And Staying Connected



No matter when, where, or how you served, or what you've experienced in military or civilian life, you may be facing challenges that affect your health, relationships, and life. Whether your military role ended two decades ago or two days ago, you share with Veterans everywhere the common bonds of duty, honor, and service to our nation. Every day, Veterans connect with resources and support to manage and confront the issues they may have and find solutions for improving their lives. It is very important that veterans ALWAYS stay connected with someone in their lives to ensure they live a long life. Caroline DiStefano does just that and she is very concerned for all of us who served in the military and in any capacity. A hyperlink to get some help if needed is at the online resource we talked about: www.maketheconnection.net. We all need people in our lives and they in ours and we need to along with others make that a **PRIORITY**.

DOD 50th Commemorative Office – "SITREP"

Vietnam War Commemoration "SITREP"

2018 – Issue 7

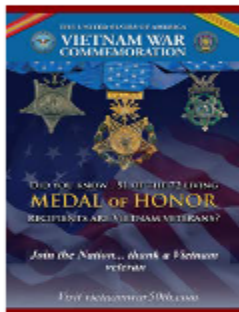
"Join the nation ... thank a Vietnam veteran!"



Tuesday, July 31

Dear Commemorative Partners,

DID YOU KNOW?



... 51 out of the 72 living Congressional Medal of Honor recipients are Vietnam Veterans? Major League Baseball recognized these heroes during the All-Star Pre-Game Ceremony on July 17 in Washington, DC. Click [here](#) to watch the video!



... you can tag us in your events on social media and we can share it with the rest of the world, including our **9,833 Facebook** and **1,559 Twitter** followers! You can also log on to our [YouTube](#) channel and watch some of our amazing videos! Don't forget to share your event photos as well by submitting your "After Action Report" ([Form DD2957](#)) (jpg format only).



... the Commemoration has two seals, both protected by law. Our official seal is authorized for use only by the Commemoration on official material (e.g., website, printed material). The Commemorative Partner (CP) Seal is similar to the official seal and showcases a banner under the seal that reads "COMMEMORATIVE PARTNER." Commemorative Partners are authorized to use the CP Seal, located on the [Partner Portal](#).

... the Deceased Vietnam Veteran's Surviving Spouse certificate and lapel pin (part of the Commemoration's [Certificate of Honor](#) program) are for the surviving spouse at the time of death of a veteran who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces at any time during the period from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location. As of July 2018, **over 31,000** of these pins have been distributed!



Above & Beyond Mariner/Marlin Seaplane Association



Two years ago, the Mariner/Marlin Seaplane Association began a project to have the VWC Flag flown in ALL 50 states by their members. In June 2018, that objective was achieved. *Thank you!*



... the Commemoration's History and Legacy branch has conducted over **500** oral history interviews with the nation's Vietnam Veterans and have several more scheduled to take place this year. Footage of the interviews will be kept on file and shared with the [Library of Congress Veterans History Project](#).

We're grateful for the amazing work that you do each day to help the nation thank and honor our Vietnam Veterans. We say **"thank you"** for serving as... *Proud Partners with The U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration!*

Medical Advancements in Vietnam-Page 1



MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 1 OF 3



A UH-1B "Huey" helicopter prepares to land in a rice paddy to pick up a wounded soldier during Operation COOR, Quang Ngai Province, on September 4, 1967. (National Archives)



Carpenter D.R. Howe tends to the wounds of Private First Class D.A. Green, 5th Marine Regiment, during Operation HUE CITY on February 6, 1968. (National Archives)



In 1967, near Cu Chi, South Vietnam, 2nd Infantry Regiment medics fight to keep a wounded soldier alive during Operation MANTAYAN. (National Archives)

Throughout our nation's history, armed conflicts have compelled the military and medical profession to introduce innovations for the care and treatment of America's servicemembers. The Vietnam War was no exception.

Whether on patrol in hot, humid jungles, steep mountain ridges, or in remote rice paddies and villages, U.S. servicemembers, allies, and civilians received extraordinary health care during the Vietnam War. According to one source, 97.4 percent of casualties who reached the hospital survived. Rapid and effective air evacuation and advancements in pre-hospital care were partly responsible for the higher number of wounded servicemembers who survived their injuries. Many of the medical advancements first pioneered by military healthcare professionals during the Vietnam War have become common practice in healthcare systems around the globe.

Medical Evacuation and Pre-Hospital Care

Perhaps the most enduring innovation of the Vietnam War was medical air evacuation by helicopter. Prior to the Vietnam War, medical air evacuation had been conducted using fixed-wing aircraft; however, fixed-wing aircraft are limited by the need to use runways for takeoffs and landings. During the Korean War, the U.S. military first experimented with medical air evacuations by helicopter. Able to land without a runway, the Bell H-13 Sioux and Hiller H-23 Raven ferried supplies to troops in the field, undertook reconnaissance missions, and retrieved wounded servicemembers from forward locations. Both of these aircraft could transport two patients via external, skid-mounted litters. The Vietnam War saw air evacuation expand substantially with the introduction of larger, faster helicopters that were specially configured to evacuate up to nine wounded at one time and provide emergency medical care en route to hospitals.

Servicemembers in Vietnam who required hospitalization often sustained multiple injuries or contracted serious



A caregiver administers plasma to a wounded Marine at a field hospital in Tan Ky, South Vietnam, during Operation UNWON on May 3, 1967. (National Archives)

War "flying medics," before being killed in action in 1964. When ground troops radioed for Dust Offs, helicopter ambulances—often "Hueys"—landed, frequently under fire, to remove, treat, and transport the wounded to medical facilities.

The crews of Army, Navy, Marine, and Air Force rotary and fixed-wing aeromedical evacuation crews demonstrated uncompromising dedication, which saved many lives during the conflict. From 1962 to 1973, air ambulances transported and assisted thousands of casualties, often at great peril. Today, civilian helicopter medical evacuation, trauma centers, and helipads are common at hospitals across the United States.

diseases, such as malaria, viral hepatitis, and diarrheal disorders. The UH-1 Iroquois helicopter, commonly known as the "Huey," transported the wounded to treatment faster than in any previous war. "Dust Off" was a nickname for Army helicopter ambulance missions. The name originated with the call sign of the 57th Medical Detachment, one of the first aeromedical evacuation units to arrive in Vietnam in 1962, and its commander, Major Charles Kelly, who became one of the earliest Vietnam

The Vietnam War also accelerated advancements in pre-hospital care. Medics and corpsmen utilized new treatments such as opening surgical airways and conducting thoracic needle decompressions and aggressive shock resuscitation on patients prior to transportation to field hospitals. These techniques are now employed by Emergency Medical Technicians and paramedics throughout the United States. "The golden hour," a term used to describe the concept that a patient's prognosis improves substantially if they receive definitive treatment within the first hour after suffering a traumatic wound, became a reality during the Vietnam War. Innovations in field medicine, such as flight crews stabilizing the wounded during air evacuations and surgical teams treating patients for hemorrhagic and traumatic shock, contributed to reducing the time between injury and treatment. "The golden hour" still serves as a benchmark of civilian emergency care.



Personnel of the 21st Casualty Staging Flight at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, South Vietnam, receive wounded personnel from an ambulance and load them onto a C-141 transport aircraft. These patients are being medically evacuated to Clark Air Base, Philippines, in May 1967. (National Archives)

Medical Advancements in Vietnam-Page 2



MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 2 OF 3



Specialist Fourth Class James S. Wards prepares to give an injection to Private First Class Nelson E. Graham at the 77th Medical Dispensary, Camp Army Airfield, South Vietnam, on June 16, 1970. (National Archives)

From 1965 to 1969, nearly two-thirds of in-country military hospital admissions resulted from malaria, viral hepatitis, diarrheal ailments, skin infections, and fevers of unknown origin. Preventive interventions kept these numbers from climbing even higher.

Contributions to Global Health through Preventive Treatment

The fight against malaria during the Vietnam War serves as a prime example of the struggle to manage tropical disease in an unusual environment. Malaria is spread to humans through the bite of female *Anopheles* mosquitoes infected with *Plasmodium* parasites. The two *Plasmodium* species that pose the greatest threat to humans are *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax*. In 1965, *P. falciparum* incapacitated infected servicemembers for an average of five weeks, while *P. vivax* caused soldiers to miss an average of 21 days of duty. In 1966, Major Robert J. T. Joy, MG (Medical Corps), chief of the Army Medical Research Team in Vietnam, conducted studies which demonstrated significantly lower rates of malaria in servicemembers who ingested the medication *deprima* by mouth daily and took weekly doses of chloroquine-pyriminyl when they operated in areas with known malaria risk. Field commanders stressed to their troops the importance of personal protective measures, such as wearing long sleeves, applying skin repellents, and using bednets and headnets. Physicians discovered that adherence to a post-exposure antimalarial medication regimen minimized the risk of contracting and spreading malaria. Then in 1967, a team of scientists at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research collaborated in the development of the antimalarial drug mefloquine. By 1969, patients who had been infected with *P. falciparum* returned to duty in 17 to 19 days and patients suffering from *P. vivax* returned in 5 to 8 days. Currently, as U.S. servicemembers deploy to parts of the world where malaria remains endemic, chemoprophylaxis (the use of drugs to prevent disease) and mosquito repellents continue to help minimize the risk of contracting malaria. Military physicians perfected these tactics during the Vietnam War.

Meningococcal meningitis, a serious bacterial infection of the meninges (the protective membrane covering the brain and spinal cord) can be contracted while living in close quarters such as in military barracks. In March 1963, Navy Commander Jack Millan, MC, and his team demonstrated that, despite treating nasal secretions with sulfis antibiotics, a significant number of recruits became carriers of sulfis-resistant group B meningococci. Another team, led by Army Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Canillo, MC, noticed a similar pattern at a post in 1964. In response to the danger of antibiotic-resistant meningococci, a research team led by Dr. Malcolm Aronson at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research documented that vaccinations would need to be developed against each serogroup (distinct variations of a bacterial meningococci). By 1968, the team produced and tested a vaccine against serogroup C meningococci, which caused the largest number of cases of meningococcal meningitis at the time. Throughout the 1970s, scientists developed vaccines against three of the other serogroups of meningococcal meningitis. Today, all U.S. military recruits receive a vaccine to prevent the four most common serogroups of meningococcal meningitis before they begin basic training. Meningococcal meningitis vaccines help protect U.S. servicemembers and civilian populations around the world. In 2003, one source estimated 60 to 80 million doses of meningococcal vaccine were required annually for worldwide epidemic control.

In 1962, the Department of Defense established the Armed Services Blood Program (ASBP) to provide blood for the U.S. military. During the Vietnam War, the ASBP created a system to ensure that the blood supply was sufficient to meet demand. The quick administration of fresh whole blood at forward aid stations was one of the most important reasons why severely



Aboard the Naval Hospital Ship USS Repose in the South China Sea, November 1967 - November 1968, Lieutenant Colonel Marshall Medical Service Corps, and Hospital Corpsman Second Class Albi Covington check the maintenance status on a unit of frozen blood using the Plaque Cryoprecipitate test apparatus that saves frozen blood. The frozen units were developed for emergency use when the regular blood supply was low or shipments were interrupted. (Courtesy of Corporal Marshall Adams)

wounded patients survived their wounds. Some of the ASBP innovations during the war included the development of a cryo-stem container, which allowed storage of blood for several days in the field. Fresh frozen plasma (the colorless fluid part of blood in which the red and white cells are suspended) was determined to aid with volume replacement and help control bleeding in patients. By 1969, at the peak of the Vietnam War, the ASBP provided some 36,000 units of blood per month to 107 surgical teams. Today the ASBP has a "worldwide mission to provide quality blood products for servicemembers, veterans, and their families in both war and peace."



First Lieutenant Mary Ann Colwell takes a blood sample for a malaria test from Specialist Fourth Class Ray C. Ruffery, 11th Infantry Brigade, Assault Division, at the 3rd Field Hospital Support, South Vietnam, on July 22, 1971. (National Archives)

Medical Advancements in Vietnam-Page 3



MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS OF THE VIETNAM WAR

PART 3 OF 3



From front-line trauma care and evacuation of the wounded to treatment protocols for diseases such as malaria and meningitis, military medical advancements during the Vietnam War came about through the efforts of ingenious and caring healthcare professionals.

Specialty Fields

Anesthesiology – Throughout South Vietnam, anesthesiologists and nurse anesthetists were stationed at military treatment facilities (MTFs), where they helped evaluate patients in the triage area and worked in operating rooms to administer anesthesia. Two anesthetic medications commonly used during the war were halothane and methoxyflurane. Ketamine, an ideal anesthetic for hypovolemic trauma patients (those suffering from a decrease in blood plasma volume), was discovered in the 1960s; in 1970, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved this sedative for medical use. Major Casey Blinn, chief of anesthesia from 1970 to 1971 at the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Phu Bai, stated that he had colleagues from UCLA use ketamine in him in South Vietnam because his facility was unable to obtain the medication through military channels. "We had good surgeons and we provided good care and we had an illegal drug that was good for our patients," he recalled. Today ketamine is listed in the World Health Organization's Essential Drug List for health care systems in use worldwide.

At the beginning of the Vietnam War, MTFs were equipped with the adequate but antiquated World War II-era Heidbrink anesthesia machine. In 1967, the modern Ohio Model 785 Field Anesthesia Machine, which was capable of administering anesthetic agents, such as halothane, methoxyflurane, and ketamine, replaced the Heidbrink. During the Vietnam War, American researchers also developed a standardized field-anesthesia circuit, which contained a three-day supply of anesthetic drugs. The standardization of medication, equipment, and supplies ensured that MTFs possessed adequate stores to meet the diverse needs of the wounded during the Vietnam War.

Behavioral Health – As a result of studies of Vietnam veterans, Holocaust survivors, and other trauma victims, the American Psychiatric Association recognized Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a psychological ailment in 1980. Psychiatrists understood PTSD to be a mental malady caused by the stresses of combat or similar traumatic incidents. Research conducted on veterans during

and after they returned from Vietnam led to the establishment of this diagnosis. As servicemembers return from the battlefields of Iraq and Afghanistan, mental health professionals continue to study this condition and make innovations in the diagnosis and treatment of PTSD.

During the Vietnam War, the military established the first amnesty and drug treatment programs to address the rise of illicit drug use among uniformed personnel. Servicemembers who voluntarily admitted drug use to their commanding officer, chaplain, or unit surgeon often received treatment and sometimes avoided punishment. In 1970, Major Michael Grossman, chief of medicine and pharmacy at the 85th



Vietnam Navy Corporal Victor Germino (center) and Kenneth Howell (right) practice resuscitation skills on a Physician Assistant student in 1966. Photo appeared in September 6, 1966 issue of Look Magazine, produced by Robert Gray, photographed by Philip Harrington. (Courtesy of the Physician Assistant History Society)



First Lieutenant Naomi Hobson and ambulance Captain Tom Dinsley treat a patient for surgery at the 2nd Evacuation Hospital in Long Binh, South Vietnam, on November 7, 1969. (National Archives)



Efficient Heroin Drug Program treated at the 85th Evacuation Hospital in Phu Bai, South Vietnam, 1970 - 1971. (Courtesy of Gus Koppeler, MD)

Evacuation Hospital in Phu Bai, South Vietnam, developed a drug treatment program for opiods, such as heroin and opium, and other widely-abused narcotics like hashish. "I trained in San Francisco, so I had some experience in drug rehabilitation. [At the 85th Evacuation Hospital] We helped people get straightened out, and it was an amazingly rewarding thing for me and everybody around me."

Physician Assistants – Medical practice in the United States became increasingly specialized after World War II. By the 1960s, there was a shortage of family practice doctors, especially in rural regions of the country. To help alleviate the rising shortage of primary care physicians in 1965, Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, began a two-year Physician Assistant training program. Simultaneously, corpsmen and medics returning from the Vietnam War possessed a plethora of trauma skills, which made them ideal applicants for this novel medical field. In fact, the original Duke University physician assistant's class was comprised of four veteran Navy corpsmen. Now there are thousands of physician assistants who practice medicine in civilian and military health care settings throughout the United States and in at least 12 foreign countries.

Vascular Surgery – Major Norman Rich, MC, chief of surgery from 1966 to 1967 at the 2nd Surgical Hospital in Lai Khe, South Vietnam, pioneered venous repair for military trauma that helped salvage badly wounded limbs. He established the Vietnam Vascular Registry, a database that contains more than 7,500 records of surgical cases, which is still used by battlefield surgeons. Innovative techniques in vascular reconstruction led to an amputation rate in Vietnam that was 25 percent lower than the amputation rate in World War II. Venous repair techniques established in Vietnam became the standard of practice employed by civilian vascular surgeons.

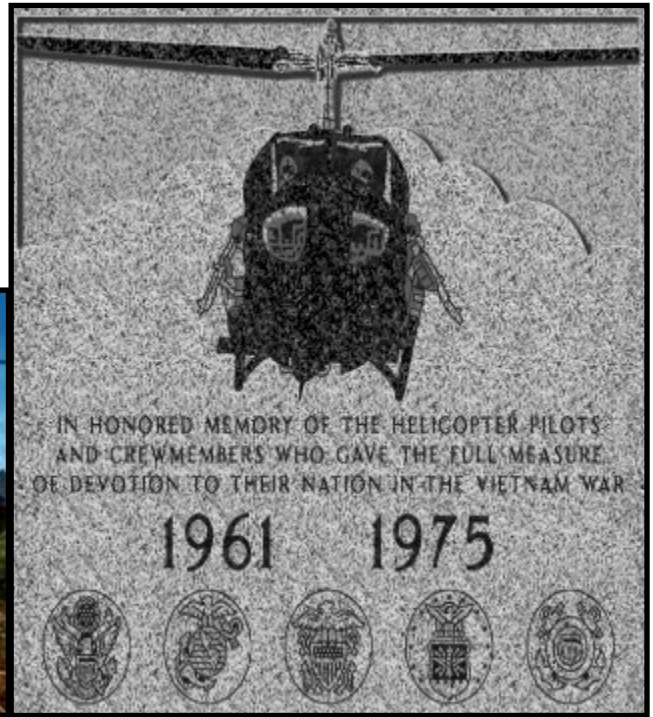
Conclusion

During each war our nation has endured, military medical research has led to advancements in meeting the needs of America's servicemen. From front-line trauma care and evacuation of the wounded to treatment protocols for diseases such as malaria and meningitis, military medical advancements during the Vietnam War came about through the efforts of ingenious and caring healthcare professionals. These dedicated professionals heralded innovations in health care for our citizens and the world.

References can be found at The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration website
<http://www.vietnamwar50th.com/education/>

Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Memorial

The granite Vietnam Helicopter Pilot and Crewmember Memorial Monument awaits installation in Arlington National Cemetery. The monument will complement a red maple tree donated and dedicated in August, 2015. A monument dedication ceremony took place at 4:00 PM on April 18, 2018 at the Arlington National Cemetery Amphitheater.



Another Side of "Vietnam" — "French Indo-China"

Another Side of Vietnam — Indochina

Looking back when I went into the service, you could put in a fumble as to what I knew about Vietnam. However, over the years, I have studied the country and what the area was all about, the military that attempted to make it a free country.

Frankly, it is not a country or region in the world that many know much about. But then there is that time, frankly really, a long time where it was not called "Vietnam", but Indochina and before that it was referred to as something else as was called Indo-China with the hyphen in the middle of the word.

And before that it was referred to as three regions known as: TONKIN, ANNAM and COCHINCHINE and before that it was something else.

The pages that follow will illustrate what Vietnam was during the last 300 plus years and all that took place with "Rulers", "Colonizers", the language, the food, infrastructure, ideology and on and on. This is something every Vietnam Veteran should know. Read carefully, you'll enjoy it.

As you look at the map above which is about 250 years old, please observe carefully with the "odd names" located on the map which, to me anyway, are unusual. There are names that have not been around for many decades of years, along with the country names being different from their known names of today. And something a little unusual to me is that this is our spelling of "SAIGON". The Vietnamese spell it "SAIGON" with a space. Instead of Hanoi, they spell it "HA NOI".

Study the map and pick out the country-name change, the spelling of cities within Indochina and the regions of various countries within Indochina. You'll find a great lesson in this to be sure. By the way, show it to your family as they too, may be interested in knowing this.

If you are looking for some history about French Indochina and how they got started, where they went from 1848 to the current day, then you might want this 31 page newsletter to read about it.

I recently had a gentlemen from a VVA Chapter in Phoenix inquire about it and in turn he received a 12"x12" color Snapfish book on French Indochina for \$30.00, and a DVD on the country from beginning to end as well as this thirty-one page newsletter.

So, why am I mentioning this? Well, your children may not know a lot about it and likely neither would your grandchildren as well. So, this might be an opportunity to give them a nice gift for their birthday or just because.

The Vietnam War will disappear from the minds of many unless we keep it in our minds, so consider it if you would please. You may of course email Walt at prov2007@hushmail.com and he will create you a copy of the entire document to enjoy.

The “Eiffel Tower Pilot” — Bill Overstreet



The fighter pilot who flew through the Eiffel Tower in 1944 has recently died. In the spring of 1944, Bill Overstreet and his plane, the P-51C, the 'Berlin Express' were near Paris when the scene that is immortalized in the artwork by Len Krenzler of Action Art that leads this article took place. Bill had followed a German Bf109 from the bombers he was escorting when most of the German fighters left. The two planes had been in a running dogfight. The German pilot flew over Paris hoping that the heavy German anti-aircraft artillery would solve his problem and eliminate Overstreet and the 'Berlin Express', though Bill managed to get some hits in at about 1500 feet.

The German's engine was hit, and Bill stayed on his tail braving the intense enemy flak. His desperation undoubtedly growing, the German pilot aimed his plane at the Eiffel Tower and in a surprising maneuver, flew beneath it. Undeterred, Bill followed right behind him, scoring several more hits in the process. The German plane crashed and Bill escaped the heavy flak around Paris by flying low and full throttle over the river until he had cleared the city's heavy anti-aircraft batteries.

The WWII fighter pilot who flew through the Eiffel Tower to take down a German plane dies in Virginia aged 92. A former captain in the U.S. Air Corps, passed away on Sunday at a hospital in Roanoke, Virginia. He famously flew his plane beneath the Eiffel Tower in Nazi-occupied Paris in 1944, lifting the spirits of French troops on the ground. In 2009, he was presented France's Legion of Honor.



Before the ceremony, Overstreet had previously said that, if he lived long enough to receive the Legion of Honor, he would be accepting it in memory of his fallen brothers. In particular, he wanted to pay tribute to a friend, Eddy Simpson, who died fighting the Nazis on the ground so his comrades, including Overstreet, could escape. After the award was pinned to his lapel, Overstreet said: 'If I said, "Thank you," it wouldn't be enough,' before adding: 'What more than "thank you" do you need?' He was born in Clifton Forge, Virginia in 1921 and after Pearl Harbor, he enlisted in the Air Corps as a fighter pilot.

By February 1942, he was a private and sent to California for flight training; there, his instructors prepared him for the unexpected mid-flight by cutting the engine as he landed. 'He was always humble. Whenever the press interviewed him, he said, **"I didn't do anything. We were a team"**.'



Eerie, Yet “Beautiful Buildings” in the World



A Library in Dublin, Ireland



The “Eyes of a Tunnel” of a Train



A Hotel in India



The Milky Way Above a Lighthouse



Multi-Colored Ivy

The world is full of beauty if you look for it. God has made His world full of color, beauty and extreme wonderful nature, once again if we look for it. And there are beautiful people as well, and only if we look for them. Do the right thing in life and you might be able to spend the rest of your life in a beautiful place, once again if you look for it.



Wisteria Forest in Japan

VVA National Challenge Coins



With the 40th year of Vietnam Veterans of America on hand, VVA National has come out with its first challenge coin. The cost is only \$5.00. Take the opportunity to bless another Vietnam Veteran that is part of VVA or not. Every challenge coin always has its own story and the one that you give your best friend or a stranger could be that type of gift that he'll remember for the rest of his life and you'll be the one that he'll remember. Go to www.vva.org and get the details on ordering the coins.

What is a Veteran?



A "**VETERAN**" whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reservist is someone who at one point of his or her life wrote a blank check made payable to the "United States of America" for an amount up to an including his or her life. That is "**HONOR**". And there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand that fact, that this is "**THE LAND OF THE FREE and THE HOME OF THE BRAVE**". THANK YOU VETERANS



The U.S. Navy’s Largest Warship



This is the Super carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) and it is the biggest Naval ship ever built. To put this in perspective, when the U.S. Navy sends an aircraft carrier to watch-over a country, that country and the rest of the world knows that simply put, the presence of a carrier means air dominance.

CVN-78 weighs as much as 400 Statues of Liberty (just under 100,000 tons). Five thousand American ship-builders worked on the USS G. R. Ford. In a time of war, the ship can carry 508 officers and 3,789 enlisted crew members for a total of 4,297 humans living on the CVN-78.

This is the Super carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78) and it is the biggest Naval ship ever built. At 1,106 feet long with 25 decks tall, when it enters the water approximately 100 thousand tons of water gets displaced. Over 42 years ago, on May 3rd of 1975, the USS Nimitz (CVN-68) was commissioned as the first “Nimitz class” carrier. Construction began on August 11th of 2005 in Virginia at Newport News.

It will hold at least 75 planes/helicopters (or more). Two separate nuclear reactors power the four propellers to a top speed of 35mph. Each one of the 4 propellers weigh 30-tons. The ship produces 15,000 meals a day to feed the floating city. Her massive flight deck spans over 5-acres. The flight deck is 256 feet wide and spans the length of 1,092 feet for a total of 217,796 square feet.

Within the carrier are 10 million feet of electrical cables. And an additional 4 million feet of fiber optic cables. CVN-78 is coated with “Haze Gray” paint and 200,000 gallons of it...enough to apply 350 coats of paint to the White House. Building the biggest isn’t cheap. An individual ship costs around 10 billion dollars with an additional \$4 billion for research. It’s an expensive ship but it comes with an estimated lifespan of 50 years. More importantly, we know that our U.S. Navy is the most powerful force at sea.

Adult Truths

1. Sometimes I'll look down at my watch 3 consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
2. Nothing sucks more than that moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
3. I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
4. There is great need for a sarcasm font, but sarcasm is not worth it.
5. How are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
6. Was learning cursive really necessary, in a word? YES.
7. Map Quest or Google Maps really need to start their directions on #5. I'm pretty sure I know how to get out of my neighborhood.
8. Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
9. I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind of tired.
10. Bad decisions make good stories, but who wants to hear them.
11. You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
12. Can we all just agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-Ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection...again.
13. I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
14. I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
15. I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
16. I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with anything other than "Kay".
17. I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.
18. I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
19. How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
20. I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong, brothers and sisters!
21. Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.
22. Even under ideal conditions people are having trouble locating their car keys in a pocket.
23. Be kind, very kind, ever so kind.....it costs **NOTHING**.



New Veterans Affairs Secretary



"VVA applauds the White House nomination of Acting Secretary Robert Wilkie to serve as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. We are confident that Wilkie, a veteran of both the U.S. Navy and U.S. Air Force, has the credentials and experience to lead the second largest government agency in this nation," said John Rowan, VVA National President.

"The son of an Army artillery commander, Wilkie has a wealth of experience, which he has evidenced in his current role as acting secretary. From his early at Ft. Bragg through his more recent positions at the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill, Wilkie has proven his commitment to the security of our nation and to those whom we send in harm's way.

"Wilkie's experience spans administrations. Most recently, he has served as Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness.

Under former President George W. Bush, he served as Assistant Secretary of Defense to both Robert Gates and Donald Rumsfeld; and he was Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs and a senior director of the National Security Council under Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

"On Capitol Hill, Wilkie served as senior advisor to Sen. Thom Tillis and as counsel and advisor on International Security Affairs to the Honorable Trent Lott, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate. During a five-year interlude in the private sector, he served as Vice President for Strategic Programs for CH2M HIL, an engineering and program management firm.

Paul Lawrence As New Under Secretary For Benefits

Today, VA announced that Paul R. Lawrence will assume office Tuesday, May 15 as the department's new Under Secretary for Benefits. Lawrence is a former Army captain and airborne school graduate, and has served in a number of key positions in the accounting industry, focusing primarily in the area of federal government practices. Most recently, Lawrence was a Public Sector Vice President with Kaiser Associates. Previously, he held leadership positions with Ernst & Young, Accenture, the MITRE Corporation, IBM Business Consulting Services, and PricewaterhouseCoopers. Lawrence has a Master of Arts and Ph.D. in Economics from Virginia Tech, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Acting Secretary Robert Wilkie said, "VA is excited to have Paul Lawrence join our team in this important role for Veterans. His decades of leadership in the accounting industry will serve him well as he continues the progress VBA is making on a number of fronts. VA now has two of three Under Secretaries in place, with both assuming office more than a year before their counterparts in the previous administration." VA also announced that Thomas J. Murphy, currently the Executive in Charge of the Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), will become the new VBA Midwest Area Director, in St. Louis, Mo. Prior to serving in the temporary position of Executive in Charge, Murphy was Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits in VBA. Additionally, Margarita Devlin will become Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Benefits in VBA. Until recently she served as the Executive Director of VA's Benefits Assistance Service (BAS). Devlin has served as executive director of Navigation, Advocacy and Community Engagement; executive director of Interagency Care and Benefits Coordination, and other positions in VA since 2003. She holds a master's degree from the University of South Florida.

VVA-Arizona Elections from June 2018 to 2020

Title	Nominations	Elected
President	Gene Crego Michael Marks	Gene Crego
Vice Presidents (3)	Pat Farrell Bill Beecher Randy Schriver Butch Morgan	Pat Farrell Bill Beecher Randy Schriver
State Secretary	Walt Schumacher	Walt Schumacher
State Treasurer	Paul Reichenbach	Paul Reichenbach



Paul Reichenbach, Ed Uzemeckis, Randy Schriver, Gene Crego, Pat Farrell, Bill Beecher, Walt Schumacher
 State Treasurer At Large Dir. VP #2 President VP#1 VP#3 State Secretary

May Is Military Appreciation Month

May 1— Loyalty Day - A day set aside for American citizens to reaffirm their loyalty to the United States and to recognize the heritage of American freedom

May 1—Silver Star Service Banner Day - A day set aside to honor our wounded, ill and dying military personnel by flying a Silver Star Banner

May 3--- National Day of Prayer - The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance held on the first Thursday of May, inviting people of all faiths to pray for this nation.

May 5---Cinco de Mayo

May 7---Unconditional surrender of all German Forces signed (1945)

May 8---Victory in Europe VE Day 1945

May 11---Military Spouse Appreciation Day a day set aside to acknowledge the contributions and sacrifices of the spouses of the Armed Forces. VetJobs is the first military related job board to allow the spouses and other family members to fully use all of VetJobs' services

May 13---Mother's Day

May 13— Children of Fallen Patriots Day - A day to honor the families our Fallen Heroes have left behind, especially their children. It is a reminder to the citizens of this country that we have an obligation to support the families of our Fallen Patriots

May 14---WAAC (Women's Auxiliary Air Corps) established by Congress (1942)

May 19---Armed Forces Day

May 21---American Red Cross founded (1881)

May 22---National Maritime Day

May 28---Memorial Day - The day set aside to honor all who have died in military service for the United States of America. Flags at half-staff until noon.

When you look at certain months throughout the year, you see some that have more in them for the veterans than others. I look at the month of May and there are all kinds of events that we can all recognize and celebrate for veterans, their families and people you may not know.

This is an opportunity to do something for someone that is in real need of some love from an unknown person (such as you), or someone that needs housing as they sleep on the streets or how about a meal that they have not enjoyed in a long time. Passing on to your grandchildren about Armed Forces Day, or Memorial Day to remember the lost, V-E Day from Europe in 1945 or how about Mother's Day, the one person in our life we should highly respect. How the WAAC's that started in 1942, what were they all about? And then Red Cross Day, the outfit that has been there since 1881 and has been there for millions over time. It is time to **REMEMBER.**

Additional VA Bills

The following bills were passed out of committee:

[H.R. 299](#): The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017

[H.R. 5674](#): The Department of Veterans Affairs Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks “MISSION” Act

[H.R. 1972](#): The VA Billing Accountability Act

[H.R. 2147](#): The Veterans Treatment Court Improvement Act

[H.R. 3642](#): Military Sexual Assault Victims Empowerment (SAVE) Act

[H.R. 3832](#): The Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act

[H.R. 4635](#): To direct the secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the number of peer-to-peer counselors providing counseling for women veterans

[H.R. 5520](#): The Veterans Affairs Medicinal Cannabis Research Act of 2018

[H.R. 4245](#): The Veterans’ Electronic Health Record Modernization Oversight Act of 2017

[HR 4334](#): The Improving Oversight of Women Veterans’ Care Act of 2017

[H.R. 4451](#): The Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2017

[H.R. 4830](#): The Service members Improved Transition through Reforms for Ensuring Progress (SIT-REP) Act

[H.R. 4958](#): The Veterans Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018

[H.R. 5044](#): The Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act

[H.R. 5215](#): The Veterans Affairs Purchase Card Misuse Mitigation Act

[H.R. 5418](#): The Veterans Affairs Medical-Surgical Purchasing Stabilization Act

Online Feature of Medical Images

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently released a new online feature through the My HealthVet portal that allows Veterans to access their medical images and associated study reports online.

Called VA Medical Images and Reports, the feature allows Veterans with a premium account to view, download and share copies of their radiology studies, such as X-rays, mammograms, MRIs and CTs, from the VA Electronic Health Record (EHR).

“With VA Medical Images and Reports, patients have the option of obtaining their images and reports online, eliminating the need to visit a VA facility to acquire a copy of their information,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “This feature aligns with VA Blue Button’s concept, which simplifies patient access to their personal health information by allowing them to retrieve it securely online.”

Veterans can view a list of accessible radiology studies, which are available in My HealthVet, three (3) calendar days after the study report has been verified. When a request for a specific study is completed, Veterans can view a lower resolution thumbnail copy of the images and the associated radiology report online, or download a zip file that contains the report and diagnostic quality images.

The images and reports may be copied to a CD, DVD or USB flash drive, or any portable drive of their choice to share with providers, both outside of VA and across VA settings of care.

The National Native American Veterans Memorial



a place for reflection

where generations of Americans can honor the proud and courageous legacy of Native Americans in the military, and look forward to the future;

a permanent memorial at the Smithsonian

planned for the grounds of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol;

a Native American effort

driven by the National Museum of the American Indian and Native nations;

and a recognition by all Americans,

a symbol of the country's respect for Native Americans' sacrifice and patriotism. Support from Native American communities and organizations, including our collaboration with the National Congress of American Indians and tribal leaders, is crucial to our success. The memorial is further strengthened with the aid of major corporations and defense contractors, American veterans and their families, and private citizens.

The 50th Commemoration

In 2017, President Trump signed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act designating March 29 of each year as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Our Nation's Vietnam War Commemoration is an opportunity for all Americans to recognize, honor, and thank our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice during one of the longest wars in our country's history.

As a commemorative partner, the VA joins nearly 10,000 organizations across the Nation supporting the Department of Defense in this mission to honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans. I encourage all VA leaders to either host ceremonies or participate in community events during the period March 25 – 29, 2018, to express our tremendous gratitude to this generation of warriors and their families.



The commemoration recognizes all men and women who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces during the United States involvement in **Vietnam—November 1, 1955 – May 7, 1975**. Nine million Americans, approximately 7.2 million living today, served during that period. The commemoration makes no distinction between Veterans who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years. All answered the call to duty. Please visit www.vietnamwar50th.com to learn how your organization or facility can become a commemorative partner and participate in this commemoration. VA currently sustains more than 400 commemorative partnerships, and I am so proud of their contributions to honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans. Importantly, a partnership provides historical media and the ability to request beautifully struck lapel pins and other recognition items for presentation to Vietnam Veterans.

More VA Changes Coming

Effective **January 1, 2019** retired members of the uniformed services and their families, and family members of active duty service men and women, will be eligible for the Federal Employees Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP). Eligible individuals must enroll during the 2018 Federal Benefits Open Season (**November 12, 2018, to December 10, 2018**) to have coverage starting January 1, 2019. The current U.S. Department of Defense's TRICARE Retiree Dental Program (TRDP) will sunset on December 31, 2018. For more information about this new opportunity to join FEDVIP, please visit www.tricare.benefeds.com.

“VA Mission Act” Passes In Senate

“VVA applauds today’s overwhelming passage of the *VA Mission Act* by the House of Representatives and commends Rep. Phil Roe (R-TN) for his outstanding leadership in his role as chair of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs,” said John Rowan, president of Vietnam Veterans of America. “We prevail on the Senate for the swift passage of this critical legislation.” “This bipartisan bill, H.R. 5674/S.2372--introduced by Rep. Roe, who amended the title to honor three senators, the *John S. McCain III, Daniel K. Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks Act*-- will both strengthen the VA’s capacity as well as allow veterans more choice in their health care,” said Rowan.

VVA has long advocated for the extension of the family caregiver provisions to veterans from pre-9/11 eras. *The VA Mission Act* would expand eligibility and extends caregiver support to veterans from all wars with a serious injury incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, and is a very welcome provision of this legislation,” said Rowan. “By reauthorizing funding for the VA Choice Program, anticipated to run out of funds by the end of May, *The VA Mission Act* ensures uninterrupted access to care for our veterans while proposing measures to streamline VA’s community care programs into one cohesive program. “VVA salutes Chairman Roe and the House Majority on the passage of this much-needed bill. There is more work to be done in the immediate future to ensure proper staffing of the existing VA hospitals, and we look forward to working in a bipartisan manner to ensure that happens,” noted Rowan.

About one-third of veterans in the system now see outside doctors through a program called “Choice,” which Congress hastily approved as a temporary remedy in response to the scandal. But the program — designed to serve the overflow at VA facilities both of aging Vietnam-era veterans and younger service members returning from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — is fragmented and unwieldy. Doctors have complained of slow or nonexistent payments, and veterans say there’s insurmountable red tape. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that as a result of the *VA Mission Act*, an additional 640,000 veterans each year would go outside the system. The bill would require VA for the first time to negotiate a contract for veterans to seek care at private walk-in clinics, a shift now being tested in Arizona as part of a pilot program with the drugstore chain CVS. “*The VA Mission Act* is the result of years of pressure from our members across the country, and its swift passage represents the kind of bipartisan work that Congress accomplishes when they focus on veterans,” said John Rowan, Vietnam Veterans of America national president. “We urge President Trump to sign this important legislation immediately, so that the VA can get to work on enacting these important reforms right away.”

The *VA Mission Act*, a \$52 billion spending package, passed the Senate by a 92-5 vote, after sweeping through the House on a 347-70 vote. The legislation consolidates the Department of Veterans Affairs’ seven separate community care programs into one streamlined program in order to reduce bureaucracy and confusion for both veterans and the VA staff charged with caring for them.

A critical provision of the *VA Mission Act* is the expansion of the caregiver-support program to pre-9/11 veterans. This expansion will be rolled out over time to ensure that a surge in demand doesn’t overwhelm the VA’s already strained information-technology systems. Once fully enacted, the *VA Mission Act* will ensure that the caregivers of veterans of all eras are provided equality in support.

Chuck Byers—New Staff Member

Congresswoman Debbie Lesko Announces New Staff Member for Arizona Veterans and the Military



Congresswoman Debbie Lesko (AZ-08) announced the newest staff member to the Glendale District Office, Charles "Chuck" G. Byers, Jr. Chuck will assist Arizona veterans and active duty service members in the Eighth Congressional District.

"Chuck served our country honorably and has been a supporter of America's veterans for decades," said Congresswoman Lesko. "I welcome Chuck to the team in my Glendale office, and I look forward to working with him to assist veterans in our community. He will be a tireless advocate for veterans and military personnel in the Eighth District."

"I cannot think of a better way of helping my fellow veterans and active military service members than by advocating strongly in a Congressional staff position with Congresswoman Lesko," said Byers, Jr. "I look forward to serving in this position."

Chuck served in the United States Army from 1966 to 1972 and as a combat medic in Vietnam from July 1967 to June 1968. He was wounded during combat, and after recovering, he continued his service by entering the Walter Reed Army Nursing program. Chuck is a recipient of the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Valor, and the Purple Heart. He currently served as the Second Vice President for the State Council of Arizona Vietnam Veterans of America and volunteers as the Chief Veterans Service Officer for Arizona. Chuck is a lifetime member of Vietnam Veterans of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Military Order of the Purple Heart.

Chuck Byers Witnesses "MISSION ACT" Signing



Chuck Byers, of Chapter 1011 and Vice President of VVA-Arizona was selected to witness President Trump signing the MISSION ACT Bill that was recently awarded by the U.S. Congress. "If the VA can't meet the needs of a veteran in a timely manner, that veteran will have the right to go right outside to a private doctor. So simple and yet so complex," he said. Mr. Trump announced to the veterans and members of Congress present at the Rose Garden event that vets fulfilled their duty with courage and "with this signing we take one more crucial step in fulfilling our duty to you." He emphasized how crucial it was for veterans to have choice within their medical care.

"If they're waiting on line for nine days, and they can't see a doctor, why aren't they going outside to see a doctor and take care of themselves and we pay the bill? It's less expensive for us, it works out much better, and it's immediate care," he said.

The president was joined by Mike Pence, his nominee to lead the VA Robert Wilkie, and acting VA Secretary Peter O'Rourke. Following his remarks, Mr. Trump signed the bill and ignored questions about the commutation of Alice Marie Johnson shouted at him by reporters.

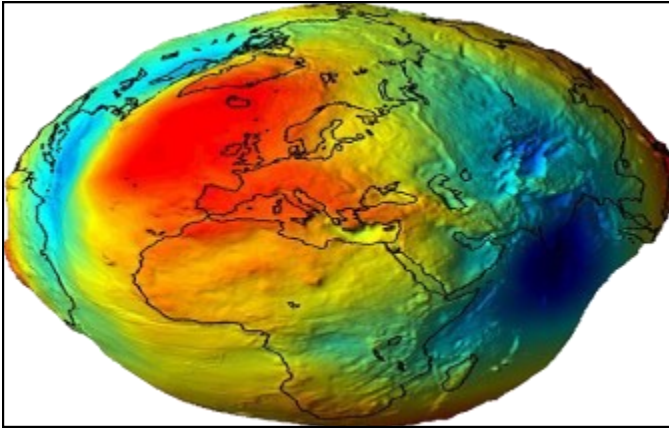


"Nobody deserves it more than our veterans," Mr. Trump said.

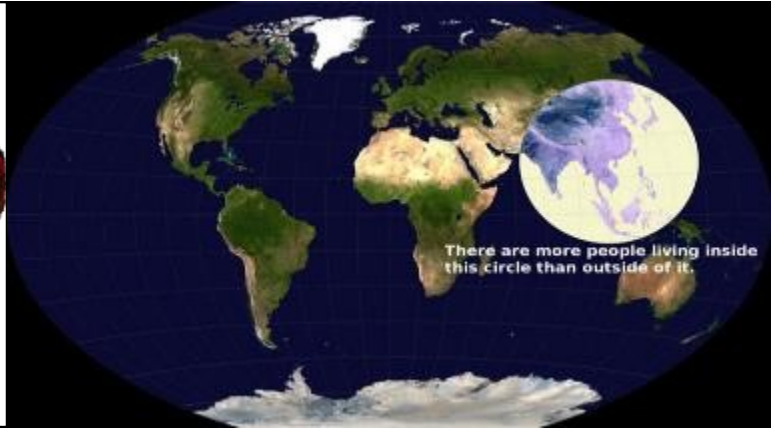
Needless to say, this was a real honor for Chuck Byers to attend the signing of the MISSIONS ACT, which is something he will never forget.

Keep up the good work Chuck. We look forward to having you in our presence and keeping us informed as to what is happening in Washington D.C.

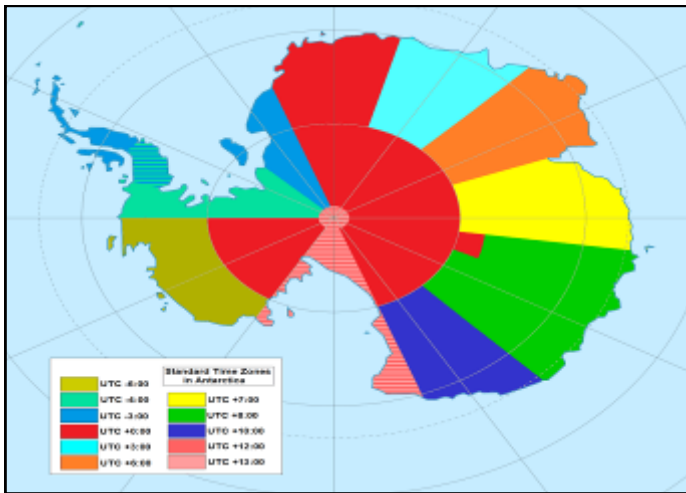
Six Ways—The World REALLY "Is"



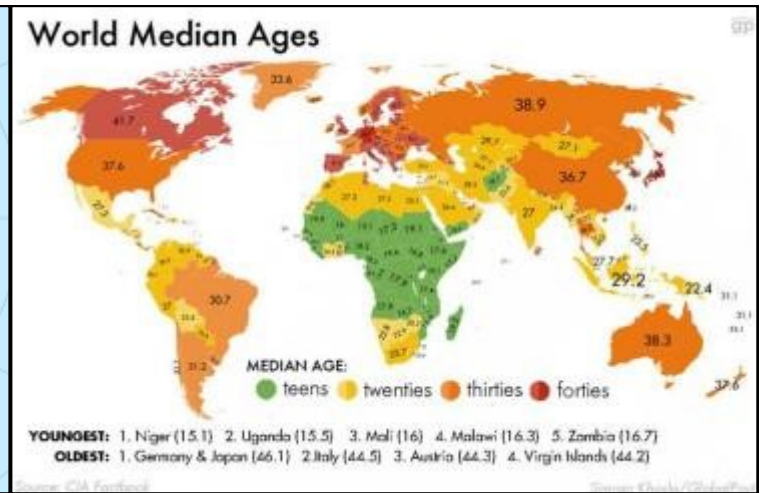
This is how the Earth would look like without oceans.



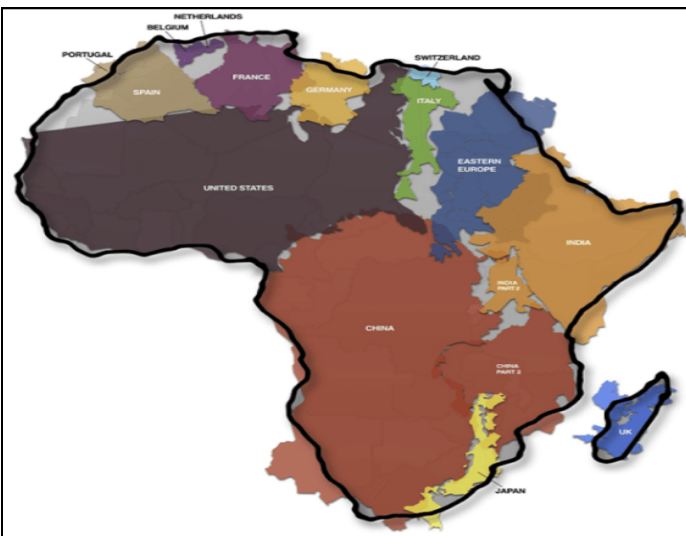
The bulk of the world's population is in that circle



"Ownership" of Antarctica



The median age of people of the world

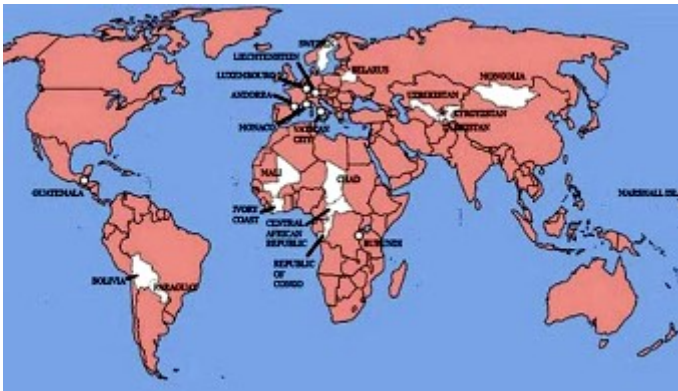


Countries that fit into Africa



Typical Family Names in the world

"Historical and Interesting Things" in Our World



WHITE shows countries Britain has **NOT** attacked



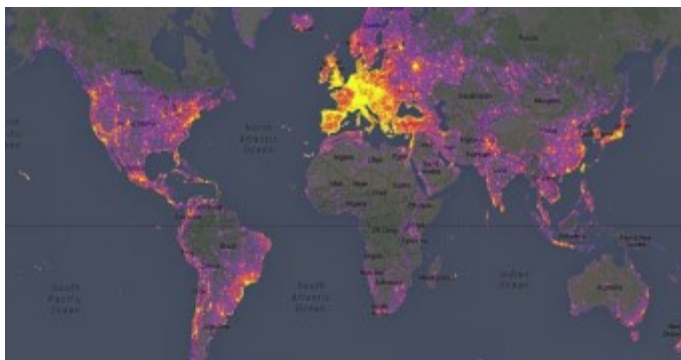
In **RED**, is where the metric system is **NOT** used



GREEN shows all landlocked nations



All of the **RIVERS** in the United States



MOST photographed countries in the world



Those countries in **BLUE** operate aircraft carriers



The rivers that **FEED** the Mississippi River



Those in **RED** drive on the right side of the road

Just A Reminder of "NOT That Long Ago"

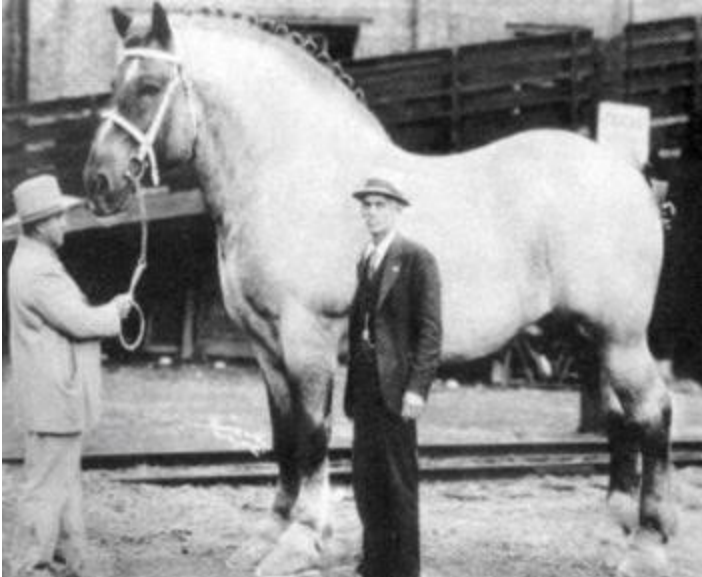


To you reading this page, please look at it and know that this was in the 1930's, not even 100 years ago. You know as well as I, that there are a lot of people just like this, including veterans that live like, well, what might the word be, but "pigs".

There are plenty of organizations that **NEED** the money to help out those people similar to those above that need a lot of help. To put it in perspective, what if you were in this condition? Would you want someone to help you? I dare say **YES**.

Always remember as: **WE ALL NEED A REMINDER, WE ARE ALL ONE STEP AWAY FROM BEING HOMELESS.**

"Unusual" Old Photos



“Cockpits” and the “Vehicle”



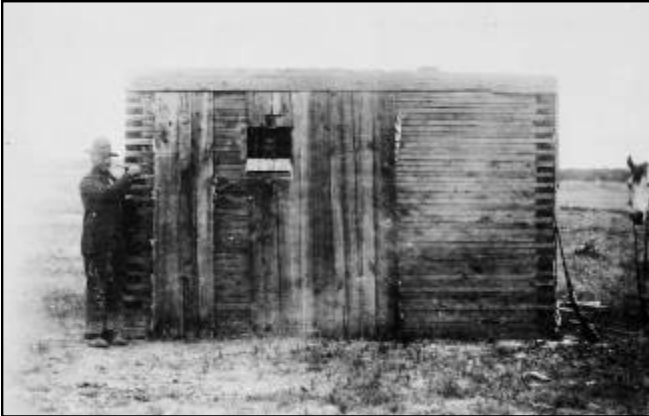
Knowing what the controls look like, could **“YOU”** drive any of these “vehicles”?

Top: M1-A2 Tank

Middle: Blackhawk Helicopter

Bottom: B2 Bomber

History—Repeats Itself; It Always Does



LEFT: A wooden prison in Wyoming in 1893.

RIGHT: And the "LAW" getting rid of opium with a sledge hammer in 1911 and it worked.



Mowing the lawn at the White House in 1909



Laying a brick street in Manhattan in 1930



An actual wooden Motor Home in 1922



Big crowd on Coney Island beach in New York in 1940

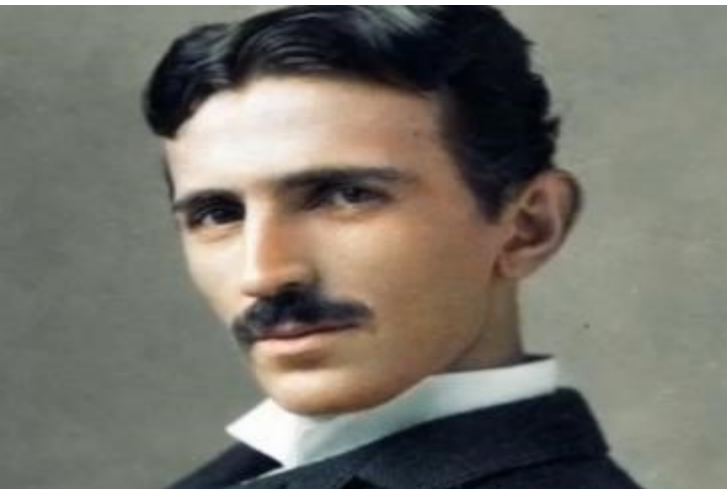
Black and White History in Color



Civil War Soldiers in the 1860's



General Grant After the Civil War



Nichola Tesla in 1898



Butch Cassidy and his gang in 1902

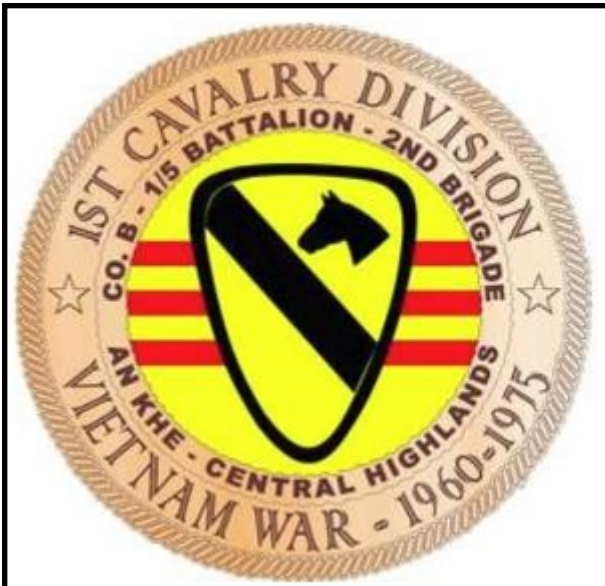


Milk Wagon in 1904 in New Orleans



A poor Mother and her kids in Tennessee in 1930

Precision Wood Cutting



A disabled Vietnam Veteran named Jim Burton living in Oklahoma does very nice work making 12" round plaques of nearly everything, but as you can see he did this 1st Cavalry Division plaque for \$40.00.

Details of what he does is at:
www.precisionwoodingok.com

Jim Burton
Precision Woodcrafting
16238 N. Meadowlark Lane
Hulbert, OK 74441
jim@precisionwoodcraftingok.com
(918) 772-3225



These are very nice gifts for that veteran, for the child or the grand child that YOU want to be remembered by. You can design these and many others to your liking and they take about 2-3 days to make and will be mailed to you for \$40.00 with no shipping charge. Consider giving one or two to some folks within your chapter for doing a good job. They are 12" around.

Moral Injury

Most Americans have heard about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and understand that it affects our combat military and veterans in a variety of ways, leading to symptoms such as hypervigilance, nightmares, and difficulties in establishing and maintaining healthy personal relationships. PTSD can often lead to self-medication, with abuse of alcohol, prescription drugs, or misuse of illegal substances. Fortunately, we have several decades of significant strides in treating PTSD, utilizing therapeutic techniques conducted by mental health professionals, sometimes in combination with controlled medications. Non-traditional therapies such as Yoga, meditation, or nature therapy may also be effective treatments. When a veteran experiencing PTSD engages in healthy activities there may be a decrease in symptomatic experiences related to PTSD over time, lessening the negative effects of combat or other traumatic incidences.

What, then, is **Moral Injury**, and how does it relate to military personnel and veterans, impacting reintegration into civilian life? Briefly, *Moral injury* is the damage done to one's conscience or *moral* compass when that person perpetrates, witnesses, or fails to prevent acts that transgress their own *moral* and ethical values or codes of conduct. We are still at the beginning stages of understanding the intense effects associated with exposure to violence, inhuman treatment of humans to other humans, and death under brutal wartime circumstances, both on the victims of battle and the perpetrators. Very often Moral Injury is experienced by military personnel along with PTSD, but is increasingly becoming recognized as a separate condition requiring specialized intervention and therapies.

Recently in Arizona we have had two acknowledged experts speak about Moral Injury, both conducting lectures and workshops to educate military and veteran service agencies and personnel on the topic. Rita Nakashima Brock, Research Professor and Co-director of the Soul Repair Center at Brite Divinity School, is the co-author of [Soul Repair, Recovering from Moral Injury After War](#). Ms. Brock spoke at The Franciscan Renewal Center in Phoenix, and conducted a workshop at the Arizona Coalition for Military Families Symposium in April of this year.

David Wood, veteran war reporter and correspondent who spent more than thirty years covering the U.S. military and conflicts around the world, including being embedded with American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan, published [What Have We Done: The Moral Injury of Our Longest Wars](#), in 2016, with a focus on the experiences of the veterans of our most recent wars. Mr. Wood conducted a lecture and discussion group on Moral Injury hosted by Arizona State University, Office of Veteran and Military Academic Engagement, in January of this year.

Is Moral Injury a new phenomenon, perhaps somehow resulting from the brutal tactics and violent turmoil of modern warfare? The term **Moral Injury** was coined by author Johnathan Shay, Clinical Psychiatrist, in his 1995 book [Achilles in Vietnam](#). Dr. Shay related the experiences of Vietnam veterans, with whom he had worked in his clinical treatment of PTSD, to the traumas and tragic war wounds of the soul, experienced during and after military actions in Homer's epic poem, [The Iliad](#). Those of us who are working with combat veterans in clinical, homeless, and treatment settings, are seeing the effects of **Moral Injury** on our most recent veterans of Iraq, Afghanistan, and other wars. It is critical that we educate ourselves on the very real pain and suffering experienced by veterans from this condition, and that we search for appropriate activities and treatments to mitigate the long-term effects of **Moral Injury**.

Two NEW State Homes



Arizona approved to build two new state veteran homes

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) State Home Construction Grant Program has approved construction costs for 80-bed skilled-nursing veteran homes in Flagstaff and Yuma. The new Arizona State Veteran Homes will hold four 16-bed long-term care units and one memory care unit. This grant will fund 65 percent of the construction costs.



"Since 2015, we've put Arizona's veterans first, securing \$19.2 million in matching state funds for additional State Veteran Homes," Governor Doug Ducey says. "Now both homes will serve veterans and their families in rural areas and bring new jobs to each city."

The Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS) will hire 250 employees to staff the homes, including registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, dietitians and aides, housekeeping and administrative services. The staff will provide 24/7 skilled-nursing care for geriatric and chronically-ill veterans, dependents, and surviving spouses. Care includes respiratory therapy, rehabilitative work, therapeutic recreation, exercise classes, and physical, occupational, and speech therapy.

"Wherever veterans live, they deserve our services," Retired Air Force Col. Wanda Wright, ADVS Director, says. "39 percent of veterans in the Flagstaff area and 24 percent of veterans in the Yuma area are over age 65. These numbers don't even include the many other veterans who live in rural areas. Now we can serve them as close to their homes, families and friends as possible. This helps families save on travel costs and helps veterans thrive."

Each home will be approximately 80,000 square feet, on ten acres of land donated by their respective city. The southwestern-themed homes will offer services and amenities similar to those at the current Arizona State Veteran Homes in Phoenix and Tucson, like housekeeping, laundry services, a meditation room, a gift shop, a barber/beauty shop and more. Veteran Benefits Counselors will be available to assist residents in obtaining their federal and state benefits. Social services will also provide support for residents and their families. Each resident room is furnished and private.

Construction could begin as early as within the next eight to ten months and will take 18 months to two years for to complete.



Above: Arizona State Veteran Home - Phoenix





Above: Arizona State Veteran Home - Tucson

Right: Grand Canyon University's mascot, Thunder the Antelope, visiting with a veteran at Arizona State Veteran Home - Phoenix



The Way To Live

If:  then 

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ
STUVWXYZ


Is represented as:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16
17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26.

H-A-R-D-W-O-R-K
 $8+1+18+4+23+15+18+11 = 98\%$

and


K-N-O-W-L-E-D-G-E
 $11+14+15+23+12+5+4+7+5 = 96\%$

But 

A-T-T-I-T-U-D-E
 $1+20+20+9+20+21+4+5 = 100\%$

Therefore, one can conclude with mathematical certainty that:

While Hard Work and Knowledge will get you close, Attitude will get you there!



Readers:

For those of you in your 70's and maybe 80's, we are likely on our last legs and if you are in Vietnam Veterans of America of any State Council, we need to do what we can while we can.

HARDWORK at our age is not likely very hard at all, because we cannot do as much as we used.

ATTITUDE at our age can sometimes or often times get the best of us, so we need to work on that.

KNOWLEDGE at our age is really critical, but if you put ALL of these things together, life will be a lot better for us while we are in our 70's to turn into 80's and our 80's will turn into the 90's.

Let's teach ourselves **HARDWORK, ATTITUDE and KNOWLEDGE** and pass it on to our children grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Senator John McCain's Medal

It has been sometime in which Vietnam Veterans of America Arizona State Council has been trying to present our Arizona Senator John McCain with an Achievement Medal from the Arizona State Council.

You see here that Gene Crego is presenting the Senator's aide Austin Kennedy with the Achievement Medal and a certificate from VVA-AZ.

Many of us knows our Senator from Arizona who was in the Vietnam War and a Prisoner of War (POW) was held in Hanoi, North Vietnam at the "Hanoi Hilton" for five (5) years. He is a very gracious and brave man who has served in our Senate for many decades and done a superb job in all he has done for America.



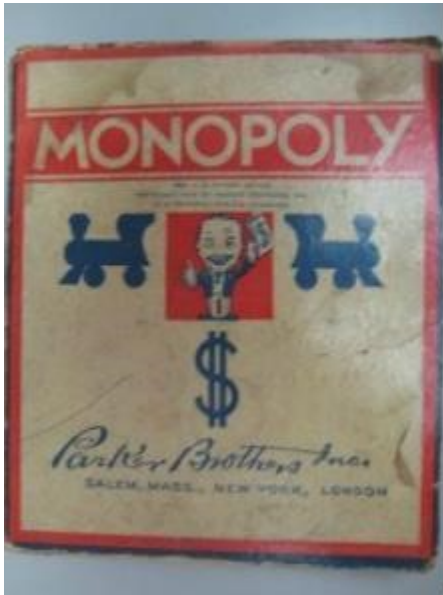
Arizona Chapter 95 Table Recruiting VVA Members



World War II in the Pacific in Color



"Get Out of Jail" Free Card of World War II



Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape. Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the loca-

tions of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter.

Paper maps had some real drawbacks - they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly and if they get wet, they turn into mush.

Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads, and unfolded as many times as needed and makes no noise whatsoever.

At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the U.K Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE' packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest secrecy in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were located. When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece.

As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add: 1. A playing token containing a magnetic compass. 2. A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together. 3. Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money. British and American crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the 'Free Parking Square'.

Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POW'S who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

It's always nice when you can play that 'Get Out of Jail Free' card!

"Atomic Bomb" Photo" - 1945



It was a hot August morning. Not unusual for the South Pacific. In the sweltering tropical heat, a young man named George, who went by his shortened middle name "Bob," was preparing for another flight; another bombing mission to be exact. This one was supposed to make history, perhaps shorten the war and bring it to an early end. But, weren't they all? Bob served as the tail gunner on an American bomber making frequent bombing runs over Japan during World War Two. The fact that he was up, preparing for a mission, that it was the middle of the night and could barely qualify as "morning" wasn't unusual either. All bombing missions usually took off about 2:45 in the morning; that way they'd arrive over Japan in the early morning daylight.*

Though his airplane was usually bristling with guns to defend itself while to and from its bombing runs, this morning Bob's machine guns in the tail were going to be the modified bomber's only defense against enemy aircraft. He would be "the only line of defense that the customized B-29 possessed." And, on this mission, "His secondary role was to be a photographer ." **

Today's mission was supposed to utilize some new kind of bomb. A kind that – if it worked – promised to bring the war to a much sooner end than otherwise might be possible. And, if so, the experts at the War Department estimated it would save at least a million Allied and Japanese lives. Bob, at his tail gun station in the rear of the B-29 looking aft for enemy fighter planes, would have the perfect vantage point to see whatever this new bomb might do when it went off. If it went off, mind you, it'd performed Okay in testing. But this was using it in real live battle. Any military person who's served in combat will tell you that the first casualty in any battle is the plan. And any scientist will tell you that things often perform just fine in the lab but don't always perform well in the field. So, they hoped that Bob might get a photo or two of it. But, if he didn't, well there was an aircraft accompanying Bob's on this mission whose purpose was solely to get pictures of the explosion. It had cameras mounted on it and one of its crew carried another hand-held camera just for this purpose. So, there should be *some* photos of how it went (or went off, if you will). But, just to be sure, just before boarding the aircraft for his 0245 takeoff, Bob's unit's Photography Officer decided to cover his bases and pushed a hand-held camera into Bob's hands and asked him to get a few shots of whatever happened. And, it's a good thing he did.

Because,...this morning was August 6, 1945. Bob Caron's B-29, The "Enola Gay," was carrying the first atomic bomb into action in attempt to bomb Hiroshima, Japan and convince her to surrender and end World War Two. Bob's tail gun position would, if the bomb exploded as expected, make him the first member of his crew to witness the mushroom cloud form over Hiroshima. And, in addition to the fixed cameras and the other hand-held on the other aircraft, in Bob's secondary role as photographer, he would be able to get some additional pictures of any cloud and devastation that the bomb might create.

As anyone who's studied World War Two history knows, this first atomic bomb *did* explode as planned. And Bob *was* in the perfect spot to see the bomb go off...and to take a few pictures. And... it's a good thing he did. Because when the unit's Photography officer went to develop the photos taken from all the aircraft, he found that the fixed cameras had failed to record anything - not only that, but the film from the handheld camera on the other aircraft was mishandled in developing. That made Bob's *the only* official still photographs of the first minute or two after the atomic explosion. *George 'Bob' Caron.* Atomic Heritage Foundation, 31 Oct. 1919.

VA Bills Passed

H.R. 1972, VA Billing Accountability Act, as amended: H.R. 1972 authorizes VA to waive co-payment requirements when the veteran is not billed in a timely manner.

H.R. 3642, Military SAVE Act, as amended: H.R. 3642 would require VA to carry out a pilot program to furnish community care to veterans who have experienced military sexual trauma.

H.R. 3832, Veterans Opioid Abuse Prevention Act, as amended: H.R. 3832 would allow for the greater sharing of information between VA and State-based prescription drug monitoring programs.

H.R. 3946, To name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Statesboro, Georgia, the "Ray Hendrix Veterans Clinic"

H.R. 4245, Veterans' Electronic Health Record Modernization Oversight Act of 2017: H.R. 4245 would strengthen Congressional oversight of VA's electronic health record modernization program.

H.R. 4830, SIT-REP Act, as amended: H.R. 4830 would require that in order for a school or training program to be approved for GI Bill benefits they must adopt a policy that disallows the school or training program from imposing a late fee, denial of access to facilities or other penalty against the veteran or eligible dependent due to a late payment from VA.

H.R. 4958, Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2018: H.R. 4958 would provide a cost-of-living adjustment for veterans disability, additional compensation for dependents, dependency and indemnity, and clothing allowance for certain disabled veterans.

H.R. 5044, Service-Disabled Veterans Small Business Continuation Act: H.R. 5044 would address an issue that has arisen from legislation that was passed last Congress related to rules for surviving spouses' ability to claim's disabled veteran owned small business status for the Vets First.

H.R. 5215, Veterans Affairs Purchase Card Misuse Mitigation Act: H.R. 5215 would strengthen controls over government purchase card misuse.

H.R. 5418, Veterans Affairs Medical-Surgical Purchasing Stabilization Act, as amended: H.R. 5418 would reform the VA Medical Surgical Prime Vendor (MSPV) purchase program.

S. 1282, To redesignate certain clinics of the Dept of Veterans Affairs located in Montana

H.R. 4334, Improving Oversight of Women Veterans' Care Act of 2017: H.R. 4334 would require VA to submit reports on access to gender-specific care in the community and environment of care.

H.R. 4451, Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Programs Reauthorization Act of 2018, as amended: H.R. 4451 would reauthorize the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program (HVRP) as well as the Homeless Women Veterans and Homeless Veterans With Children Reintegration Grant Program (HVRP-W) for five years. The bill would also clarify eligibility for both programs to include incarcerated veterans and veterans using a HUD-VASH voucher.

Things To Truly CONSIDER

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER IN LIFE:

"Take care of your thoughts when you are alone", and
"Take care of your words when you are with people."



I've seen better days,
but I've also seen worse.
I don't have everything that I want,
but I do have all I need. ✨
I woke up with some aches and pains,
but I woke up.
My life may not be perfect
but I am blessed.

A photograph of a man and two children walking away from the camera on a wooden boardwalk. The man is in the center, holding the hands of two children on either side. They are walking towards a bright, hazy background with trees and a signpost. The boardwalk is made of dark wooden planks.

"Spending time with children
is more important than
spending money on children."

Anthony Douglas Williams ~ Inside the Divine Pattern

How much more truth could there be in these three pictures. You know, at our age, life is coming to an end and at some point, we should take advantage of all that we can while here on Earth. **People** is what this world is ALL about and our children, grand-children, nieces, nephews, sisters and brothers and others in our family should be critical in our life. Take full advantage of it while you can.

AZ Dept. of Veterans Affairs—Suicide

Arizona Department of Veterans' Services

For Arizona veterans and those who care for them.



CRISIS AND SUPPORT RESOURCES

Be Connected

1-866-4AZ-VETS

www.beconnectedaz.org

Be There Call & Outreach Center

1-844-357-7337 (PEER)

Text 480-360-6188

www.betherepeersupport.org

USMC DSTRESS Line

1-877-476-7734

<http://www.usmc-mccs.org/services/support/dstress-line>

Veterans Crisis Line

1-800-273-8255 Press 1

Text 838255

www.veteranscrisisline.net

Crisis Text Line

Text CONNECT to 741741

Chapter 106's—50th Event—23 June 2018



Oil Patch Warriors of World War II



Seventy-five years ago this month, a Band of Roughnecks went abroad on a top secret mission into Robin Hood's stomping grounds to punch oil wells to help fuel England's war machines. It's a story that should make any oilman or woman proud.

The year was 1943 and England was mired in World War II. U-boats attacked supply vessels, choking off badly needed supplies to the island nation. But oil was the commodity they needed the most as they warred with Germany.

A book "The Secret of Sherwood Forest: Oil Production in England During World War II" written by Guy Woodward and Grace Steele Woodward was published in 1973, and tells the obscure story of the American oil men who went to England to bore wells in a top secret mission in March 1943. England had but one oil field, in Sherwood Forest of all places. Its meager output of 300 barrels a day was literally a drop in the bucket of their requirement of 150,000 barrels a day to fuel their war machines.

Then a top secret plan was devised: to send some Americans and their expertise to assist in developing the field. Oklahoma based Noble Drilling Company, along with Fain-Porter signed a one year contract to drill 100 wells for England, merely for costs and expenses. Forty-two drillers and roughnecks from Texas and Oklahoma, most in their teens and early twenties volunteered for the mission to go abroad. The hands embarked for England in March 1943 aboard the HMS Queen Elizabeth. Four National 50 drilling rigs were loaded onto ships but only three of them made landfall; the Nazi U-boats sank one

of the rigs en route to the UK. The Brits' jaws dropped as the Yanks began punching the wells in a week, compared to five to eight weeks for their British counterparts. They worked 12 hour tours, 7 days a week and within a year, the Americans had drilled 106 wells and England oil production shot up from 300 barrels a day to over 300,000. The contract fulfilled, the American oil men departed England in late March 1944. But only 41 hands were on board the return voyage. Herman Douthit, a Texan derrick-hand was killed during the operation. He was laid to rest with full military honors, and remains the only civilian to be buried at The American Military Cemetery in Cambridge.

"The Oil Patch Warrior", a seven foot bronze statue of a roughneck holding a four foot pipe wrench stands near Nottingham England to honor the American oil men's assistance and sacrifice in the war. A replica was placed in Ardmore Oklahoma in 2001. It is by no means a stretch to state that without the American mission, we might all be speaking German today. Special thanks to the American Oil and Gas Historical Society.

A Word From the Arizona President

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To VVA and AVVA Members in Arizona:

First please remember members and their families that are going through difficult times. One VVA member from Phoenix Chapter 432 is Larry Mitchell has been found to have the soft tissue cancer. This his 6th type of cancer. He will be going to the VAMC in Tucson this week with Randy Schriver. Thanks to Randy going though VAMC Phoenix Chief of Staff Dr. McCarty. To get the testing and operation set up in a short period of time. Then there is Larry's new grandson. Last Monday his grandson had open heart surgery. The first two hours after surgery went well. Then major problems started showing up. The Doctors finally were able to get the grandson stable, and is now doing well. The grandson will have six more surgeries. Many of us have gotten to know Larry for the work he does for VVA, veterans, families, and caregivers over a period of many years. I am proud to call him a brother, friend, and hero. The other member is Sue Wudy a sister, friend, and hero. I do not come close to what they have done over the years in Arizona.

Congratulation's to the newly elected VVA Arizona State Council Officers. this time, we are trying three Vice President's for Northern Pat Farrell, Central Randy Schriver, and Southern Arizona Bill Beecher. We have a new hard working Treasurer Paul Reichenbach. He is working hard to have reports ready for the Arizona State Council Saturday, October 13, 2018 at the VAMC Phoenix in the basement. Thank you to Larry Mitchell and Terry Nolan conducting the Election in June of 2018. Randy is working to set up the first ever BOD Meeting on Friday, October 12, 2018 at the VAMC Phoenix basement in the evening.

At the VVA National Leadership Conference in Palm Springs, CA., we had 16 VVA and AVVA members attend. Seven of the VVA members are Veteran Service Officer accredited by VVA. It was very HOT. Tuesday, the arrival day temperature 122-124 degrees F. Not much different for Wednesday and Thursday. Then it got hazy from two fires on the other side of the mountains.

The shows were well attended. The banquet went well. There where five guests, one being the MC. It will be covered by the next copy of the Veteran Magazine. It should be on the VVA website. Walt Schumacher is not moving to Montana. That is great news to be the State Council Secretary for the next 2 years. Thank you to Terry Nolan and Randy Schriver for the Revised State Council By-Laws.

Chuck Byers has moved on to work for Congresswoman Debbie Lesko Dist. 8 in the West Valley. He will be able to continue being fully accredited VSO with VVA.

Please have a safe summer, drink plenty of water, and have some good times with family and friends.

Sister and Brothers Forever,
Gene Crego
Your VVA AZ. SCP

