

**"LZ 53"**  
**Newsletter of**  
**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**SOUTH BAY CHAPTER 53**

4733 Torrance Blvd #553 Torrance, Ca 90503 (310 540-8820)

**January - February 2025**



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*Please do not throw this  
newsletter away. Pass it  
along to another Veteran.*

**Chapter 53 Monthly Standard Schedule of Events / Meetings**

There will be exceptions – check the monthly calendar inside.

- \* First Saturday – Hermosa Beach Veteran's Memorial clean-up @ 0830hrs
- \* Second Tuesday – Ch53 Breakfast & BS Meetin, 9am Black Bear Diner Torrance
- \* Third Tuesday – "Board/General Meetings" all chapter members encouraged to attend.
- \* Third Saturday – Torrance Veteran's Memorial clean-up @ 0830hrs

Membership is open to all Vietnam Era Veterans, regardless of race, religion, gender, ethnicity or character of discharge. Associate membership is open to all others.

The opinions expressed in LZ 53 are not necessarily those of the chapter, its officers, Board of Directors, membership, Editor of LZ 53 or of Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

If you wish to express an opinion, submit a story, poem or joke, etc please contact the LZ 53 Editor : mandelfive@dslextrema.com

**Chapter 53 Meetings**

**January 21, 2025 (Tues)**  
**February 18, 2025 (Tues)**

**Board Meetings @ 1200 pm**

**General Meetings @ 1:00 pm**

**Hawthorne VFW Post 2075**

**4563 W. 131st Street - Hawthorne, Ca 90250**

**PIZZA & SALAD WILL BE SERVED**

**Happy New Years  
to all**



date	day	January 2025 Monthly Calendar	date	day	February 2025 Monthly Calendar
1	Wed	Happy New Years to all from Ch53.....	1	Sat	H.B. Vet Memorial clean-up @ 0830, corner of PCH/Pier Ave, breakfast @ 930am (dutch treat)
2	Thur	Chanukkah ends.....	2	Sun	GroundHog Day
3	Fri		3	Mon	
4	Sat	H.B. Vet Memorial clean-up @ 0830, corner of PCH/Pier Ave, breakfast @ 930am (dutch treat)	4	Tue	
5	Sun		5	Wed	
6	Mon		6	Thur	
7	Tue		7	Fri	
8	Wed		8	Sat	
9	Thur		9	Sun	
10	Fri		10	Mon	
11	Sat		11	Tue	Ch53 Breakfast and BS Meetin' @ 9am, Black Bear Diner 24021 Hawthorne Bl – Torrance
12	Sun		12	Wed	Happy Birthday Abe Lincoln.....
13	Mon		13	Thur	
14	Tue	Ch53 Breakfast and BS Meetin' @ 9am, Black Bear Diner 24021 Hawthorne Bl – Torrance	14	Fri	Valentine's Day.....
15	Wed		15	Sat	Torrance Veteran Memorial clean-up @ 0830, corner of Torrance Bl/Maple, breakfast @ 0930 (dutch treat)
16	Thur		16	Sun	
17	Fri		17	Mon	President's Day....
18	Sat	Torrance Veteran Memorial clean-up @ 0830, corner of Torrance Bl/Maple, breakfast @ 0930 (dutch treat)	18	Tue	Business Mtg 12pm – General Mtg 1pm Hawthorne VFW, 4563 W 131st St, Hawthorne
19	Sun		19	Wed	
20	Mon	Martin Luther King Jr Day....	20	Thur	
21	Tue	Business Mtg 12pm – General Mtg 1pm Hawthorne VFW, 4563 W 131st St, Hawthorne	21	Fri	
22	Wed		22	Sat	Happy Birthday George Washington.....
23	Thur		23	Sun	Hawthorne VFW Breakfast 9am-12noon 4563 W 131st St, Hawthorne
24	Fri		24	Mon	
25	Sat		25	Tue	BEACH, BIKES & BREAKFAST-meet @ Torrance Beach parking lot (387 Paseo De La Playa, 9am
26	Sun	Hawthorne VFW Breakfast 9am-12noon 4563 W 131st St, Hawthorne	26	Wed	
27	Mon		27	Thur	
28	Tue	BEACH, BIKES & BREAKFAST-meet @ Torrance Beach parking lot (387 Paseo De La Playa, 9am	28	Fri	
29	Wed				
30-31	Thur/Fri				



## CHAPTER MONTHLY MESSAGE BOARD

### From the President Dennis W.....

From all indications, the Christmas/Holiday Party was a great success. An inaccurate count put us at approximately 68 attendees. Thanks to all the members and guest who attended. Also, among the guest were members of VVA Chapter 526 and of course, how could we forget Jamie Yamamoto. Sorry for those who couldn't attend.

I would like to recognize a few individuals who went above and beyond the call of duty. Dick Amemiya for his efforts with the caterer. The food was great!! Bev Gillett and Deb Martin for handling all the Raffle Prizes as they came in. Donna Wild for selling the Raffle Tickets. Paul Verner for handling the 50/50 Drawing. Jeff Martin for substituting for Steve Crecy as our AV Guy. It should be pointed out that it was Steve Crecy who put the video together. Thanks Steve. Kyle Orlemann for the Hanukkah display. And last but not least, everyone who brought raffle prizes and toys for the kids. It was all appreciated.

I hope all of you were able to enjoy Christmas with Family and Friends and I wish You and Your Loved Ones a year of Happiness, Health and Prosperity.



**MOVING WALL AND MEMORIAL DAY WEEK**  
THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION REGARDS THE MOVING WALL COMING TO OUR AREA OVER MEMORIAL DAY WEEK NEXT YEAR. JENNIFER IS THE DAUGHTER OF OUR MEMBER RAY FREW, A RETIRED EXECUTIVE FROM GREEN HILLS MEMORIAL PARK. MANY OF YOU KNOW THEY HAVE SPONSORED THE MOVING WALL SEVERAL TIMES OVER THE YEARS. PLEASE READ THROUGH THE MESSAGE HERE AND KEEP IN MIND REPLYING TO THE SIGN-UP LINK SOON IS RECOMMENDED AS THEY WILL HAVE BANNERS MADE AND DISPLAYED WITH YOUR NAME AND PHOTO.

- Memorial Day Observance Main Event: Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> from 10am – 12pm
- Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall Set-up, Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8:00am to approximately 12:00pm @ Green Hills Memorial Park
- Will need 3-4 volunteers to work shifts manning the Vietnam Memorial Moving Wall beginning Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1pm through Tuesday morning, May 27<sup>th</sup> (a volunteer sign-up schedule will be shared most likely sometime in February, if not sooner)

- An opening ceremony of the Wall will take place Friday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 5pm, a 30-minute ceremony, followed by a Patriotic concert
- Volunteers will be needed to “strike” the Wall on Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup> at 8am
- The link below is to allow Vietnam Era Veterans to submit their name, branch, rank, and years of service, so that Green Hills Memorial Park can have Garden Banners w/their photos and service information displayed around the event site over the Memorial Day weekend. Once all the service information is submitted, we will then reach out to those who participated, asking that they submit a photo preferably in uniform but a photo either way of the living or deceased Vietnam Era Veteran.
- Green Hills Memorial Park will also be unveiling its own memorial in honor of our Vietnam Veterans on Memorial Day during the Observance.

<https://share.hsforms.com/1nPQk9rm4SZWxLEhFyrSsLwoazj2>

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The City Council and Social Services Commission of the City of Torrance Honored Veterans and presented a Resolution to Chapter 53 noting Veterans Appreciation Week November 4th to 11th. The City Officials and Staff were wearing Dodger Blue to show support for the Dodgers as the World Series goes on. Ten Chapter members were present and the Resolution was accepted by President Dennis Wild (center).



### JOSEPH'S GIFT

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 53  
November 15, 2024

My dear friends, Thank you so much for the \$1,000.00 donation to Joseph's Gift. This money was used to send



## CHAPTER MONTHLY MESSAGE BOARD

hydration and snacks to a team of Sailors and Marines who are currently deployed in the Middle East. For some, this is their first deployment with all the uncertainties of where they will be going and what will happen over the next several months. For those young men, the boxes are a reminder that they are cared for. I know you understand how important this support is. I plan to continue to support these Sailors and Marines through the remainder of their deployment. In addition, we have started up with the holiday gifts for the military and veteran children. I can't tell you how much I appreciate all the support that Joseph's Gift has received from Chapter 53. From donating and putting together care packages for our deployed, to toys for the children of our active military and veterans – I appreciate Chapter 53 always being ready to help. Thank you so much for supporting our active military, veterans, and their families. You're the best bunch of big brothers anyone could have!

Love, Dawn Anzack Founder

It is with a heavy heart I am informing you of the passing of our long time member Richard Carlos - Nov 2024.



A Slow Hand Salute

### BEACH, BIKES & BREAKFAST

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month a few chapter members who enjoy riding their bicycles have been getting together for a shoreline bike ride. Riders meet at the **Torrance Beach parking lot (387 Paseo De La Playa, Torrance)** ready to roll by **09:00**. The rides start and end at the beginning of the Marvin Braude Bike Trail (aka "bike path") so this is clearly a flat course with ample hydration stations and restrooms. Average pace is about 8mph and ride distances so far have ranged from about 8 miles to a maximum of 16 miles. An integral part of the ride back to the start is breakfast at Good Stuff in Hermosa Beach which has great service, food and offers veterans a 25% discount. The next scheduled ride (weather permitting) is on Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. For additional information or questions, text or call our Treasurer, Thom Kaehler at (805) 558-4507.

### KNOW YOUR MEMBERS

BY BOB HOLMES

This issue of our member column in LZ 53 has a theme—the artistic side of two of our real warriors.

#### JOHN WARHANK-ARMY

John was an Airborne qualified 11B2P (Light Weapons Infantry Paratrooper) with the 101st Airborne Division (Screaming Eagles) in Vietnam.

In his later civilian life, as you will see, his gentler, creative side came out.

John was born in Montana and raised in North Dakota. He later moved to Carson (got tired of the snow and cold, eh).

John worked for a small industrial paint manufacturer. All of the paint used by the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Committee came from this company.

He spent the next 30 years or so as an insurance agent. John's love is silversmithing and producing jewelry.

It started 30 years ago when he and his daughter took a wax casting class (the wax castings lead to molds which lead to the finished product) at Torrance Adult School.

Interestingly, John now teaches a jewelry class for the Torrance Parks and Recreation Department.

He has entered his jewelry in Veterans Administration competitions. He has taken 1st place locally and has two national third place finishes. He plans on winning 1st place soon.

He also enjoys photography and has entered competitions with his photos as well.

John and his wife have taken classes in Chinese Qigong, a form of healthy movement, breathing, and meditation.

#### RON TESSENSOHN-ARMY

Ron was a Ranger attached to the 9th Infantry Division.

He was a LRRP (Long Range Recon Patrols)

He was born in Holland of Malaysian parents.

He came to the United States in 1956.

Ron worked for 5 years at Xerox.

He then got into pinstriping and airbrushing murals on vans and lowriders. That really pointed him towards his other artistic endeavors.

Ron creates artistic Polynesian style designs for T-shirts (mine is amazing) and also has designed logos for a print shop.

Ron's latest artistic venture is designing and carving Hawaiian style fish hook pendants. In the Hawaiian culture they symbolize good luck.

He also likes to sketch.

He is self taught in all these pursuits.

Basically, in Ron's words, art is his life.

Ron enjoys soccer, rugby, and gymnastics (his daughter is a competitive gymnast).

Ron speaks a number of foreign languages.



**Speech at the Harbor Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution 11/14/24 by Cliff Rapp**

In the days following WWII, the U.S. was locked in an ideological and spiritual battle with International Communism. I began kindergarten the same year that the Korean War broke out. The communist regime of North Korea had invaded the South. The U.N. sent troops to restore order of which 250,000 troops came from the U.S. Before I got to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade the Russians had stolen the secret of the atomic bomb. As a young schoolboy I had to participate in bomb drills because we feared an attack from the communists.

In 1956 the phrase "under God" was added to the pledge of allegiance. The communist regimes were officially atheists, so we became "One nation under God." In 1959 I listened to the radio as the communist revolutionaries invaded Havana and took over Cuba. In 1960 the Russians shot down an American spy plane over their territory and captured the pilot. In 1961 America supported the failed invasion of Cuba at the Bay of Pigs which was intended to liberate Cuba. In 1962 the Cuban missile crisis generated fear across America and led many people to build bomb shelters. In 1963 I knew there was trouble in Vietnam, which became shockingly clear after the assassination of President Kennedy when the widow of the former leader of South Vietnam publicly declared that Kennedy got what he deserved for authorizing the coup that led to her husband's death.

In 1964 some North Vietnamese patrol boats allegedly attacked a U.S. Navy vessel. Congress responded by passing the Gulf of Tonkin resolution granting President Johnson the authority to take military action in Vietnam without declaring war or having to get further congressional approval. I knew that President Johnson would use that authority to send ground troops to Vietnam.

But in 1964 I had a well-paying union job. I did not rush to enlist, but when my draft notice came I enlisted with the Navy hoping to stay out of the jungles of South Vietnam. There is an old saying, "If you want to make God laugh, just tell him your plans." The Navy assigned me to a construction battalion and attached my battalion to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division. During my first tour in Vietnam, my battalion had construction projects all along the Demilitarized Zone, from the South China Sea to the border of Laos, a distance of about 40 miles.

The projects we built played important roles in America's military assistance to Vietnam. One of the bases we built for the Marines was Khe Sanh, the site of some of the heaviest fighting in the war. At the height of the siege of Khe Sanh, 22,000 North Vietnamese troops were attacking the base which was defended by 6,000 U.S. and allied forces consisting of two Marine Regiments, Army Special Forces with their Montagnard trainees and a detachment from my construction battalion. When the battle ended the North Vietnamese suffered 10,000 to 15,000 killed, while the base defenders lost 247 KIA.

Not far from Khe Sanh, south along the Laotian border was Lang Vei Special Forces camp. We built bunkers there with thick concrete ceilings. We had pre-fabricated interlocking concrete panels at our home base and flew them in by helicopter to position them over the bunkers. The communist

forces overran the base using Russian T-76 tanks. This was the first time the North Vietnamese brought tanks into action against American forces. The Special Forces soldiers defending the base called down artillery fire and aerial bombardment on their own position. The artillery and jets drove off the tanks. Our bunkers had held up to both the weight of the tanks and the shelling of our guns and planes. Several of the American soldiers survived along with dozens of their trainees. We received a presidential unit citation for our efforts in building the base.

My battalion built a bridge that became famous, as "The Bridge at Dong Ha." We built it to carry tanks and other heavy vehicles, and we built it with anti-sabotage features. After U.S. ground forces were withdrawn from Vietnam in 1973, the North Vietnamese launched a large-scale invasion of the South. The Marine Corps advisor who oversaw the demolition of the bridge, wrote a book about the importance of destroying the bridge to stall the invasion, but the bridge resisted his first attempts to bring it down. It was very well built.

Another project that supported our Marines was the constructing of observation towers which allowed observers to spot the location of enemy guns and rocket launching sights. The observers could then call in return fire to suppress the communist assault. Because the observers were using a compass along with their binoculars, the towers could not be made out of metal which would throw a compass off. We built the towers by bracing four wooden telephone poles together and strapping a platform on top. Then we flew them by helicopter to the concrete pads we had prepared for them.

One tower received a direct hit by a 140mm rocket on one of its telephone poles causing the platform to sag on one side, but it remained serviceable. We eventually repaired it but none of our towers were destroyed by rocket or artillery fire.

My battalion engaged in several community action projects. We would send our medical corpsmen and dentist into villages to assist civilians with health issues. My company built an orphanage to shelter needy children. The people were very favorable toward us. They hated the communists who would come into their villages and kidnap sons of prominent families to force cooperation. The communists would use the kidnap victims to repair the roads known as the Ho Chi Minh trail. Those roads were constantly bombed by our aircraft and were repaired by slave labor using basic tools like shovels. Some 250,000 South Vietnamese slaves were used during the course of the war.

Even though the South Vietnamese people rejected communism, they didn't see the Saigon regime as much better. Even though the United States made a great sacrifice of men and materials to support freedom in the Republic of South Vietnam, the Saigon government was not able to win the hearts and minds of the South Vietnamese people. As a result, Americans became disenchanted with our military effort and gave up on the people of South Vietnam. In the end, the United States lost a war without ever losing a battle.

I felt that I did my duty to my country by serving in the military. But to win militarily, yet lose politically is a grief many of us who served there carry with us.



## THE PRICE THEY PAID

**Have you ever wondered what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence?**

Five signers were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died.

Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned.

Two lost their sons serving in the Revolutionary Army; another had two sons captured.

Nine of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships of the Revolutionary War.

They signed and they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

**What kind of men were they?**

Twenty-four were lawyers and jurists.

Eleven were merchants,

Nine were farmers and large plantation owners;

Men of means, well educated, but they signed the Declaration of Independence knowing full well that the penalty would be death if they were captured.

Carter Braxton of Virginia, a wealthy planter and trader, saw his ships swept from the seas by the British Navy. He sold his home and properties to pay his debts, and died in rags.

Thomas McKean was so hounded by the British that he was forced to move his family almost constantly. He served in the Congress without pay, and his family was kept in hiding. His possessions were taken from him, and poverty was his reward.

Vandals or soldiers looted the properties of Dillery, Hall, Clymer, Walton, Gwinnett, Heyward, Rutledge, and Middleton.

At the battle of Yorktown, Thomas Nelson, Jr., noted that the British General Cornwallis had taken over the Nelson home for his headquarters. He quietly urged General George Washington to open fire. The home was destroyed, and Nelson died bankrupt.

Francis Lewis had his home and properties destroyed. The enemy jailed his wife, and she died within a few months.

John Hart was driven from his wife's bedside as she was dying. Their 13 children fled for their lives. His fields and his gristmill were laid to waste. For more than a year he lived in forests and caves, returning home to find his wife dead and his children vanished.

So, take a few minutes and silently thank these patriots **for the price they paid.**

**Remember: freedom is never free!**

## Compare Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Have never seen you cry.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Have cried with you.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Know a few things about you.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Will kick the crowd's ass that left you behind.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Are for a while.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Are for life.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Have shared a few experiences...

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Will take your drink away when think you've had enough.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, 'You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!' Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Will knock them the hell out OF THEM for using your name in vain.

**CIVILIAN FRIENDS:** Will ignore this.

**VETERAN FRIENDS:** Will forward this.

**A VETERAN** - is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The Government of the United States of America' for an amount of 'up to and including my life' and military wives are as much veterans as their spouses.  
**From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your company. Thank you.....**



## THE WAY WE WERE

The average age of the military man is 19 years. He is a short haired, tight-muscled kid who, under normal circumstances is considered by society as half man, half boy. Not yet dry behind the ears, not old enough to buy a beer, but old enough to die for his country. He never really cared much for work and he would rather wax his own car than wash his father's, but he has never collected unemployment either.

He's a recent High School graduate; he was probably an average student, pursued some form of sport activities, drives a ten year old jalopy, and has a steady girlfriend that either broke up with him when he left, or swears to be waiting when he returns from half a world away. He listens to rock and roll or hip-hop or rap or jazz or swing and a 155mm howitzer.

He is 10 or 15 pounds lighter now than when he was at home because he is working or fighting from before dawn to well after dusk. He has trouble spelling, thus letter writing is a pain for him, but he can field strip a rifle in 30 seconds and reassemble it in less time in the dark. He can recite to you the nomenclature of a machine gun or grenade launcher and use either one effectively if he must.

He digs foxholes and latrines and can apply first aid like a professional.

He can march until he is told to stop, or stop until he is told to march.

He obeys orders instantly and without hesitation, but he is not without spirit or individual dignity. He is self-sufficient.

He has two sets of fatigues: he washes one and wears the other. He keeps his canteens full and his feet dry.

He sometimes forgets to brush his teeth, but never to clean his rifle. He can cook his own meals, mend his own clothes, and fix his own hurts.

If you're thirsty, he'll share his water with you; if you are hungry, his food. He'll even split his ammunition with you in the midst of battle when you run low.

He has learned to use his hands like weapons and weapons like they were his hands.

He can save your life - or take it, because that is his job.

He will often do twice the work of a civilian, draw half the pay, and still find ironic humor in it all.

He has seen more suffering and death than he should have in his short lifetime.

He has wept in public and in private, for friends who have fallen in combat and is unashamed.

He feels every note of the National Anthem vibrate through his body while at rigid attention, while tempering the burning desire to 'square-away' those around him who haven't bothered to stand, remove their hat, or even stop talking. In an odd twist, day in and day out, far from home, he defends their right to be disrespectful.

Just as did his Father, Grandfather, and Great-grandfather, he is paying the price for our freedom. Beardless or not, he is not a boy. He is the American Fighting Man that has kept this country free for over 200 years.

He has asked nothing in return, except Our friendship and understanding.

Remember him, always, for he has earned our respect and admiration with his blood.

And now we even have women over there in danger, doing their part in this tradition of going to War when our nation calls us to do so.

As you go to bed tonight, remember this shot. . . .

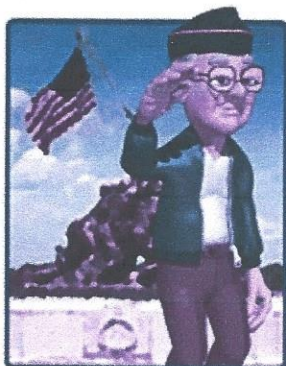
A short lull, a little shade and a picture of loved ones in their helmets.

Of all the gifts you could give a US Soldier, Sailor, Coastguardsman, Marine, or Airman, prayer is the very best one.





# Drafting Guys Over 60



I am over 60 and the Armed Forces thinks I'm too old to track down terrorists. You can't be older than 42 to join the military. They've got the whole thing ass-backwards.

Instead of sending 18-year olds off to fight, they ought to take us old guys. You shouldn't be able to join a military unit until you're at least 35.

For starters, researchers say 18-year-olds think about sex every 10 seconds. Old guys only think about sex a couple of times a day, leaving us more than 28,000 additional seconds per day to concentrate on the enemy.

Young guys haven't lived long enough to be cranky, and a cranky soldier is a dangerous soldier. 'My back hurts! I can't sleep, I'm tired and hungry.' We are impatient and maybe letting us kill someone that desperately deserves it will make us feel better and shut us up for awhile.

An 18-year-old doesn't even like to get up before 10am. Old guys always get up early to pee, so what the hell. Besides, like I said, I'm tired and can't sleep and since I'm already up, I may as well be up killing some fanatical person.

If captured we couldn't spill the beans because we'd forget where we put them.

In fact, name, rank, and serial number would be a real brainteaser.

Boot camp would be easier for old guys.

We're used to getting screamed and yelled at and we're used to soft food. We've also developed an appreciation for guns. We've been using them for years as an excuse to get out of the house, away from the screaming and yelling.

They could lighten up on the obstacle course however. I've been in combat and never saw a single 20-foot wall with rope hanging over the side, nor did I ever do any pushups after completing basic training. Actually, the running part is kind of a waste of energy too. I've never seen anyone outrun a bullet.

An 18-year-old has the whole world ahead of him. He's still learning to shave, to start a conversation with a pretty girl. He still hasn't figured out that a baseball cap has a peak or brim to shade his eyes, not the back of his head.

These are all great reasons to keep our kids at home to learn a little more about life before sending them off into harm's way.

Let us old guys track down those dirty rotten coward terrorists. The last thing an enemy would want to see is a couple million pissed off old farts with attitudes and automatic weapons, who know that their best years are already behind them.

HEY!! How about recruiting Women over 50 in menopause! You think MEN have attitudes? Ohhhhhhhhhhhh my God! If nothing else, put them on border patrol. They'll have it secured the first night! Send this to all of your senior friends. It's in big type so they can read it.





### Twas the Day AFTER Christmas

Twas the day after Christmas, and all through  
the house,  
Every creature was hurtin', even the mouse.  
The toys were all broken, their batteries dead;  
Santa passed out, with some ice on his head.

Wrapping and ribbons just covered the floor,  
while Upstairs the family continued to snore.  
And I in my T-shirt, new Reeboks and jeans,  
I went into the kitchen and started to clean.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the sink to see what was the  
matter.  
Away to the window I flew like a flash,  
Tore open the curtains, and threw up the sash.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,  
But a little white truck, with an oversized  
mirror.

The driver was smiling, so lively and grand;  
The patch on his jacket said -U.S POSTMAN.

With a handful of bills, he grinned like a fox  
Then quickly he stuffed them into our mailbox.  
Bill after bill, after bill, they still came.

Whistling and shouting he called them by name:

"Now Dillard's, now Broadway's, now Penny's and  
Sears

Here's Robinson's, Levitz's and Target and  
Mervyn's.

To the tip of your limit, every store, every mall,  
Now charge away--charge away--charge away  
all!"

He whooped and he whistled as he finished his  
work.

He filled up the box, and then turned with a  
jerk.

He sprang to his truck and he drove down the  
road,

Driving much faster with just half a load.

Then I heard him exclaim with great holiday  
cheer,

"Enjoy what you got -you'll be paying all year!"

### A Heavy Calorie Christmas

T'was the month after Christmas, and all  
through the house  
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.

The cookies I'd nibbled, the eggnog I'd taste  
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.

When I got on the scales there arose such a  
number!  
When I walked to the store (less a walk than a  
lumber).

I'd remember the marvelous meals I'd  
prepared;  
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely rared,

The cakes and the pies, the bread and the  
cheese  
And the way I'd never said, "No thank you,  
please."

As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt  
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt

I said to myself, as I only can -  
"You can't spend a winter disguised as a man!"

So, away with the last of the sour cream dip,  
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip

Every last bit of food that I like must be  
banished  
Till all the additional ounces have vanished.

I won't have a cookie, not even a lick.  
I'll only chew on a long celery stick.

I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie,  
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.

I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore ...  
But isn't that what January is for?

Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.  
Happy New Year to all and to all a good diet!





# THE PHUNNIE PAGES

## BEING RETIRED...

**Question: How many days in a week?**

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

**Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?**

Answer: Two hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

**Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?**

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

**Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?**

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

**Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?**

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

**Question: Among retirees, what is considered formal attire?**

Answer: Tied shoes.

**Question: Why do retirees count pennies?**

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

**Question: What is the common term for someone who enjoys work and refuses to retire?**

Answer: NUTS!

**Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?**

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there.

**Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?**

Answer: Normal .

**Question: What is the best way to describe retirement?**

Answer: The never ending Coffee Break.

**Question: What's the biggest advantage of going back to school as a retiree?**

Answer: If you cut classes, no one calls your parents.

**Question: Why does a retiree often say he doesn't miss work, but misses the people he used to work with?**

Answer: He is too polite to tell the whole truth.

And, my very favorite....

**QUESTION: What do you do all week?**

Answer: Monday through Friday, NOTHING.....

Saturday & Sunday, I rest.



## SERENITY

Just before the funeral services, the undertaker came up to the very elderly widow and asked, 'How old was your husband?' '98,' she replied....

'Two years older than me'. 'So you're 96,' the undertaker commented..

She responded, 'Hardly worth going home, is it?'

Reporters interviewing a 104-year-old woman:

'And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?' the reporter asked...

She simply replied, 'No peer pressure.'

The nice thing about being senile is you can hide your own Easter eggs and have fun finding them.

I've sure gotten old!

I've had two bypass surgeries, a hip replacement, new knees, fought prostate cancer and diabetes. I'm half blind, can't hear anything quieter than a jet engine, take 40 different medications that make me dizzy, winded, and subject to blackouts. Have bouts with dementia. Have poor circulation; hardly feel my hands and feet anymore. Can't remember if I'm 85 or 92. Have lost all my friends.

But, thank goodness, I still have my driver's license.

I feel like my body has gotten totally out of shape, so I got my doctor's permission to join a fitness club and start exercising.

I decided to take an aerobics class for seniors. I bent, twisted, gyrated, jumped up and down, and perspired for an hour. But, by the time I got my leotards on, the class was over.

My memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Also, my memory's not as sharp as it used to be.

Know how to prevent sagging?

Just eat till the wrinkles fill out.

It's scary when you start making the same noises as your coffee maker.

These days about half the stuff in my shopping cart says, 'For fast relief.'

## THE SENILITY PRAYER:

Grant me the senility to forget the people I never liked anyway, the good fortune to run into the ones I do, and the eyesight to tell the difference.

\*\*\*\*\*

Now, I think you're supposed to share this with 5 or 6, maybe 10 others. Oh heck, give it to a bunch of your friends if you can remember who they are!



1. When one door closes and another door opens, you are probably in prison.
2. To me, "drink responsibly" means don't spill it.
3. Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00 pm is the new midnight.
4. It's the start of a brand new day, and I'm off like a herd of turtles.
5. The older I get, the earlier it gets late.
6. When I say, "The other day," I could be referring to any time between [yesterday](#) and 15 years ago.
7. I remember being able to get up without making sound effects.



## THE PHUNNIE PAGES

8. I had my patience tested. I'm negative.
9. Remember, if you lose a sock in the dryer, it comes back as a Tupperware lid that doesn't fit any of your containers.
10. If you're sitting in public and a stranger takes the seat next to you, just stare straight ahead and say, "Did you bring the money?"
11. When you ask me what I am doing today, and I say "nothing," it does not mean I am free. It means I am doing nothing.
12. I finally got eight hours of sleep. It took me three days, but whatever.
13. I run like the winded.
14. I hate when a couple argues in public, and I miss the beginning and don't know whose side I'm on.
15. When someone asks what I did over the weekend, I squint and ask, "Why, what did you hear?"
16. When you do squats, are your knees supposed to sound like a goat chewing on an aluminum can stuffed with celery?
17. I don't mean to interrupt people. I just randomly remember things and get really excited.
18. When I ask for directions, please don't use words like "east."
19. Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out.
20. Sometimes, someone unexpected comes into your life out of nowhere, makes your heart race, and changes you forever. We call those people cops.
21. My luck is like a bald guy who just won a comb."

-source unknown.



### TEST RESULTS.....

Thought I'd let my doctor check me,  
'Cause I didn't feel quite right. . .  
All those aches and pains annoyed me  
And I couldn't sleep at night.

He could find no real disorder  
But he wouldn't let it rest.  
What with Medicare and Blue Cross,  
We would do a couple tests.

To the hospital he sent me  
Though I didn't feel that bad.  
He arranged for them to give me  
Every test that could be had.

I was fluoroscoped and cystoscoped,  
My aging frame displayed.  
Stripped, on an ice cold table,  
While my gizzards were x-rayed.

I was checked for worms and parasites,  
For fungus and the crud,  
While they pierced me with long needles  
Taking samples of my blood.

Doctors came to check me over,  
Probed and pushed and poked around,  
And to make sure I was living  
They then wired me for sound.

They have finally concluded,  
Their results have filled a page.  
What I have will someday kill me;

My affliction is OLD AGE

I just need a Nap!



### MORE LIKE DENSE

Mensa is an organization whose members have an IQ of 140 or higher. A few years ago, there was a Mensa convention in San Francisco, and several members lunched at a local cafe.

While dining, they discovered that their saltshaker contained pepper and their pepper shaker was full of salt. How could they swap the contents of the bottles without spilling, and using only the implements at hand? Clearly this was a job for Mensa!

The group debated and presented ideas, and finally came up with a brilliant solution involving a napkin, a straw, and an empty saucer. They called the waitress over to dazzle her with their solution.

"Ma'am," they said, "we couldn't help but notice that the pepper shaker contains salt and the salt shaker..."

"Oh," the waitress interrupted. "Sorry about that."

She unscrewed the caps of both bottles and switched them.



### Would be funny if it were not so true!!!

My father-in-law had prostate surgery.

We brought him to the hospital at 7:30 a.m.,  
and he was operated on at eight.

We were amazed when the hospital called  
at noon to tell us he could go home.

Two months later our beagle, Bo, also had prostate surgery.

When I brought him in, I asked the veterinarian what time I should pick him up. The vet told me Bo would remain overnight.

"Overnight?" I said "My father-in-law came home the same day."

The vet looked at me and said,

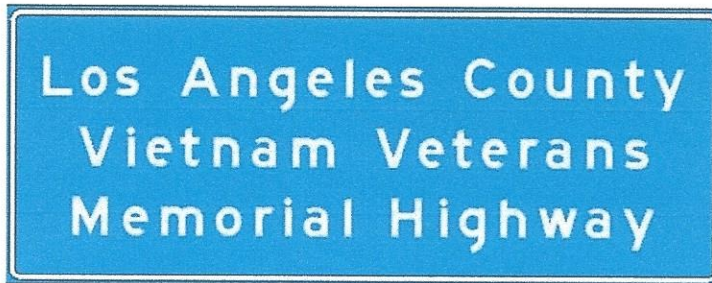
"Bo's not on Medicare!"



## GOING BACK TO MY BUNKER NOW



**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA**  
**SOUTH BAY CHAPTER 53**  
**4733 Torrance Blvd #553**  
**Torrance, Ca 90503**  
**(310) 540-8820**



**Locations of 14 signs:**

- 1) Long Beach - Pch Near 7th Street And Bellflower Blvd (Northbound)
- 2) Wilmington - Pch Near Avalon Blvd (Southbound);
- 3) Torrance - Pch At Hawthorne Blvd (Northbound);
- 4 & 5) Redondo Beach - Pch At Knob Hill (Southbound & Northbound) - 2 signs
- 6) Hermosa Beach - Pch At Aviation Blvd (Northbound);
- 7) El Segundo - Sepulveda At Hughes Way (Northbound);
- 8) Marina Del Rey - Lincoln At Culver Blvd (Northbound);
- 9) Marina Del Rey - Lincoln At Marina Fwy (I-90) (Southbound);
- 10) Palisades - Pch At Topanga Cyn Blvd; (northbound)
- 11) Malibu - Pch One Mile North Of Malibu Tennis And Riding Club (Southbound).
- 12) Culver City - Pch at Lincoln (South Bound)
- 13 & 14) Manhattan Beach - Sepulveda near Rosecrans & 33rd Street (Southbound and Northbound)

