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February 14, 1983

The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

Thank you very much for your inspirational talk and genuine support for the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. Let me reassure you that those of us who proudly fought for the noble cause then, remain committed to the service of the nation now, and that we will emerge as the new cadre of leadership that the country so desperately needs.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program makes a significant contribution toward that desired goal.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Eugene J. Watts
Chairman

EJW/lm

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DOCDATE = 830105
DSPDATE = 830105
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RCVDATE = 830117
RECID = 117604
STATE = OH
UPDATE = 830118
ZIP = 43085

OPID CS
DOCDATE 830105
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MEDIA L
NAME MRS. DONALD BARNES
ADDR WORTHINGTON OH 43085
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MR. EDWARD J. BENNER
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GENERAL JAMES P. MULLENS USAF

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MR. DAVID WILSON
MR. JAMES R. WRAY
MR. ROSS WRIGHT
MR. AND MRS. HAROLD A. YOHO
MR. WILLIAM P. ZOURDOS SR.
REPUBLICAN STATE HEADQUARTERS
AIR FORCE BAND OF FLIGHT
ACCURAY CORPORATION
HYATT REGENCY HOTEL
THE AMERICAN LEGION
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BROWN/BETTS COMMITTEE
YOHO'S FAST FOOD EQUIPMENT

MORG

STREET 58 EAST SOUTH STREET
SUBJECT JUST A NOTE TO TELL YOU HOW PLEASED I WAS TO
VISIT THE FRIENDLY PEOPLE OF OHIO
SUBCODE TR057
PR001
INDCODE 4200 4690 1160 1161
ACTION RM DSP 830106 CP2A A 830105

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

File

TODAY'S (JUNE 3) MESSAGE FROM JOAN MAIMAN

VETERANS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

According to Joan's sources, Terzano, Chris Noel and Muller are telling their membership that they worked with EHD staff to end initial hunger strike. They do not trust the Administration "worth shit" and they have a feeling that the government is playing "fuckie, fuckie with them".

Richard Boyle, described by Joan as an author who was in Vietnam, is having a press conference this afternoon saying nasty things about the Administration.

Joan also told me, confidentially of course, that many members of Muller's group are calling her and wanting to join her organization. She says that this is being reported in the West Coast papers.

She would like to know if she should call whoever is in charge at Wadsworth hospital to offer any assistance that they might deem necessary.

That is the end of message at 1 PM, I am sure there will be more.

PS. She claims that 15,000 postcards were sent to the Pres. recommending that Vincent Rios be considered for a position at the VA. He is a triple amputee and active in the Hispanic community

TOM DASCHLE
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH DAKOTA

COMMITTEES:
**AGRICULTURE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

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House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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310 SOUTH LINCOLN
ABERDEEN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57401
(605) 225-8823

September 17, 1981

Joan M. Maiman
Chairman
Veterans Leadership Conference
300 North State Street
Suite 3409
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Joan:

Thank you for contacting me concerning avenues of recourse available to civilians who suffer from delayed stress or the effects of exposure to Agent Orange while serving as civilians in the Red Cross, etc in Vietnam.

The problem of Agent Orange is somewhat unique in modern warfare and, as you are aware, has been grossly mishandled by the U.S. government over the past ten years. Vietnam veterans themselves have only recently been encouraged to take physical examinations and are in the process of gaining eligibility for medical treatment for symptoms and illnesses which may be associated with exposure to Agent Orange.

You have raised a difficult and perplexing issue. Title 38, to my knowledge, only pertains to those who served on active duty in the U.S. armed forces. Since there have been Red Cross and other civilian workers in previous wars, I have asked the House Veterans Affairs Committee to comment on previous actions taken by the VA towards these people and whether they may be eligible for certain VA benefits or services, specifically psychological readjustment services and treatment and testing for Agent Orange.

Though perhaps a disproportionate share of non-combat veterans are utilizing the veterans outreach centers, there are no restrictions on their eligibility. After three hearings and several visits to centers I have not heard any complaints that services provided to these men are interfering with services given combat veterans. I do agree, however, that combat veterans should be given preference if there is a conflict.

I appreciate your writing and concern, Joan, and will be in touch as soon as I get a response from the Committee.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

TOM DASCHLE
1ST DISTRICT, SOUTH DAKOTA

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(605) 225-8823

Honorable Sonny Montgomery
Chairman
House Veterans Affairs Committee
335 Cannon House Office Bldg
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I have received a most unusual letter from a woman who served in the Red Cross in Vietnam.

She is concerned about possible exposure to Agent Orange and the effects of "delayed stress" psychological readjustment problems among the civilian population that served in Vietnam. I believe she has raised a legitimate concern and would be interested to learn what, if any, services or benefits have been provided civilians who served in previous wars.

If Title 38 benefits and services have not been provided this segment of people who served in hostile areas, is there any possibility that coverage could be extended to testing and treatment for exposure to Agent Orange and/or outreach services to these people?

I have enclosed a copy of Ms. Maiman's letter. I appreciate you looking into this matter for me and look forward to your reply.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle
Member of Congress

Enclosure

✓ bcc: Joan Maiman

Chicago Tribune

FOUNDED June 10, 1847

Section 1

Tuesday, September 29, 1981

Voice of the people

The concerns of Viet Nam war veterans

CHICAGO—In response to The Tribune's several recent columns and Voice of the People letters regarding the Viet Nam veterans:

Many of us who were in Viet Nam appreciate the heightened awareness and interest on the part of the American public for those who served, especially in light of the homecoming of the American hostages who were held in Iran.

Indeed, within the last several months I have had the honor of being a guest at the dedication of a memorial to Viet Nam veter-

ans here in Chicago and at a Fourth of July "welcome home" in San Mateo, Cal., which was attended by about 150,000 people.

However, many of us believe that the issue of those missing in action, the 2,500 Americans who remain unaccounted for from that war, must be addressed. We must have a full accounting of all those who were there before any homecoming can begin, and our nation can put the Viet Nam experience behind us.

Joan M. Maiman

Chairman,
Veterans Leadership Conference

Using Viet Nam as an excuse

It has become a commonplace these days to acknowledge that the Viet Nam War exacted a lingering toll from the soldiers who fought there. Not only did combat in the jungles present young men with horribly ambiguous moral choices in a situation of mortal risk, but when the men returned home they found a country that was unwilling to grant their haunting experiences legitimacy, unwilling even to listen.

The country has awakened to the wrong it did these young men. But now some veterans are trying to use their war experience to absolve them from responsibility for their crimes back home. The sympathy and sense of guilt we feel for these men ought not lead us to accept this excuse.

The latest case involves a veteran convicted of killing one woman and wounding another. He is serving his sentence in an Oregon prison, and he is seeking release on the ground that the war warped him. The governor of Oregon reduced the sentence, then rescinded his decision when the people of the town where the killing took place let out a howl of protest.

There may be other reasons for mercy in the Oregon case. It may be that, as the governor argues, the man has been rehabilitated, has proven to be a model prisoner, represents no threat to the community. But the invocation of Viet Nam as a legal excuse must be resisted.

There have been other similar cases. Defense attorneys have tried to use an emotional problem known as post-Viet Nam delayed stress syndrome to justify the insanity defense. The idea is that some veterans have become walking time-bombs and that the war — rather than the veterans themselves — set the fuse.

The law presumes that each person is responsible for his or her acts. It does not accept claims — even those supported by fashionable schools of psychiatric or behaviorist thought — that all kinds

of experiences program individuals to do misdeeds. The strain, for example, of growing up in a ghetto community does not excuse crime. The trauma of broken homes or even of being beaten by parents as a child does not immunize a person from punishment for later misdeeds. Only when the emotional pressures rise to the level of legal insanity, a determination by a judge or jury that a person cannot distinguish right from wrong, does the law make an exception to the presumption of responsibility.

This is and should be a narrow exception. It is nothing less than an exception to our general belief in the freedom of will upon which our whole theory of liberty depends. The pressures of combat in Viet Nam should not by themselves bring an individual within the exception. Most men suffered the trauma and returned home to ordinary, law-abiding lives.

The country did not do right by its Viet Nam veterans. It failed them at the moment when they needed help the most — when they first returned, physically and emotionally wounded. There is not much that can be done to make up for that failure. The Veterans Administration store-front counseling units are about the most that can be offered to those who are still having problems coping with their war memories.

But the last thing we should do is to act as though the few veterans who returned home to commit crimes represent the common reaction to the stress of that particularly nasty war. They do not. If they want to make a psychological plea to the law in excuse of their crimes, it must be based on more than simply the fact that they fought there. Viet Nam veterans, like everyone else, ought to be treated as responsible individuals. To treat them otherwise would be simply to do them, as a group, one more grievous disservice.

Chicago Tribune

9-28-81

The Pittsburgh Post Dispatch

20 Pages, 2 Sections

Pittsburg, California, Thursday, September 24, 1981

Vets may have been exposed to chemical

WASHINGTON (AP) — American troops may have been exposed to Agent Orange in Vietnam when their own planes dumped the toxic spray near U.S. military bases instead of the jungle, the government says.

"When I got this job in July, I didn't think anyone quite foresaw that we would be dumping this stuff on our own people (in Vietnam)," Health and Human Ser-

vices Secretary Richard S. Schweiker said Wednesday in making the disclosure.

The statements brought a wry response from Pete Tiffany of West Pittsburg, western regional director of the Veterans Leadership Conference.

"It's amazing that all of a sudden those of us labeled as crazies are slowly but surely being vindicated. Of those trying to refute

our claims, damn few were ever in Vietnam or subject to the spray. And very few have ever come to the Vietnam veteran and said, 'What did happen?'"

He also noted that an Oct. 23 meeting is scheduled in Washington between the Veterans Administration, the Interagency Task force on the Effects of Agent Orange and

leaders of national veterans' organizations. He said Schweiker's disclosure "is sure to be one of the major topics of discussion."

Last summer, President Reagan directed Schweiker to intensify the investigation into whether the health of servicemen was damaged by exposure to the defoliant.

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GEORGE J. MITCHELL, MAINE

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

*Veterans
Leadership
Conf.*

October 9, 1981

Ms. Joan M. Maiman
Chairman
Veterans Leadership Conference
300 North State Street, 3409
Chicago, Illinois 60610

Dear Ms. Maiman:

I am writing in response to your letter of July 1. Please excuse the delay in my reply.

I am afraid that I have not made my views clear on the issue that you raised in your earlier letter, namely the Government's response to the civilians who were in Vietnam during the Vietnam conflict. I did not mean to suggest that "the Congress of the United States can ignore the responsibility it has to those of its citizens who served the country in time of war". Rather, I only sought to indicate that, as to those persons who were not in the armed services during Vietnam, this Committee -- the Veterans' Affairs Committee -- does not have jurisdiction over any program or efforts directed at them. This Committee, like all other committees of the Congress, has a defined, limited jurisdiction that, in the case of this Committee, is limited to issues related to those who served in the armed forces. In that regard, I would note that a mechanism exists through which individuals and groups who served during wartime periods who believe their service should be treated as military service can seek to be declared veterans. This mechanism, the Department of Defense Civilian/Military Board was established pursuant to Public Law 95-202, and I would urge you to advise persons who served in Vietnam in civilian capacities of its existence and of the possibility of having their service determined to be military service for the purpose of veterans benefits. The Board's address is:

Department of Defense Civilian/Military
Service Review Board
C/O The Secretary of the Air Force
Office of Legislative Liaison
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20330

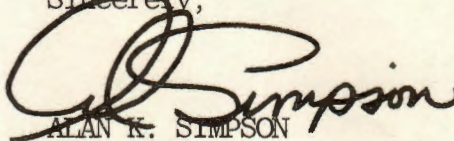
As I mentioned in my earlier letter, I believe that the appropriate recourse for individuals who were in Vietnam as civilians would be through the agencies that were responsible for their presence in Vietnam, such as the Departments of Defense or State. The Senate Committees that exercise oversight over those departments are the Committee on Armed Services (Senator Tower, Chairman), and the Committee on Foreign Relations (Senator Percy, Chairman), respectively.

Page Two
Ms. Joan M. Maiman
October 9, 1981

Again, thank you for writing, and please excuse the delay in my reply.
I hope my position on this important issue is now more clear.

With warm regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. K. Simpson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "A." and last name "Simpson" clearly distinguishable.

ALAN K. SIMPSON
Chairman

AKS/jts

Philip Cushman on:

Lem Genovese on:

Vets Constitutional Rights

Vets Grassroots Symposium

NATIONAL

Vietnam Veterans Review

"Strength in Unity"

Vol. 1, No. 3

"Serving All Vietnam-Era Veterans, From Sea to Shining Sea!"

October, 1981

Vietnam Vets Found Radio Network

Veterans News to be Nationally Syndicated

LAS VEGAS, NEVADA: One of the highlights of the 1981 National Association of Broadcasters Convention was the announcement of the formation of the Vietnam Veterans Radio Network.

The Radio network is a wholly owned subsidiary of VVF Communications Corporation which is headquartered in Washington, DC.

Thomas Winck, Chairman of the Board of VVF Communications, in making the announcement at the Convention Headquarters in Las Vegas, Nevada, stated:

"The goal of VVF Communications is to have more than 100 radio stations throughout the country affiliated with VVF Radio Network, carrying informative programs for Vietnam veterans from coast to coast originating with our press corps located in Washington, DC and other major cities."

Topics included news of veteran happenings in Washington, DC, interviews with prominent members of the Executive and Legislative branches of the Government, interviews with top correspondents and key professional, industrial and educational figures as well as responses to mail from listeners of network affiliates. Programming will begin this coming September.

"The ten million Vietnam veterans will be the most informed veterans in the nation's history as a result of this effort. We will also reach and educate some 30 million members of Vietnam veterans families and indeed will reach more than 200 million citizens," Winck concluded.

Continued on Page 26

Vets Administration Hospital Rules Change

The VA has recently announced changes in eligibility criteria for veterans wanting care at VA Medical Facilities. The new regulations would require patients to reveal their financial status prior to receiving care at the VAMCs. Most, with family incomes over \$15,000 would be denied medical care.

According to a recent estimate by the American Legion, about 100,000 of the million veterans who are hospitalized may not qualify and will be turned down at VA hospitals.

Under the new procedures, veterans from families with over \$15,000 in annual income and whose spendable income exceeds the cost of medical care will be turned away from VA hospitals and told to get treatment elsewhere.

Congress estimates the yearly savings at \$109 million, however a VA spokesman contradicts that figure and estimates an annual savings of only \$9.3 million. Additional costs will be incurred by the necessity of an increased administrative burden with spiraling costs in checking veterans' financial status prior to treatment.

According to a spokesman from the American Legion, "if a guy signs an affidavit that he is unable to pay for his treatment, the law says he gets treated."

Veterans organizations, across the board, should oppose the new regulations and support the position that if a veteran states he cannot afford treatment elsewhere, he should be treated by the Veterans Administration.

Continued on Page 26

Vietnam Veteran Outstanding Disabled Veteran of 1981

David Berry
Story on Page 7



Stockman Admits "Goof"

David Stockman, Budget Director for the Reagan Administration, announced last week that the Federal Government had "goofed" on a proposed cutback plan for the school lunch program across the nation. "It was a bureaucratic goof that we're going to change. Those plans have been withdrawn," Stockman told reporters. "What we're going to do," he added, "is put out a new set of Federal regulations that will remove that misleading aspect."

That "misleading aspect" was the revised minimum requirements on daily school lunch programs.

Now if we can get Stockman and others to admit other "goofs" in VA and other veteran associated funding cutbacks, we've made a step in the right direction.

Former Hunger Striker Plunges to Death

LOS ANGELES - An ex-Marine who vowed to starve himself to death last spring as part of a protest by Vietnam veterans apparently leaped to his death from the 11th floor of a downtown hotel, police said yesterday.

Clarence Stickler, 35, of Port Hueneme, Ventura County, apparently jumped Monday night from a hallway window of the Los Angeles Hilton on Wilshire Boulevard, a police spokesman said.

Stickler, who joined a group of Vietnam veterans on a 47-day hunger strike protesting the policies of the Veterans Administration, was on probation for a public intoxication conviction, officials said.

Continued on Page 26

National Vietnam Veterans Review
P.O. Box 35812
Fayetteville, N.C. 28303

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Opinions

Address your letters to 'Opinions' care of this paper.

Ernest V. Joiner
Sebastapol Times, Thursday, February 5, 1981

The yellow ribbons have come down, a sign that the emotional binge provided by the returned hostages is over. It was a welcome binge. It brought the country together in an out-pouring of patriotism and display of unity. It gave us some heroes, of which we have had precious few in recent years. For that, the barbaric regime in Iran may have done us a favor by kidnapping and holding our diplomatic personnel for ransom. Now we should let the 52 former hostages return to their normal pursuits.

One of the hostages told a newsmen that none of them are really heroes. True. They were well paid to voluntarily accept a dangerous duty about which they knew in advance of acceptance. They performed no extraordinary feats of heroism. They had no choice but to submit to capture. What is heroic is that they survived their captors. Our country was hardly heroic for it yielded for the first time to ransom in exchange for hostages. It isn't the money paid. It belonged to Iran all the time. It was other conditions met, like our agreeing to submit the claims of hostages to an international tribunal, bypassing our own courts. We agreed to terms of international conduct thrust upon us by a hostile government. In all, it was not a glorious time for the United States. In a world where "face" is everything, we lost ours.

My heart goes out to the Vietnam War veterans during the wild homecoming welcome put on for the hostages. For them there were never welcoming parades, bands playing, tickets to the Superbowl, or millions of Americans lining the streets and highways, jumping for emotional joy. When they returned from Vietnam broken, dead, or disillusioned, there were no greetings from a sullen, resentful America. There were few kind words for surviving a war they didn't understand, never wanted - and which they were ordered not to win. But 55,000 of them died just because they were ordered to. Others returned maimed and mangled to be greeted by a nation that appeared to be ashamed of them, and embarrassed. Nobody loves a loser, even when he's ordered to lose.

Even now Vietnam veterans find themselves unable to collect some veterans benefits enjoyed by those who came back from other wars - the ones we won. The Vietnam veterans are not regarded as heroes, only as reminders of a black day in American history.

Like the Vietnam veterans, I don't want to take anything away from the returned hostages. They suffered through hell. I was just saddened that Americans who took the hostages to their hearts had no room left for those who fought and sacrificed in an unpopular war. They are our first non-heroes. The only real hero to emerge from the Vietnam War and be clasped to the breast of America was Jane Fonda, and she wasn't even on our side.



Next months is Veterans Day. Be sure to get your planned activities in to us before 24 October to be included in our special November issue.



Valparaiso, IN
September 19, 1981

Dear NVVR:

So where's that great American pride and spirit that we all were taught about when we were kids? Is our whole perception of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, as we were taught, all a lie?

I remember when I was about 6 or 7, just learning to say the Pledge of Allegiance. We would all parade one behind another, following the leader who carried our nation's flag. We would all form a circle, put our hands over our hearts and from memory recite:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag, of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands.

One nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

So, where was God when we were fighting and dying in

Dear Veterans of Vietnam:

For the past few years I've wanted to do something to help the Vietnam veterans in whatever way I could.

Being a female civilian, with no personal connections to that war, other than a father and ex-husband in the Air Force, I have had no experience with the veterans problems caused by their time in Vietnam.

Many of my friends from high school and college were drafted, many never returned. My ex-husband was there before we married and would never talk about what he saw or did. My dad, well, we never talk much anyway.

All of the knowledge I have concerning these veterans problems I have acquired in the past year or so. I am now the typesetter for the first national Vietnam veterans' newspaper, the "National Vietnam Veterans Review" and more than ever I wish I could help.

I'm sure there are a lot of people like myself who would be willing to help in whatever way we can, if only we knew what to do.

The Vietnam veterans won't talk to anyone but other veterans. They say we (civilians) don't understand what they went through. This, of course, is very true, but lack of understanding is not entirely our fault.

How can we understand and help if you (the Vietnam veteran) won't talk to us or give us any idea how to help?

We're here, for you, but you don't seem to want to take these offers seriously.

We can never begin to understand the horror you lived and are living through, because we weren't there, but lack of complete understanding doesn't stop the compassion or the willingness to listen. Listening sometimes helps those who are willing to talk but have no audience.

I realize the government should have been the ones to listen when you first came home. I can understand the bitterness when the things you fought for, and died for, were turned into an awful kind of joke, one we find is definitely not funny.

As I said before, I'm sure I'm not a minority of one, in wanting to help. Can't you give us the chance to try and make up for what has been done, or not done, as the case may be, to relieve some of your suffering?

One can't remain bitter for a lifetime and still expect to live a full life. There are many of you who can still have a wonderful life with the years you have left, if only you will give us the chance to help erase a small part of that bitterness.

Let us help! Tell us how!

New Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center expected in Concord

by Carla Marinucci, Times Staff Writer
Contra Costa Times, Thursday, August 13, 1981

MARTINEZ - The new veterans' outreach center to serve an estimated 90,000 Vietnam veterans in the county is expected to be located in Concord, according to officials at the Veterans Administration Medical Center here.

VA officials are "in the process of selecting a team leader" for the center, which will have a staff of four to help veterans with delayed stress problems and concerns, according to Gary Rossio, spokesman for the VA Medical Center, Martinez.

Rossio says the job is currently being advertised locally, and applications will close on August 16. Shortly after that, officials are expected to make a selection and then move on to finding a site.

"Concord would be a good location," because of its central location to the large bulk of county veterans, and it would almost certainly be located here, he says, though a second choice would be Pleasant Hill.

The Contra Costa veterans' outreach center comes after a long campaign by local veterans in the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA)-which has one of its most active national chapters here-and the Veterans Leadership Conference, an umbrella-group representing more than 200 veterans and civilian organizations.

Contra Costa was chosen as a site "because of the publicity and the efforts of the Vietnam vets" who have been very vocal about the need for a center to assist the diverse veteran population here, according to one VA official.

The facility will provide individual, group and family counseling for veterans having difficulties with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome - depression, nightmares, disorientation and tension resulting from service in Vietnam.

The VA plans to open 28 new veterans' outreach centers around the nation, funded by \$31.4 million from Congress, which has approved a three-year extension of the outreach program.

Rossio says officials are carefully planning the goals of the center "so that when we reach out to the vets, we can give them good, basic information on VA eligibility," benefits and services.

Veterans' leader Art McGowan, of the Contra Costa VA, says vets are in close contact with the VVA Medical Center official Clarence Nixon and his staff regarding the choice of a director to head the center, which is expected to open within two months.

Final consideration of the director, however, will rest with Bob Malone, the VA assistant regional director for veterans' outreach programs, who is based at the Brentwood VA facility near Los Angeles.

Ready to help WW I, WW II, Korea, Vietnam vets.

Red Cross: Ready for a new century.



What kind of liberty is it, when a government systematically lies and prohibits a man from living a normal life. After exposing him to untold chemicals that rot away his mind, body and soul?

Where is the justice for the dead, dying and their families?

Where is America's conscience?

These questions I ask, perhaps for the last time. In a few days I'll have more surgery, maybe for the last time. Will the same government that presented me with a Bronze Star and 2 Purple Hearts comfort my wife and family when I die?

Hell no, they won't, they have no conscience!

SGT. M.D. Ward, USMC (Ret)

NATIONAL

VIETNAM VETERANS REVIEW

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Let's Hear From You!

Vets all across the U.S. we are requesting you to send us info that is locally published so we may republish and disseminate that info.

We would also like you to send us your stories for possible publication. We are looking for positive information!

Send to: Editor
 National Vietnam Veterans Review
 P.O. Box 35812
 Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303

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National Vietnam Veterans Review
 P.O. Box 35812
 Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303

NOTICES

Congratulations in Order

We extend our congratulations to the veterans' club at Southern Connecticut State College for raising over \$5,000 last month at a used text book sale at the school.

Funds earned by the club go to an Emergency Loan Fund for enrolled veterans, and to other campus activities conducted by the organization. A portion of the funds will buy a flag pole to be placed adjacent to the New Veterans Memorial Stone by Buley Library on campus. Well done, and Congratulations Vets!

AMA International

Compiling catalog for FREE listings of veteran owned businesses to promote business trade and eventually set up as Business Association to offer veterans discounts and to promote veteran business growth.

Send for FREE application form or send complete business info on letterhead to include: date founded, service/product, name/address/phone.

Send inquiries to:
 AMA International
 P.O. Box 3526
 Long Beach, CA 90803

Agent Orange

Thanks to Secretary Swikert, the information on 41 additional Agent Orange missions has been made available to the public. How many more missions have been lost in the Pentagon shuffle?

Let's write to our Congressman and ask him to find out for us. I'll write, will you?

Indiana VVA Going to Art Show

Congratulations to the Blackford County, Indiana Chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America. They recently held a ham, bean and cornbread supper and raised over \$600.00. Those funds will be used to charter a bus to Chicago. The group will attend the Vietnam Vets of the Arts Exhibit, at the N.A.M.E. Gallery, which is showing from 9 October to 30 October.

The Chapter members with their wives will be attending the exhibit on Sunday, 18 October.

Let's all attend and say hello to those hard working Viet vets. "We can all do it if we have 'Strength in Unity!'"

Nuoc Mam*

* Nuoc Mam is a sauce derived from spoiled and decaying fish. That sauce was used throughout Vietnam on most food dishes. To the American, Nuoc Mam was referred to as a Rotten, Stinking Mess. Vietnam!

By Steve Hanshew



Steve Hanshew

Editorials

Using Vietnam as an Excuse

It has become a commonplace these days to acknowledge that the Viet Nam War exacted a lingering toll from the soldiers who fought there. Not only did combat in the jungles present young men with horribly ambiguous moral choices in a situation of mortal risk, but when the men returned home they found a country that was unwilling to grant their haunting experiences legitimacy, unwilling even to listen.

The country has awakened to the wrong it did these young men. But now some veterans are trying to use their war experience to absolve them from responsibility for their crimes back home. The sympathy and sense of guilt we feel for these men ought not lead us to accept this excuse.

The latest case involves a veteran convicted of killing one woman and wounding another. He is serving his sentence in an Oregon prison, and he is seeking release on the ground that the war warped him. The governor of Oregon reduced the sentence, then rescinded his decision when the people of the town where the killing took place let out a howl of protest.

There may be other reasons for mercy in the Oregon case. It may be that, as the governor argues, the man has been rehabilitated, has proven to be a model prisoner, represents no threat to the community. But the invocation of Viet Nam as a legal excuse must be resisted.

There have been other similar cases. Defense attorneys have tried to use an emotional problem known as post-Viet Nam delayed stress syndrome to justify the insanity defense. The idea is that some veterans have become walking time-bombs and that the war - rather than the veterans themselves - set the fuse.

The law presumes that each person is responsible for his or her acts. It does not accept claims - even those

supported by fashionable schools of psychiatric or behaviorist thought - that all kinds of experiences program individuals to do misdeeds. The strain, for example, of growing up in a ghetto community does not excuse crime. The trauma of broken homes or even of being beaten by parents as a child does not immunize a person from punishment for later misdeeds. Only when the emotional pressures rise to the level of legal insanity, a determination by a judge or jury that a person cannot distinguish right from wrong, does the law make an exception to the presumption of responsibility.

This is and should be a narrow exception. It is nothing less than an exception to our general belief in the freedom of will upon which our whole theory of liberty depends. The pressures of combat in Viet Nam should not by themselves bring an individual within the exception. Most men suffered the trauma and returned home to ordinary, law-abiding lives.

The country did not do right by its Viet Nam veterans. It failed them at the moment when they needed help most - when they first returned, physically and emotionally wounded. There is not much that can be done to make up for that failure. The Veterans Administration store-front counseling units are about the most that can be offered to those who are still having problems coping with their war memories.

But the last thing we should do is to act as though the few veterans who returned home to commit crimes represent the common reaction to the stress of that particularly nasty war. They do not. If they want to make a psychological plea to the law in excuse of their crimes, it must be based on more than simply the fact that they fought there, Viet Nam veterans, like everyone else, ought to be treated as responsible individuals. To treat them otherwise would be simply to do them, as a group, one more grievous disservice.

Source: The Chicago Tribune, September 28, 1981

Guest Editorial

Dear Fellow Nam Vets

During the past 4-5 years there has been a great deal of media coverage about the men and women that are having some very serious problems, and how the government has given us the shaft. While this is true nothing has been said about the Nam vet who is president of a bank, a principal in an ad agency and public relations firms, an executive in a public utility company, a regional administrator for the VA and the list can go on and on.

Why haven't these people joined in our efforts to get the problems that veterans have resolved? The reason isn't that they don't care, or that they have it made, or anything of that nature. The reason is that because we all must take care of our families the best way we know how, and to this point we have been terribly fragment, without leadership and most of our efforts to get things done have been through media events that have gotten news coverage but have not had any lasting effect on the public.

As a result these Nam Vets who are in a position to help have been afraid of losing their credibility to get involved in hunger strikes and boat landings.

While hunger strikes and boat landings have been extremely effective to a point and have expressed the sentiments of those vets who are doing well and willing to help their brothers with problems, but because of their very actions have kept them from joining in help. They want very much to help but they realize that such activity is not lasting and the fact that it tends to perpetuate the image given us by the news media of being drug crazed baby killers.

We as Nam Vets realize the value of good true leadership, how important it was to have a good plan of attack and the need of unity.

Nam Vets now you know what millions of Americans knew before Nam, and that is how easy it is for this country to discriminate against its loyal citizens, those willing to risk their lives for the freedoms that we as Americans took for granted. Freedom is something

that we must be willing to go through a great deal of pain for.

In a recent article one vet stated that he was terribly upset over the fact that Cuban Refugees were given \$10,000 from the government for cards and dominoes. I am not a refugee and don't want a handout from the government. I want dignity, respect and honor and these must be earned. So let's earn them by banding together to get all Nam Vets back to work, rid ourselves of delayed stress and get our own scientists to give us the truth about Agent Orange. In order to do this we must be willing to look upon the Nam vets in the position of authority not as the enemy but someone with talent willing to lend it to support constructive efforts to give all Nam Vets the respect due.

Together there is nothing that we can't do, for the leadership role for this great nation should come from us, for our brothers of wars gone by don't have the strength or capabilities to fight this battle.

Let us shed our paranoia and seriously give others the opportunity to communicate with us and we will see that we have many allies.

Unemployment is not restricted to Nam Vets, prejudice is not restricted to Nam Vets, divorce is not restricted to Nam Vets, suicide is not restricted to Nam Vets, and Nam Vets aren't the only ones concerned about the environment of this nation. Let us show the courage it took to go into combat and unite this nation to make it what it should be rather than saying to the government - you give to the Asians, the Cubans and nothing for me. If this is what I went to Nam for then it really was for nothing. I will not become another welfare casualty for this nation and if you really want to see the country relieve itself of this malady then we must prove to the nation that all is not gloom and doom as in the stories on the TV news.

Through the courage of this publication each month I will give you an interview with successful Nam Vets from executive directors of home builders associations to Congressmen and this for the most part will only take on the state of Oregon. Brothers, if we don't work with these Nam Vets then we will spend the rest of our

Reagan Administration Budget Ax Falls On Five Veterans Programs

by Larry Carney, Times Staff Writer
Army Times, September 21, 1981

WASHINGTON -- Five major Veterans Administration benefit programs, including three under the GI Bill, will be eliminated or reduced in scope on October 1 as part of the administration's budget-cutting efforts.

The action, which was approved by Congress, will save an estimated \$116.2 million in FY '82, according to VA officials.



SPEAK COXLY, BUT CARRY A BIGGG KNIFE.

The action will affect:

- Flight training. VA payments for flight training will end on October 1 for veterans who were not participating in the program on August 31. Those who enrolled in flight training in September will be paid only for training performed before October 1. In July, 1980, 5840 veterans were receiving benefits for flight training. Elimination of the program will save \$14.1 million in FY '82.
- Correspondence training. Because of studies that show an extremely high dropout rate among trainees enrolled in correspondence training programs and a high incidence of fraud and abuse, the law now requires that veterans who train in correspondence programs share a larger part of the cost.
- Education Loans. Ending for most veterans on October 1 is a special program through which GI Bill recipients could receive, in addition to their GI Bill payments, low-interest loans from VA.
- Burial benefits. A burial allowance of \$300, previously available to all war veterans, will be limited to veterans eligible for VA pension or compensation and to those who die in VA facilities.
- Dental care. The period of time under which former servicemen could get free VA dental care for up to a year after leaving military service has been reduced to 90 days.

Ed Note: Brothers, we've just bought one B-1 Bomber! One Sam missile....Poof!.....All gone!

lives fighting ghosts and this will surely make our efforts in Nam the waste the government has shown us they think it was.

Let's seriously look at what needs to be done and see if we can't work with others to put together an organization that will allow all of us to work on the specific problems that will make this nation a good place for all Americans to live regardless of race, creed and color.

Furlton M. Burns
Oregon Director
Veterans Leadership Conference

Op Center

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the wonderfully encouraging letters we've been receiving and particular thanks to the following:

Lem Genovese

For his excellent articles on the NACV, Grassroots Veterans Symposium and the Labor Day Pig Roast out in Springfield, MO. It seems everyone concerned put a lot of work into making that affair a successful one. Thanks Lem, we're looking for more good articles from you!

Cary Shelton

For the assistance, information and materials he provided as input to this issue and upcoming issues. Cary is with the South Boston Gazzett up in South Boston, VA, and is active in veterans affairs.

Joan Maiman

For the continued support and material input from the Veterans Leadership Conference in Chicago.

Jack Mordente

From the Vet Affairs Office at Southern Connecticut for his encouraging letters and fine input to this month's paper.

Frank Price

Again we would like to thank Frank for his input to our paper.

Gov. Gerry Brown

For his declaration that California would observe Vietnam Veterans Month from October 23rd to November 23rd. Thanks Governor!

Philip Cushman

For the very educational letter concerning the legal rights of veterans and excellent "class" on those rights.

Furlton Burns

For his well written and informative Guest Editorial.

Hire the Veteran!

Time for Vietnam vets to Organize

by Ed Murphy

I remember the plane ride to Vietnam better than the plane ride home. There was more to think about then. On the way home, I was asleep from exhaustion. Also, I did not think there was much to worry about "in the world."

On the way over, I wanted to savor every moment of life, not knowing how much of it I had left.

We landed in Cam Ranh Bay, not knowing what to expect. The last television news I could remember showed Marines pinned down at Con Tien. The Tet Offensive had just upset everyone's ideas about who was winning the war. I wondered what was waiting for me: life, death, wounds; cowardice or heroism; hatred, disease, friendship, or just loneliness. I did not know what to expect here, but I did know my DEROS, Date Eligible to Return from Overseas.

It takes a long time to get used to being in a war, perhaps a day or two. One never forgets his DEROS, thought, (365). Two hundred and ninety nine days, "God let me make it!" The war goes on and you settle down knowing you are really here. One hundred ninety nine days, "I am no longer a newcomer!"

There are guys that need help accepting that they are in Vietnam. Ninety nine days, "I am a short timer!" Pretty soon I'll be going back to the world. It is time to start making plans how to stay alive and what to do back home. Thirty days, real short! It is time to be careful. We all know about the guy who was killed on his last patrol. "Did you hear about the grunt who was killed as he was getting on the plane to go home?"

One day to go; I turn in my rifle. Eleven kilometers by bus to the Pleiku airport and a flight back to Cam Ranh Bay, unarmed. Flying to Cam Ranh, we pray there will be no "accidents". A few more hours of processing and we'll be on our way.

DEROS equals 0. I have won the war! As the plane leaves the country we all cheer, we have won the war against time. Some laugh, some cry, a few talk and sing, most of us fall asleep, numb. All we have to do is rest. We want to be in good shape when we land. No great expectations, but we know that we have accomplished something.

Midnight, Seattle, Washington: A plane-load of Vietnam Veterans are snuck back into the United States, hurried onto a bus and processed out by sun-up.

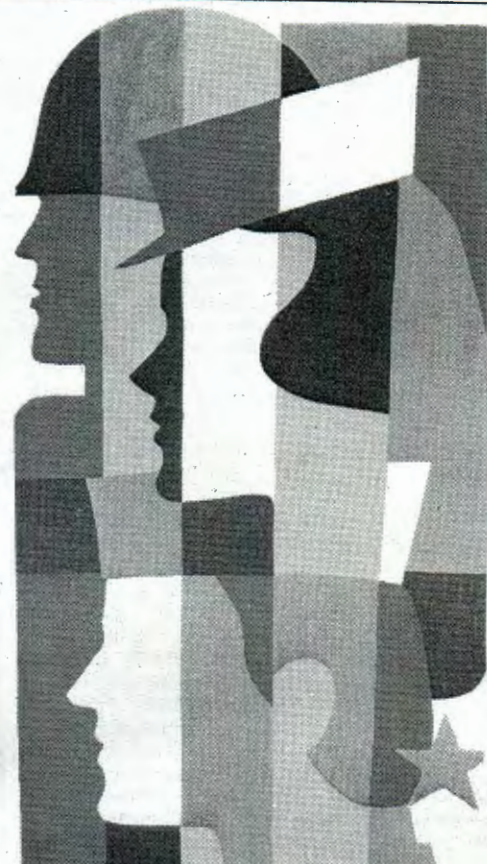
The next morning four of us are in a cab facing rush-hour traffic to the airport. We join thousands of commuters and the honking horns of daily life. We were just another fare to the airport. The only visible difference being that we wore our unit patches on our right shoulder. Only those in the brotherhood knew that meant service in war. We received the same courtesies that other passengers got from a national airline.

Very few people knew that I had made it. As I flew from Seattle to New York, I learned that there was no welcome home. I would have to make my own.

It is too late for parades! We are home; we have wives and children; and bills to pay. Jobs and health care mean more to us now. Education and hope are more important than speeches.

On July 4, we declared our independence! We held our own welcoming home party without waiting for a government that has shied away from us. We gathered at John Boyd Thacher State Park for a potluck supper. Families played together and celebrated life.

From now on, we will be free of obligations to support politicians who do not support us. Free of promises! Free of parades! There are 400,000 of us in New York State. In 1982 the following candidates will be looking for support; Governor; Lt. Governor; U.S. Senator; All Congressmen; All State Senators; All State Assemblymen!



VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 11TH

Each of us has a family and friends. If the time for actions isn't now, then when is it?

In each county, veterans should meet and welcome each other home; begin the dialogue and find ways to support each other. Include families and friends. We are from the generation that responded to the president's call, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." In conscience and commitment we stepped forward and took a risk. We did not expect to be forgotten!

It is time to step forward again. Veterans supporting veterans, learning from each other what the needs are and how best to address those needs. The initial step of organizing is dialogue. We must sort out the issues independently but not in isolation.

Don't be afraid of old conflicts. Twelve years after returning from Vietnam I am the president of a 400 person chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America that includes pro and anti-war veterans. Earlier differences have been put aside; we have reformed to make a difference.

We all made it past DEROS equals 0. Now we need to focus on the future, individually and for this country. We join with those willing to make a commitment and take a risk in 1982. We begin that process now!

Ed Murphy resides in Saratoga Springs and is president of Capital District Chapter of Vietnam Veterans, Inc. of America.

The National Vietnam Veterans Review is filling that communications vacuum.

Veterans Must Support Veterans

Mail Room

Letters

Steve R. Hamaker
2000 2nd Avenue
Seattle, WA 98121
August 27, 1981

Dear Chuck,

I appreciate your letter following my inquiry. It's a requirement that to survive in contemporary America under the Stockman Administration one has to adopt a strong sense of justice and a hell of a good sense of humor. Heaven or the angelic are not my forte, but I would love to learn from the man how he plans to argue the merits of his budget cuts before God! It's possible that any good he may institute at this time will be held until just such a moment. And then its "damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead." We can rest assured he'll make every effort to justify his actions on earth. But then what can we as a nation expect from a guy who refused to bend over and crack a smile when his country needed him most. I'm firmly convinced that what Mary Hartman lacked David Stockman could make up with his own program!!

Jumping quickly to the reason for this exercise in type-manship, I am impressed with your paper, Chuck, for a number of reasons. None the least being, of course, it's about time! My DEROS was 9/69 following a year in Nam and 1 1/2 years in Germany. Like so many others, I found no outlet for the need to communicate that your paper so adequately provides. Oh, don't get me wrong, you're still a little rusty in places but who is not touched by the Van Devanter article? I'd love the chance to meet the lady someday. But the paper is and can be much more than a medium for the rehashing of past events. I see it as an avenue through which veterans can help each other rather than depending on a multitude of possibilities that never arise. Specifically, communicating of possible employment opportunities, especially among the trades, because of shifting industrial centers. Employers receiving a plug because of their sympathetic response to our plight. And most importantly, acknowledgement of laws in various states which affect Vietnam/Vietnam-era vets. This latter one is best exemplified by what's happening in Oregon as regards housing for state inductees. I'm sure there are those living elsewhere that may be entitled to a \$58,000 loan at 7.2% for current residents. But where would one find this information without purposefully looking for it? **Herein is the real strength of a paper such as yours.** Learning what's happening, nationally, among ourselves should be the goal of the paper and to which purpose I hope to have something to offer in the future.

There's much I'd like to say but will write again when not so pressed by time. I will add that while in attendance at Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA, near Spokane, a group of Nam vets formed a non-profit corporation in order to lease a dorm for the housing of ourselves. Initially comprising 70 veterans, the dorm increasingly admitted more foreign students as the vet enrollment declined in the late 70's. The point I wish to make is that such endeavors get little exposure except on a local basis. With rent roughly \$30 month, there are many that would have enjoyed learning of this opportunity. I keep asking myself how much is available from the resources among ourselves save for the asking! We need the paper, Chuck, as a means of re-introducing ourselves, not only to ourselves, but to others as the only viable source of caring.

Sincerely,

Steve Hamaker

Ed Note: Very fine letter Steve, and yes, I also hope you will have more to offer in the future.

Dear Editor:

Did you know that J.C. Penny is currently (Christmas catalog 81) offering to our kids a "long play realistic AK-47 rifle"? It may seem to be a minor thing to many, but having been on the receiving end of the 47, having known many KIAs and horribly wounded brave men permanently disfigured with the weapon, it just sticks in my craw that Pennys is offering an AK-47 to the American youth to play with. What next, a replica of the Hanoi Hilton with life-like NVA torturing American "warmongers"? Jeez. Anyway, I'm writing to Pennys in New York to complain. I'll let you know if they respond.

P.C.S.

South Boston, VA

Certified Heroes

On September 23, 1981, 4 members of the Secret Service were awarded Certificates of Appreciation, given the title of "Certified Hero" and a check for \$10,000. These were the men that were present during the attempt on President Reagan's life early this year.

We are not suggesting that the medal and the title "Certified Hero" was out of line, but how about that \$10,000? True, they were in the line of fire during the attempted assassination, one even got shot in the stomach with that .22 cal. pistol.

Even been on the receiving end of an AK-47 on full auto? Or how about an RPG B-40 rocket? I don't see any Vietnam vets getting any checks for even \$10.00 and believe me, there were a lot of "Certified Heroes" over there—about 2 1/4 million of them. Is this part of the Budget Cut?



Veteran's Awareness

To the Editor:

What do we care for veterans? What meaning do they hold for us as college students of draft age?

Last Friday Jack Mordente ran a Vietnam War Veterans awareness program in the College Union pub. Many statistics were cited, impassioned men spoke their piece, questions were asked and the future discussed. More than an opportunity for veterans in the audience and on stage to voice their views and concerns; the program was designed to enlighten the audience as to the veterans' views of war and its aftermath.

Why was it that I was one of the few on-campus students to stay for what they had to say? Publicity was sufficient, the program relevant enough. Why did student apathy plague this important event? The majority of those in attendance were either veterans or off-campus students, as a poll at the beginning indicated.

Acceptance of Vietnam veterans in this country is in a word: *shameful*. These men still suffering from the war they left ten or fifteen years ago did not return to ticker tape parades. No national monuments stand in their honor. The care disabled veterans receive is atrocious. Now "the man" (Ronald Reagan) who said of Vietnam veterans, "They were denied the right to win", is giving the vet one last kick in the ass by cutting critical veteran rehabilitation programs.

These men have paid their dues. In return they have been given the shaft. We complain of cuts in the student loan available from the government that are upcoming. Our special in education is to me petty compared to the real need of all veterans.

The Vietnam War era is not over. Men live and suffer today as an example of the gross injustices our society has bestowed on them. We can learn much from their experience now. They may tell little of combat, but they will have an abundance to tell about war protestors, the media, war films, delayed stress syndrome, Agent Orange and how they feel about veteran benefits.

For most of us, we have only reaped the profits of our affluent society. Ask a Vietnam veteran if he would return to battle and why. You may hear of "blind patriotism" or "no choice" responses to the questions. Whether El Salvador can be brought into comparison or not with Vietnam, the education of experience the veteran has to offer us cannot be found in a text.

Right's cost is in responsibility, God help us that the cost of apathy and denial is another Vietnam.

Douglas Stuart, Student, SCSC, Connecticut

Missing the Message

Somewhere, in the rhetoric on Vietnam and its effect on the nation and those who served there, I fear we are missing part of the message. First of all, to point out that there have been serious failures on the part of the government and the appropriate agencies to deal with many of the problems of those who served in Vietnam, is not equated with an attack on all the policies and standards of the government. To point out the failures of a system in one area does not mean that one does not agree with the basic fundamentals which underlie it, the maximum freedom for the individual while preserving the common good.

This is the reason many of us went to Vietnam.

Only a society as free as American would afford us the opportunity to address the problems of this war in so open a manner, indeed in any manner at all.

One of the legacies of Vietnam for me and for many of those I know is the ability to strip away the superfluous and deal with the basic issue at hand. I suppose in the middle of literal life and death decisions this response becomes a matter of survival. This ability to deal with the essentials, priority sorting, could be a valuable resource for the nation.

An appreciation of the fact of just being alive, of just having survived, is also a legacy of war. I am sure this is the same for all those who have ever known war. It is good to survive and one has a life long appreciation that to live is, in itself, a sort of daily miracle. Such an appreciation could do much for a weary world.

One learns that in war there are no absolutes. My enemy may appear as my friend. This does not mean that one must loose the ability to ever trust again, rather it means that the trust that is given is all the more sacred.

One learns that there are the "good guys" with attributes of the "bad guys" and "bad guys" with "good guys" attributes.

Those who survive such an experience must make peace with their own demons. This may make them more at peace with the world and able to see it for what it is not in absolutes and yet still to believe that things can be better and there is always hope. One may go to war as a child but I doubt if many children come home.

Leadership may be developed in stress situations. This is not to advocate war as a classroom but it (the war) happened and we would be foolish not to utilize the resource in terms of human talent the experience has given us.

In many cases the veterans have been content to be seen as victims. This implies a certain passivity not the ability to act. The problems are many but the time is now for the veterans to take the lead. Not in terms of handouts from the government, but to work into the mainstream.

Veterans have untapped reservoirs of talent, dedication, and energy to give to this country.

In all its horror and complexity the war was a unique experience for all of us who were there. We all saw it in different ways. It bothers me that to want to build on this experience to help the nation and those who suffer lingering problems from Vietnam is viewed by some as "radical." Just as damaging is the stereotype of the Vietnam veteran as the "cause of the year" and deserving of all the respect we give to abandoned animals.

Vietnam veterans must become a viable economic and political force and organization is the key to this. For too long the veteran has let others shape his place and actions. It is time that he set his own destiny.

Joan M. Maiman

Got a buddy needs help? Bring him into a Vet Center. No appointments needed, no hassles. We're here to help!

VA Counselor, Vietnam Veteran: Outstanding Disabled Vet. of 1981

When David Berry lost both his legs to a booby trap in Vietnam, his first thought was "of total elation that I was getting out of Vietnam. I was going to make it home. I was going to be alive."

But it wasn't long before his elation turned to darker thoughts of what he'd be denied. He had nightmares that he would never again be able to jog or play tennis. He wasn't sure what he'd do or what would happen. Anger began to take over his thoughts.

Now, 11 years after his near-fatal injury, the Columbia native works a full-time job as a drug and alcohol counselor, volunteers as a counselor in other programs and raises his eight-year-old daughter, Liz. He also races marathons in his wheelchair and plays tennis three times a week.



Berry's fight to work his way back into the mainstream of society and service to the community has earned him recognition as the 1981 Outstanding Disabled Veteran of the Year by the 695,000-member Disabled American Veterans (DAV).

Berry, who received the award at the DAV's national convention in Miami, said it wasn't easy to get back to a normal life. There were many things he'd first have to learn to live with.

During his ten-month stay at the Philadelphia Naval Hospital, he said he and other men on the amputee ward expressed a considerable amount of hostility, frustration and anger. However, venting anger did little to help Berry build a future worth living for. The turning point for him came one afternoon while he rested in a park outside the hospital.

"I was really feeling sorry for myself that day. I was down. I was thinking about suicide," he said softly. "Then this long-haired person walked over to me and said 'You didn't even have the decency to die in Vietnam.'"

After he said that, it was like a bolt of lightning struck me. And at that point, I just wanted to go out and get on with life."

After his medical discharge in May 1971, the Marine Corps veteran enrolled at the University of South Carolina.

After six years of school, Berry had earned a A.A. in Law Enforcement, and A.A. in Police Science, a B.A. in psychology and a master's degree in criminal justice. He made the dean's list four years and the president's list twice.

Despite his education and 130 employment applications, jobs evaded Berry. Finally, legislation promoting the hiring of severely disabled veterans enabled him to land a job as a counselor at Fort Jackson.

Because he knew nothing about drug and alcohol counseling, Berry had to learn his duties through on-the-job training. In addition, he took it upon himself to work with three Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) sponsors who taught him everything about AA principles and philosophy. Berry points out with pride that he was later made an honorary member of Fort Jackson's AA group.

In 1980, Berry left the Army base to take the same position at the Columbia VA Medical Center.

DAV National Service Officer David Nesbitt observed some of Berry's counseling sessions and said the counselor "is able to overlook his disability and get right to the point of the problem. He doesn't forget about any troubles he might have ever had in life and concentrates on dealing with someone else's life. He wants to get them straightened out so they can become productive citizens."

Berry said that the ways people cope with their problems aren't always beneficial to them. Alcohol and drug abuse are two harmful coping tools, but his way was food. The 128-pound Berry once weighed 240 pounds.



In addition to his full-time jobs as a counselor and a father, Berry gets involved in several volunteer activities, such as working with Nesbitt in the DAV's Outreach Program. He also does volunteer counseling for Al-A-Teen, and he chairs the VA's S.C. Committee for the International Year of the Disabled Person.

Why? "In order to learn more about yourself," he explained, "you have to go out on a personal and interpersonal level. What I learn enables me to learn to deal with other people. It is a selfish thing for me."

Selection as the Outstanding Disabled Veteran is important to Berry, who was recently elected a junior vice commander of the DAV's Department of South Carolina. "It gives some clout to go out and speak for my peer groups of disabled veterans," he said.

Eleven years ago, a Viet Cong mine sentenced David Berry to life in a wheelchair. War isn't just, but Berry isn't bitter. Nor does he feel sorry for himself.

He's simply too busy, as Nesbitt said, "always being right out there in front."

Agent Orange:

Area Vietnam Vets Seek Herbicide's Victims

by Tom Juergens, The Gazette, January 21, 1981

ESSEX—The Vietnam War veterans' last battle, a legal one that seeks compensation for damages allegedly inflicted on them by the military's use of the herbicide Agent Orange, will be brought to the Centerbrook VFW post in the form of a public seminar this Monday at 7 pm.

Agent Orange Victims International (AOVI) wants area veterans who may have been exposed to the herbicide and who are willing to join its two-year-old fight against five major chemical companies and the Veterans Administration itself to attend the meeting.

The AOVl claims veterans were not warned of the herbicide's dangers when it was used in Vietnam to clear the enemy's jungle hiding places and American base perimeters. It says Agent Orange is the cause of the cancer-related deaths of veterans and of deformities in their children. The group accuses the Federal government, particularly the Veterans Administration (VA), of stonewalling its effort to receive compensation.

"At least three or four thousand" veterans in Middlesex County came in contact with Agent Orange during the war, says the Centerbrook VFW service officer, Toby Simpson, of Highland Terrace in Ivoryton. In addition, of the 128,000 Connecticut Vietnam veterans, there are some 26,000 who saw combat and are thus more likely to have been exposed to Agent Orange, Simpson said.

AOVI's class action suit presently has some 10,000 claimants, but more are needed to show more concern, said the group's co-director for Connecticut, Jim Sparrow.

Before he died of dioxin-related cancer, Vietnam veteran Paul Reutershan of Stamford filed a \$10 million lawsuit against five major chemical companies, accusing them of violating federal laws by making Agent Orange and knowing that it was "inherently dangerous and unsafe for use." Dioxin is Agent Orange's active ingredient.

That suit has since been amended into the AOVl's class action suit on behalf of the millions of Vietnam veterans and their families who are and may be suffering due to the herbicide's use.

The AOVl is seeking a court order that would force the chemical companies to set aside a percentage of their profits for a perpetual fund to compensate affected veterans and their families.

California Hearings Held Agent Orange effects told

Contra Costa Times, Thursday, August 6, 1981

SACRAMENTO (AP)—John Fields of Santa Monica was a young, healthy Marine when he went to Vietnam in 1965 and was sprayed with the defoliant known as Agent Orange. Since then, he says his mental and physical health have been terrible.

"It's been 15 years since I came home and I'm not free yet. My mind is still over there," he told a Special Assembly Veterans Committee Wednesday. "...While I was there, something infected me. I would like to know what it is."

Fields said he began getting open sores, as did others in his outfit, over there. He still gets outbreaks that last a month every three or four months. He also has a bleeding ulcer, intestinal problems, a bad back, loss of hearing and is an alcoholic.

And, he said, "there's a great possibility that any child I may have may be deformed. There's a pattern out there."

The Assembly Select Committee on Veterans Affairs held the first of two days of hearings at the Capitol on the effects of Agent Orange and other problems being suffered by Vietnam veterans. The committee held hearings in Los Angeles last week.

Activists appeal for funds to help veterans

by Robin Topping

The Advocate, Wednesday, July 1, 1981

Two advocates of veterans' rights lobbied before the Health and Protection Committee Tuesday night, in an emotional appeal for funds to help local victims of Agent Orange, a toxic chemical linked to cancer, birth defects and miscarriages.

Roger Pappas and James Sparrow, vice-presidents of Agent Orange Victims International, say they have traveled the country aiding veterans who have received no help from the government. Now, they're coming back to the "grass roots level" for support. They are returning to the city where their movement was first spawned three years ago by a Stamford man who died from cancer apparently caused by Agent Orange. The chemical was used as a defoliant during the Vietnam War.

Operating out of their Stamford home, Sparrow and Pappas say they have provided medical and legal referrals, information and moral support to some 1,000 local victims of Agent Orange and thousands more nationally. They have financed the service through membership drives, T-shirt sales and their own money.

But now, they say, the veterans' work has "engulfed" them. So they are asking the city to supply funds for an office and a central data bank to hold extensive information on toxic chemicals.

Sparrow said the office would serve Agent Orange victims, as well as all local veterans and people interested in the health hazards of toxic chemicals. He said the office could perform the services of the local Veteran's Administration office since that office is expected to close this fall.

The local VA, which consists of a part-time worker who is in Stamford two days a week, has run out of funds, Sparrow said.

Committee chairwoman Jeanne-Lois Santy said, after the presentation, that her committee was "very sympathetic and we want to help." But she declined to say her committee would recommend that the district board finance the office.

Instead, she suggested that Pappas and Sparrow plead their case before other local boards, such as the Health Commission and the Environmental Protection Board. Santy, and the other two committee members, Mildred Perillo, D-9, and David Blum, D-12, also urged the two to seek a broad base of local support for their cause.

Pappas and Sparrow agreed to follow the committee's recommendations and said they would report on their activities in the fall.

Meanwhile, the Stamford Victims International office and 50 Agent Orange offices nationwide are "doing what the Veteran's Administration should have done long ago," Sparrow said.

Pappas said he receives from one to 50 calls a day from people affected by Agent Orange, other toxic chemicals, or other veterans' problems. "Sick veterans pass through our home every day," said Pappas, "and there are many more Stamford boys who don't even know what is happening to them."

Sparrow said many veterans are ignorant of the effects of Agent Orange. The veteran who developed a severe skin rash in Vietnam, which the Army told him was temporary "jungle rot", may wonder, Sparrow said, "why he still has it, 15 years later."

Moreover, people exposed to toxic chemicals used to, for example, defoliate areas for railroad track and utility lines may also develop health problems, he added.

Under the Rainbow

Agent Orange is the best known of the chemical "weedkillers" used as part of the massive defoliation program to destroy jungle cover, crops and other vegetation during the Vietnam War. Herbicides were authorized for use in Vietnam in 1961 to improve waterway visibility and clear base camp perimeters. Between 1962 and 1964 the military experimented with Agent Green, Agent Pink, and Agent Purple. In 1965 Agent Orange and Agent White replaced the previous agents and began to be used in even larger amounts as the war escalated. Agent Blue, the only herbicide not derived from phenoxyacetic acid, was used through all phases of the war. All of these herbicides were named after the color-coded bands around the 55-gallon drums which contained them.

The defoliation program ran from January, 1962 to February, 1971 - almost the full length of the war. Exposure to these chemicals was as constant a factor in the war as artillery. Though estimates vary, Dr. Samuel Epstein, a toxicology expert, testified to the House Subcommittee on Veterans' Medical Facilities that between 17.4 and 19.1 million gallons of herbicide were aeri ally sprayed over South Vietnam; this amounted to approximately 107 million pounds of herbicide applied over about 6 million square miles. From 1965 Operation Ranch Hand sprayed between 10.6 and 11.7 million gallons of Herbicide Orange, between 5.2 and 5.6 million gallons of Herbicide White and between 1.1 and 2.1 million gallons of Herbicide Blue. The military region most heavily sprayed was III Corps, followed by I, II and IV Corps. In addition, unknown amounts of herbicide were regularly sprayed by engineering units and riverine forces; additional unknown amounts were sprayed by the South Vietnamese military. Some areas were sprayed by more than one herbicide; other areas were sprayed by both herbicides and large amounts of pesticide. The ecological consequences and possible hazards to animal and human health of mixing these chemicals in large and often undiluted amounts within a single ecosystem is unknown, although the health consequences are now gradually emerging under the general description of the Agent Orange problem.

A single gallon of Agent Orange contains a mixture of 4 lbs. of 2,4-Dichlorophenoxyacetic acid and 4.6 lbs. of 2,4,5-Trichlorophenoxyacetic acid. Agent White is somewhat similar with 2 lbs. of 2,4-D and .54 lbs. of picloram per gallon. These two agents were aimed at broadleaf plants with Agent White having the longer lasting effect. Agent Blue is made up of 3.1 lbs. of Cacodylic acid (organic arsenic) and 1.7 lbs. of inorganic arsenic, used largely on crops. Agents Green, Pink and Purple (used early in the war) were 2,4-D and 2,4,5-T. All of these agents were handled and sprayed with little or no regard for the minimum safety protections against exposure to toxic substances.

The volume of undiluted herbicide sprayed is testimony to the wide degree of exposure among military personnel in all areas of Vietnam. All military personnel can be presumed to have been exposed, though some were exposed more directly with greater amounts of herbicide than others. The duration of exposure was generally over months and occurred from multiple routes. Exposure came through contaminated food and water; through direct contact to the skin from contaminated water and brush and from breathing fumes of burning brush. Also, the multiple exposure to toxic agents like 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, Cacodylic acid and Picloram were accompanied often by stress, fatigue, high humidity and temperatures and the use of other drugs.

Update

Illinois Passes "Scaled Down" Agent Orange Bill

On 7 August Gov. James Thompson signed the Agent Orange Victims Act into law.

The bill as it was passed, is a scaled down version of the original legislation introduced over a year ago according to its prime sponsor, State Senator Carl Berning (35th District). Berning told Joan Maiman of the Veterans Leadership Conference, that the original bill was "too broad in scope" as it called for detailed collection of data on exposure victims and an outreach program. Such a bill was viewed as "beyond the scope of the state legislature."

In the form in which it was passed, the bill provides for the establishment of a 13 member committee to be composed of legislators and public members, three of whom will be Vietnam veterans.

The bill appropriates \$100,000 for a two year program to conduct hearings and accumulate data. At the end of the two year period, recommendations will be made to the Illinois State Legislature.

Berning stated that it is hoped this action will be a "lever to induce the Veterans Administration and the Congress of the US to recognize their liabilities to the Vietnam Veterans."

"lever to induce the Veterans Administration and the Congress of the US to recognize their liabilities to the Vietnam Veterans."

Agent Orange and Stamford

by Laurie A. O'Neill
 The New York Times, Sunday July 5, 1981

Past the white picket fence and under the American flag that flies from the porch at 955 Cove Road come the sick, the suffering and the questioning. They are veterans of the Vietnam War, but to them the battle is not over. An enemy more deadly, they say, than the one they faced in the jungles of Southeast Asia still stalks them.

The small green house serves as the Connecticut office of Agent Orange Victims International, a non-profit organization that seeks to inform Vietnam veterans that some of the health problems they or their children suffer from could have been caused by exposure to a herbicide called Agent Orange that was used in Vietnam and elsewhere between 1962 and 1970.

The co-directors of the two-and-a-half-year-old Connecticut chapter are James A. Sparrow, a 34-year-old former Marine, and Roger Pappas, 47, who is not a veteran. The men, both divorced, share the rented house and run the chapter from their living room. The Connecticut chapter was the first branch office established by the organization, which is based in New York City.

The living room is cluttered with pamphlets, clippings, copies of studies suggesting a link between Agent Orange and a variety of diseases, posters, banners and bumper stickers. An American combat helmet serves as a lampshade, and a North Vietnamese helmet, with a small round bullet hole in the back, shares space on a coffee table with a sheathed machete.

"We are not anti-American," said Mr. Sparrow. "Nor are we poster-carrying protestors or pistol-packing revolutionaries. We're humanitarians."

The organization's goal, he said, is the alleviation of suffering caused by what he sees as Agent Orange poisoning "through dignity, self-respect and solidarity."

Disseminating information on Agent Orange takes most of his time and keeps him broke, Mr. Sparrow said. He blames his own exposure to Agent Orange for an intolerance of cold temperatures, a low resistance to infectious diseases and chronic skin rash called chloracne.

The Connecticut chapter has 500 members who pay \$7. in annual dues, and keeps files on 3,000 other victims with whom it has been in contact. There are 26,000 combat veterans in the state, Mr. Sparrow said, "so we've only hit the tip of the iceberg."

To offset expenses, the chapter occasionally holds a dance, and Mr. Sparrow works in the kitchen of a Darien restaurant, and Mr. Pappas, who sold his hairdressing business so he could devote his time to the group, serves as a liaison with Vietnam veterans in Australia, New Zealand and South Korea. Like the organization's president, Frank McCarthy, who ran a veterans unification group in New York City before he became involved in the Agent Orange cause, Mr. Sparrow and Mr. Pappas say they are several thousand dollars in debt.

Mr. Sparrow travels around the state, talking to veterans who, he said, may be harboring the effects of Agent Orange exposure. He offers to help find counseling and medical aid for those who are already ill or for those whose offspring were born deformed.

"I had to come," he told a recent audience in a rural northwestern Connecticut town, "because you're not going to get renowned doctors or scientists to come out here and say this." Propping a map of Vietnam against a table, he asked veterans to "tell me where you were and when, and I can tell you how close you came to Agent Orange."

The Cove Road home is frequented by veterans like Ronald M. Doshna, a bearded, 30-year-old Stamford resident and former combat engineer. Mr. Doshna and his twin brother Dennis, another combat veteran, have dozens of crisscross scars on their bodies. Between them, they have had 160 small, fatty tumors removed from under their skin.

Named for the band of color around its containers, Agent Orange was used in Vietnam and parts of Cambodia, Laos and Thailand. Forty-four million pounds of oily substance, made in the United States, were used to destroy brush cover and food supplies and to clear the perimeter of American military bases.

Initially, the Defense Department believed the chemical was nontoxic and advised the military personnel only to shower and change clothes if they came in contact with it.

But in 1970, the Government learned that Agent Orange contained high levels of dioxin, said to be the most toxic chemical known, and the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam and its surrounding areas was promptly suspended.

Concern about the effects of Agent Orange touched off in 1978 when a benefits counselor in the Veterans Administration's regional office in Chicago, Maude E. DeVictor, noticed an apparent correlation between the health problems of Vietnam veterans and their alleged exposure to the herbicide. Mrs. DeVictor did further research on the defoliant and publicized her findings.

Veterans who say they believe Agent Orange is responsible for their health problems do not blame the Government for exposing them to the herbicide, Mr. Sparrow said, because there is no evidence that the Defense Department knew it was dangerous at the time it was being used.

But they are suing nine of the country's major chemical companies, contending that they are responsible for the cancer, birth defects and miscarriages that veterans and their families have suffered.

The suit was initiated in 1978 by Paul Reutershan, a 28-year-old veteran then dying of abdominal and liver cancer. Mr. Reutershan, who founded Agent Orange Victims International from his hospital bed, had been a railroad conductor in Stamford and a member of the now-defunct Stamford Memorial Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10013, of which Mr. Sparrow was commander.

Chief counsel to the 7,000 veterans named as plaintiffs in the suit is Victor J. Yannacone, Jr. of Patchogue, L.I., a lawyer noted for his fight against the use of the pesticide DDT in the late 1960's. Mr. Yannacone who is receiving assistance from 150 law firms around the country, described the suit, which has been granted class-action status, as being among the largest products-liability case ever filed. It seeks an order that would compel the companies to contribute to a trust fund that would pay veterans and their families for their injuries.

Besides seeking damages from the chemical companies, the veterans are also suing the Veterans' Administration.

Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Act

The 97th United States Congress passed a bill entitled "Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Act." This bill, H.R. 2493, is "to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a presumption of service connection for the occurrence of certain diseases in veterans who were exposed to herbicides during service in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam era." Unfortunately the VA has neither the ability or the equipment necessary to do any screening for dioxin at present.

Source: The AОВI Newsletter, August 1981



State Senator Karl Berning, 35th Dist. prime sponsor of Illinois (Vietnam) Agent Orange Legislation

Berning told Maiman that the bill makes no provisions to include the citizens of the State who served with the US military action as civilians as they (the lawmakers) had not been aware of the problem when the bill was drafted.

Berning added that the committee, which has yet to be appointed, would be pleased to take testimony from such persons and include them in subsequent actions. The Agent Orange Bill was the subject of a meeting between the leadership of the VLC and Lt. Gov. Dave O'Neal in August, 1980. At that time it was hoped that the passage of the bill was imminent. O'Neal resigned his office on 1 August, 1981.

Maiman stated "although the bill passed in Illinois is far less comprehensive than legislation passed in other states such as Texas, it is at least a beginning of the realization that the state has a responsibility to those of its citizens who served in Vietnam and may be suffering the harmful effects of chemical exposure."

"A Different Road Home From Vietnam"

Women's Corner

Women Veterans

by Susan Sweetnam

A Different Road Home From Vietnam

The officer in charge looked up in disbelief.

"How old are you?"

"Twenty."

"You're a sweet young thing," he blurted. "You should think about it some more. Come back and see me on Monday."

Early Monday morning, Laura (not her real name) returned to see the duty assignment officer. A weekend to think it over had not changed her mind. She still wanted to be sent to Vietnam instead of Hawaii for her tour of duty.

Laura's orders to Vietnam were cut and signed, and six weeks later she was standing in the airplane door looking out at Vietnam. But this green recruit was not prepared for the foul smelling, 100-degree F. sauna where she would spend the next 14 months.

"I'll never forget that smell," she recalls. She is a tall, attractive and physically fit woman filled with energy and vitality. She appears to have a no-nonsense approach to life and yet she gives off an air of doubt and suspicion. The small room in which we are meeting fills with anxiety as she startles at the sounds coming over the intercom. She listens alertly to approaching footsteps in hopes no one breaks in on the conversation about Vietnam.

For this interview Laura has purposely adopted the uniform that sprang out of the 1960s. Her faded blue jeans and white T-shirt adorned with blue lettering, "Participant of Southeast Asian War Games, 1961-1975, Second Place," instantly identify her as a veteran of Vietnam.

At first glance the message strikes with an angry blow of contempt, but further investigation reveals that this is Laura's first tentative attempt at communicating her feelings about the Vietnam War with others. For the last 10 years she has kept her veteran status quiet and has hugged closely to herself the feelings that stem from her war experience.

At first glance the message strikes with an angry blow of contempt, but further investigation reveals that this is Laura's first tentative attempt at communicating her feelings about the Vietnam War with others.

Laura is one of a small number of women who are emerging from the shadows and publicly admitting to their status as Vietnam veterans. Like the other women veterans, she has only just begun to realize how the decision that she made to go to Vietnam in December 1970 has drastically shaped the last 10 years of her life. She wants to let other women veterans in the same situation know they are not alone. But she is in a precarious position emotionally. She finds herself pushed from side to side by her desire to have the public know the effects of war on women and her fear of being alienated and abused once again for participating in an unpopular war.

In Vietnam, Laura worked in an intensive-care unit (ICU). For seven months her job as trauma nurse entailed being on the landing site to provide immediate care to casualties arriving by helicopter. She also acted as triage nurse, the person in charge of assigning priority to the casualties for their treatment on the basis of urgency. Her basic training at Fort Bragg, N.C. had only hinted at what this ICU would be like.

Through it all, she bore the anxiety of wanting to repair the broken bodies as well as the strain of many times being the only nurse on duty to care for 70 badly wounded patients. It is something Laura does not want to have to endure ever again.

Women were not involved in actual hand-to-hand combat, but were confronted with the daily destruction of war as the badly wounded bodies continued to flow in from the jungle.

Women were not involved in actual hand-to-hand combat, but were confronted with the daily destruction of war as the badly wounded bodies continued to flow in from the jungle. Their duty as nurses required them to shut off their own reactions to the carnage surrounding them, explains Shad Meshad, a former Army psychologist in Vietnam who has counseled over 200 women Vietnam veterans. The nurses were to be fast, efficient, compassionate, and above all to assure the young men in their care that they were safe.

However, Laura was not confident that they were any safer at the hospital than in the jungle. "The guys on our perimeter at night (on guard duty) did not have loaded weapons," she says, recalling only one of several incidents. "One night, a couple of sappers came through our fence to throw satchel charges (an explosive on a timer encased in a canvas pouch) somewhere on the hospital grounds. There happened to be two GIs on stand down (a short break) at the hospital. They shot the guys coming through the fence right outside my ward. Who knows what would have happened if those GIs weren't there."

Trust was something veterans lost sight of after only a short time in Vietnam, agrees Ron Armstead, an Operation Outreach counselor in Boston. He is one of the many Vietnam veterans who work in the Outreach program set up for Vietnam veterans. The 91 centers currently in operation have been dubbed "storefront" centers, since they are in business districts in an effort to secure an identity separate from Veterans Administration (VA) facilities which many Vietnam veterans do not trust. Armstead agrees with other veteran counselors that the young men and women (average age of men was 19 and women was 21) arriving in Vietnam thought that they were there to win a war. They felt secure in the belief that although they were there to kill the enemy, it was for the purpose of maintaining a nation's freedom to choose its own type of government. The longer they were in Vietnam, the more this confidence was eroded by nagging suspicion that US involvement in Southeast Asia had little to do with their own perceptions of war. In addition, the principles they had been raised on eroded, as they struggled for survival in a setting filled with fear, hatred, and revenge for an enemy they rarely saw, amid intense antiwar sentiment from home.

Until recently, experts on Vietnam and its effects assumed that because men and women served in the same war, their responses to war and their means of enduring it were similar. Not a single woman was included in the eight-year study done for the VA released in late March by the Center for Policy Research. The study questioned and followed the lives of 1,340 white, black and Hispanic males who had served in Vietnam.

As more women come forward with their experiences, however, the experts are finding that the men were able to dissolve some of their fears and anger by fighting the enemy or in some way physically releasing those tensions. Women, on the other hand, did not have an outlet of any kind. The nurses in particular had the responsibility of putting back together what the war tore apart. They often blamed themselves when what they patched up didn't work.

"I felt guilty about not doing the best job I could have done," Laura says. On top of her feelings of inability to stop the men under her care from dying, she also had to care for Vietnamese civilians who had been wounded. She admits with shame that caring for those civilians was not something she wanted to do.

"I learned not to trust the Vietnamese. They could have been Viet Cong in disguise."

"I learned not to trust the Vietnamese. They could have been Viet Cong in disguise. Children - GIs are notorious for picking up children but they were often wired with explosives. They killed a lot of our guys that way," Laura recalls. "I didn't always treat the Vietnamese as human beings. I treated them as the enemy and didn't really want to take care of them."

In retrospect, she sees that her reasons for joining the Army were myriad but rooted in a lack of direction and her openness to adventure. The allure of stories by her father, a career Army man who served in World War II and Korea, and pictures of Asia enticed her to join the Army. Her interest in seeing things outside the United States was entangled with the need to do something about her career. She had recently graduated from nursing school, and experience as an Army nurse would enhance future career possibilities. And she had other considerations.

"My brother was draft eligible," she says. She reasoned that if she were in the Army when he was so close to being drafted he probably would not have to go fight in a war he did not support.

"At the time," she adds, "the Air Force and Navy could not guarantee me a duty assignment outside the US, but the Army could guarantee my choice of assignment. I chose Hawaii."

Basic training bombarded her with more romantic stories about the military and war and in particular the excitement of Vietnam. As she readied herself for her assignment in Hawaii, she considered the benefits of going to Vietnam - the excitement, the boost it would give her career, and what she would learn as a nurse over there.

Mr. Meshad, who directs the nationwide Vietnam counseling centers, believes that Laura's reasons for going to Vietnam were similar to those of other female veterans.

"Women went for the same reasons that men did," he says. "They were attracted by the excitement; their career opportunities would be enhanced; and if they were nurses they would come out being the best experienced nurses in their fields. They were women who were driven by idealism, energy, and naivete."

Laura is only one of the thousands of women who voluntarily joined the military during what has become known as the Vietnam era (1961-1973). How many of them served in Vietnam is hard to determine; estimates vary from 6,000 to 55,000.

"Information on female veterans as a whole is very sketchy because they make up less than 2 percent of the military population."

"Information on female veterans as a whole is very sketchy because they make up less than 2 percent of the military population," comments John Hickman, a public information specialist at the VA. However, he adds that 193,000 women served during the Vietnam era, although not necessarily in Vietnam.

The discrepancies over the numbers of women in Vietnam also stem from the number of federal agencies that deal with military statistics.

Even the recently appointed director of women's programs for the Vietnam Veterans of America, Linda Van Devanter, a former nurse in Vietnam, is unable to give any statistics about women veterans. She claims the lack of solid information about women is because the Defense Manpower Data Center, where military personnel statistics are kept, was only established in 1970 and not put into operation until 1971.

Continued on Page 11

Women's Corner

While the Air Force admits that women personnel were in Vietnam from 1967 to 1973, a public affairs spokesman says it's not known exactly how many. It is known, however, that women of all branches of the military served in hospitals and major bases in Vietnam and Thailand in the capacity of nurses, administrators, and in public affairs positions, or what is commonly known by the military as traditionally women's jobs.

On the other hand, the Marines know exactly how many women Marines - served during the same period - 36. A spokesman even had their names, height, weight, and color hair and eyes available, and what they are doing now.

Laura's return home was very quick. She says she probably has the record for getting out of the Army fast, but most veterans feel their return home was much too fast. One day she was in Vietnam patching up young kids and 48 hours later she was home having breakfast with her family wondering if she should be helping with the dishes.

Many veterans believe that if a method of debriefing had been set up for returning veterans similar to what was done after the release of the American hostages from Iran, some of the problems veterans encountered may have been alleviated. One veteran describes his return as "somewhere between Vietnam and home but I didn't know where."

"The hardest part of the war for many veterans was coming home," Meshad says.

"The hardest part of the war for many veterans was coming home," Meshad says. They were returning to a country that was hostile to the war and anything military. They took the brunt of anti-war sentiments. They were stereotyped as ruthless killers of civilians, drug addicts, and unemployable misfits, he says. They were shunted by their own society and even by veterans of other wars.

Many veterans have readjusted to the return home, but the rate of alcoholism, suicide, and unemployment among Vietnam veterans is evidence that thousands have problems. Since January 1980, when the first center opened, close to 55,000 Vietnam veterans have participated in the program. The program was in danger of folding because funding for Operation Outreach was slated to be cut from the budget by the Reagan administration, which opposed renewing the program, but on June 16 Congress extended it for three more years.

The centers, staffed with Vietnam veterans, appeal to the troubled veterans, since they provide a safe place for them to talk about their experiences without running the risk of being ridiculed or judged by someone without the same background.

Since women have remained in the closet and haven't identified themselves as veterans of Vietnam, Meshad

"Women are reluctant to come into the centers."

says, the counseling programs have been developed with male veterans in mind.

"Women are reluctant to come into the centers," Bruce Harmon, a counselor at a Seattle center, says. He agrees with Meshad's assessment that women are afraid to identify themselves as veterans, since the abuses outweigh the rewards. Harmon explains that when a woman admits to being a Vietnam veteran, she saddles herself with the stigma associated with being a member of a small group of women among a large

The word "veteran" has an unfeminine connotation, and their reputations are questioned by others.

number of GIs far away from home. The word "veteran" has an unfeminine connotation, and their reputations are questioned by others.

Harmon has identified several women veterans in the Seattle area who appear to be interested in using the services of the center but somehow never get through the door. His goal is to get one woman involved at the center who would search out others and encourage them to make use of the program.

Ron Armstead in Boston believes that as more women veterans make contact with the Outreach program the necessary programs will be established to meet their needs.

Many of the problems Outreach centers face today in trying to reach women veterans were identified back in 1967 by Carole Williams, who headed up a project in Seattle.

The Women Veterans Project was an outgrowth of a veteran program established in 1971 by the Veterans Education and Training Service. Robert L. Hill, then the national director of the VETS project, explains that in those early years the VA was not geared up for the thousands of returning Vietnam veterans, nor were they fully aware of the need for reeducation, training, and health care. With funding from the Office of Economic Opportunity, VETS established 10 projects across the country to fill this void.

The Seattle VETS project designed a program specifically for women, but started from the misconception that they had the same experience and therefore the same needs as men. It took an all-out effort by Miss Williams to get women into the center. She set out to locate women veterans by distributing posters and putting public service announcements in newspapers and on the radio. Women responded.

As more women were counseled, it was soon realized that they generally had a better education and were looking for specific solutions to specific problems - jobs, benefits, etc.

In its short, two-year existence, the project served over 100 women, and it was hoped it would serve as a model for future programs across the country. In December 1977, the funding for the women's project ran out and the program never went any further.

Counselors at Outreach realize the need for a safe place as well as the importance of cementing relationships with family and friends. That sense of trust lost by many while in Vietnam is essential to the first steps

"I don't know if they didn't know what to say to me or I didn't know what to say to them."

of getting veterans to talk about their recurring images of the war. As one veteran said recently, "When I started to talk about Vietnam I started to leave it behind." The inability to communicate their feelings has not helped family and friends understand their needs and moods.

"I didn't know if they didn't know what to say to me or I didn't know what to say to them," Laura says of her family's response to her when she returned. "I couldn't sit still. I would wander from room to room and I didn't know what I was supposed to do or if I was supposed to do anything. I couldn't make any decisions about anything."

Laura spent much of her time listening to all the news reports to find out what was happening in Vietnam, preoccupied with the safety of friends still there. She was not able to sleep at night.

Although male veterans have known for years that their problems are related to Vietnam, women who served there are only beginning to make that connection. According to Meshad, one reason it has taken so long for them to make the connection is that women have not admitted to themselves or to others that they are veterans of Vietnam.

"I figured the depression was due to a change in climate or environment and it would go away," Laura says. "You can only have nightmares for so long and they burn themselves out," she reasoned, "but they don't. I still have nightmares, I still sleep with the light on sometimes and loud noises frighten me."

"I'm not used to having a terrible temper. I came home and I couldn't get English muffins in the toaster. The toaster wouldn't go down. That would not ordinarily

"Professionally, people look at your resume and say, 'You were in the Army and Vietnam?'"

bother me, but I threw it against the wall so many times until I couldn't throw it anymore. My dad didn't say anything. He just picked up the toaster, dropped in the muffins, and the toaster went down. Then you feel like a jerk."

Laura's stint in Vietnam gave her impressive professional credentials, just as she had anticipated.

"Professionally, people look at your resume and say, 'You were in the Army and Vietnam?' They think that you can do anything and it's terrific," she says. "But 10 years down the road it isn't so terrific and I wouldn't do it again."

She recalls her first job interview, where she was offered the head nurse position in an intensive-care unit: "I had my coat and was almost out the door. I said there was no way I am going to work in an ICU." She mused, "There was my head nurse position, waiting right there for me, but I just couldn't take it. I finally got a job in an operating room." There, she doesn't have to deal with patients in pain or with the families. This was the only way she felt she could continue in nursing.

Laura has also become an active member of Agent Orange Victims International, a non-profit, tax-exempt organization established by Paul Reutershan, a Vietnam combat veteran who died in 1978 at age 28. The purpose is to inform veterans and the public about Agent Orange and to provide services to those affected by the herbicide, which was used to defoliate large areas of the Vietnam jungle and is now considered toxic. Her frustration over discovering its dangers accidentally through a newspaper article only two years ago, rather than through the government, prompted her to join the organization.

In the last few years, Laura has been connecting her Vietnam ordeal to the lack of direction in her life. She is climbing over the hurdles of fear, uneasiness, temper, and frustration. Her anxiety over speaking about Vietnam is dissipating.

This is evidence that Laura is leaving Vietnam behind.



National Association of Concerned Veterans

Grassroots Veterans Issues Symposium

September 5th-7th, Springfield, MO

Exclusive to the "National Vietnam Veterans Review"
by Lem Genovese, Staff Writer

Vietnam veteran advocates from all over the nation came to Springfield, Missouri for a three day "Grassroots Veterans Issues Symposium". Cheryl Abbeduto, Ron Phillips and Steve Suwalsky acted as organizer-coordinator from their offices at the Center for Veterans Rights in Los Angeles, California. Originally scheduled for Washington, DC, they moved the site to accommodate the logistical advantages of a Mid-American conference in conjunction with the National Association of Concerned Veterans Pig Roast. The preparations started nearly three months prior to the actual event with invitations and notices mailed to virtually every veterans advocacy organization and individual imaginable.

San Francisco's experienced coalition of Mimi Yahn from the Agent Orange Veterans Advisory Committee of Berkeley; Jack McCloskey, formerly of Swords to Plowshares and now a Team Leader in a VA Vet Center, David Paiz of Palo Alto and Joaquin Gallardo from the Mission Street VA Vet Center with one of his counselors all drove to Missouri to contribute and share in the seminars. Tad Foster, author of the *Vietnam Funny Book*, attended, and informed those present that a special poster from his book would be used for fund-raising purposes. In working on his book he stated: "...the lack of explanation of the cartoons allows us to analyze our role and responsibilities as veterans to ourselves and society." He stressed the value of completing his assignment as: "A continual 'Attitude Check', the element of not giving up."

Foster, also from San Francisco, commented that the first time he was interviewed on television he was asked why he called it the *Vietnam Funny Book* he

"If they can call Vietnam a 'Police Action', I can call my book what I want to."

replied: "If they can call Vietnam a 'Police Action' I can call my book what I want to." The cartoonist pointed out that the average taxpayer paid \$3,300 towards the war during its decade of operation. "There is complicity of sharing and examining the strengths of our experience with the public." The publisher of the *Vietnam Funny Book*, is himself a Vietnam veteran, Robert Kane of the Presidio Press, served there as an advisor from 1959 to 1961. Half of the proceeds from the sales of the *Book* will go to local Vietnam veterans service centers.

Canadian television film journalist Don North brought the Documentary Series "The Ten Thousand Day War" to the event and it was used constantly to underline the issues and attitudes discussed throughout the Symposium. North worked for 2 years on the project and visited the Peoples Republic of Vietnam to purchase 12 hours of tape and interview noted political and military figures like Colonel Han Van Lo. The excellence of the segments was apparent from the rapt attention each one received from the participants. North stressed that he developed enough expertise in editing the different film clips that he could tell which portions had been "professionally staged". As the ABC Television correspondent at the American Embassy in Saigon during the Tet Offensive of 1968 and at the 28th of February retaking of Hue the same year his credentials were in evidence when the discussions centered around those operations.

"The passage of time has improved the level of honesty among military officers and government officials like Clark Clifford, Dean Rusk and General Westmoreland," North intoned. "They have no more

axes to grind and are under no pressure to tow the line anymore." Three million dollars was raised independently in Toronto for the Project. England and France will air the series in this Fall season of 1981. San Diego, Los Angeles, Washington, DC, and Chicago have bought independent cable rights to view the Series.

"We made it a point to gain 3 concrete sources anytime we used statistics in the filming of the Series. It was amazing how many times we came up with conflicting figures even from within different departments of the United States."

North encouraged the attendants with his personal revelation that the Project was a catharsis for his own delayed stress problems. He closed his presentation with the new assignment he was undertaking, that of a group of Vietnam veterans returning to the Peoples Republic of Vietnam and visiting some of the sites of significance during the American involvement and North's filming the interchange between the Vietnamese and the American veterans themselves.

The author of *Everything We Had*, Al Santoli spoke of the events leading up to his collecting the oral histories of Vietnam veterans from all over the Nation. He spoke of family situations like weddings and younger nices and nephews asking those questions he himself had avoided for years concerning the war. He both acted in and wrote scripts for the Veterans Ensemble Theatre in New York City in 1978. In 1979, No Greater

He noted with clarity that the MIA families and those from the State and Defense Departments wouldn't speak to each other at the banquet reception.

Love asked him to write a eulogy for the MIA's at the Arlington National Cemetery Observance. He noted with clarity that the MIA families and those from the State and Defense Departments wouldn't speak to each other at the banquet reception.

"Perspective is vital to cut through some of the prejudices," he said. "There has got to be a sense of morality about our conduct in Vietnam. The media has shifted the image of the Vietnam veteran from near contempt to sympathy. We need to pursue and balance the media's approach and understanding of the veteran." Santoli touched on the ongoing process of the responsibilities of the seminar on the Media and Stereotyping with: "The Vietnam veterans perspective of America is vital to reclaiming this country's identity. Vets need to grow through the stage of awareness and development where 'Civilians' aren't as 'good' as Nam Vets. We need to mature into maintaining and developing new relationships with the mainstream of society. We should strive to just be a human being." He mentioned the upcoming trend of "Veteran Chic" and the gala benefit concerts and events upcoming that foretell the needed questions he closed his segment with: "Are you going to be fashionable? A stereotype? Chic? or be yourself? We have to see through the changing trends and work towards a compassionate consistency."

One of the interesting cultural/political developments during the Agent Orange Session was the introduction of the newly published *Vietnam Map Book*. Published by the Winter Soldier Archives, it enables the reader to research the exact coordinates for all the "Operation Ranch Hand and Hades" missions which sprayed the defoliants over Southeast Asia. It was recognized by the Symposium as an invaluable tool in determining Agent Orange legal claims. With it, the veteran or interested activist can readily find the tonnage of defoliant dropped in a specific area, the dates and even the drainage rates for substantiation of exposure. The vital statistics concerning ordering the book are as follows:

The Vietnam Map Book - c/o Winter Soldier Archives of Berkeley. Clark Smith & Don Watkins, 2000 Center Street, Post Office Box 1251, Berkeley, CA 94704. (415) 540-6175 or 527-0616. \$25.00 for veterans, \$50.00 for others, \$100.00 for Institutions.

Sandy Primm, who read his poetry along with David Paiz and Steve Hassna, author of *The Short-Timer's Journal* announced the third compilation of Vietnam Veteran and assorted writers poetry called *Peace is Our Profession*.

The Vietnam Veterans Photo Project sent flyers announcing its plans to collect a representative book and exhibition reflecting the total experience of the training, the war and its aftermath. The deadline was

September 30, 1981, but there may be a change in the deadline if enough quality submittals are made. Entries are to be sent to:

Vietnam Veterans Photo Project
Ede Rothaus - Director
c/o Veterans Upgrade Center of New York
165 Cadman Plaza East
Brooklyn, New York 11201

John Lindquist of Milwaukee, Wisconsin was there to participate in the Organization Session and presented the assembly with his outline for the upcoming "Vet Offensive - Operation Dewey Canyon IV" sponsored by the Vietnam Veterans Against the War. He assured those attending that all legal permits and procedures were already confirmed. The "Limited Incursion On the Potomac" will run May 12 through 15th in 1982 and include Congressional lobbying, press conferences, seminars, demonstrations and a memorial service at Arlington National Cemetery. Lindquist reminded the attendants that the major issues concerning VVAW are:

- 1.) Test, treat and compensate Agent Orange victims
- 2.) Decent benefits for ALL veterans of all eras.
- 3.) Support for Incarcerated Veterans and expand programs.
- 4.) Stop all VA budget cuts.
- 5.) Single type discharge for all veterans.
- 6.) No further military aid to El Salvador.

For further information and developments as well as national liaison contact:

John Lindquist - VVAW

3433 North Fratney
Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

He also presented the "Forgotten Warriors Poster" reprinted from May, 1981 issue of the *Stars & Stripes*. It is available for \$2.50 from: (312) 342-4827

Forgotten Warriors Poster
ACPA Publishing Company
1120 North Keystone
Chicago, Illinois 60651

Some of the other cultural developments were former NACV Membership Director Bob Bishop's Art Exhibition in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania. The Exhibition featured handicapped and disabled artists and Vietnam combat artist George L. Skypeck and cartoonist Tad Foster both had their works displayed. The event was in observance of the International Year of Disabled Persons and ran from September 9th through the 13th.

Some of the new developments the Symposium presented were an on-going network of communications based on a continually growing directory of organizations - national, state and local; as well as individuals actively involved in Vietnam Veterans affairs. The continuing growth of the cultural activities encouraged the attendants to garner better rapport with the public through locally sponsored events. The issues concerning Women Partners and Women Veterans dealt primarily with "Pulling them out of the Woodwork" (Abbeduto and Yahn) and changing sexist attitudes from both military training and male veterans.

Those who came to Springfield, Missouri were pleased with the quality of the seminars and the positive ambience of cooperation from such a diverse assembly of activists and interested individuals. The Symposium gave significant credence to a new attitude for the Veterans Movement, that of different leaders of organizations CAN WORK TOGETHER towards mutually beneficial goals and develop a professional liaison network with the supportive journalists of the media.

**They're alive and waiting
for us to help them**

**HELP WORK FOR THE RETURN OF
POW/MIAS in Southeast Asia**



To Help, Contact:

Ann Mills Griffiths
NATIONAL LEAGUE
OF FAMILIES
1608 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006

NACV Pig Roast and Grassroots Veterans Issues Symposium, Sept 4th-7th Springfield, Missouri

Exclusive to the "National Vietnam Veterans Review" by Lem Genovese, Staff Writer

The organizers of the First National Association of Concerned Veterans Pig Roast and Grassroots Veterans Issue Symposium had people like Al Santoli and Tad Foster, David Carradine and the "King of Woodstock" Country Joe McDonald as calling cards for their Labor Day Weekend Festival in Springfield, Missouri.

They hitched from as far away as Pennsylvania, or traveled by air from Los Angeles, California where Center for Veterans Rights Activists - Symposium Coordinators Cheryl Abbeduto and Ron Phillips left the Dallas, Texas airport and thumbed the rest of the way to the Site. Vans roamed in from Ohio, places like Grand Forks, North Dakota, Des Moines, Iowa. Tom Hoiles - NACV President brought down a contingent from Michigan, Jim Himley old NACV stalwart from Chicago, Illinois and from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin office of VVAW, John Linquist. Practically every available St. Louis area Veterans advocate spilled into the narrow two lane blacktop Missouri road named "YY".

Everything We Had author Al Santoli flew in with long time NACV Board Member Mike Gold, fresh from to Alaska. The Vietnam Funny Book author, Tad Foster broke in his new Jeep driving east from San Francisco with Vietnam journalist Judy Coburn of Los Angeles, who was on assignment from the Village Voice. Don North, who worked as a television correspondent for both ABC and NBC in Vietnam brought the Canadian Television Documentary Series, "The Ten Thousand Day War", adding an international approach to the Symposium.

Actor David Carradine, brought his film "Americana" to Springfield for an exclusive screening prior to its national release to garner feedback from the Vietnam veterans attending the festivities. The film, made in the 1970's, was produced, written, directed and cast by Carradine concerning a returning Vietnam veteran's readjustment in a small Kansas farm community and

The Los Angeles based actor, perhaps best known for his martial arts television series role in "Kung Fu" and his portrayal of Woody Guthrie in the motion picture "Bound for Glory" seemed to enjoy his two days with the veterans.

his restoration of a turn-of-the-century carousel. The Los Angeles based actor, perhaps best known for his martial arts television series role in "Kung Fu" and his portrayal of Woody Guthrie in the motion picture "Bound for Glory" seemed to enjoy his two days with the veterans. One minute he could be seen singing along with John Prine's "Sam Stone" backstage adding an impromptu harmony and then melting into the crowd again for a refill on the chow line.

Steve Suwalsky, one of the three Center for Veterans Rights Symposium Coordinators, saw the film earlier in Los Angeles and called it, "...enjoyable and poignant." The overall reaction from the veterans who shared the Springfield screening was warm and positive.

When it was announced during the concert that the large San Francisco Bay area contingent was stranded outside Lincoln, Nebraska, Bob McCloud went back home to coordinate their dust-off. It was a classic example of the "Vets-Helping-Vets" theme that was to occur throughout the weekend of counseling, communication and cooperation. McCloud returned to Lincoln to facilitate the repair of the stricken recreation vehicle and the transportation arrangements of its road-weary occupants.

The overall planning and logistics were based out of the St. Louis Area Veterans Consortium Incorporated, headed by Roast Committee Chairman Charles Clyde and Consortium President Bill Elmore. All legal procedures were strictly adhered to by the Consortium, as well as insurance, security, site health facilities and codes, contracts and personnel. The Springfield Liaison Team was lead by Herchel Fleetwood and Chuck Worley, who, by the end of the second day of the long weekend looked like they'd been out on a listening post with too many bad guys in the area to count.

The difficulties arose in the local areas surrounding Springfield, when magistrates and some residents tried almost every means at their official disposal to move the proposed site of the Roast/Symposium twice before Mr. and Mrs. Robert Young volunteered their land and facilities and went out of their way to show support for the Roast Committee and the veterans

The print and electronic media played up the "Courts-versus-the Vets" angle for nearly a week prior to the event.

they represent. The print and electronic media played up the "Courts-versus-the Vets" angle for nearly a week prior to the event and some of the organizers claim the difficulties in obtaining a guaranteed site open to the public made the less than profitable overall turnout an inevitability.

The Court Hearing in Douglas County was called by Circuit Judge James Clifford Crouch. It convened on 9 am on the 31st of August and adjourned 1 am on September 1st. Charles Clyde representing the Consortium and NACV stated that all pertinent and binding County and Municipal restrictions and questions were discussed by the County Prosecuting Attorney in the first hour and a half of the proceedings. Clyde states: "After that, it was needless repetition."

Once the Judge's decision was made to allow the Roast Site to be the Young farm, there was less than one week to prepare the area for the activities previously coordinated by the NACV and the Los Angeles based Center for Veterans Rights. A deep and long trench had to be dug for the roast pig and a fire started and tended at the proper long hours' interval before the first hog was laid over the coals. Security, health, camping, parking and tents for the Symposium and all the otherwise calculated disorganization associated with the establishment of your average firebase or LZ was done by a dedicated, overworked, understaffed group of volunteers.

Visitors, interested vets, supporters and just plain Labor Day Weekend people started trickling through the main security gate late that Friday afternoon, Sept. 4th. Vietnam combat medics like NACV's John Upton from Oklahoma and Jack McCloskey from the San Francisco Vet Center were serving as medical technicians this weekend for free. To pay a similarly qualified and experienced team like that would have been astronomical.

A professional sound crew from St. Louis donated their excellent system and personnel for the 12 hours of music. A few minor technical difficulties, such as the celebrated \$7.98 part that was left behind, delayed the start of the concert. The actual starting time was to be noon, then it was adjusted to 1 pm. By the time the system was fully operational, Bill Elmore had twenty minutes of announcements. The opening act by then had decided to change the title of his previously dedicated "Springfield Serenade" to "Attitude Check."

It was a classic example of the "Vets-Helping-Vets" theme that was to occur throughout the weekend of counseling, communication and cooperation.

The Viet Vet Tunesmythe, longtime lone LRRP for functions like this, went through his unique repertoire to a still sparse crowd, who applauded his statement: "looks like we all could use a band onstage about now, its gettin' mighty lonely up here." He closed with a lethal rendition of the now-patented "Tracers in the Dark."

Veterans Memorial Dedicated

Southern Journal, SCSC, Connecticut

A crowd of more than 200 people gathered in from of Buley Library, recently, to witness the unveiling of a memorial stone dedicated to the veterans of the nation's armed forces.

The dedication was sponsored by the College's Veterans Club, which paid for the stone and organized the ceremony. Jack Mordente, veterans counselor, was in charge of the event, with the help of club president Tony Serra.

Guest speakers included Congressman Lawrence DeNadis and Robin Moore, author of *Green Berets*, *The French Connection*, and *The Happy Hooker*. Greetings were also offered by Dr. Robert Nowlan, vice president for academic affairs, and Brig. Gen. John Gore, assistant adjutant general of the state's National Guard.

The ceremony was designed to honor all who have served in the armed forces and included as guests, veterans who fought in W.W. I, W.W. II, as well as the Korean and Vietnam Wars.



Veterans of four major conflicts were represented at the memorial dedication ceremonies by John Martyi, Vietnam; Lou Turcotte, Korea; Peter Baretsky, World War I; and William Gambacini, World War II.

Singling out the Vietnam veterans as "those forgotten veterans," Congressman DeNadis referred to a recent government study that showed that Vietnam veterans continue to feel rejected by the country and to suffer severe stress, alienation, guilt, and intense anxiety. "They have never enjoyed traditional sentiments enjoyed by veterans of other wars," he said.

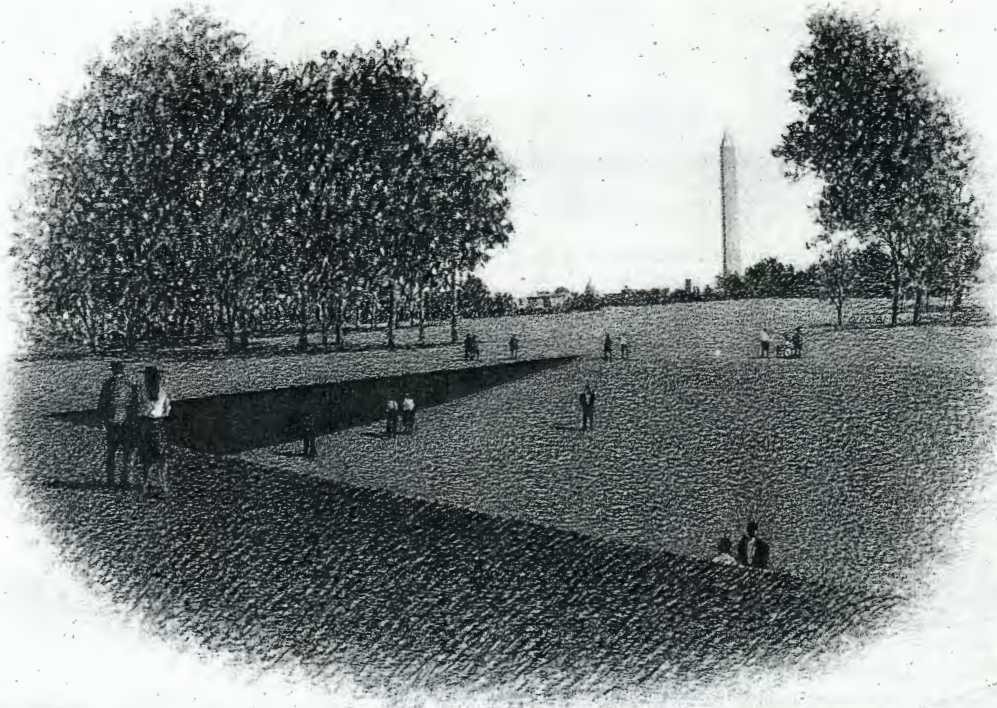
On the other hand, DeNadis said, "I sincerely believe that this country will reach out and help those combat veterans still haunted by the horrors of Vietnam."

Mr. Mordente, in his remarks, however, noted that "old fashioned patriotism seems to be an ideal in the past. Since Vietnam," he said, "our country has been infected by cynicism." He pointed out that support for veterans was decreasing.

"President Reagan," he said, "has again planned to slash funds from veterans," and he called upon his listeners to protest such cuts.

The ceremony ended with College chaplain, Reverend John Sullivan, reading a Vietnam soldier's anti-war poem.

Music for the unveiling ceremony was provided by the College Band, under the direction of Dr. Norman Stafford.



A People's Memorial To Vietnam Veterans

In Washington, a city full of monuments, there soon will be another one that many say is long overdue. It's a memorial for the 2.7 million Americans who served in Vietnam. What makes the Vietnam Veterans Memorial different, however, is that it is being built through private contributions—a gift from the American people in commemoration of those who served in this country's most unpopular war.

The memorial project is the result of a crusade by Vietnam veteran Jan Scruggs of Columbia, MD. Early in 1979 Scruggs saw "The Deerhunter," a film about his war. While watching the movie Scruggs thought of his friends in Vietnam.

"Half my infantry company was either killed or wounded," he recalled.

The experience was a moving one for Scruggs, and it rekindled an idea he had had for some time—building a national memorial for those who served in the Vietnam War.

Scruggs set out to gain support for his idea, taking time out when he could from his job as an employment specialist for the U.S. Department of Labor. A fellow Vietnam veteran, Bob Doubek, suggested to Scruggs that he form a nonprofit, charitable organization, and on April 27, 1979, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) was incorporated.

With the VVMF a reality, Scruggs accelerated his efforts to promote the memorial to the public and to Congress. On Memorial Day 1979, he held a press conference, and the first contributions began to trickle in. Yet by July 4 the VVMF had collected only \$144.50.

Scruggs then met with his senator, Charles Mathias (R-MD), who agreed to introduce legislation to provide a site for the memorial. The bill, eventually co-sponsored by all 100 senators, was introduced to the Senate on Veterans' Day 1979. At the same time, the VVMF gained support from Sen. John Warner (R-VA), who had been secretary of the Navy during the Vietnam conflict. Warner agreed to help raise the seed money necessary to launch a national campaign.

On March 12, 1980, testifying before a Senate subcommittee, Scruggs said, "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial will provide a special tribute from the people of this country to those who served. The memorial will make no political statement about the war, as is proper, because in coming to grips with the history of Vietnam, our nation must separate the issue of the war itself from the issue of how the veterans served their country."



THEY DESERVE TO BE REMEMBERED

Finally Congress, by a unanimous joint resolution, authorized the VVMF to establish the memorial on two acres of national park land in Constitution Gardens, near the Lincoln Memorial.

The VVMF then opened a national competition to create a design for the memorial. By March 31, 1981, 1,421 architects, sculptors, landscape architects and artists—as individuals and teams—had entered, making it the largest competition of its kind in U.S. history.

Competitors were told that the memorial should be reflective and contemplative, with room to inscribe the names of the 57,692 Americans who died in the war. The winner, Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old architecture student from Yale University, was announced May 6. Scruggs said Lin's design met the fund's criteria for "a memorial not to honor the war but rather to honor the sacrifices of Vietnam veterans."

The project is now in the design refinement and approval process during which details such as access for the handicapped, adequate drainage, appropriate safety needs, and the exact wording of the inscription identifying the memorial as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial are being developed.

The VVMF has put together the team to construct the memorial. Included are the Cooper-Lecky Partnership, a Washington, DC-based architecture firm, and the Gilbane Building Co., the Providence, RI construction firm that built the National Air and Space Museum.

Scruggs says the fund has raised approximately \$2 million of the estimated \$7 million it will take to establish the memorial. Most of this has been individual donations.

"Because of the special nature of this project," says Scruggs, "we believe it is important for as many Americans as possible to have an opportunity to contribute to this effort, making it truly a people's memorial to those who served in Vietnam."

The VVMF also has developed a comprehensive campaign to solicit funds from major corporations and national organizations throughout the country. Paul Thayer, chairman and chief executive officer of the LTV Corporation, recently agreed to head the fund's Corporate Advisory Board.

Notable support for the memorial project also has come from the American Legion, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and AmVets.

"If we can raise the money," said Scruggs, "we hope to break ground Memorial Day 1982 and dedicate the memorial on Veterans Day of the same year. Vietnam veterans finally will be recognized."

Give to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.



Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 37240
Washington, D.C. 20013

Enclosed is \$100. \$50. \$20. Other. _____
for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

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All donations are tax-deductible. Please
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News From the VFW

VFW Supports President Reagan on AWACs Sale

WASHINGTON, DC — Arthur J. Fellwock, National Commander of the two million member VFW, today called upon the 97th Congress, "particularly the U.S. Senate," not to block the proposed AWACs package sale to Saudia Arabia.

The Indiana-born VFW leader declared that "Secretary of State Haig placed this issue in wide and persuasive form in his recent statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. I urge each United States Senator to consider very closely the compelling message of the Secretary of State before casting a vote

against President Reagan, on whose behalf Haig was speaking."

(Secretary Haig's testimony concluded: "We must not let our friends' worries about one another diminish our commitment to their security or hinder our plans to extend strategic cooperation with them. We are taking steps to assure that Israeli concerns are met, just as we are seeking to assure moderate Arab nations that our developing strategic cooperation with Israel is directed against Soviet intervention and not against the Arabs. Unless we are able to work effectively with all our friends in the region, our security, the security of Israel and peace itself will be endangered.")

The VFW leader concluded by noting that "my statement is not merely the expression of a personal view. It arises from a duly mandated position of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States which was unanimously adopted at our 82nd National Convention held last August in Philadelphia and, more recently affirmed as a priority security goal for 1981-1982.

VFW Supports Flexible Reserve Call-Up

WASHINGTON, DC - Arthur Fellwock, National Commander of the VFW, today urged the Senate Armed Services Committee, and eventually the entire Congress, to give President Reagan the reserve call-up authority contained in Senator Jerry Denton's S. 1574, "The Executive Mobilization Authority Act of 1981."

The VFW leader noted:

"The present law limits the emergency Reserve call-up authority of the President to not more than 100,000 members of the Selected Reserves for not more than 90 days.

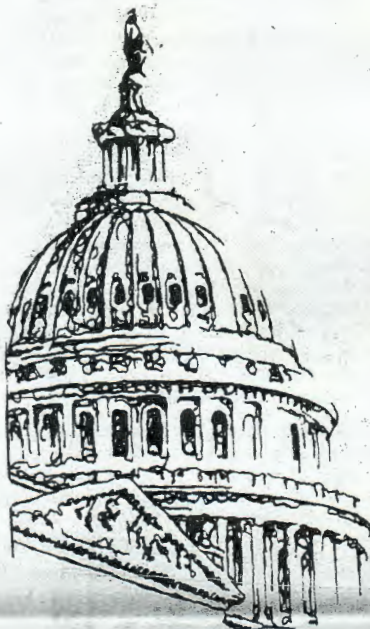
"S. 1574 would permit the President to call-up up to 250,000 members of the Selected Reserves for up to 180 days and would permit the emergency retention of military people with critical skills in both the active and reserve forces.

"The Congress, under S. 1574, will not lose any oversight authority. There will be no effect upon Congressional prerogatives contained in the War Powers Act.

"America will be able to mobilize enough of our Selected Reserve potential to dampen a crisis situation before the conflict stage or, should conflict erupt, reinforce our engaged troops in time and with sufficient strength.

"Senator Denton's bill is codified common sense and I urge rapid enactment."

How A Veterans Bill Becomes Law



If a bill is controversial or far-reaching in its impact, public hearings will be held to facilitate prudent decision-making by the subcommittee and committee. V.F.W. National Officers frequently testify at such hearings. If a bill is of a very sensitive nature, such as the case with many intelligence and defense matters, hearings that are closed to the public will be held.

After these hearings, the committee may decide to do nothing with the bill, may rewrite it completely, or may report out the original bill to either the full House or Senate, with or without amendments. If the bill is reported favorably by the subcommittee and the full committee, it may proceed to the floor of the House of Senate for debate as appropriate.

Each bill, with few exceptions, before being debated on the floor, must be accompanied to the floor by a report of the committee to which it was referred for action. The report will spell out the information accumulated by the committee during the course of its hearings, and it will also offer the views of the majority of the members of the committee regarding the merits of the bill, i.e., what the bill will cost, what the bill will accomplish, what effect it will have on current law, along with the views of the administrative agency that will be effected by its provisions, such as the Veterans Administration. The report may also contain dissenting and minority views concerning the legislation that members of the committee may wish to express.

Legislation is initiated and brought forward in a variety of ways from many quarters, and must cross many hurdles every step of the way to becoming law.

A member of Congress may plan and draft a bill for the good of his or her constituents or in the national interest, but often constituents or groups will petition the Congressmen to introduce legislation in their behalf.

Many times the Veterans of Foreign Wars' National Legislative Service has drafted a bill from the resolutions (especially resolutions which would accomplish the Commander-in-Chief's priority goals) passed at our national convention to be submitted to a member of Congress for introduction before a particular House of Congress. The V.F.W. will also seek to have introduced complimentary legislation in the other House.

When legislation is introduced in the House of Representatives, the bill is given a number for identification preceded by the letters "H.R." to signify a House of Representatives bill. The same format is followed by the Senate, but its identifying number is preceded by the letter "S" to indicate a Senate bill.

Any member of the House of Representatives, the resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico and non-voting delegates of the District of Columbia, Guam, American Samoa and the Virgin Islands may introduce a bill while the House is actually in session by placing the bill in the "hopper" next to the clerk's desk. In the Senate, a member will rise during the designated time to offer a bill which is carried by a page to the desk for formal recognition. The bill is then sent to the chairman of the committee to which the bill has been referred for appropriate action. Often the chairman of the committee will request the bill be referred to a subcommittee for consideration.

A bill is then brought to the floor for debate by various means. In both the House and the Senate, routine bills are placed on one of the "calendars" (or the lining up of bills in their order of debate), which, in the House, are controlled by the Rules Committee, and in the Senate, by majority vote or when no Senator objects to its being debated ("unanimous consent").

In the House of Representatives, the Rules Committee decides, together with the committee chairman and the leadership, whether a bill will be debated under an "open" (no limit on time or amendments, or both) or a "closed" (limit on either time or the number of amendments, or both) rule. The bill then proceeds to debate on the floor as decided or agreed. Under certain circumstances, a "special" rule may be sought to bring a bill to debate. This generally occurs when a financial or other crisis develops which requires immediate action by the House and Senate.

If a bill is passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate but differences in the language contained in the legislation exist (because of amendments or redrafting), it may be sent to a conference committee. This most important "Third House of Congress" then attempts to work out a compromise which both Houses of Congress can live with. The House of Representatives and the Senate must then vote and approve or reject the conference committee's compromise bill.

Once a bill is passed by both Houses in identical form, it is then signed first by the Speaker of the House and then by the President of the Senate before it is submitted to the President of the United States for signature (usually the last hurdle the bill must cross).

The President may approve the bill by signing his name and making it a public law or he may wait 10 days (exclusive of Sundays), and at that time, if Congress is still in session, it automatically becomes law without his signature.

If the President dislikes a certain piece of legislation, he may veto the bill and return it to Congress along with a letter outlining his objections. If both Houses vote by a two-thirds majority to override the veto, the legislation automatically becomes law without the President's consent or signature. This is exactly what recently happened when President Carter vetoed H.R. 7102, the Veterans Administration Health-Care Amendments of 1980. Congress, responding to V.F.W. efforts, resoundingly spoke in behalf of veterans when on the same afternoon the House of Representatives overrode the Presidential veto by a vote of 401 to 5, and the Senate by a vote of 85 to 0. Thus the bill became Public Law 96-330 without the President's signature.

If the President holds a bill for 10 days without signing it and the Congress has already adjourned, the bill is then killed. This procedure is known as a "Pocket Veto."

"VFW News Service"

MY FELLOW AMERICANS

A few years ago I was a student at a local university. I was enjoying life, "doing my own thing," virtually oblivious to the world outside of my academic, job, and social schedule. I had that sense of immortality which is a part of youth.

Seemingly the next thing I knew, I was crouched down in an amphibious landing craft approaching a beach in a distant foreign country that I knew nothing about. It was June, 1965 and I was a member of a Marine Corps Battalion, and we had all taken an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States. Our government had ordered us on a national purpose and we did not question that purpose.

During the next thirteen months, many of my buddies were killed or were injured, many severely, in combat, all on account of the oath which they took to defend the Constitution. During the next 10 years, millions of Americans became involved in that conflict. Nearly 50,000 of them were killed in battle, and hundreds of thousands were injured. Disease, heat, monsoon rains, and the enemy all shared in that grim reality.

When living such a nightmare, it is important, in the interest of maintaining one's sanity, to be able to associate with it an important purpose, meaning, or justification. The sacred rights and freedoms guaranteed to every American in the Constitution, which we were sworn to defend, do in fact constitute an important purpose and meaning, but an injury which I suffered in Vietnam eventually caused me to learn a startling fact which not only forced me to question the above justification, but more importantly, threatens to destroy the constitutional rights and freedoms of every American citizen. That fact is that **Citizens injured in battle or service, in the defense of the Constitution, have no constitutional rights concerning those injuries, in spite of the fact that the Constitution guarantees rights to every American.**

To be specific, the following constitutional rights and safeguards have been taken away and are denied to American citizens injured in combat or service:

- (1) DUE PROCESS OF LAW (the right of all citizens to a fair and impartial hearing;
- (2) EQUAL PROTECTION OF THE LAW;
- (3) EFFECTIVELY, THE RIGHT TO AN ATTORNEY OF THEIR CHOICE;
- (4) ACCESS TO THE COURTS OF THE UNITED STATES;
- (5) PROTECTION OF THE JUDICIAL REVIEW DOCTRINE.

The American people assume that injured veterans have those rights, but they do not. When I entered the Marine Corps I also assumed that I would have those rights if I was injured, as there was no "disclaimer of liability clause" on the enlistment contract which warned me by saying: **CAUTION, SIGNING THIS CONTRACT MAY CONSTITUTE FORFEITURE OF ANY OR ALL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS CONCERNING ANY INJURIES WHICH YOU MAY SUSTAIN IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.**

Yet that forfeiture is exactly what current enlistment, or draft, may result in; nor is there a constitutional amendment excluding injured veterans from constitutional rights—the people of this country would not vote for that.

I am a patriotic American citizen, as were the past three generations of my family who were naval officers, graduates of the Naval Academy at Annapolis. I believe that Americans do have a duty to serve their country, and protect it from danger, but I also believe that our government should not relegate those veterans unfortunate enough to be chewed up in the machinery of war to mere cannon fodder, which deprivation of their constitutional rights certainly constitutes. Citizens injured in defending the Constitution have earned their rights, and do not seek preferential treatment under the law. They simply want due process of law, and equal protection of the law, which is not a matter of governmental or liberal generosity. It is a matter of **simple justice!**

I write this letter primarily because when I see young people I cannot help but think that someday they may become entangled in the complex and incredibly effective "webb" whose intricate construction is detailed in this letter. Should a citizen become so entangled there is no escape under existing laws. You are at the mercy of the moods or whims of a government agency (the Veterans Administration—

VA), whose operation is not subject to the limitations on governmental power specified in the Constitution of the United States. By "law," **no court in this country and no official of our government has any power or jurisdiction to even look into what you are sure is a gross miscarriage of justice.** One example of what can happen, and often does I am told, is that if you were injured in battle or service, the VA can simply tell you that your service medical records were "unfortunately lost" and that consequently your contentions cannot be substantiated, therefore, your request for the help which you earned from your country, is denied. Again there is **no appeal outside the VA system of justice**, it is not accountable for its actions to anybody. I cannot, in good conscience, allow this blatant violation of the Constitution, and mockery of justice, to continue, as knowledge of it without trying to stop it would make me a party to it, and I will not be that. The only reason that I can perceive to place an agency of the government above the law, would be to perpetrate injustice.

For years I have tried to understand, and to resolve this issue; and have talked and/or corresponded with numerous people, many of whom realize its true significance, gravity, and danger. The true danger is the **Precedent** which was set in taking constitutional rights away from any American citizen. The fact that it is veterans injured in our country's wars who have lost their rights, tragic and ludicrous as that is, is enough, but is not the point. **The point is, WHO IS NEXT?** Every American citizen should, in the interest of being realistic, think seriously about that. The precedent is clear! Will aged Social Security recipients be the next to lose their access to the courts of the United States?

I am asking that each of my fellow Americans join with the many citizens and organizations which are trying to correct this injustice. Your letters to our government, requesting that the legislation presently before the Congress (Senator Hart's Bill #349 - discussed later in this letter) be passed into law will bring the necessary change.

The remainder of this letter, regrettably, but necessarily, lengthy as it is, will convey the laws and facts of this matter, efforts to resolve it, and the importance that you do not assume that others will correct the problem. It has taken seven years to compile the knowledge which I have of this issue, some of which is conveyed to you in this letter. I ask that you please take a few minutes of your time to read it, as this is both a problem and a serious threat to every American.

IMPORTANT DETAILS

A basic understanding of the Constitution and the present VA system of justice is essential in order to understand this problem. The Constitution is a contract between "we the people" and our government, which specifies what powers we give to the government and what limits are placed on those powers. When our government passed laws which took away the constitutional rights of citizens injured in defense of the Constitution, it exceeded the limits of its power, and violated its contract with the people. The laws which deny constitutional rights to veterans can be found in Title 38 U.S. Code (Veterans Administration Law) Section 211(a), and Section 3404(c), which are as follows:

Section 211(a)

"...the decisions of the Administrator on any question of law or fact under any law administered by the Veterans' Administration providing benefits for veterans and their dependents or survivors shall be **final and conclusive and no other official or any court of the United States shall have power or jurisdiction to review any such decision** by an action in the nature of mandamus or otherwise." (Emphasis added).

Section 3404(c)

"(c) The Administrator shall determine and pay fees to agents or attorneys recognized under this section in allowed claims for monetary benefits under laws administered by the Veterans' Administration. Such fees—(2) shall not exceed \$10 with respect to any one claim; (Emphasis added).

The Veterans Administration would have Americans believe that it is, under the law, an all-knowing and all-just body of people who, upon being confronted with any veteran's situation, can provide that veteran just and consistently administered relief—a body, therefore, not requiring any checks and balances. That presumption is often contrary to the facts. In all to many cases, the VA's relief is not just, is not consistent and, most sadly, in those circumstances,

is not subject to any appeal outside of the confines of an "interested" (versus disinterested) VA appeal board. Absolutely **no effective appeal** of any VA finding is allowable because of the "legal" constraints which preclude such a review. This deplorable revocation of American constitutional rights is the "de facto" purpose of laws enacted by our congress—laws "presumably" harmonious with, instead of contrary to our Constitution. Every American should have the right of appeal to a fair and impartial court of law.

The VA calls proceedings which come before it "EX PARTE IN NATURE" (38 U.S.C. 3.103 CFR), which means "from one side only"—in other words—**NONADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS**, as opposed to **ADVERSARY PROCEEDINGS**, which exist as the basis of the actual system of litigation in the United States. In a book entitled "The Rights of Veterans," and ACLU publication, an explanation of NON-ADVERSARY VA proceedings can be found on pages 164-165. The following is from that explanation:

"...the VA pretends that there are no disagreements; there are no opposed or adverse parties. You are supposed to believe that the whole VA bureaucracy is doing its best to help you, and is cutting through the procedural rigmarole of adversary proceedings by holding informal hearings where your side is the **only side** that has an opportunity to present evidence and the evidence is not limited to highly technical rules—all of which is just fine if they grant you the benefits you claim. But if they deny your claim, the 'nonadversary' system will prevent you from questioning the other side in order to expose its weaknesses...

...Nonadversary proceedings are usually justified on the grounds that they are inexpensive and flexible. The problem is that they **generally tend to become shams. Facts are found before the proceeding starts, and the factfinders are able to control their bias and their errors with bureaucratic jargon.** Thus, good intentions often do not suffice when legal rights are disputed."

Other complicating factors for the injured veteran are that conclusions reached in individual veteran cases will not be followed as precedents in other cases which are similar (38 U.S.C. 3.101-CFR); and that strict rules of evidence do not apply to VA proceedings.

For years I was curious to learn how such "laws," which conflict with the "Supreme Law of the Land"—the Constitution—could exist in America. I finally found an answer while researching the problem at a law library, in the case of Johnson vs. Robison (415 U.S. 361, 1974). Johnson (Administrator of Veterans Affairs) identified a primary purpose for Section 211—the "NO REVIEW CLAUSE" (page 370), which is as follows:

"(1) to ensure that veterans' benefits claims will not burden the courts and the Veterans Administration with expensive and time-consuming litigation..." (Emphasis added).

Why is "expensive and time-consuming litigation," a meaningful factor or rationale to justify depriving constitutional rights to ANY citizen? All litigation in every area of law in the United States, whether it be criminal, constitutional, etc., is expensive and time-consuming. **CONTINUING THAT PRECEDENT TO ITS LOGICAL CONCLUSION, SHOULD ALL COURTS IN THE UNITED STATES BE CLOSED, AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF EVERY AMERICAN TAKEN FROM THEM, BECAUSE OF MONETARY AND TIME CONSIDERATIONS?** I cringe at the thought of what life under such a legal system would be—unthinkable!

In reading the book "The Discarded Army: Veterans After Vietnam" by Paul Starr, I learned the reason why this problem has persisted for decades. Page 50 reads in part as follows:

"The field of veterans affairs is run largely by a limited, **interlocking network** formed by the leading veterans' organizations, the Veterans' Administration, and the House Veterans' Affairs Committee. There is a **continual exchange of personnel among these three centers of influence**... This sort of internal cohesiveness no doubt fosters the best of relations among those concerned with setting policy. But it also raises questions about the potential for feedback and adaptation. Perhaps it is time someone outside "the family" had a look at veterans' benefits." (Emphasis added).

Mr. Starr also affirms on that page that: "The combination of no judicial review, plus no legal counsel at

Veterans Administration hearings, effectively seals off the agency's proceedings."

Having learned of this situation and of its history and stated "jurisdictions," I could not understand how such laws survived the constitutional doctrine of **Judicial Review** which is the distinctive characteristic of American law, and gives the Supreme Court the power to abolish or repeal any legislative or executive acts which it declares to be unconstitutional and thus legally null and void. It is one of the important checks and balances of the Constitution. I am not an attorney, but reading further into the case of Johnson vs. Robison (page 373), I learned that the Supreme Court did review the legislative history of Section 211 and concluded that:

"NEITHER THE TEXT NOR THE SCANT LEGISLATIVE HISTORY OF SECTION 211 (a) PROVIDE THE CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE OF CONGRESSIONAL INTENT REQUIRED BY THIS COURT BEFORE A STATUTE WILL BE CONSTRUED TO RESTRICT ACCESS TO JUDICIAL REVIEW." (Emphasis added).

Why there is "scant legislative history" of Section 211(a) seems obvious, as no court or official of the United States has the power or jurisdiction to review decisions of the VA, but I cannot understand how "scant legislative history" can be construed as an indicator as to the merit or constitutionality of a law which seemingly **procludes** the possibility of anything more than a "scant legislative history."

A member of the American Bar Association in testifying at hearings before the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs (95th Congress, page 54 of that Senate record) concerning Senate Bill 364, made the following statement:

"In summary, the data we have gathered over the past 2½ years indicates that many determinations made by the Veterans' Administration involve complex issues which lay service personnel (not attorneys) from the various military service organizations (American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, Veterans of Foreign Wars, etc.) are ill suited for dealing with effectively, either because of a lack of training or because of inadequate resources. Moreover, lay service personnel often do not present their cases to the VA in the most effective way. This is highlighted by their failure to gather and present evidence to the VA Appeals Board. Also, for whatever reason, it appears that **a number of veterans have not been afforded a full and fair hearing with a just result** by the VA and the service organizations have been quite ineffective in preventing such abuses. An attorney can be particularly effective because of his training and experience in protecting and promoting the rights of VA claimants. **More fundamentally, a VA claimant certainly should not be denied the opportunity to avail himself of an attorney's services.** Yet he is effectively denied this opportunity by the existing unreasonable restriction on attorney's fees."

(Again—good intentions often do not suffice when legal rights are disputed.) (Added for clarification.) (Emphasis added.)

The unbelievable and unconstitutional reality of the existing VA status is, in my opinion, well summarized in the book "American Law of Veterans" from the Lawyers Co-Operative Publishing Company in New York (page 53), in the following sentence:

"...THE STATUTES HAVE EVEN BEEN HELD TO PRECLUDE JUDICIAL RELIEF FROM DECISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR (VA), WHERE SUCH DECISION IS WHOLLY UNSUPPORTED BY EVIDENCE, WHOLLY DEPENDENT UPON A QUESTION OF LAW, OR CLEARLY ARBITRARY OR CAPRICIOUS."

The fact that nearly 90% of the cases which come before the Board of Veterans' Appeals are denied is indicative of the truth of that statement (*Reference "The Rights of Veterans"/ACLU handbook, page 147).

For decades, efforts have been made by many concerned citizens in an attempt to restore constitutional rights to veterans. The U.S. Senate is presently considering Senate Bill 349, reintroduced in the 97th Congress by Senator Hart of Colorado. He has been working for years to give injured veterans the right to seek court rulings on cases decided against them by the VA, but needs your help. His bill would open the administrative decisions and rules of the VA to the

independent scrutiny of the courts. Every other segment of American society has the opportunity to seek judicial redress from bureaucratic decisions—every segment but veterans. Judicial review of the VA would add a constructive check on the administrative discretion of the agency while giving American veterans an important means of appeal outside the agency (VA). To isolate a federal agency from the scrutiny of the courts goes against the very principles of our constitutional system. The bill also would require the VA to publish its proposed rules and regulations for public comment, just as other federal agencies are required to do. The existing system constitutes a form of **taxation without representation**. Further, it would remove the current \$10.00 limit on attorney's fees, which virtually denies veterans the right to use lawyers of their own choosing.

It should be emphasized that this situation is not the making of the present Congress. They inherited it from some 50 years in the past. During the last session of Congress, under President Carter's administration, the Senate **unanimously** voted to pass Senator Hart's bill (S.B. 330—96th Congress). That bill also had the "unenthusiastic" endorsement of the Veterans' Administration, and such large veterans' service organizations as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Disabled American Veterans. It is my understanding that only the American Legion, per its 1980 Resolution #318, opposed judicial review for veterans' claims. The leaders of the American Legion, must not have informed their membership of the issues here at stake. After the bill passed the Senate it went into the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, which denied the citizens who comprise the House of Representatives the opportunity to vote on that legislation! It is my understanding that the former chairman of the committee was opposed to veterans having equal rights, and that the bill was tabled and allowed to die. The present chairman, Representative G.V. Montgomery, is also, unfortunately, opposed to Judicial Review of veterans' claims, which suggests that perhaps your congressional representatives may once again be denied the opportunity to vote for the restoration of veterans' constitutional rights. The bill may again be tabled and allowed to die as it was in the 96th Congress.

I do not have a reckless regard for the public purse of the United States. Adequate protections have been built into Senator Hart's proposed legislation to curtail abuse, but at the same time, allow meritorious cases to be heard, and, most importantly, for justice to triumph. Were it possible, I believe that the 371,802 American citizens killed in battle since veterans lost the rights discussed in this letter would also unanimously vote to restore the rights of injured veterans. They gave their lives in defense of the Constitution, in order to protect the rights and freedoms of all American citizens, including their own rights.

When we elect our representatives to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, our responsibility does not stop there. Our leaders depend on "WE THE PEOPLE" for guidance. It is for us that they work. Without our recommendations and criticisms I suspect that there may be a temptation for them to defer to well financed lobbies and special interest groups, which do not necessarily conform to the desires of their constituency. It is with that thought in mind that I **urge you to take action by writing to President Reagan and your Representatives in the Senate and House of Representatives** and request that veterans injured in the defense of the Constitution of the United States have their constitutional rights restored. Ask that they support Senator Hart's bill #349 and its equivalent in the House, and thereby restore to veterans their equality under the law. I would appreciate a copy of your letters or thoughts concerning this matter if possible.

I appeal to President Reagan and to the Congress to stop this travesty of justice, by swiftly passing Senator Hart's Bill #349. Hopefully, President Reagan will guide and follow the proposed legislation to its just conclusions.

I urge the media, in the name of the Constitution, and the protection and preservation of the rights of every American, to do that which our free and unrestrained press does so well, and is so needed in this regard—to **enlighten the minds of the American people**—concerning this matter. A well informed public that will "get involved" is the best solution to this problem. In a free society such as ours, the people are entitled to know, and **knowledge does impart responsibility.**

I ask all veterans and veterans organizations, regardless of war or branch of service, to work together toward the restoration of our constitutional rights. We all wore the uniform of the United States, served the same country, and are Veterans of the United States. The existing lack of veterans' unity is largely responsible for this problem, but a unified voice could contribute significantly to its swift solution.

I hope that all of the recipients of this letter feel the same sense of responsibility and duty that I do to our country and the Constitution, as the principles involved in this matter concern us all. If we, as Americans, either deliberately or through apathy, allow the constitutional rights of any other citizen to be taken away, that action or inaction does, in fact, place the rights of every citizen in jeopardy, including our own.

Additional insight into problems caused by the VA's total freedom from the scrutiny of the legislative, executive and judicial functions of the government, and therefore unaccountable for its actions to anybody, can be gained from a recent book entitled **"Wounded Men, Broken Promises"** by Robert Klein. Literature advertising it describes its contents as follows:

"Uncle Sam Wants You—Until You Come Back Wounded. They call it the Veterans' Administration—but it isn't. It's the Bureaucracy Administration—clogged with fraud, neglect, greed, and everything but honest concern for the veterans it is supposed to serve. How the Veterans Administration betrays yesterday's heroes."

The date of this letter and its purpose are significant as it was 205 years ago that Mr. Thomas Jefferson wrote our Declaration of Independence which is not merely a document written at a particular point in time for a specific purpose. The principles apply equally as much today as then, and the responsibilities which it places on every American to protect and preserve our rights and freedoms, and even our country, are very clear. Every American should study that document, not just for its historical significance, but in order to learn of our responsibilities, rights and duties as American citizens. **Eternal vigilance** is the duty of every citizen, and is the high price which we must pay if we are to keep our rights and freedom. That eternal vigilance includes a watchful eye for any form of our government which becomes destructive of the ends for which it was established, and **ceases to protect natural rights**. It is the right of people, it is their duty to alter or abolish such government, preferably through the peaceful process of democratic government and the ballot, and to establish new safeguards for their future security. It is my fear that if "we the people" are not vigilant with respect to protecting our rights, that we shall, over a period of time, lose them. That is why I consider it my duty to reveal this dangerous malignancy of government to my fellow Americans. The founding fathers made it the duty (often unrealized or ignored) of every citizen.

I apologize for the length of this letter, but there was considerable information to convey in order that you can approach this issue with an informed mind. I ask you to check the facts for yourself. The **unbelievable** nature of this problem, unfortunately, precludes a brief analysis. I am confident that Mr. Bill Holen, in Senator Hart's office in Denver, Colorado, or Mr. Ron Bitzer at the Center for Veterans' Rights in Los Angeles could answer any additional questions which you might have concerning this matter. I have included my telephone number for the sake of any verifications which you might want to make, or to answer any questions.

The sacrifices which my wife and I have made in our lives over the years, in order to deal with this problem, have been worth the price, as we know that we have done the best job that we know how, consistent with our duty to our country which we love, and its Constitution. We have nothing to gain personally in this matter except the peace of mind which is ours in the knowledge that we have fulfilled that duty through the peaceful process of democratic government. We are private concerned citizens and we do not belong to, nor are we funded by any organization. We believe that only apathy and indifference could cause the failure of this undertaking, but we are betting on the American spirit to win. We all have to much to lose.

Sincerely,

Philip E. Cushman

(503) 659-9912

News from Australia

Break-in Political: Veterans

The Sun, Melbourne, Australia
 Thursday, August 6, 1981

SYDNEY - The Vietnam Veterans' Association believes a break-in at the surgery of a doctor who has been working with the veterans was politically motivated.

Dr. Harry Pope arrived at his Fairfield surgery on Monday morning to find filing cabinets of veterans' case records prised open.

Dr. Pope has been working for 18 months to establish whether there is a link between chemicals used during the Vietnam War and the health problems suffered subsequently by ex-servicemen.

Police are investigating the Sunday night break-in, but Dr. Pope said he was convinced the intruders were only intent on examining the files.

He said the veterans' filing cabinet appeared to be the only thing tampered with, and drugs and expensive electrical equipment were ignored.

"I feel that they just wanted to look at the files to see what we've got," Dr. Pope said.

The Vietnam Veterans Association national president, Mr. Phil Thompson, said he thought the intruders were also hoping to intimidate Dr. Pope.

It is believed the burglars spent some time at the surgery because empty coffee cups were found when the rooms were opened on Monday morning.

None of the files were taken, but Dr. Pope said he thought they were examined by someone with medical knowledge or were photographed.

"I use a medical type shorthand and some of the symptoms and diseases are described in medical terms," Dr. Pope said.

"So you'd have to have a bit of an idea about medicine or they may have photographed them. It seems like they knew what they were looking at."

Mr. Thompson said Sunday's break-in was the third involving the Vietnam Veterans Association.

He said the association's Melbourne and Sydney offices were broken into last year and in the Melbourne break-in a crucial U.S. document about herbicides was stolen.

The association has since had most of its documents copied and others have been dispersed throughout Australia to thwart any attempts to interfere with research into the effects of Agent Orange and other chemicals.

The records at Dr. Pope's surgery include scientific literature, statistics from all over Australia and medical reports on individual ex-servicemen compiled by specialists.

We Served Our Country

They called us True Blue
 We only did what our country expected us to do.
 We left our country for the jungles of Nam
 To fight for our country and fellow man.
 But what of us now, all broken and bent
 They tell us our time wasn't well spent.
 Young diggers, GIs, we stood side by side
 We were innocent, somebody lied.
 We followed our fathers, grandfathers too
 If you would have served this would be you.
 Now many years later, the lies still exist
 Would somebody tell us, was it worth all the risk.
 To fight for our country is an honour we know
 Our Anzacs before us told us all so.
 We meet once a year, to honour our dead
 The meetings get smaller, how many more are dead.
 We know of the pesticides and herbicide sprays
 But we don't know, the Government tells us today
 So that only leaves us one thing to say
 Please help us veterans, we helped you one day.

Bob Gibson
 Vietnam Veteran
 Sydney, Australia

Speedier Inquiry on Agent Orange

The Age, Friday, 28 August 1981

CANBERRA - The Federal Government is planning a new and more direct inquiry into whether Vietnam servicemen were affected by contact with Agent Orange.

Hospitals may be asked to provide details of birth defects to establish whether the children of servicemen were more likely to suffer congenital disabilities.

The Veterans' Affairs Minister, Senator Messner, said the Commonwealth Institute of Health would be asked to explore urgently whether the proposal was feasible.

Such a study would be a valid, economical and relatively quick means of finding out if army service in Vietnam was associated with any increased risk of birth defects, Senator Messner said.

The new turn in the herbicides study implies the Government has been influenced by criticism of the existing inquiry being carried out by the institute.

This involves interviewing all Vietnam veterans and their children and a large "control" group of servicemen who did not serve in Vietnam.

Veterans' groups and the Federal Opposition have said the 160,000 interviews, expected to take several years and cost more than \$2 million, represent an unsatisfactory and slow alternative to a judicial inquiry into the effect of Agent Orange and other herbicides.

Senator Messner conceded the length of time before that inquiry produced results made the Government aware of the need to get "early information on specific matters of acute concern to the community."

Perhaps the greatest single worry to veterans and their families was the possibility that birth defects might be associated with service in Vietnam, he said.



Overseas subscriptions to the "National Vietnam Veterans Review" are only \$19.50 (U.S.) per year!

Messner holds firm on Agent Orange

The Minister of Veterans' Affairs, Senator Messner, was "angry, but not embarrassed" at claims that he had contradicted the findings of a study on Agent Orange, according to the minister's spokesman.

The spokesman said there was absolutely nothing in a scientific report by the Departments of Defense and Health to link defoliants sprayed in Vietnam with war veterans' illnesses.

But mortality figures for Vietnam veterans were expected to appear in 1982 and the Government could face a different ball-game, he admitted.

The Government could find damages actions being brought by veterans over its decision to participate in defoliant spraying in Vietnam.

But for now, says the spokesman: "It is a fundamental untruth to say the report contradicts what Senator Messner said last week about defoliants and their effect on Vietnam veterans."

A report in *The Weekend Australian* said the study, compiled months ago, conflicted with a statement by Senator Messner that there was no "credible scientific evidence" to link Agent Orange with delayed symptoms which veterans say result from contact with the chemical during war service.

Senator Messner was at a conference in Perth and could not be contacted for further comment yesterday.

But late last week he stuck to his earlier statements that no conclusions could be drawn from the report.

The minister's spokesman said Senator Messner had read the report some months ago and added: "There are a million describable facts or suggestions about Agent Orange and its possible effects on ex-soldiers—can any minister keep in his mind a million facts on a given subject."

Press reports had stated the report listed several complaints said to have been caused by exposure to Agent Orange.

It also said there could be no guarantee that Australian soldiers took precautions when exposed to defoliants in Vietnam.

But Senator Messner's spokesman said the press had distorted the minister's statements and ignored his most important statement:

That the Government would set up psychological and medical counseling centers to help Vietnam veterans with problems which could have been caused by Agent Orange.

He said that during a 16-day tour of the United States, from which Senator Messner returned last week, the minister had discussed Agent Orange with a White House scientific panel representing America's top scientific agencies.

"These agencies—including the US National Academy of Science—are the same groups from which the Defense and Health Departments drew information for their report," he said.

"The fact is all these people, and groups undertaking birth defects studies throughout the US, told Senator Messner there were no clear links yet proven between defoliant spraying and veterans' diseases.

The spokesman said the authors of the government report would probably be horrified at some of the interpretations now being put on it.

"The report just lists allegations about Agent Orange," the spokesman said.

"It makes no recommendations, reaches no conclusions. It was the wrong report for the media to pick on."

The Opposition's defense spokesman, Mr. Gordon Scholes, said evidence about the effects of Agent Orange in the government report left open serious doubts about large numbers of repatriation hearings for veterans of both World Wars and the Korean War, as well as Vietnam.



VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

Vietnam Vets Found Network

Veterans News to be Nationally Syndicated

VVF Communications Corporation, a private enterprise project being launched by the members of the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Veterans Foundation, this week announced acquisition of its first broadcast operation - radio station WTKO, popularly known in "the New York Area as TKO."

Thomas J. Wincek, Chairman of the Board of VVF Communications, in making the announcement said, "The acquisition of radio station WTKO is a classic example for the launching of Vietnam veterans into communications. TKO is a firmly established broadcast facility serving the upstate New York community from Ithaca, site of the campus of Cornell University. Financing of this multi-million dollar purchase has been through the combined efforts of Chemical Bank's Richmond, VA office and Allied Capital Corporation of Washington, DC, as well as Riggs National Bank of Washington, DC, and our advisory chairman, E.E. "Woody" Erdman, a WW II combat pilot."

Thousands of Cornell University graduates have come to know WTKO since radio station began broadcasting in 1956. Wincek said, "national, regional and local advertisers have placed many millions of dollars of advertising on TKO in recognition of its high listenership in the market."

The VVF Board Chairman said "In addition to this acquisition, we also plan to begin operation of the VVF Radio Network this coming September and will be attending the annual National Association of Broadcasters convention next month in Las Vegas where we will be meeting with owners and operators of radio stations throughout the country. The goal of VVF Communications is to have more than 100 radio stations affiliated with the VVF radio network, carrying informative programs for Vietnam veterans from coast to coast, originating in Washington."

"Reporters will be serving the network through its affiliates and through staff reporters of a newly established 'VVF press corps,' also being founded under VVF Communications. The ten million Vietnam veterans will be the most informed veterans in the nation's history," Wincek said.

Wincek concluded, "The acquisition of WTKO has already been approved by the Federal Communications Commission." Agreements are being finalized on the purchase of two more radio stations and will be presented for FCC approval shortly.

"Our goal is ownership of radio and television stations in various locations in the United States," stated Wincek.

The principal officers and directors of the newly founded enterprise are Wincek, Robert A. Sniffen, Vice Chairman/Secretary; Francis X. Boyle, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; and E.E. "Woody" Erdman, Advisory Board Chairman.

Vietnam Veterans Launch "Grey Berets"

SBA's Refusal to Follow Congressional Mandate Prompts Viet Vets to do it Themselves

A New Effort for Disabled and Vietnam Era Vets
by Tom Wincek, President

Today is Veterans Day and marks a day of recognition to the men and women who have served their country honorably in times of war, the act of citizenship most deserving of one's respect.

The "Grey Berets" are announcing a clarion call to all Vietnam and Disabled Veterans in America to join in this new effort. The "Grey Berets" of the American Association of Vietnam Veterans in Business recognizes that many veterans of the Vietnam era have completed their education, training or work experience and entered the world of business. The "battle cry" of the "Grey Berets" is "together then - together now." The "Grey Berets" are those veterans who are not only business owners, but also prospective entrepreneurs, professionals, employers, and workers in business, unions, government and civic life.

Historically, military veterans become the leaders of the United States, setting the tone of national, political and economic life. The nine million Vietnam veterans are maturing to the chronological age of leadership and responsibility. Already 31 members of that generation of service are in the United States Congress, many are prominent in cultural and academic life; more than a few are leaders in social and economic movements. In time these numbers will grow.

However, the vast majority of Vietnam veterans are part of the general public, taking their place as a new generation in the nation's business. In assuming their roles in society, they face the same problems and challenges as other Americans, as have their predecessors from other wartime eras. In addition, they are taking on challenges that are uniquely their own, created by their wartime circumstances and experience.

The United States economy relies on the small business. While much research is needed into the extent of Vietnam veteran movement in small business, it can be safely said that millions are entrepreneurs and potential entrepreneurs-employers and employees who must one day become employers. In turn, their economic activities directly influence many additional millions. These persons must be reached with the information, assistance, and opportunities available through the U.S. Government.

We invite Vietnam veterans and supporters to join us in a major offensive to turn around a decade of rejection. As a group of citizens and veterans, the "Grey Berets" realize that other special interest groups have rights in this country; but we will not stand idly by when the priorities of the government are directed towards these groups to the exclusion of veterans. We are fed up with "Boat People," gays, Cambodians, women and minorities having priority over disabled and Vietnam veterans in many governmental programs. The policy of this country by tradition and backed by law dictates that men and women who honorably serve their country during wartime are the top priority in governmental programs. Our government has confused the "war with the warrior."

Some examples of such misplaced priorities are: Congress allocating some 300 million dollars for the readjustment of the "Boat People" while it has taken a decade to get 12 million for psychological readjustment counseling for Vietnam veterans.

The SBA in 1979, declared the following groups eligible for the 8(a) government contracts and sub-contracting programs: Origins from Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, Taiwan, Korea, Philippines, Japan, China, Samoa and Guam. To our knowledge no contracts have been given to disabled or Vietnam veterans.

The SBA has failed to implement Public Law 93-237 of the Small Business Act of 1975 as amended which gives veterans "special consideration" in all SBA programs. Part 117 of SBA regulations defines Special Consideration to include:

VVF Comm Buys Two More Radio Stations Orlando, FL, AM and FM Join Group

VVF Communications Commission has contracted to purchase "AM" and "FM" radio stations located in Orlando, FL. The announcement stated the total purchase price to be \$8,750,000.

The Purchase Agreement is preliminary to finalization of documents necessary to processing and approval by the Federal Communications Commission.

The acquisition of the two Orlando broadcast properties follows finalization of the purchase of radio station WTKO, which serves Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. That broadcast facility purchase price was disclosed as \$3,500,000, and was effected last month.

The principals of VVF Communications disclosed negotiations are underway which would increase the number of "AM" and "FM" radio stations by six more for a planned total of nine radio stations projected to be owned and operated by the Vietnam Veterans broadcast firm by the close of 1981, with annual gross revenues projected to be approximately \$10,000,000, in addition to that of the VVF Radio Network, for a total cost of \$30,000,000 since the founding of VVF Communications Corporation.

Shares of the corporation's common stock are to be registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission next summer.

The VVF radio network will begin its nationwide broadcasts to more than 100 affiliates in September of this year.

1. In depth management assistance counseling on first interviews.
2. SBA personnel designated as Veteran Affairs Officers to work with the VA offices and organizations having direct interest in veteran affairs.
3. SBA procurement personnel designated as Veteran Procurement Affairs Advisor to emphasize how veterans can obtain procurement contracts from the Government.
4. Local Media campaigns to inform the veterans about SBA's ability and desire to help.
5. Special workshops and training.
6. Prompt processing of loan applications of any type.
7. In all district offices there shall be one or more loan specialists designated as veterans loan officers.

In spite of these regulations, SBA has given the priorities to women and minorities and the disabled and Vietnam veterans have not been able to collect their entitlements as they advance their careers.

The "Grey Berets" are not opposed to programs for other groups but cannot continue to tolerate this neglect of citizens who have earned these entitlements by their military service.

There are virtually no programs to assist disabled and Vietnam veterans in small business development. For these reasons and in the compelling interest of veterans, the Vietnam Veterans Foundation has initiated a mandamus suit against the SBA for their failure to implement the existing laws and regulations affecting veterans. I think it is a national disgrace that veterans have to take their government to court because of lack of compliance with their own laws and regulations.

The "Grey Berets" is an Army of Peace whose mission is to unite veterans and their supporters for the purpose of becoming an effective force to carry out the mission started 10 years ago to integrate the Vietnam veteran back into the mainstream of America.

We believe the time has come to raise the consciousness of the general public that we must restore patriotism in this country. The price of freedom is expensive and we need to maintain a strong military. Our nation's policy that gives men and women who serve their country honorably during wartime top priority in government programs must be reinforced. Those veterans who are interested in joining the "Grey Berets", write to us at 250 South Van Dorn, Suite 106, Alexandria, VA 22304. (703) 751-3797.

NACV Pig Roast and Grassroots Veterans Symposium

Saturday, September 5th saw the acoustic trio from St. Louis, Sailcat perform their mixed bag of quality soft rock, rollicking country and down home good time fun. Of particular interest was a vintage Fender Lap Steel, played with alacrity and some fine harmony vocals.

Quickdraw played their 'Outlaw Music' for the now burgeoning crowd and was well received for their efforts. Quickdraw had rented a Winnebago for the concert and drove it from their home in Evanston, Illinois. Dark Star, from St. Louis, supplied the rock overdrive and really smoked on their renditions of Mountain's classic, "Mississippi Queen" and the incomparable Chuck Berry tune, "Johnny B. Goode". For a trio they played with the power and precision of other triple threat bands like ZZ Top and West, Bruce and Laing.

The spectrum of Country, Bluegrass, Rock and other shadings of the popular music genre were covered by Indian, a local Springfield area band featuring a bassist, drummer, lead guitarist/vocalist, female lead singer and a banjo player who doubled on fiddle or fiddle player who doubled on banjo, depending on your preference. That man cooked on both instruments with equal distinction. The sun had fallen by the time Indian took the stage and although the low level insects might have been a problem for the band both they and the audience were having too good a time to notice. It's always refreshing to see a band show genuine warmth to an audience combined with a love of their music.

Black Oak Arkansas had cancelled days before the actual event, but a check was sent in contractual agreement to the former ABC Recording Artists from the early 1970's - the Grassroots. The band who recorded such pop rock hits as "Midnight Confessions" and "Temptation Eyes" were nowhere to be seen for the entire weekend and a lawsuit is now pending concerning their breach of contract.

Ron Miller, a former Special Forces Adviser in South Vietnam, one-time Southern Baptist Conference Minister and part owner of the Green Beret Tavern in Springfield, married Lyn-Ora Dultz and Richard "Skip" Swalley in a simple, but moving ceremony onstage at 6 pm. The bride's bouquet was tossed to the enthusiastic crowd and an unidentified journalist, busily taking notes, was struck by the outgoing floral projectile. Undaunted, he immediately handed it to the nearest, qualified woman who gratefully accepted its symbolism, as she was a friend of the bride's. The Swalleys had asked that Country Joe McDonald perform his immortal "Feel Like I'm Fixin' To Die Rag" after the ceremony and play it he did. The tune heard from Fort Bragg to Camp Pendleton, from Hue to Soc Trang never sounded more genuine than among those survivors of the Southeast Asian War Games. McDonald clearly enjoyed the love and respect his peers shared with him.

10:30 pm saw the return of Joe McDonald, who encored the 'Fish Cheer', as well as "The Rag". He revisited such musical old friends as "Sweet Lorraine" the instrumental "Song for Susan" and introduced a new science fiction anti-war song. On "Coyote" one of the three unidentified harmonica players who backed up McDonald, played on one of the day's most moving

moments. McDonald explained to the respectful crowd that in a recent conversation with *Born On the Fourth of July* author Ron Kovic in San Francisco, they developed a new song that McDonald was moved to write called "A Vietnam Veteran Still Alive". It was so well received it was also one of the few encores Country Joe felt obliged to repeat. The "Spirit of Woodstock" that the organizers had hoped the former Fish leader would bring with him was visible throughout the day.

There were several other memorable moments in the day long music fest, like the local Springfield news/camera TV team flying in on their Loach. The pilot, a veteran of the First of the Ninth Air Cav in Vietnam, pulled no less than three below tree level gun runs which delighted the crowd. There was no visible signs of the trash pollution, police heavyhandedness, inebriated/out of control individuals or lost children so prevalent in most outdoor, large music festivals.

It was a day to share fine food and music with friends, both old and new. A day to share with the family, with a warm breeze and a few clouds to break up the heated sky. In short, a traditional Labor Day Weekend picnic to remember. The veterans had proven they could organize, staff and operate on a scale unknown in the Ozarks of Missouri. Plans are already underway for another Pig Roast/Symposium next year and if the 1981 version is an indication, the event can only grow in quality and significance. The St. Louis and Springfield organizers and volunteers from all over the United States have done themselves proud.



Vietnam in the Arts

Vietnam in the Arts, which presented the exhibit of artwork entitled "The Vietnam Experience" last November in St. Paul, Minnesota, will mount another show this November in New York City.

VITA is seeking artists with a firsthand knowledge of Vietnam - particularly Vietnam veterans who reside in New York, the Greater New York area, New England, and the East Coast - who are interested in participating in the show. Artists are invited to submit slides of their work, which will be judged according to relevance to the Vietnam experience, poignancy, and artistic merit, no later than Monday, September 14; artists will be notified of acceptance or rejection by the end of September. All artwork accepted will be insured for the duration of the exhibit, which is scheduled to open on Tuesday, November 10th, and run through the first week of December, at the Arsenal Gallery, Fifth Avenue at 64th Street.

VITA is also seeking assistance from those who might care to volunteer their time and services in the realms of printing, mounting an exhibit, and related areas.

Detailed information may be obtained by contacting Bernard Edelman, 209 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, New York 11217.

So Far Away

We were all young men, and most volunteered.
All healthy, and eager, and knowing no fear.
We left our young ladies, our youth and our beer.
For a battle that was so far away.

Young men don't ask questions why,
You send them to battle where thousands will die.
They don't even know that they're living a lie.
And the truth was just so far away.

It's not a good feelin', when you're out there alone.
You hurt and you're bleeding and you wanna go home.
It was hotter than hell in that combat zone.
And home was just so far away.

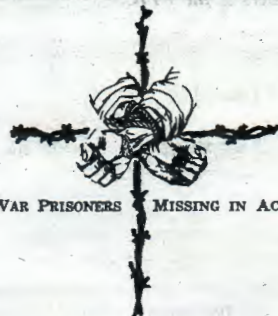
Your friends are all shot up. They lay in the dirt.
Even a soldier can't handle that kind of hurt.
You watch their life slip through the holes in their shirt.
Their loved ones were so far away.

A long time has passed now. The scars have all healed.
Except for the ones that we keep well concealed.
For the most part, the real hurt, it can't be revealed.
The answer is so far away.

We sit and we think now, most try not to cry.
We're older, we're wiser, we try not to lie.
I guess we still don't know the real reason why.
They sent us so far away.

Roger T. Nichols
April 30, 1981

PROJECT FREEDOM



WAR PRISONERS MISSING IN ACTION

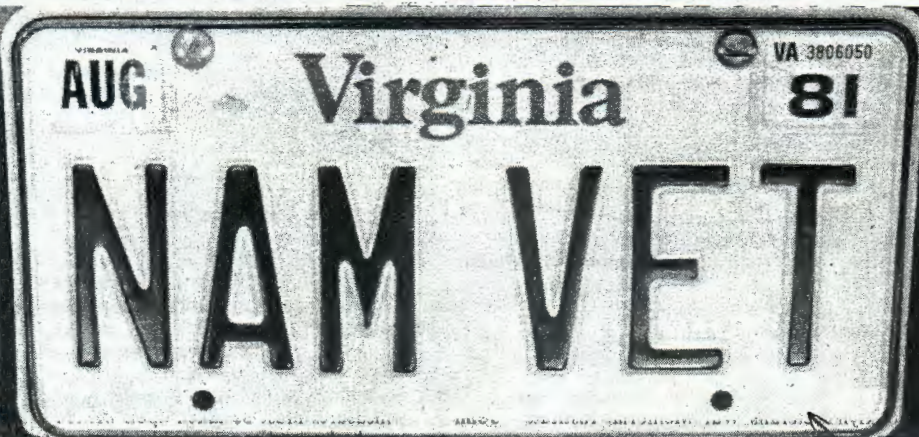
LEST WE FORGET

For All American POWs/MIAs

More than 2,800 American troops are unaccounted for from the Korean and Vietnam Wars. There is evidence - including more than 4,000 individual sighting reports since 1973 of U.S. men in Indochina - that many are still alive, in miserable conditions, while the Reds hold our living and dead for ransom.

P.O. Box 103, Woodgate, New York 13494
Phone: (315)-376-3615

The Vietnam Veteran whose car carries this license plate, made it back from his tour of duty as a chopper pilot, but his concern is now for those brave soldiers that didn't return. Philip Cary Shelton, now of South Boston, Virginia, suggested that all veterans send in photos of personalized bumper stickers, license plates and Nam relic layouts in dens, associations or offices. We will publish all that are sent in!



Vietnam Veterans in Congress "Tell It Like It Is!"

Ed Note: Isn't it great there are still elected officials who can tell it like it is.

The following letters were sent by the chairman of Vietnam Veterans in Congress.

Anthony John Messner
Minister of Veterans Affairs
c/o Department of Veterans Affairs
P.O. Box 21
Woden, A.C.T.
2606
Australia

Dear Mr. Messner:

It has come to our attention that you were on a tour of the U.S. recently and met with various officials and veterans regarding issues of concern to Vietnam veterans.

We would like to state our disappointment that you made no effort to meet with representatives of the Vietnam Veterans in Congress Caucus (VVIC). The VVIC is a bi-partisan, bi-cameral group of representatives who served in the armed forces during the Vietnam war and whose goal is to promote the interests of Vietnam veterans in the U.S. Congress.

We also understand that you are about to embark on a course of action and formulate policy based on your discussions with U.S. officials. Your decision to do so without the benefit of consultation with our caucus is again a disappointment and a discourtesy.

The U.S. Congress has taken steps to address the Agent Orange problem by adopting legislation first introduced by the caucus to provide priority health care for Vietnam veterans in the VA medical system. We have enclosed copies of this legislation for your information.

With due respect, we would hope that any future discussions with U.S. officials on this issue would also include members of the VVIC.

With best regards, we are

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle, Chairman, VVIC

Donald Curtis, M.D.
Chief Medical Director
Veterans Administration
810 Vermont Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Dr. Curtis:

The enclosed letter and attachments were recently brought to our attention.

We were quite disappointed and disturbed by your distribution of the Accuracy in Media (AIM) report on Agent Orange as well as several comments you made in your accompanying letter.

Our main concern is that you should see fit to distribute to your field staff a document that is obviously not representative of a scientific or medical organization and has little if any knowledge on issues concerning toxic chemicals, public health, or the environment. It is even more distressing, however, to see you, as the Chief Medical Director, encouraging the public dissemination of this material which so blatantly ignores many of the facts and information on the issue it so eagerly seeks to discredit. The VA is thus only perpetuating a campaign of "emotional allegations" to your own employees and the general public which will only serve to aggravate existing tensions between Vietnam veterans and your local VA offices and medical centers.

The AIM report makes no mention of five European epidemiology studies released by the Vietnam Veterans in Congress (VVIC) last year. There is no mention of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) registry on dioxin, where four cohort studies on dioxin exposed workers have been combined to show higher incidence rates for soft tissue sarcomas. There is no mention of evidence presented before the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Medical Facilities and Benefits, July 22, 1980. There is no mention of the potential hazards of other chemicals used in SE Asia, including

picloram, cacodylic acid, dapsone, etc. And finally, there is no mention of any of the recommendations or findings of the Interagency Work Group on Phenoxy Herbicides, or its scientific panel.

AIM appears to rest its case on the rather weak and inconclusive results of data gathered from two industrial accidents. One is the Monsanto sponsored epidemiology study of Nitro, West Virginia which found no excessive mortality rate among exposed workers, but which excluded workers who did not develop chloracne, and fails to provide basic epidemiological data on age distribution or employment history. This study has other shortcomings which I will not delineate. Considering the fact that there is a long interim between exposure to cancer causing substances and their first noticeable symptoms, it is too early to draw any conclusions from the Seveso, Italy, industrial accident. Yet, AIM claims that the evidence from both Nitro and Seveso should absolve the press from reporting on this issue.

Your concern about "anxiety levels" and news accounts based on "emotional allegations" glosses over the basic fact that this would not even be an issue for the VA to be concerned with had you taken the proper steps to educate and inform veterans and their communities in the first place.

Though we applaud your goal of educating your employees and the media on this issue, there are certainly better sources of information which could be used for this purpose than the AIM report, which with its own brand of 'grossly misleading reporting' will only serve to widen the breach and increase the distrust between Vietnam veterans and the VA.

We trust you will take immediate steps to stop the distribution of this material and improve on the quality of information provided your field personnel.

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle, Chairman VVIC

More "Telling It Like It Is"

Combined Veterans Hospital Committee
Presented Friday, August 14, 1981

The following representatives of veteran organizations have met during the months of July and August 1981, to consider action on the failure of proper administration of the medical services being rendered at the Brooklyn Veterans Administration Medical Center. We are seriously concerned about the lack of supervision of residents, interns, and medical students. Dr. Wallace in particular has failed to exert the leadership and discipline of the house staff, to insure adequate medical care and compassionate feeling toward the veteran population.

The following is a list of veteran organizations and representatives who share the concerns of deteriorating health care as observed.

Disabled American Veterans - Arthur Carrasella, Tom Wojciechowski.
Army and Navy Union - Simon Schonholz.
Veterans of Foreign Wars - Fred Trippe, Mario Raimondi.
Jewish War Veterans - Meyer Miller, Walter Schoenfeld.
Catholic War Veterans - Lou Maffatone.
Military Order of the Purple Heart - Maurice Loir, Garry Schuller.
Sutured Heart Post, A.L. - Anthony Todaro, Mr. Ventinquo.
National Association of Concerned Veterans - Jim Hebron.
Fleet Reserve Association - Thomas McQuade.
Empire State Veterans Association - Dr. Frank Johnson, PhD.
American Veterans Interboro Post - Dr. Frank Johnson, PhD.
National Congress of Puerto Rico Veterans - Pedro Perez.
Military Order of the Cooties - Alexander McIntosh.
Brooklyn Veterans War Memorial Institute - John Lenz.

United War Veterans--Awaiting permission to affiliate. Attended.
American Legion Posts, Not county sanctioned - Walter Schoefeld, Tom Fedele.

Other organizations interested in health care problems at the Brooklyn VA Hospital, are awaiting authorization to affiliate.

The subject of these meetings have centered on dissatisfaction with the lack of proper medical administration, in the medical services, and the abuses encountered by the veteran patients receiving health care.

The seriousness of these concerns have been of such importance and magnitude, that a meeting has been requested and scheduled with Mr. Parsons, Director of the Brooklyn VA Medical Center, in order that he correct the important matters discussed by this group.

After in depth discussion on varied topics of health care at the Brooklyn VA Center, the following was held to be of vital priority to be acted upon, by Mr. Parsons.

1. It was resolved that Mr. Parsons remove Dr. Christy, as Chief of Staff.
2. It was resolved that Mr. Parsons, remove Dr. Wallace, as Chief of Medicine.
3. It was resolved that Mr. Parsons, re-assign and/or remove Dr. Hoover, from performing open heart surgery, due to continued mortality which has occurred more recently.
4. It was resolved that improper supervision, monitoring and lack of discipline of medical students, interns and residents must cease. Regarding their attitudes, loyalties, and abuse toward the veteran patients in the bed services and clinic areas must not be permitted to continue, and that stern disciplinary measures must be taken upon written complaints of such abuse when reported by veterans organizations.

New York Vet Groups Blast VA Services

5. It has been resolved that veteran groups are being misled by the manipulation of reports, that concerned information comes third hand or by strong rumor. It had been recommended in the past, that veteran organizations must receive accurate information on changes that are being contemplated, which concerns the veteran groups, when it affects the veteran patient population.

6. It is recommended that the conflict which presently exists between the admitting office and floor residents, cease immediately. Patients are being admitted only to be discharged the following day, by the floor resident.

7. It is recommended that physicians assistants be identified as physicians assistants and not confuse the patients, by giving the appearance that they are physicians. Nor being called doctor when they are not.

8. A major concern is the constant loss of bed space, ward floors are periodically being closed and

Continued on Page 30

VIETNAM—CLASS OF '67

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COLE, Box 663-N, Olathe, Kansas 66061

Who Will Answer??

The Year: 1995

Location: Living room of a Vietnam Vet

by Howell M. Young

"The President today appealed to all veterans of previous service to report to the nearest induction center. Vietnam veterans are especially urged to report, because they have the special skills the United States military forces so urgently need." This has been a special message from the President of the United States, paid for by the U.S. Army.

The year 1995 had been a hard year for all the persons of the U.S. Factories were closed down, store shelves were bare and basic services by all local government had been cut to the barest minimum. The U.S. was in the deepest of depressions, worse than anyone had seen in history.

It had come to this after Russia had invaded the Middle East in 1993. The U.S., without sufficient military strength to repel them had to sit by and let it happen. The U.S. had built up a good oil reserve in the

1980's and figured this would hold them until they could figure out what else to do. The U.S. refusing to resort to nuclear force had no other choice. Russia had moved on from the Middle East in 1994 and in less than six months, run completely over the face of Europe. With Russian backing, the Cubans had secured most of Africa and all of Latin America. The Chinese had come back to the Russian fold, and were proceeding to colonize the South Pacific. The Canadians and the U.S. were the only ones of the free world still holding on. But, holding on wouldn't last

long, the Russians having over 1000 ships moving toward their coastlines. Mexico had seen the handwriting on the wall, and daily thousands of Russian and Cuban soldiers poured into Mexico. The Mexicans and their "Allies" would pour across the borders when the time was right. The Mexicans had started building an impressive military force in the early 90's with oil money. During the late 80's and early 90's the U.S. forces had become nothing but a skeleton.

"Daddy", said the 15 year-old-girl after the T.V. blurb. "Yes, dear?" answered the Vietnam vet. His mind was far away, another war in fact.

"Are you going to go down and report in like the President wants?"

"No I won't little girl, I've fought my war," the Vietnam vet answered.

"But Dad, aren't you running away from your duty as a veteran and an ex-Marine," asked the Vietnam vet's 18-year-old son.

"No son, I'm not running from anything. I fought my war, Vietnam, and when I came home they called me a child killer, a junkie, fool, wierdo, degenerate. When the war ended in 1975 we were looked down upon, everyone saying that we lost the war. They cheated us out of all the benefits that they could. They covered up

everything they could about Vietnam and the Vietnam vet became an outcast."

"Yes, but, Dad, why didn't you guys get together and do something about it? There sure were enough of you," asked the 18-year-old son.

"Well, son, there were a lot of organizations that recruited the 'Nam vets' and tried to force the politicians to look at the issues of Vietnam. But, they were all small ones, each pushing for their organization's own ends. It was just nobody could ever bring them all together under one forum to work toward a common goal. They tried, but by the end of the 80's most of them had run the end of the line and died out. People all over just got tired of listening to the Nam vets bellyaching all the time. If all of them had got together, maybe we would have had the political

power and money to solve the issues."

"But Dad, what about the Russians," asked the Vietnam veteran's son.

"Well, son, when I went to Vietnam in 1968 nobody cared then and when I came home a year later, minus a few good friends, nobody cared then either. If I put on my old uniform now and I got my gun and we win this war against the Russian bear, I'm sure nobody will care now. The country has waited too long to say Thank You to the Vietnam vets and I just don't think we will go this time."

"Well, you know, Dad, I just got my draft notice and I don't think I will go either. Probably nobody will care anyway. What time does the football game come on?"

Ed Note: This article ought to stir some thought!

Project Delta MIA

The family of MSG Russell P. Bott would like to receive any information regarding MSG Bott and the last time he was seen on 1 December 1966. Delta was operating out of FOB Khe Sanh on that day. Former members of Det B-52 (Project Delta) 5th Special Forces Group (ABN) are requested to send any information to MSG Bott's family care of:

Eleanor Bott Gregory
82 Boylston Circle
Shresbury, MA 01545

"There but for the Grace of God, may you have been"

"06-Bruiser"

Marines, "Now Hear This"

WGBH, the Boston television station that is producing a 13 hour documentary on the Vietnam War has completed filming in Vietnam. The Producers, in order to follow-up filming and interviewing are attempting to locate certain Marines that served in Vietnam in late 1966 and 1967.

The below listed Marines that served with the 1st MAR Div. in Quang Nam Province, south of Danang in early 1967 with the following units are asked to get in touch with the producers in Boston.

Units: 1st Bn, 1st MAR Div.
2nd Bn, 1st MAR Div.
Co B, 1st/1st
Co C, 1st/1st
Co D, 1st/1st
G Co, 2nd/1st
H Co, 2nd/1st

Anyone knowing the below listed Marines are asked to have them call the Station.

2LT Stephen Chupik
Plt Cmdr Nathaniel R. HOSkit
Co B, 1
Co B, 1st/1st, Sqd Ldr Robert W. Rantum
Ronald D Kincade
Paul J Cook
Co C, 1st/1st 2LT Chesto Dombrosky
Plt Sgt Calvin S. Brown
Co D, 1st/1st Cpt Robert C Knowels
M.J. Kelley
Cpl Gary L DeBarr
Cpl William R. Fleming
Humberto Pelez
2LT Robert W. Fuver
Any personnel from H Co. 2nd/1st
2nd/1st Cpt Edward J. Banks
LTC Van D. Bell
C.O. 1st/1st
LTC Haig Donabedian
C.O. 2nd/1st
Please call collect
Station WGBH, Boston, MA
a/c 617/492-2777, Ext 4327, ask for Bradley Borum

Chicago Vietnam Vets Plan Art Show

The Chicago-based Vietnam Veterans Art Group will sponsor an art show on 9 October in Chicago according to the founding members of the group, Ned Borderick, Dale Samuelson, Pete Peterson and Richard Aztlan.

According to the founders, all of whom are Vietnam vets, the purpose of the exhibit will be two fold:

- 1) "to broaden the historical perspective of the American public towards the emotions, experiences and sensitivities of the American participants and"
- 2) "to provide a forum for the previously neglected and repressed artistic statements and expressions of the Vietnam odyssey"

The Exhibit will consist of:

- 1) the art of Vietnam vets from the group and submitted works from other vets.
- 2) an audio visual presentation of personal photographic slides and a collage of the sound of the era.
- 3) a judging of the works submitted by Vietnam vets to include photographs, slides and other art pertaining to the Vietnam era.

Among the aims of the group is the creation of an archives for the preservation of the art works of the period for future generations.

Aztlan stated that they are anxious to hear from Vietnam vets who might have works to submit to the show. So far, they have had response from various parts of the country including from Mike Boyette of Texas who hopes to submit some of his bronzes.

Ray Garza, the art director for the Leadership Conference, will be a participant in the show and the Leadership Conference will be working with the Vietnam veterans arts group to get the word about the show out to the community to ensure as large a response as possible.

For further information about the show contact: Richard M. Aztlan, President, Vietnam Veterans Art Group, 2340 W. Winnemac Street, Chicago Ill. 60625, (312) 878-9342.

HELP WORK FOR THE RETURN OF POW/MIAS in Southeast Asia



To Help, Contact:
Ann Mills Griffiths
NATIONAL LEAGUE
OF FAMILIES
1608 "K" Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C. 20006



Cover to Cover

BOOKS IN REVIEW

by John B Dwyer *

Five Years to Freedom by Maj James N. Rowe, Little Brown & Co (Boston) 467 pages, photos, 1971, \$7.95.

Let me say up front that I wasn't aware of this book until I read the article by Robin Moore in the 2 Aug issue of *Parade* on the Green Berets. This is another reason I list titles on Vietnam of recent and non-recent vintage...simply because there is no effective mass means of making vets aware of such titles. I do my best to stay abreast of the situation and hope you'll let me know of books you've read or heard about.

The only officer known to have escaped from a VC POW camp, now LTC James N. Rowe narrates a moving, compelling story of over five years of captivity in several camps situated within the U Minh, the "Forest of Darkness."

A West Point graduate and SF arty officer, Lt Rowe was assigned to A Team 23 at Tan Phu in the Delta. He was captured after a fierce engagement northwest of there on 29 Oct 1963.

Also captured were his two friends, Dan and Rocky, both SF. From the point of capture, Rowe and his compatriots were pushed, prodded, kicked and threatened to a camp area miles to the south. Blindfolded much of the way, separated, bound and mistreated, the captives finally arrive at their destination. Here Rowe spends his first two years of confinement.

He suffers through diarrhea, dysentery, beri-beri, an evil skin rash, harsh environment, killer mosquitoes and guards who enjoy torturing him.

Mostly, he suffers persistent forays into his mind by VC cadre attempting to make him see the "truth" of the situation in Vietnam, the righteousness of the Front's cause, to repent the errors of his ways through written confessions and by giving military information to the Front.

By an incredibly maintained sense of humor (calling his guards Shithead, Squeaky, etc. and naming his several camps the Neverglades or the No K Corral, for instance), by his tenacious will, by playing mind games through surreptitious contact with fellow prisoners, meager medical supplies, a firm belief in his values and the Code of Conduct, religion and his family back in Texas, plus much luck, Rowe survives and never gives in.

One of his lowest points was learning that his pal, Rocky Versace, has been executed by the Front, blamed for offenses he did not commit. Rowe includes a poem he wrote about that occasion...very personal and powerful, tears were coming as I read it.

From January 1965 to his escape, Rowe is interred in camps not too far away from his point of capture west of the Song Trem River. By that time, several other POWs kept at the same camps died in captivity. Rowe

and Dan tried to save these men with primitive medical supplies and all possible means, but as Rowe notes, they had chosen the ultimate way out, sort of turned their minds and bodies off, seeking release through death. Rowe himself came close to that point at one time. To make matters worse, the Front blamed him and Dan for the deaths of those men.

By this time too, Rowe had made a number of escape attempts, both solo and with fellow POWs, all no-gos. After each re-capture, the mistreatment/torture was worse.

In September 1967, fellow POWs Jim, Dan and John are released and Rowe must face his last year in captivity alone. Without that shared suffering, the vital morale sustainer of just the presence of fellow Americans, Rowe soon reaches the mental/emotional bottom of the pit of his five year ordeal. Sensing this, the cadre become more insistent and unrelenting in their indoctrination attempts, using US anti-war, pro-NVA propaganda from the home front. "Sessions a mental meat grinder," Rowe notes in his diary. He felt unsupported by the American people as trumpeted in the mass media. He is urged to relent in light of this non-support at home... "see what Sens. Kennedy and Fulbright are saying."

Though unable to verify any of this, he holds, signs nothing, gives no confession.

Realizing in late 1968 that he's about to be moved to the place of his probable execution, he plans his all-out escape.

Thanks to the confusion created by US air strikes on and around his camp, his separating himself from the main group with only one guard he can overpower and a final, risky open ground exposure to circling gunships, the newly minted MAJ James N. Rowe boards a C&C chopper 31 December 1968 for his flight to freedom.

The reader will quickly become engrossed in the emotional roller-coaster experienced by Rowe...his hopes, fears, frustrations, the anger, doubt, determination and faith of this monument to one man's indomitable spirit and will.

The reader will note a statement by a Front spokesman that "Just because the war might end, POWs will yet remain in captivity."

It was for Rocky Versace and those men who remain Unaccounted For that now LTC James Rowe wrote **Five Years to Freedom**. LTC Rowe is currently Chief/Survival Training, Ft. Bragg/Camp Mackall, NC.

*John is the Editor/Publisher of the national Vietnam oriented monthly newsletter "Perimeter". For information on John's newsletter, write to John at 430 Westbrook, Dayton, Ohio 45415.

VFW "Young Veteran of the Year" in U.S.

by John B. Dwyer



Bob McGrady, native of the small northern Ohio town of Clyde, was an infantryman with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

Between January and May 1967, during which time he turned 18, McGrady was shot, bayoneted and hit by shrapnel.

After spending months in a hospital in Vietnam because it was thought he wouldn't survive a move to the military hospital at Okinawa, he ended up at the Fort Knox base hospital.

En route home for a medical discharge he sustained head injuries in a head-on collision. Back to Fort Knox he went, finally being discharged from the hospital there in 1970 at 90 percent disabled.

Despite his wounds, his more than bad luck, his disability, Bob McGrady became involved with the VFW through his brother Mike, a fellow vet, and has since worked tirelessly helping his fellow Vietnam veterans.

He worked at Clyde VFW Post 3343, doing two stints as commander. He hauls fellow vets to the VA hospital in Cleveland. Bob speaks to high school and community groups about such topics as outreach programs and alcohol rehabilitation programs.

Bob devotes much time to Vietnam issues such as Agent Orange and the POW-MIA situation, having been honored for his work in that area by the National League of Families of American POW/MIAs in SE Asia.

I contacted this upcoming, dedicated Vietnam combat veteran recently and he kindly gave me permission to quote from his letter to me: "The world has to go on and we, ourselves, will be helping it move forward with a better understanding of what the veterans did for their country."

If it wasn't for the veterans of all the wars we wouldn't have the freedoms everyone shares today.

The wants and needs of a veteran are not that great and its not like they're asking for the world, but veterans should receive better medical attention (both mentally as well as physically so we can go into today's society and live our lives out right as citizens of this great country.

If the veterans would just pull together (amen to that, Bob), we could do a lot of good for everyone in all walks of life. The country as well as all veterans are going to have to pull together and start helping each other or we are not going to have one left as we see it today...a shame to let all those who died for their country die in vain.

I'm damn proud to be a Viet vet but damn mad at the way we were treated. I'm sure you know what I mean. That's why I'm working for those less fortunate than myself."

Now residing in Tiffin, Ohio, Bob is also involved with incarcerated veterans, especially as regards Agent Orange.

We salute Bob McGrady, an outstanding example of a concerned, dedicated, involved Vietnam veteran.

We need more like him!

Calendar of Events

October 9th-31st

Chicago, Illinois

Vietnam: Reflexes and Reflections Art Show

N.A.M.E. Gallery, 9 West Hubbard Street

Coordinators: Vietnam Veteran Artists Group

Pres. Richard M. Aztlan

312/878-9342

2340 West Winnemac

Chicago, IL 60625

October 20th

New Haven Connecticut

Southern Connecticut State College

General William Westmoreland lectures on campus to the Vietnam veterans.

October 31st

New Haven, Connecticut

Southern Connecticut State College

Veterans Recognition Ceremony at half-time of SCSC football game. Will include parachute jumps by "Black Knights", West Point parachute team. Memorial to deceased SCSC vets and recognition of Vietnam veterans contributions.

November 10th-December 2nd

New York City

New York Vietnam Veterans Art Experience

The Arsenal Gallery

5th Avenue and 64th Street

Coordinators: Vietnam in the Arts

Benard Edleman

212/789-7890

209 Lincoln Place

Brooklyn, NY 11217

November 11

New Haven, Connecticut

Southern Connecticut State College

Veterans Day Ceremony at SCSC Veterans

Memorial. Installation and dedication of flag pole.

Late Nov. or early Dec.

Date to be announced

New Haven, Connecticut

Southern Connecticut State College

Awareness Seminar dealing with POW/MIA issues.

Anticipate POW guest and films.

It's Time For Political Involvement

But, Never Be Silent

by Frank R. Price

Even though government appears to be responding less and less to the individual; the individual can still begin a campaign to inform his elected officials, write his Congressman, or become a lobbyist, (for which you might not have to register!)

Congress still listens; and Congressmen are more than willing to read their constituents letters and reply. You may not get the reply you wanted; or you may be surprised. But you can be sure that someone knows how you feel about a certain issue; and that means to the politician that others might feel that way also. Your letter carries the weight of district members.

Congressmen (or women) rarely receive more than a few dozen personal letters in any given month. Your letter will stand-out from the mounds of form mail that arrive almost daily. The congressman will be concerned about the voter as much if not more than he is about the organizations which try and influence him.

To become a lobbyist (that does not register) is easy! Private citizens who spend no more than \$200.00 in a calendar quarter and who are not paid for their communications with a legislator can lobby about anything and everything under the sun; without registering! You can be sure that whatever your private concerns are; whether they be local, state, federal or international, some professional lobbying organizations are out there right now lobbying either for or against your issue. Many times (more often than not) only one side is heard; that of the professional lobbyist.

The professional lobbyists receive money. Often times even thousands of dollars from private interests to push for specific legislation. These people must register and their successes over the years have registered, too. Many of the bills, and special interest positions taken by all levels of government are the direct result of effective lobbyists. Stand up for your issue; let your voice be heard also!

If you have a specific problem, again your Congressman can help.

Most Congressmen assign a "case worker" to work on specific problems. Everything possible can and usually is done by this individual to solve your problem or get action when you could only get inaction. This is of major importance to individuals who need someone on their side; military personnel, minorities, and the needy.

It is important to know how to write your Congressman. Here are a few tips.

First, you must find out who your Congressman is, and what is his address. This is very easy to do. Either visit the local library or call the reference desk. State whether you want a State Representative or a Federal Representative (here we are talking about Federal). Find out their address. If nothing else is available, consult your phone book under, "U.S. Government". Your Congressman will sometimes be listed there, and almost any agency listed would be able to 'readily' furnish the information.

The best way to address your letter is as follows: "The Honorable (name); (House, Senate or Congressional District). Office building, Washington, DC 20515 (or 20510 if you are addressing a Senator).

Be sure and place your subject as close to the top of the letter as possible stating the facts clearly and simply at first. Your letter will probably then be routed to the staff member assigned to handle such matters and it is important that it be received by the proper person with little delay.

If you are stating an opinion, or you are acting as an unregistered lobbyist you should follow the same addressing procedures, but, there are some things to remember.

If your letter states an opinion you will receive an answer, even though it might be a form letter stating the official position of your Congressman, Senator, etc.

Your opinion will be taken into account. The folks at home are sometimes more important than the issue when the elected official is undecided or unsupportive of the big lobby groups. Silence doesn't give the official the 'thermometer reading' he needs, keep those cards and letters coming.

Here are some very important things to do when writing a Congressman or any elected official:

DOs

- *Always be courteous and respectful to his elected position.
- *Use common sense, honesty and courtesy.
- *Use a business-like approach treating the legislator as an equal.
- *Describe a problem adequately, name a bill or piece of legislation by its popular name or assigned number.
- *Personalize your letters and avoid copies as much as possible.
- *State your case clearly, giving your reasons for or against an issue.
- *Promptly respond to the issue. The quicker you can respond while the issues are still important, valid, and timely the greater the chance for success.
- *Follow-up your correspondence with later communications on the issue.
- *Keep the letter as short as possible. But, cover all the facts.
- *Be sure to thank the legislator and/or commend him or her for past actions that you felt were positive.

DON'Ts

There are some very important don'ts, too!

- *Don't call names, be rude, or crude.
- *Don't assume that the legislator is 'un-American' by his stand. Remember, he too has an opinion and a right to voice his feelings.
- *Don't become a chronic letterwriter, blasting off everytime things don't go your way. Strive for quality opinions, not quantity.
- *Ask for help in understanding the issues. Don't be afraid. The common feelings and understandings are often times wrong from the official position or documents.
- *Don't ever assume that your opinion isn't important in deciding issues in any government institution.
- *Don't be afraid to ask for help. Don't let anyone keep you from contacting your elected officials. He is there for you, and he knows it.

By following these procedures you can be sure to be on fair and equal grounds with your governmental bodies, and elected officials. They want to be of help to you.

With most problems or letters asking information, a staff member will simply attach a form post-card to your correspondence and route it to the proper committee, agency, or bureaucracy in government. This card will request immediate action and your correspondence will not only be speeded up but will also get a response where you might otherwise be delayed or ignored. In some situations such as military personnel problems, the response is immediate and protective of the military members rights to appeal to his Congressman, out-side the normal chain-of-command.

Nearly all agencies and departments consider these letters by congressmen a number-one priority. And if you aren't satisfied you can write again, or write to the next rung on the elected ladder. Someone will eventually listen.

There are plenty of personal problems to be ironed out in a society as big as America. This year, instead of arguing with friends, or griping about the issues of concern, get involved in government. Let your voice be heard. And if government can not or will not work, make sure that you live-up to your responsibility as a citizen and write your elected officials about the good and the bad. But, never be silent! ■

A Vet Appeals to Reagan

by John L. Dickson, Jr.

Mr. Dickson of Telford, PA., wrote this letter to President Reagan.

Honorable Sir: I am writing this letter of lament to you to request assistance — acknowledgement at least, from you, or our government, or the bureaucracy which is supposed to represent us — for the forgotten victims of a war I am fully aware you wish you could forget.

I am, at present, a 43-year-old Vietnam veteran, over twelve years of honorable service, a volunteer for service in Vietnam. Also I have for the past five years suffered the disabling effects of what our government refuses to recognize, Agent Orange poisoning.

I have the horrible disfiguring lesions on my face, chest, in my eyes, tumor in my neck, paralysis of my right side, blackouts, colitis and just recently diagnosed as having liver malfunction. I am not alone, there are thousands of us.

I cannot work. I lost my home (eviction), all family possessions (auction) September, 1980. I have no strength at all, some days cannot walk five stair steps. I am in constant pain. I am in essence a 75-year-old man in a 43-year-old frame.

You as Governor of California ordered the helicopters of the California National Guard to disperse demonstrators protesting the war.

Your budget director, Stockman, has suggested cutting what little help we have through the Outreach Centers, and you agreed to it. He surely does not have any of the problems hundreds of thousands of veterans have. He was a conscientious objector, once again — easy way out.

As far back as 1964 when you were campaigning for Senator Goldwater, I felt you were a fair and honorable man and I've supported you since. I, along with millions of Americans, suffered with you in your time of agony (2 months ago) and you now know what it is to suffer a life-shattering experience at the hands of another. I do request, Mr. President, if you do have any compassion in you, take some action to help hundreds of thousands like myself, (men and women and children) who are suffering from the nightmare this country was involved in. As I said previously, I am a veteran and always have had respect for my country and its leaders, but I am quickly losing a great deal of respect for both.

Mr. "Reagan," you are not in Hollywood anymore, you cannot fantasize that the problem will disappear. You are an aged man and probably don't have aspiration of another term, but I am sure Mr. Bush or some one else in your administration does. Let's for the sake of 400,000 veterans set the record straight.

Is this the way "America" treats its own? Is this your policy to turn your head and ignore those who are suffering?

Yes, we have the VA to lose our documents, give us the fast shuffle on the phone, ignore us, give us doctors who cannot speak English or understand our complaints. I have been trying to get into Philadelphia VA Hospital for examination, to no avail.

This is my last resort, to see if you are a sincere, compassionate leader, or as I am lead to believe, just an actor attempting to get the Oscar, you did not get in Hollywood.

Only you, Mr. Reagan, can prove which it is.

Subscribe to the Vietnam Veterans Review.

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VLC Information Office
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Pacifica, CA 94044
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Veterans Leadership Conference
Curtis Colin
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Chicago, IL 60637

Virginia State Director
Veterans Leadership Conference
LeRoy Jackson
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The Veterans Leadership Conference

is
looking for sincere, interested veterans
and/or civilians to head up
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To accomplish the common goals
of ALL Veterans Groups, we must unite
and work together!

There is Strength in Unity Contact

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406-295-5701 (Home)
406-293-9103 (VLC)

Just What is the Veterans Leadership Conference?

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

It is a commonly accepted fact that Vietnam veterans tend not to receive from the government the full benefits to which they are entitled. Also, many of the existing programs make no distinction between those who served in Vietnam as military and those who served there in support of the United States military action. As a result, the civilians who served in Vietnam have been overlooked in many instances.

The most common problems faced by those who were in Vietnam are post-traumatic stress disorder, unemployment, the effects of exposure to toxic chemicals, including Agent Orange, and the attitude of the public in general.

The purpose of the Leadership Conference is to link a very large, fragmented, dispersed, and often alienated group of persons so that they may have an input into the development of needed programs and may easily access such programs. Such action addresses both the immediate and long term needs of the group.

To date, the Leadership Conference has united over 20 groups nationwide with the base in Chicago, and has had direct input into the positions of both of the major parties during the last presidential election, engaged in voter registration and education, promoted better harmony and understanding between the so-called traditional and non-traditional groups by activities

such as the recognition day in Grant Park in 1979 and attempted to create a more positive public attitude through numerous radio, television and print articles.

Through networking and information sharing, including a large group of veterans in Australia who served in Vietnam as members of the SEATO force, we seek input on program development geared to the needs of the veterans, and strive to achieve a degree of political awareness and involvement. Our goal is to bring the unutilized resource of the Vietnam veteran into the mainstream of American society so that both the veterans and the society which they served so well may profit.

Let's do it ourselves

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New Radio Network

Continued from Page 1

In a related development, VVF Communications also announced the acquisition of WTKO Radio in Ithaca, New York, the site of Cornell University. Other radio and TV station acquisitions in various locations in the United States are in progress.

VVF Communications financing for the multi-million dollar project has been arranged in cooperation with Chemical Business Credit of Richmond, Virginia, an affiliate of Chemical Bank of New York and Riggs National Bank of Washington, DC. FCC and General Counsel of VVF Communications is the firm of Dow, Lohnes and Albertson of Washington, DC.

The principal officers and directors of the newly founded enterprise are Wincek, Chairman; Robert A. Sniffen, Executive Vice Chairman/Secretary; Francis X. Boyle, Vice Chairman/Treasurer; and Ellis E. "Woody" Erdman, Chairman of the Executive Committee.

Former Hunger Striker

Continued from Page 1

He also was facing misdemeanor charges in Ventura County for assaulting his brother last month with a club, officials said.

"These vets are walking time bombs," said Susan Hopkins, whose husband's suicide last May set off the much-publicized protest at the Wadsworth Veterans Hospital in West Los Angeles.

Ex-Marine James Hopkins, 33, who died May 16, was awaiting trial on charges that he crashed his jeep through the front doors of the Wadsworth Hospital and shot up the lobby with automatic weapons. No one was injured in the attack.

Stickler was among a dozen veterans who began a sit-in and hunger strike May 20 on the lawn of the sprawling hospital to protest VA policies they claimed led to Hopkins' death.

The protestors demanded a personal meeting with President Reagan, recognition of the effects of Agent Orange and an independent investigation of two VA hospitals in the Los Angeles area. Their demands were not met.

VA Hospital Rule Change

Continued from Page 1

According to a recent estimate by the American Legion, about 100,000 of the million veterans who are hospitalized may not qualify and will be turned down at VA Hospitals.

VA spokesman, Bob Putnam, estimates that only 20,000 inpatients would be effected.

Under the new procedures, veterans from families with over \$15,000 in annual income and whose spendable income exceeds the cost of medical care will be turned away from VA Hospitals and told to get treatment elsewhere.

Congress estimates the yearly savings at \$109 million, however, a VA spokesman contradicts that figure and estimates an annual savings of only \$9.3 million. Additional costs will be incurred by the necessity of an increased administrative burden with spiraling costs involved in checking veterans financial status prior to treatment.

According to a spokesman for the American Legion, "if a guy signs an affidavit that he is unable to pay for his treatment the law says he gets treated."

Veterans organizations, across the board, should oppose the new regulations and support the position that if a veteran states he cannot afford treatment elsewhere, he should be treated by the Veterans Administration.



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"A Vietnam Veteran Still Alive"

Copyright Alkatraz Corner Music 1981
Country Joe McDonald

Me and my Daddy when I was just a boy
Spent so many hours talkin' 'bout the great World War.

I just couldn't wait until I was grown -
To go off and wear the uniform.

I can still remember the day I went away
How the home crowds cheered and the flags and banners waved.

When I got up and climbed aboard the plane
I didn't know that things would never be the same.

(CHORUS)

I came home from the War to a war at home,
and I can't help but wonder just what it was I done.

Seems like I went off to fight the enemy
Now I'm back home and the enemy is me.
Yes, I'm back home and the enemy is me.

Well, it didn't take long before I began to tell
The 'Real Thing' can be a living hell.
I saw so many lose bodies and their minds
In the jungle and mud of Viet Nam.

But I kept on fighting and the Lord spared my life.
I lost part of my body, but I never lost my mind
But the home folks seemed to sicken at the sight
of a Vietnam Veteran still alive.

(CHORUS)

Please Mister President, don't you think its time?
To give a little thanks to the boys from Viet Nam
Just a little something to ease all the pain
And welcome us back home again.

So listen old son, if you want to go and fight
Just make sure you know what is wrong and what is right.

The passion of today can be tomorrow's shame
And the folks at home will just have you to blame.

(CHORUS)

I came home from the War to a war at home
and I can't help but wonder just what it was I done.
Now I'm back home and the enemy is me.
Yes, I'm back home and the enemy is me.

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Advice for Vietnam Veterans in working with the Media

(Mr. Hill is the Public Affairs Director for Radio Station WBMX in Chicago. He has recieved the Martin Luther King, Jr. award three consecutive years as well as many other community and civic awards.)

The primary need of the Vietnam veterans is to organize within themselves. According to Hill, the media is sympathetic to the cause of those who were in Vietnam, but are often afraid to deal with the issues because of the splinter groups and fragmentation which exists within the movement. There is a fear that one group may not represent a broad or accurate view. Credibility is one of the most important aspects of the reputation of a reporter and if this is lost it may be impossible to regain.

At this time, the middle class is beginning to see itself as poor. For this reason there may be less sympathy for the Vietnam veterans. For many people the Vietnam War is old news, they are concerned with the very real problem of surviving in this time of high inflation and unemployment, the Vietnam veterans are seen as just one cause, just one issue.

In the media world any group is "marketing a product." Such a view does not take away from the justice of the cause, rather it is to examine it in a realistic light. For this reason and in view of the competition the veterans face in the media field, they must appear unified and credible.



The Viet Nam Veterans Photo Project invites veterans to submit photographs and slides taken during the Viet Nam War for a forthcoming book and exhibition. All subjects that reflect the Viet Nam-era veterans experience will be considered: in the field, in the rear, R & R, the war at home,

seeing Viet Nam and Southeast Asia, seeing the Vietnamese. We will look at black and white photographs, slides and color prints.

Accepted photos will be credited (if desired) and contributors will be paid an honorarium.

A portion of any profits earned by the Photo Project will be donated to Viet Nam Veterans/Agent Orange causes.

IMPORTANT MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

If interested in submitting work, please do all of the following:

- Write your name and address on the back of each print or on the cardboard slide mounts.
- Include brief caption information (e.g. Saigon, 1968).
- Do *not* include originals! We cannot assume responsibility for your work in the event of loss or damage. Send b/w prints, duplicates of slides, or color xeroxes made from slides.
- Pack all materials *carefully*. Make sure your prints will not be crushed or bent. Use card board and heavy mailing envelopes.
- Include return postage and a self-addressed envelope. Please include the same amount of postage used on the envelope you sent. If you do not enclose return postage, we will assume that you do not wish your work returned.

c/o Veterans Upgrade Center of New York • 165 Cadman Plaza East,
Brooklyn, New York 11201
Ede Rothaus, Director



Derek Hill, Media Advisor,
Veterans Leadership Conference

Many of the so called "successful vets" may have stayed away from the Vietnam movement as the media has often portrayed it as a group of "all losers." This is partly due to the fact that "bad news sells." Also, the media is full of "hungry" reporters and if they can add a bit to the sensational aspect of their reports they believe it will make a better story.

Those in the leadership positions of the Vietnam movement therefore, have a serious responsibility to stay away from the marketable stereotype if it does not

represent the Vietnam veterans. Extensive media coverage, per se, does not accomplish much. It is solid numbers and organization which will, in the end, bring about lasting change.

In comparing the print and electronic forms of media Hill had the following observations:

The radio and television news (electronic) "tease" the interest of the viewer and serve as the "appetizer" while the print media is the "main course."

Both forms are necessary and veterans must learn the appropriate use of each. The electronic media can arouse public interest of the problems of the Vietnam veteran which need more coverage.

On the political front, Hill sees the value of coalition movements. By focusing on the one thing they may have in common instead of focusing on the differences, groups may work together to achieve a common end.

Hill believes that all of the Americans who were old enough to be aware of the Vietnam War were affected by it to some degree. He lost several close friends and is aware of the impact the experience had on his life. However, he does not subscribe to the concept that the entire nation is guilty of anything or that the Vietnam veterans should advocate this guilt and put it forth as a reason for action and special treatment. Rather, Hill believes that the nation has a responsibility to those who went to Vietnam which arises out of obligation to those who served their country not from guilt over the war.

In summary, Hill believes that the Vietnam veterans should focus on the positive aspects of what they have to offer, i.e. maturity and courage. This is by no means saying that they should ignore the serious problems such as chemical exposure or post traumatic stress being faced by some, but that these problems are part of the overall picture of Vietnam service.

Vietnam veterans have the potential to be a viable economic and political force in this country but to do this they must unify and work with the media in a responsible and mature manner.

We Were There

Flak vest, steel pot, pack, M-16
Slogging through rice paddies,
Humping the boonies in triple-canopied Highlands,
Patrolling through dead-breathed jungles,
On helicopter assault, at sea or in the air,
We were there.

From Hue to Saigon, Pleiku to Qui Nhon,
Da Nang, Chu Lai, An Hoa, Quang Ngai,
Duc Pho, Can Tho, Bien Hoa, Long Binh,
From Long An, to Soc Trang, to Cam Ranh Bay,
From hot LZs to the South China Sea,
To the middle of nowhere,
We were there.

Clerk, cook, chaplain, medic, engineer,
Special Forces, infantryman, tanker, artilleryman,
Marine, pilot and sailor,
From the Rockpile to Khe Sanh,
Tet to Hamburger Hill,
Private to General,
We were there.

C-rations, "bug-juice," malaria pills,
Poncho liners, P-38's, letters from home,
Grenades, Claymores, trip flares,
Bunkers, concertina wire,
Tears, laughter and boredom,
We were there.

Mud, dust, monsoons,
Leeches, mosquitoes, enervating heat,
Fatigue, anxiety, loneliness,
Anger and pain,
Fire-fights, combat patrols, cordon & search,
Search & clear, Recondo, LRRP,
We sweated and bled, knew fear and bravery,
Ran physical and emotional gauntlets,
We fought and died, were wounded or untouched,
Were decorated for valor, (over 200 Medals of Honor).

And if we were lucky,
If Fate or Providence had been kind,
Our DEROS date would arrive, time to go home,
Back to the World. A last good-bye to friends,
On to the waiting Huey, then base camp,
Then onto that big iron bird and into the air,
Knowing after that one last look then, as we do now,
That we had been there.

John B. Dwyer

On a Trail Called Ho Chi Minh

On a trail called Ho Chi Minh
Counted were trucks, and sometimes men
When trucks were many and men were few
We sprayed a mist to create a view.

This mist, of course, contained dioxin
In crotches and toes it created pox in.

Our men returned and many were nervous
They all remembered horrors in service
Children borne to these same men
Also bore scars of dioxin.

Nerves, pox - deformed children
Were our legacy and country's burden
When help was sought from the nation
It went to the Veterans's Administration.

They fretted and floundered. They screwed around
They stated emphatically no problems were found
I truly ask you, isn't it funny?
Our nation's men are worth less than money!

Jim Jorgensen
Service Officer, DAV
Capt. USA (Ret)



Before you move...

...please let us know. To be sure you don't miss any copies of *National Vietnam Veterans Review*, please notify us at least four weeks in advance.

If you have already changed your address, fill in below and mail today. Your next paper will be sent to the new address.

1. Fill in old address

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

2. Fill in new address

Name _____

Address _____

City/St/Zip _____

Mail to:

National Vietnam Veterans Review
P.O. Box 35812
Fayetteville, N.C. 28303



Viet Vets Design Decal

The "Family Crest," the mark of the Viet Nam Veteran, was designed by two ex-Marines, Viet Nam vets.

The purpose of the decal is to bring down to earth all the misconceptions and clouds of confusion about the Viet Nam veteran and his image.

Someone once said, "Esteem among our peers must begin with Self Esteem." We hope that by displaying the "Family Crest" proudly it will help to remind both the veteran and the American public that the role of the veteran in any war was that of a soldier. Nothing more and certainly nothing less. We were not the CIA, not the politicians nor the campus demonstrators. We were the Americans filling the traditional role as we saw it; that of a soldier from a free nation attempting to liberate our fellow man from his bonds of oppression. There is certainly nothing for which any Viet Nam vet should apologize for in that respect.

We hope that eventually all Viet Nam veterans will display the emblem as a sign of unity behind those of us that are experiencing real and justified pain.

If all of us from all walks of life and professionals show the American people just how many of them come in contact with a Viet vet every day, this may vastly improve our image and foster a sense of mutual respect between us and the public, as well as a sense of relief.

The war must be separated from the warrior. The conflict in Southeast Asia brought with it all the horror of war to the TV screens of America, as well as eruptions of emotions from our streets and college campuses. The American people must be reminded that we were not the source of the country's lack of direction and confusion, but were the few who were willing to make the ultimate commitment in an effort we were raised to believe was worthwhile. Judging from what has happened to the people of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam since our departure, those of our peers who demanded a halt to the war for humanitarian reasons must wonder if our leaving was the humane thing to do after all.

The decal was carefully designed not to align itself with any political sect or to appear offensive or antagonistic. The symbols of death and suffering depicted by the white cross and the red area below the helmet cannot be denied. The Viet Nam soldier should not apologize for subjecting himself to the horrors of war, when he believed his cause was just!

It is vitally important that the simplicity and the nobility of the soldiers role be communicated to the nation as a whole, but far more important the vet himself comes to realize just how much he in fact did for his country. There was a time in our nation's history when people who had the courage of their convictions, to the point that they were willing to risk self destruction to help others, were admired and respected. We should learn to admire and respect ourselves.

And remember, only time will tell if that effort was really lost; after all we gave those people a might giant sized taste of what "could be". The rest is up to them.

WE SHALL NOT FORGET
Those Who Died - Nor Those Living in Bondage!



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PAYMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> \$100	<input type="checkbox"/> \$50	1st Class (sealed envelope) U.S.A., Can., Mex.
ENCLOSED	<input type="checkbox"/> \$66	<input type="checkbox"/> \$33	Overseas Surface
(U.S. funds only)	<input type="checkbox"/> \$140	<input type="checkbox"/> \$70	Overseas Air

Make check or money order payable to: **SOLDIER OF FORTUNE**

Save \$7 Per Year

P.O. Box 50
Englewood
Colorado 80151

"The Family Crest"

The mark of the Viet Nam Veteran. Designed by two ex-Marines, Viet Nam Vets, this full color emblem is for the Veteran, his family and for the families of those who lost a loved one. From its white cross representing the lives that were lost, to the red area below the helmet honoring those that were wounded and disabled, comes a strong yet dignified message, that whatever else was mishandled in our involvement in Southeast Asia, the soldier on the ground and in the air has nothing for which he should have to apologize. This emblem is already being displayed proudly by Veterans and their families all across the United States. "There was a time in our nation's history when people who had the courage of their convictions to the point they would risk self destruction to help another, were admired and respected. We should learn to admire and respect ourselves once again."

Send \$1.00 for each to:

Emblem
P.O. Box 435
Portage, MI 49081

Classified Advertising

Employment
Positions Wanted
Travel
Military
Sale

Post
Travel
Military
For Sale
Wanted to Buy
Books - Publications
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For Sale
Wanted to Buy
Books - Publications
Services
Personals

Readers of the "National Vietnam Veterans Review" classified ads are advised that NVVR does not have the capability to verify the validity of every advertisement contained in these listings.

SHOULD ANY READER EXPERIENCE A PROBLEM WITH PRODUCTS OR SERVICES OFFERED BY ANY ADVERTISER, THAT READER SHOULD SEEK ASSISTANCE FROM A US POSTAL SERVICE INSPECTOR, AND ALSO INFORM THIS PUBLICATION OF THE PROBLEM.

The Editor of the "National Vietnam Veterans Review" reserves the right to refuse advertising from businesses that in his opinion do not meet the standards of decorum for this publication or in his opinion would be offensive to the general readership.

Copy must be accompanied by cash, check or money order remittance. Insertion will not be made without payment. All ads must be received by the 23rd of the month preceding publication. Please type or print all ads. We do not furnish proofs on classified advertising. We will not accept liability for mistakes in spelling except in the case of address numbers, zip codes or phone numbers in which case the corrected ad will be run the following month at no cost to the advertiser.

Mail all classified ads to: NVVR Classified, P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, N.C. 28303.

Locator Ads:

Harry Thompson used to be at SF Camp Bong Song 1967. Please contact: Fred Longworth, P.O. Box 1291, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32415. I still have your crossbow! (Sample Ad)

Militaria:

For Sale:

Wanted to Buy:

By Special Request

Due to the many requests we have had for classified advertising, we will start a classified section with the November 1981 issue.

All classified ads for that issue must reach the publishing office no later than the 23rd of October.

\$10.00 Classified

This size ad, counting the zip code of 01930 and the address of 123 Main St., Mytown, USA is the size ad with the correct number of words that one can get for only ten dollars. Write care of A. Jones.

Employment:

Position Available for qualified RPN. Must have experience in operating and emergency room procedures. Willing to relocate. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to: P.O. Box 958, Anywhere, USA (Sample Ad)

Positions Wanted:

Vietnam veteran, well qualified, with 2 years experience as Radio Technician, seeks job in Denver area. Salary and benefit requirements negotiable. Willing to re-locate at own expense. Contact: J.R. Jones, P.O. Box 1422, Snake Navel, Utah 91141. (Sample Ad)

Travel:

Need someone to share travel expenses from Fayetteville, NC to Phoenix, AZ. Must have valid driver's license and enjoy traveling. Will be departing Fayetteville on 1 November and taking 2 weeks to complete trip. Write to P.O. Box 487, Yourtown, USA. (Sample Ad)

Services:

Personals:

On a hot summer afternoon, does the smell of a diesel going by do the same thing to you that it does to me?

All Vietnam veterans are invited to come to the Art Show in New York City, November 10th through December 2nd, 1981.

For an indepth account of Special Forces in Vietnam, read Jim Morris' War Story.

Sales Representative Wanted

If you would like to sell display space in the "National Vietnam Veterans Review" and have media sales experience write Chuck Allen P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, NC 28303

Classified Rates

Rate: \$10.00 for forty words or less, \$10.00 minimum, and 25¢ for each additional word. Post office box numbers and telephone numbers count as two words; abbreviations and zip codes count as one word.

Headlines: A bold headline, centered above classified ad, is available at a charge of \$2.00 per line, per insertion. A single headline may have up to 30 characters (including blank spaces, commas, etc.)

Discounts for multiple insertions:

10% discount for a six time insertion.
20% discount for a twelve time insertion.

Payment: Payment must accompany copy. Cash, check or money order is acceptable. Do not send stamps. Quarterly billing for pre-payment can be arranged for 6 and 12-time contracts. Payment for the first three months must accompany ad copy. Make check or money order payable to: "National Vietnam Veterans Review".

Books - Publications:

National Vietnam Veterans Review The nation's ONLY newspaper dedicated to the Vietnam-era veteran. From sea to shining sea. Monthly, mailed to your home or business. \$12.00 (12 issues). Associations or organizations write for Special Bulk Rate. Check or money order to: National Vietnam Veterans Review, P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303.

Vietnam War Newsletter. A comprehensive letter on the latest news, stories from readers, book reviews and a wealth of other information concerning the Vietnam War. As Tom says, "for Vietnam veterans and others interested in learning more about America's longest war and its aftermath. Subscriptions \$12.00 per year. Free copy of the Vietnam Booklist. Vietnam War Newsletter, P.O. Box 122, Collinsville, CT 06022.

Perimeter. A monthly newsletter that gives excellent account of relevant news, topical stories, historical vignettes from the war, editorial comment, features on Vietnam heroes, book reviews and other extremely interesting articles. Subscription \$8.00 per year. Perimeter, 430 Westbrook, Dayton, OH 45415.

Certain NVVR Classified Ads Are FREE

Vietnam veterans, seeking employment, if now unemployed, may place classified ad free in NVVR.

Give name, address, phone number, type of work desired, qualifications, and relocation desires.

Locator Ads: Those persons trying to locate former buddies or friends may place an ad free.

Non-profit organizations or associations may place free classified ads providing that ad concerns the submitting association or organization.

Governmental agencies dealing with Veterans Employment may place one free ad per publication.

Ads not recieved before monthly deadline will be held and run in the following month's publication.

No special graphics available on free ads.

We reserve the right to edit or refuse any ad.

NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS REVIEW

CLASSIFIEDS

Rate: \$10.00 for forty words or less, \$10.00 minimum, and 25¢ for each additional word. Post office box numbers and telephone numbers count as two words; abbreviations and zip codes count as one word.

Headlines: A bold headline, centered above classified ad, is available at a charge of \$2.00 per line, per insertion. A single headline may have up to 30 characters (including blank spaces, commas, etc.)

Discounts for multiple insertions:

10% discount for a six time insertion.
20% discount for a twelve time insertion.

Payment: Payment must accompany copy. Cash, check or money order is acceptable. Do not send stamps. Quarterly billing for pre-payment can be arranged for 6 and 12-time contracts. Payment for the first three months must accompany ad copy. Make check payable to: "National Vietnam Veterans Review".

- Classifieds should be submitted, typed or printed neatly, on a separate piece of paper.
- To figure the cost of your classified advertising, complete the following:

First forty words @ \$10.00	\$ 10.00
Additional words @ 25¢ each	\$
Headlines @ \$2.00 each (optional)	\$
Sub Total:	\$
Multiply by (number of insertions):	\$
Less % (appropriate discount):	\$

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED IN THE AMOUNT OF: \$

Deadline: Your classified ad copy must be received 8 days before the monthly publication date of the first of the month.

Mail to: National Vietnam Veterans Review, P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, NC 28303.

New York Vet Groups Blast VA Services

Continued from Page 21

converted into clinic areas. This has been occurring on a yearly basis. From a 1,000 bed facility, we have been reduced to a 650-750 bed capacity. As was predicted years ago, the Brooklyn VA Hospital is now resembling Kings County Hospital, with such a bulging clinic atmosphere.

9. The filling of prescriptions in the pharmacy has not been met. Patients often times have to come back the next day, to receive their medication which is needed to start therapy, or for continual medication needed.

10. Veteran organization representatives must serve on all vital committees, where medical and administrative policies are made, in order to have greater input regarding said changes. And whereby, veteran groups will be able to effectively monitor and investigate occurrences that are taking place.

11. It is strongly recommended that written complaints be acted upon, and that when such complaint is received, a written disposition of such action taken, be sent to the veteran organization issuing the written complaint. Most complaints to date have gone unanswered or has gone astray in file (9), the waste basket. This must stop.


12. We have been, and are convinced that the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Medicine have lost control and at the same time, have abrogated their authority to the downstate medical school service chiefs, leaving their comparable counterparts in the VA service without voice, causing bickering, confusion, demoralization and an unhealthy professional atmosphere. We are not against medical school affiliation, we are against medical school control, and cronyism.

These requests and/or demands are respectfully being submitted for your immediate action and correction. Subsequent to our meeting with you and depending on the action taken, this group will meet to determine to our satisfaction the action taken by you. This group is serious in its endeavor and will take whatever action is necessary to correct the concerns that we presently have on the problems of health care now being administered to our veterans who are ill and require more than they are now receiving.

Ed Note: The above letter was received from the Empire State Veterans Association concerning the activities of the Brooklyn Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Quite an impressive list of veterans organizations, that represents a lot of votes!

We are happy to see the unification of effort of these veterans groups because as we say there is "Strength in Unity."



VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

Win A New House and Car

The Vietnam Veterans Foundation, a non-profit organization chartered to assist socially, economically and/or culturally disadvantaged Vietnam era veterans re-integrate into the mainstream of our society, announced today that Mr. Gaines Johnson, homebuilder in Johnson City, Tennessee, has provided a new three bedroom, two and half bath, brick house to the Foundation for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the work of this highly visible organization. Mr. Tom Wincek, Chairman of the Foundation, commends Mr. Johnson for his very generous cooperation.

DONATIONS

Donations of \$100.00 or more will be acknowledged with a ticket for the drawing to take place on December 24, 1981, 2 pm at the Miracle Mall, Johnson City, Tennessee. Donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE and may be made by mail or to any member of your local JAYCEES, many of whom are Vietnam veterans, and are assisting in this very worthwhile project. Other ticket locations will be announced later.

THE HOUSE AND CAR

The house, located at #2 Enfield Court, Johnson City, Tennessee, is in an area of homes ranging in price from \$75 thousand to \$250 thousand. Situated on one-third acre, the living room window offers a beautiful view of the Tennessee mountains. In your new American made automobile you are only minutes from the best fresh water fishing to be found. Jonesboro, located only three miles away, is a must for visitors interested in Civil War history. You will be only five minutes from the East Tennessee State University campus.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Vietnam Veterans Foundation
P.O. Box 1544
Washington, DC 20013




THE ADVENTURE BOOK CLUB




THE TERRORISTS



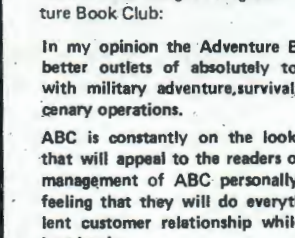
BETTER TIMES THAN THESE



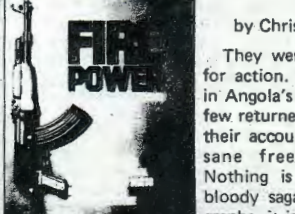
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THE SPYMASTERS OF ISRAEL



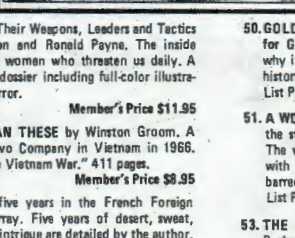
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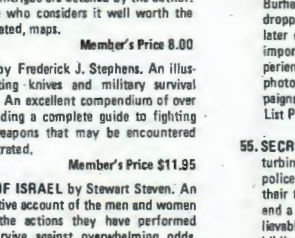
FIREPOWER



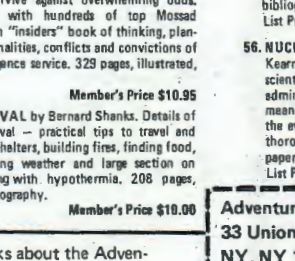
A WORLD OF HURT



THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE



SECRET POLICE



NUCLEAR WAR SURVIVAL SKILLS

FIREPOWER

by Chris Dempster/Dave Tomkins

They were mercs, bored and looking for action. They found all they needed in Angola's war in 1975. Many went, but few returned. Two who did have written their account of the FNLA and the insane freebooter "Colonel" Callan. Nothing is spared or left out of this bloody saga; complete with rare photographs, it is a modern mercenary classic. 491 pages, illustrated.

List Price \$13.95 Member's Price \$11.50

50. GOLD! GOLD! A Beginners Handbook: How to Prospect for Gold by Joseph Petralla. A guide to where gold is, why it is there and how to get it. Methods, suppliers and history. 112 pages, illust. appendices.

List Price \$10.95 Member's Price \$7.95

51. A WORLD OF HURT by Bo Hathaway. The author tells the story of his tour in Vietnam in the Special Forces. The world of the modern day guerilla war is juxtaposed with behind the lines sensual encounters. No holds barred. 318 pages.

List Price \$11.95 Member's Price \$9.95

53. THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE by Robert D. Barham. A fine history of an elite unit designed to be dropped over snowy areas of Europe for sabotage and later expanded to be a joint US-Canadian force of great importance. All material drawn from first-hand experience by the men who were there. Many maps, rare photographs and excellent accounts of all their campaigns. 376 pages, illust., maps.

List Price \$22.00 Member's Price \$17.95

55. SECRET POLICE by Thomas Plata and Andras Darvi. Disturbing, in-depth look at the activities of foreign secret police. Based on interviews of those who survived to tell their tale. Personalities of torturers, organization, policies and a glossary on torture techniques makes this an unbelievable (but we had better believe it!) book. 425 pages, bibliography, index.

List Price \$17.95 Member's Price \$14.95

56. NUCLEAR WAR SURVIVAL SKILLS by Cresson H. Kearney. This manual was designed and tested by scientists at Oak Ridge. Initially suppressed by the Carter administration, this valuable and important book is meant to help concerned families ensure their survival in the event of a nuclear war. All techniques and structures thoroughly tested. This book works! 232 pages, illust., paper.

List Price \$9.95 Member's Price \$7.95

Here is what Gung-Ho magazine thinks about the Adventure Book Club:

In my opinion the Adventure Book Club is one of the better outlets of absolutely top-notch books dealing with military adventure, survival, martial arts, and mercenary operations.

ABC is constantly on the look-out for current books that will appeal to the readers of Gung-Ho. I know the management of ABC personally and am secure in the feeling that they will do everything to insure an excellent customer relationship while making available the best books.

Jim Shults
Editor - Gung-Ho Magazine

Adventure Book Club
33 Union Square
NY, NY 10003

Please send the following:

Please include \$2.00 for postage & handling.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



329 EIGHTH STREET NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002

Until now, the only Vietnam veterans who got any respect were those who came home in a box.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA, is the only national organization working solely on the problems of Vietnam veterans.

Our goal is to change the attitude and actions of the American public and veterans themselves about those of us who served our country during the Vietnam war.

We're fighting to improve the lives of Vietnam veterans by pressing Congress, the White House, and the Veterans Administration for better employment, health care and educational opportunities and benefits.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. We're helping the survivors survive.

We're working with people in the media and the arts to help them understand and express the reality of the Vietnam experience.

We're working directly with other veterans to get them the help they need and deserve. And to help them cope with the past, the present, and the future.

Everything we do is based on one strong belief:

A veteran who survived the Vietnam War shouldn't be punished or ashamed because he served his country.

Moving Congress to help the Vietnam veteran.

The first step VVA took in dealing with Congress was to bring together 19 members of Congress who are Vietnam Era veterans.

With their help we drafted the Vietnam Veterans Act of 1979. A set of strong measures to give us the same kind of help Congress gave veterans after World War II.

The Act calls for:

—First-rate health care, including readjustment counseling and treatment for drug abuse and alcoholism—with the right for veterans to seek help outside the Veterans Administration.

—Extended education benefits under the G.I. Bill, with higher payments for veterans who live in states where public education is more expensive.

—A major program of financial incentives to employers to hire and train Vietnam veterans.

—Low-interest mortgage loans, available through the states, to give Vietnam veterans the same chance to own a home our fathers had after WWII. In pursuing this agenda, we've already won some important legislative victories in Congress. One gives tax credits to employers of disadvantaged Vietnam veterans.

Another law broke new ground in permitting psychiatric care outside the Veterans Administration. And we convinced Congress to designate Memorial Day, 1979 as the first day in Vietnam Veterans Week. This first official recognition of the contribution of Vietnam veterans helped us combat negative stereotypes. And helped us in important organizing activities at the grass roots level.

Working with the media and the arts: Helping to get it straight.

Only those who served in Vietnam know what it was like. Then and now.

But until recently, most of us were unwilling or unable to share our experiences or express our feelings.

At VVA, we're trying to break this silence. By encouraging the media to seek out veterans and to tell their story. And by encouraging veterans to express themselves through the arts.

With our help, major newspapers and magazines and the national television networks have done feature stories on Vietnam veterans and their condition.

Articles have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, New Jersey's Courier Post, Chicago Tribune, Charlotte Observer, and Time magazine—all within the last few months.

VVA spokesmen have appeared on the Today show, Good Morning, America, and all the network news programs.

Unlike previous wars, Vietnam as a theme for drama and movies has been conspicuously untouched by playwrights and producers.

VVA has actively promoted and produced greater expression by Vietnam veterans with writing, directing and acting skills.

We co-produced, with Joseph Papp, a series of plays about Vietnam entitled From "Hair" to "Dispatches." We helped present "Point of Origin," plays written and acted by Vietnam veterans.

The truth hurts.

Even if you're a Vietnam veteran, the truth about those who served during the war is disturbing: Our suicide rate is 25 percent higher than our non-veteran peers.

Our divorce rate is double. Our unemployment rate is twice as high. And one in four Vietnam veterans earns under \$7,000 a year.

Drug abuse and alcoholism are serious and widespread.

About 70,000 Vietnam veterans are in jail. Another 200,000+ are out on bail, parole, or probation.

A three-year study of combat veterans found that 40 percent of them were unemployed. And one out of three had "readjustment problems serious enough to impair their functioning."

An estimated 700,000 of us suffer from "delayed stress syndrome" which causes periodic depressions, insomnia, marital difficulties, and irrational rage—often directed toward our families and friends.

Untold thousands of us who served in combat were exposed to Agent Orange, a defoliant that is suspected of causing cancer and other disorders.

The Vietnam Veterans of America is gathering information about the condition of Vietnam veterans not to scare or depress people.

We want to inform the rest of America why the Vietnam veterans deserve special attention.

The VVA. We need veterans to help veterans.

If you're a Vietnam veteran, you probably know somebody who didn't come home right.

But the truth is a lot of veterans still aren't right. And they're not going to get the help they need and deserve until veterans join together and demand changes.

Right now, there's only one group in the country that's bringing Vietnam veterans together. And demanding changes.

The Vietnam Veterans of America.

You've read what we've already done without your help. And you know there's a lot more that needs to be done.

But the only way we're going to succeed is to grow into a strong, unified organization. With millions of people to back us up.

That won't happen overnight. But an important beginning is for you to become a member of VVA. Today. Our dues are only \$9.00 a year. That's less than 75 cents a month.

But we need more than your money.

We need your time, your commitment.

We intend to set up regional VVA offices in every corner of the country. To press local officials, local VA offices, local employment offices to help Vietnam veterans.

It's the only way to make sure we get what we deserve: Dignity, respect, and pride.

We survived Vietnam by helping each other.

Let's help each other again.

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"OUT WEST" veterans leadership conference california ★ chapter

ISSUE #1

NOVEMBER 1981

VOLUME #1

EDITORS NOTE : A Challenge to Our Readers

This is the California Chapter's first newsletter. We anticipate releasing a newsletter every six to eight weeks depending upon the response we receive from you, our readers! Our success is tied to your acceptance of the material we print, so we "Challenge" you to alert us to your likes and dislikes about it, make recommendations to improve it, and deliver us materials to print that you think will contribute to our success. We don't promise to adopt every suggest change, to incorporate every recommendation, or to print all materials you send. But, we do promise that all materials sent and suggestions made will be carefully evaluated and considered for use in subsequent newsletters. Those of you who respond to our challenge will definitely receive personal letters from us if we do not use your suggestions or materials.

Please direct your comments and/or materials to:

Editor, VLC
California Chapter
Box 924
Daly City, Ca. 94017

Officer's Corner

A question was directed to Officers' of the VLC, question being: How do you perceive your role to be within the VLC?

I perceive my role as Western Regional Director of the Veterans Leadership Conference as one of guidance, direction, and coordination among the Officers and their respective chapters throughout the Western United States. I also encourage individual and group innovation, creative thinking and planning for the purpose of forming and building a strong coalition. When necessary, act as a change agent to overcome and mediate individual and group differences which are bound to arise when diverse peoples and groups such as those which make up the VLC come together for the common good.

Frequently, to act as a catalyst, to predicate desired activities and actions which would promote the VLC and the membership and take up those issues of concern and provide broadly based statements of concern, suggestions, and ideas which could lead to positive resolution. Finally, to provide the leadership necessary to accomplish local, state, and national goals and to assist those in need as I am able. Peter S. Tiffany, Western Regional Director

In a new organization such as the VLC, one in the throes of growth, there is sometimes a tendency for the members, and particularly the leadership to rush off in all directions trying to be all things to everybody and eventually burning themselves out. This results in nothing getting done. Everybody becomes angry at the other person, saying "Oh, I though that (s)he was going to do it."

Since I have seen the results of the above mentioned behavioral tendencies, and wishing to avoid it, I believe in moving slowly, and establishing a plan of attack as I proceed.

(Con't from 1st page)

Therefore, I have begun by talking to individuals whom I know are involved already in veterans activities or who are active in their communities regarding other issues. I then point out how the VLC is a broadly based organization that has similar interests as they have, but that which extends into other areas. After talking about this briefly, I provide them with information and an application blank. They are told to read the handout and then call me if they want more information prior to sending in the application. This seems to work, and at the same time to be low key. Only time will tell how much effect it will have. It seems to work for me. Juan Alcedo, Ph.D., Deputy Regional Director and the Hispanic Coordinator.

Hello. My Name is George J. Hipona and I am the Information Officer for the Western Region. Basically my duties and responsibilities entail the compilation and distribution of subject matter (i.e., newspaper articles, editorials, legislative up-date, government and non-government reports, etc.) to the various Officers of the Western Region. To date, my contacts have been to Officers in Oregon, South Dakota, Nevada, Northern and Southern California, South Carolina and Illinois.

The purpose behind all of this is to establish and maintain a communication network. We exchange ideas, positions, strategy, etc. on the stated goals and objectives of the VLC. For instance, this past July 4th weekend, the City of San Mateo welcomed home the Vietnam Veteran, particularly components of the 101st Airborne Division, Screaming Eagles, which I am proud to say was my division while I was in Vietnam.

In attendance during that weekend was our Chairperson, Joan Maiman, Chicago, and numerous Officers of the VLC. Some coming as far away as Missouri, South Dakota, Oregon, Nevada, and other parts of the Region.

Our people are beginning to bridge the emotional and communication gap that has separated the Vietnam Veteran all these years. Both male and female Veterans and non-Veterans alike are beginning to be more aware of the common bond that unites all of us-that people and resources are necessary for desired change. George J. Hipona, Information Officer.

My name is Bennie Howard. I have recently been appointed California State Deputy Director of the VLC. California does not have a State Director at this time. But, we expect to appoint one soon. I view my job as providing the state with leadership and guidance until a State Director is appointed.

The chain-of-command operates as follows: The National Chairperson, Ms. Joan Maiman, headquarters in Chicago, Ill. She passes general information and/or instructions down to the Western Regional Director who is Peter S. Tiffany in Concord, Ca. Pete then passes the information down to the Chapter Directors of the Western States.

Here in California, the information will come to me. My intentions are to act on the information as soon as possible and pass it on to you through our bi-monthly meetings or our newsletters. Should you have other questions feel free to call or write to me at BOX 924, Daly City, Ca. 94017, (415)556-8685.

Hope to see you all at our next meeting. Bennie Howard, California State Deputy Director.

Calendar of Events

On November 11, 1981 VLC and KQED (FM and TV) will participate in a joint-project on Vietnam Veterans. The first part of the project will be centered around KQED FM station hosted by Chuck Finney. Pete Tiffany and Juan Alcedo will be interviewed over the radio with two other personnel, Dr. Alan Miller, UC Berkeley Environmental Health Scientist and Rose Sandeki, Contra Costa County Veterans Outreach Center Director.

The talk show will start at 6:30PM and end at 8:00PM. The purpose of the talk show is two-fold: (a) the participants will act as information and referral for Vietnam Veterans and their families in the areas of Agent Orange, Delayed Stress, employment, counseling, etc., and (b) the radio show participants will discuss the documentary films that will be shown that night at

PAGE THREE

(Con't from 2nd page)

9:00PM to 11:00PM. The 1st film will centered on a Vietnam Veteran, the title is "Frank;" the second one will centered on wives of Vietnam Veterans, title is "Warrior's Wives."

The following personnel have agreed to help with the phone bank: Juan Alcedo, Cindy Bailey, George Hipona, Bennie Howard, John Olson, Pete Tiffany, Effie Thomas. At this point in time, we are asking other people to help us, if you want to help, give us a call.

December 5, 1981

The next meeting will be held on Saturday, December 5, 1981, at the Deputy Director's residence. His address is 545 Brosnan Court, Apartment #3, Daly City, Ca. The meeting will begin at 10:00AM sharp! We are asking that all officers attend. Coffee, hot chocolate, tea, and donuts will be served. We also encourage the other officers to bring a little something. See attached sheet for directions.

Purpose

The Conference is a coalition of over 20 national and local groups which was formed in Chicago in March 1980. The aim of the VLC is to reduce fragmentation among veterans groups and to incorporate a more broad base of support. In line with this philosophy the members of the coalition include groups not traditionally thought of as within the veterans sphere such as civil rights and religious groups.

The Conference has been active in many phases of community action to include but not limited to: ascertaining the position of the major candidates on veterans issues during the recent presidential election. In conjunction with Project Bit Vote an independent action, the conference registered 10,000 voters prior to the last national election. This voter registration and education is carried on a continual basis in line with our theory that every citizen must participate fully in the democratic process.

The VLC has worked with the native American population to alert them to some of the issues and problems facing those who served in Vietnam. VLC has liaison officers to the handicapped, Black, Hispanic and Asian-American communities.

Members of the VLC testified at hearings regarding reparations for Japanese-Americans who were interred in the camps during the second world war. In several states members of the VLC serve on advisory committees for the legislature and have presented testimony regarding bills for veterans and those who served in Vietnam.

Members of the VLC have been active at ceremonies for those who were in Vietnam especially in Chicago and California.

The legal board has established a legal clinic to assist veterans with matters such as discharge upgrade. The Director of the medical board has had research on Agent Orange published nationally. Print articles by and about members of the VLC have appeared throughout the country and media outreach has included the minority community.

In summary, the VLC has sought the involvement of the community and the veterans to address many of the lingering problems of the Vietnam experience while at the same time recognizing that the Vietnam veteran exists as a part of a larger society and has a positive contribution to make to that community.

PAGE FOUR

Officer's Meeting
G.J. Hipona

On October 3, 1981 Officers of the Veterans Leadership Conference met at Juan Alcedo's home in Mill Valley to discuss the organization in relation to the Western Region. There was no set agenda or structure to the meeting.

The meeting was more for the purpose of "soul searching and guidance" within ourselves. As with any new and young organization, there are many basic and concrete items to be worked out, though about and acted on. The meeting was useful for we "talked" about our NAM experience and it was good. It was good because the common bond of Vietnam was not common but different. All of us were in Vietnam in different years but our experiences were totally different. Each one of us listened, no answers were provided because there were no answers intended. There was a sharing of an experience which took place some years ago.

For me, it was fifteen (15) years ago. For me, it was a relief, a big relief. This relief started when I entered OCR almost three (3) years ago. It was not OCR that helped me but the veteran friendships which I have developed and come to respect. So being an officer and member of the VLC has helped me accept the facts that (1) I am a Vietnam Veteran and (2) I ain't got no apology to make because I am proud. From time to time, I will jot down my feelings, wishes and sometimes confusing thoughts. I somehow got off the tract or as we say in OCR-the issue-the issue being this newsletter.

Back to the issue of the Officers and the meeting. All of us did away with our defenses and were mentally naked before ourselves. That went along for the better part of the morning session.

The afternoon session was comprised of setting realistic objectives and goals for the Region. One of the concrete goals and objectives is the design, implementation and distribution of a newsletter. This newsletter will be used as a vehicle to transmit the latest news and information to our members and officers within the Western Region and also to the other states where various chapters are now serving its membership.

The second objective was to set up regular meeting every 6 to 7 weeks with a set agenda for the Officers. Any member is welcome to attend these meetings. Nothing is secret about our meetings, it is all up front and to the bare bones.

The third objective was more abstract. It was for us to consciously think and feel that we have a strong and viable group. We have a strong group for it represents many minority and non-minority peoples, it represents veterans of all wars and non-veterans alike, it represents wives and family members of veterans who are still back in NAM, it represents the newest minority of the Vietnam War-Women Vietnam Veterans, it is us the people regardless of what color we are or background. We are the unity and the driving force behind change-for change comes from within ourselves, the by-products of change represents our energies and working together.

The VLC has influenced change at all levels of government-including the White House. So it does work and it will always work as long as ordinary people get involved and work together.

PAGE FIVE

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Mayrall.

you may find material on page
30 re nuclear + A.O. of interest

Jon



The Vietnam Veterans Chapel

Centerfold

Controversy Over Vietnam Veterans Memorial

See Page 5



National Vietnam Veterans Review

"Strength in Unity"

Vol. 1, No. 4 "Serving All Vietnam-Era Veterans, From Sea to Shining Sea!" November, 1981

Big Apple Hosts Art Exhibit

'The Vietnam Experience Art Exhibit'

'The Vietnam Experience Art Exhibit,' a sequel to the show held last November in St. Paul, Minnesota, will open at The Arsenal Gallery Annex, 830 Fifth Avenue at 64th Street in Central Park, New York City, on Tuesday, November 10th. The exhibit, which will be open to the public from Thursday, November 12th through Wednesday, December 2nd, will be comprised of 120 paintings, sculptures, drawings and photographs focusing on the Vietnam experience. The vast majority of the works are by Vietnam veterans.

"Artists who were in Vietnam have a unique insight," notes Richard Strandberg, who organized the St. Paul show with the Vietnam Veterans Foundation. "We see that experience in terms of the individual human beings. We're also able to see it in terms of life as well as death. Together, through our art, we can provide a perspective of that time

and place that most Americans don't have. We can create a starting point for discussion, for the emotions, for the imagination."

"Perhaps no period in our history save the Civil War was so controversial and divisive as the years of the Vietnam era," says Paul H. Elicker, Chairman of SCM Corporation, which is underwriting the exhibit. "Yet no matter what our feelings may be about America's involvement in Vietnam, this exhibit reaches out and touches something within us. And isn't this what art is all about?"

'The Vietnam Experience Art Exhibit' is being presented in cooperation with the New York City Department of Parks and Recreation and the Organization of Independent Artists. Additional funding has been provided by the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs and Valley Filmworks.

See Page 27

Federal Employee of the Year



San Francisco - Vincent Rios, a recipient of two Bronze Star awards for heroic achievement as a Marine in Vietnam, has been named "Federal Employee of the Year" at an award ceremony held by the San Francisco Bay Area Federal Executive Board.

Rios, a South San Francisco resident, was cited for his activities as a civil rights technical assistant specialist with the Department of Health and Human Services, and also for his work with organizations and physically and emotionally disadvantaged individuals.

Update on VA Med Care Eligibility

Nimmo Clarifies.....

In contrast to the article that appeared in this paper's last edition, Veterans Administration Head Robert Nimmo disclosed recently that there is no planned denial of medical care to eligible veterans based upon any income level.

According to Nimmo, an **unauthorized announcement** referred to a VA study which attempts to find an equitable means of complying with a Congressional mandate to insure that veterans with non-service related conditions are not given full medical care unless they are clearly unable to pay for such care themselves.

"Thus far," Nimmo said, "no final income limitations have been determined, no final guidelines established, and no final decisions reached."

"It is clear," Nimmo concluded, "that under today's budget constraints and the soaring costs of medical care, the VA cannot continue to provide full medical care to all veterans, regardless of eligibility. Whatever steps we ultimately take to contain costs will be carefully designed to insure that no veteran with a service-related condition nor any veteran in dire financial straits will be denied quality health care by the VA."

See Poverty Oath, Page 15

VETERANS DAY



Jungle Boot - Vietnam

"This photo is symbolic of Vietnam and the struggle of we Americans who bravely filled these boots under much pressure then and now."

See: Boots, Jungle/O.D. Two each. Page 4.

Ben Ellis
Liberty, Texas

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Opinions

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Is Unity Possible?

I've been wondering of late if real unity among Vietnam veterans is possible.

Vietnam veterans represent a very large, divergent population. Besides being Vietnam veterans they are family men and women, husbands and wives, taxpayers and citizens, white and blue collar workers, ditch diggers or government employees.

They've got a helluva lot to worry about, paying bills, rearing children...then some veterans group comes along saying give us 10 bucks and join up. We represent all Vietnam vets. Here's our Agent Orange update sheet.

This particular vet doesn't suffer AO effects and, though a vet, isn't too thrilled by all the ruckus and brouhaha being raised about it. He feels he's being single-issued to death by people who claim to represent him whom he doesn't know.

He feels that maybe Vietnam vets are hurting themselves by stressing single issues...reinforcing cynicism and disinterest in fellow vets and the public at large.

You know, the old "Hey, pal, I've got my problems too."

These groups talk unity but don't practice unifying efforts. He's read about other vet groups; Black vets, Hispanic vets, Jewish vets. Fine. He asks himself, though, is real unity possible?

How can this thoroughly fractionalized group ever become unified?

Before any group can unify anybody, they've got to gain and maintain their attention.

Why don't Vietnam vets pay attention?

Number One: Apathy. They don't give a damn. Why? Because the situation demands their time and effort.

Number Two: Many vets are simply not joiners. Or, the group doesn't represent their special interest, whatever it may be.

Number Three, etc....Costs money to join up. Doesn't want to get involved, even in his own self-interest.

So, while groups seek members, vets don't join for any number of reasons.

If we veterans can't get our own stuff together, who can blame society for not paying us the attention we think we deserve?

This other vet feels that, hey, nobody sympathizes with my tough times. I've seen some, been through some shit, and dealt with them. Now I'm raising a family. He feels that maybe some group ought to give HIM 10 bucks. Who are they anyway?

He sees a TV show; a group of vets rapping away. Some look a tad seedy. Some are VVAW types. Some spout political views with which he strongly disagrees. Did they pay their 10 bucks to join up?

He feels they give Vietnam vets a bad name, reinforcing old negative stereotypes. He doesn't want to be identified with them.

Can Vietnam vets be unified?

At what point does Unity begin? With each individual initially...then with persons with whom is shared a common experience. If that experience is war, the bond is often strong, cemented and lasting. I believe it is very important that we identify with at least a small group of friends or fellow vets. That camaraderie is beneficial in many ways. Whether true unity will ever be realized at the national level for Vietnam veterans, I don't know. I've got my doubts.

I think perhaps we should unify at a level over and above that of Vietnam veterans, at the level of being Americans, unified behind our flag and all for which it stands.

John B. Dwyer
Editor/Publisher
"Perimeter"

Veterans Day: Thoughts from an Earlier Time

Pat Burnett remembers when the 11th of November, Armistice Day, later Veterans Day, was celebrated in a big way. She lived on the south side of Chicago and remembers that there were "parades with lots of American flags and marchers and bands. We all got into the act." The last big celebration on this scale was in about 1939 or 40.

According to Burnett, during WW II everyone was involved in the war effort. "You even took the babies out to collect scraps of tin foil. I still have my ration cards and I was and am proud of them. We were all doing our part, it was noble and we were part of something much bigger than ourselves."

One of the reasons for this spirit, Burnett believes, was that the threat to America was real. "Anyone in uniform was a hero and could get free drinks and meals anywhere. Sometimes the local gas station would let the military home on leave have what gas was available and no one complained."

In the post war period beginning in 1948 Burnett says the size and spirit of the parades really decreased. "I guess the parents of this era, who had grown up in the depression, wanted their children to have everything. There was a feeling that the good life was available for all and war was not a part of the American dream."

The remembrance of the honor and pride of war was being replaced with the idea that war was a thing of the past, Burnett believes.

The common attitude towards Korea was that if we ignored it it would go away. Korea and Vietnam were never declared wars rather they were police actions or peace keeping missions. Burnett states "try telling the mother of a boy who died in Korea or Vietnam that her son did not die in a war, he is just dead."

Looking back Burnett states that the tragedy of any war is that it takes the cream of the crop and cuts off their lives before they really begin to live. It is one thing if the nation and the soldiers know why they are asked to fight, it is quite another if there is confusion as happened with Vietnam and Burnett thinks this is one of the reasons that the Vietnam vets so often received a poor welcome.

"The ambiguity of the nation was taken out on those who were asked to serve."

Burnett concludes that the spirit of Veterans Day as she used to know it, a time to honor the living and dead who had served the nation in time of war and to celebrate and take pride in being an American, is gone.

"This is just another holiday and to many people it has no meaning. But for those of us who remember another time, it is sad. It is really sad because we have forgotten those who paid such a terrible price for our freedom."

by Joan Malmgren



At Home.... Faces Have Changed.

In today's world when an individual's identity is important; it is even more important that the veteran be understood for his identity crisis.

The veterans suffer from a feeling which doesn't let him belong to his past and at the same time he recognizes that he is different from his civilian counter-part who never was subjected to military training. Friends, family members, and most importantly employers must recognize this problem and be aware of the veterans attempts to re-adjust.

The identity crisis can manifest itself in several ways, but mostly those manifestations are misunderstood by the civilians who come into contact with the vet.

The maladjusted veterans are prone to keep "living" their past over-and-over. These vets are trying desperately to find something in their past life that will make the present easier.

These men find a secret identity in the role of veteran. They quite often continue to live the rigid, structured, stiff-necked roles of the military; instead of growing into the civilian life they now are thrust into.

This behavior is very apparent to everyone except the vet himself.

To the vet he is acting perfectly normal; while others may find it impossible to understand him, and they either put up with him or ignore him. Too often this kind of treatment causes the veteran to try and impress others with his war record; whether he has one or not. He is disappointed more often than not to find that most people are not interested in military stories; and they could care less about his past experiences. The military is not a popular subject except in circles where there are other military experienced people, this has been the reason and the function of the veterans organizations.

The civilian world frustrates the veteran.

To the vet the civilian world is rather dull compared to his past-life of action. This feeling makes the military experience "super" important. It sometimes gives it a glamour and glow that did not exist while the vet was a service-member. The vet could have hated the military; and the next breath after he gets out may be to tell someone how good it was to him.

The military then stands-out above the drudgery of the 9 to 5 civilian routine and the vet develops little tolerance for its unstruct-

ured and seemingly disorganized state. The vet sees the world around him as inefficient and with no one in charge; and with no command structure.

The civilian world seems to stand on its head at times and to stall all actions for the vet. The veteran is then caught in a situation where his need can not be met by the civilian world; and he can not meet the civilian needs. It is Catch-22. This situation must change.

There is only so much "living" in the past that can be tolerated, or be healthy to the individual veteran. Eventually, the vet must come to realize that he plays several roles in society; he may be the vet one minute and something else the next. He must learn these distinctions and come to some understanding of his new found function in society.

Everyone learns to play different roles in society. To the veteran this is confusing and often impossible to understand. The vet must actively and consciously overcome his "handicap" if he is to become a functioning member of the civilian world.

This is a "handicap" because it gives those who do not experience these problems the advantage in jobs, relationships, and in mental peace of mind.

When the veteran comes home he often finds that it doesn't hold the mental security it once did.

The veteran must not only come home physically but he must make the mental trip as well. This journey is often-times a very rough and rocky road.

At home faces have changed.

The returning vet will find himself in limbo since the world has moved on while he was in service. Old buildings will have been torn down, parking lots and condominiums will have risen on vacant lots, and his world of yesterday will have completely changed. His old haunts are abandoned, and a new generation has taken over where he left-off. He has found that friends and companions have their own lives and the feeling of comradeship experienced in the service is glaringly apparent by its absence. There is nothing to identify with. The vet must begin a new life, taking a little of the old and a little of the new, and combining it to form a livable and healthy lifestyle.

It is a good friend, family member or employer who will recognize this dilemma in the veteran and strive to help him adjust. It is a smart veteran who recognizes it in himself and has the courage and humility to ask for help.

by Frank R. Price

VETERAN'S DAY

Dear Chuck:

Had to get this out to you before your next paper and I hope you will use it. We were talking about it down at the shop a few days ago when I was showing your paper around to some of the guys. The subject of Veterans Day came up and everyone is sorta of the same feeling -- BIG DEAL.

If Veterans Day is OUR DAY why is it we have to work? Why hasn't a law ever been enacted to give us this day off. That's part of Veterans Rights isn't it? There are more people working for the government, schools, banks, post office, etc. that are not veterans and they are given the days off with pay. That pay they get for Veterans Day comes out of my check in the form of taxes, as well as the millions of other vets that work in the private sector. Its about time the veterans groups start asking for OUR DAY also

when they're talking about rights. Forget about Memorial Day, which everyone has off, because that is the day all Americans have off to honor the one's that died for our country. If Nov. 11, 1981 is OUR DAY then the ones of us that lived should also be honored.

I always think about the thousands of persons working for the System that get the day off with pay and they are not even American citizens. They never intend to become part of this country either and the first time they are called upon to serve this country they'll head back to where they came from. My taxes, your taxes, millions of other veterans taxes pay these people for the day off. "OUR DAY"

Thanks for your time,
Howell "Mark" Young
"Finders"

NATIONAL Vietnam Veterans Review

P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303

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The National Vietnam Veterans Review is an independent newspaper, not the official publication of any particular veterans' group or organization. This newspaper is dedicated to serving all Vietnam-Era veterans and groups and as such each and every group or organization may utilize, as they see fit, this paper as their own publication. "Strength in Unity."

Late News on Project Freedom

A precedent was set recently by the establishment of what has become known as the "Salisbury Agreement," which is a pact between several national POW/MIA groups to work in full cooperation. They include: Project Freedom, National League of Families, Red Ribbon Campaign, POW-MIA Foundation, Remember the Flying Pueblo Committee and National Human Rights Committee for POW/MIAs.

10th Anniversary

Congratulations to: Seattle Veterans Action Center who celebrated their 10th Anniversary on 16 October 1981.

For you, and for your country.

Take stock in America.



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Let's Hear From You!

Vets all across the U.S. we are requesting you to send us info that is locally published so we may republish and disseminate that info.

We would also like you to send us your stories for possible publication. We are looking for positive information!

Send to: Editor

National Vietnam Veterans Review

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National Vietnam Veterans Review

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Nuoc Mam *

* Nuoc Mam is a sauce derived from spoiled and decaying fish. That sauce was used throughout Vietnam on most food dishes. To the American, Nuoc Mam was referred to as a Rotten, Stinking Mess. Vietnam!

By Steve Hanshew



Editorial

I wish it were possible, somehow to share with our readership, some of the hundreds of letters that have been pouring in to our editorial office. None of which, so far, critical, but all complimentary; praising the efforts and impact of the "National Vietnam Veterans Review". Those letters come from persons in high governmental positions down to even more important people, the individual VETERAN.

I think the most common opinion expressed is that the NVVR is necessary and accepted. Secondly, that the paper is providing something that has been lacking for a long, long time. The Vietnam veteran now has his own newspaper!

Years back, when I was a sporting goods salesman, we all looked upon the 'Sports Merchandise' as our paper to associate with, to gain knowledge from, and to voice our opinions through. It now seems that the NVVR is starting to attain that position, for much of the correspondence reflects a common phrase, "...our veterans paper".

As the NVVR grows and assumes that position of being the "Voice" of the Vietnam-era veteran, just think of the 'clout', we collectively will have in expressing our concerns and desires. That 'clout' is exactly what it takes to get attention and to get issues acted upon!

I would like to thank the Veterans of Foreign Wars for the support they have rendered in the dissemination of news items, and hereby offer all other veteran groups the opportunity to pass news on to others beyond their immediate membership.

I firmly believe that there is 'Strength in Unity'!

I firmly believe it is starting to work!

I firmly believe the National Vietnam Veterans Review will be very instrumental in attaining that strength or 'clout' that will result in unity of effort!

Chuck Allen



BOOTS JUNGLE, O.D. TWO EACH

They tell you to get a haircut, trim your mustache, give you a few medals, and read a perfunctory thank-you letter. Forty hours later you get your shower, ETS pay, steak dinner and a fresh set of dress greens. "Thank you. Good bye. We're proud of you."

Then what? Maybe you take your boots home with you. More than anything else, they tell your story—where you've been, what you've seen, how much there is to forget.

Before you left your buddies asked, "How you gonna act?" Maybe you get a job, go to school, drink or smoke too much, or just leave your room. Everything's normal again. Right? You're back in the world. A lot of people think you were a fool, some want to buy you a beer, but most of all, they're uneasy around you.

For a year you don't say anything. But every time you open your closet, your boots are staring at you and asking, "How you gonna act?" You're alone. Oh, you're back on the job, or in school, you've got friends, you are making money, but you're alone. The newsmen, the politicians, the kids with all the answers—they don't know. They weren't there. Well, at least your country is proud of you. You've got this mimeographed letter that says so.

Then you hear that some guys are going down to Washington. Not students or carry-overs from the civil rights day, but guys like you. You wonder what the angle is. There isn't any. Just a lot of guys who are alone, going to school, working, drinking or smoking too much, or locked into their wheelchairs.

A year ago you put the boots, jungle fatigues, and boony hat away. Since then you've been a stranger, a part of nothing. Now, once again, you get your gear together. You put those boots on. They're part of you. They are what you've become...

You're home now, and Washington was a long time ago. A thing most Americans want to forget. For awhile, you were part of something. You were with the people who knew. But what good was it? The 101st is back in the A Shau and guys are still coming home in rubber bags. You're a young man but, for a moment, you thought this was your last hurrah.

Then you think of the guys. The ones with wheelchairs and steel arms; the ones with purple hearts, bronze and silver stars, the guys who "hacked" it. Their hair is longer, some have beards, but it won't hide who they are. No, this one time, America, you can't write them off because of long hair and beards. You've known these guys for a lifetime. You clenched a fist in the history of that year and the time after "Thank you, good-bye, we're proud of you" was said. It's time you listened America! There are thousands of us walking and hobbling around. You can't avoid us because we're no longer faceless—we're different. You see, we're got those boots in our closets: ■



Source: VVAW



Pecking Away at Uncle's Money

Sen. William Proxmire, D-Wis., accused the National Science Foundation of wasting \$144,000 of the taxpayers' money by using pigeons to test human economic behavior.

"The researchers coo while the taxpayers get billed," said Proxmire.

Proxmire awarded the NSF his "Golden Fleece" for October, a monthly prize he presents for "the biggest, most ironic or most ridiculous example of waste."

He noted that under one federally funded experiment, scientists examined how pigeons behaved when they were given a choice of pecking more times for the same amount of food or fewer times for less food.

The pigeons chose less food, demonstrating the same behavior as humans who buy less when costs rise.

"The problem is that these relationships have been tested and retested thousands of times in human economics," Proxmire said.

Proxmire himself was accused last month of wasting taxpayers' money by carrying on a fruitless 16-hour overnight filibuster against raising the national debt above \$1 trillion. It cost an estimated \$64,000 to print the Congressional Record and keep various federal employees on the job all night long.

Veteran's Day



Controversy Over Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Viet War Memorial Brings Protests

They say it is what they remember when they think of Vietnam - a rifle standing muzzle down in the mud, the generations-old symbol of a fallen infantryman.

They want to see that symbol towering over Arlington National Cemetery, three stories high, the black plastic of the M-16s they carried to a faraway war transmuted to black marble, shot with veins of red, in a massive aluminum casting, all supported by a column of steel barrel.

The Vietnam War, the most divisive conflict in modern American history, cannot even be memorialized without drawing a protest.

A group of Vietnam veterans, outraged at plans to build what they consider an inappropriate or insulting memorial in Washington, want to replace or upstage it with one of their own design, based on the rifle-in-the-earth sign of a dead soldier.

"This is what we saw with tears in our eyes after a fight, rows of M-16s stuck in the ground by their bayonets," said Steve Androff, vice president of the United Veterans Coalition.

Funds are now being raised for a \$7 million Vietnam War Memorial to be built near the Lincoln Memorial. The group behind the drive was headed by a Vietnam combat veteran, Jann Scruggs.

The design, chosen from more than 1,400, was submitted by Maya Ying Lin, a 21-year-old Yale architecture student. Two 200-foot-long polished black granite walls would be sunk below ground level, meeting in an inverted 'V,' bearing the names of all 57,000 servicemen killed in the war.



Maya Ying Lin — Architect. A 21-year-old Yale graduate, whose design for a Vietnam War Memorial was chosen over more than 1400 others.

"We think we know better than a bunch of strangers what should stand in Washington to remember our brothers by," Androff said.

"Look at who's raising funds for this - Bob Hope, Gen. Westmoreland, all those people who kept the war rolling and our blood flowing."

Androff said his group is preparing to launch a national campaign to have their idea for a monument replace the controversial design approved in Washington.

"We have 3,600 members," he said, "and I'm sure many more veterans would join us in this."

"We also have some support from Vietnam veterans in Congress, who agree with us that a black marble slab isn't much of a monument."

Androff, a commercial artist who served in the 1st Infantry Division, has drawn up plans for the enormous rifle monument, and would like it to be built entirely by Vietnam veterans and placed in Arlington "with the Marine memorial to Iwo Jima, the tombs of the unknown soldiers - something we can look up to instead of down into the earth."

"There are great artists, architects, engineers, craftsmen, all who served in Vietnam," he said. "We'd need welders, stonecutters, machinists, and from the reaction I've gotten from other veterans, I don't think I'll have trouble finding them."

He estimates the monumental rifle would cost \$3 million, and concedes there is no money available to build it now.

"But our lawyers are drawing up papers to apply for non-profit status so we can accept donations, and I'm preparing a poster that

will show what the memorial will look like to raise funds for it."

There have been several protests against the current design plans, including complaints that its shape echoes the v-fingered peace sign, symbolic of many who refused to fight in the war while others served.

Another Vietnam veteran, twice-wounded West Point grad Tom Carhart, appealed to the Capital Fine Arts Commission recently to re-open the design competition, saying black was "the color of dishonor" and the monument is "a black grave in the earth."

"This monument has become symbolic of the Vietnam War, and like the war it's getting people bitterly divided," said Forrest Lindley, a correspondent for Stars and Stripes who was a captain in the Green Berets.

"The sad thing is that the monument is becoming a symbol for the frustration and bitterness and anger of Vietnam veterans."

"Everybody sees in Vietnam what they want to see, and there isn't to be any one design that all Vietnam veterans will agree sums up their feelings and honors those who served and those who died."

"The monument, any monument, is not going to solve the problems of the Vietnam veterans, no matter what the design. It won't touch substantive issues, like Agent Orange."

"If this controversy grows, instead of healing the wounds Vietnam left, which was the idea behind it, the Memorial may just make them worse." ■

Source: The Elkhart Truth, October, 1981

Vet Protests Memorial Design in Vain

by Laurie Parker, Army Times, Oct. 1981

WASHINGTON - A Vietnam veteran has protested the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, calling it, "a black gash of shame and sorrow." However, the protest failed to sway the federal panel that had approved the design.

Thomas Carhart, a 1966 West Point graduate who served with the 101st Abn Div in Vietnam, told members of the U.S. Fine Arts Commission here that the stark design selected for the memorial was "the wrong memorial, chosen by the wrong jury, for the wrong reasons, for the wrong war."

"It's a memorial to Jane Fonda, not to those of us who served in Vietnam," he told *Army Times*.

An official with the commission said later that the panel would not reevaluate the memorial's design because it had no authority to do so and because members considered the design to be "a suitable, dignified and understated type of memorial."

The design selected for the memorial consists of two long black granite walls that meet to shape an open "V." The back side of the memorial will be level with the ground, while the front side will slope down gradually to a depth of 10 feet where the walls meet.

The names of the 57,692 American men and women killed in the war will be engraved on the walls in the chronological order of their deaths. Other than those names, the monument will have no reference to the war.

It will be constructed on the Mall in Washington, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Carhart told the arts commission that Vietnam had been two wars - the military one fought in the rice paddies and jungles of Southeast Asia, and the political one fought at home in America.

The jury that selected Lin's design was made up of professional artists with no Vietnam or other military experience, Carhart said.

"Can there be any doubt that the jury chose a design that reflects only their interpretation of the war they saw here at home?" he asked the commission.

The design may be the artist's perception of how the political war should be remembered, Carhart told *Army Times*, but the memorial was supposed to remember the military war.

"Are we to honor our dead and sacrifices to American with a black hole?" he asked.

"One needs no artistic education to see this design for what it is, a black trench that scars the Mall," he said. "Black walls, the universal color of shame and sorrow and degradation. Hidden in a hole in the ground, with no means of access for those Vietnam veterans who are condemned to spend the rest of their days in a wheelchair."

Jan Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the group behind the push for a Vietnam memorial, had been asked about accessibility to the memorial for wheelchair-bound visitors shortly after the design was chosen.

"I hadn't even thought of that," he told *Army Times* at the time the design was announced. Then he recalled that Max Clelland, while heading the Veterans Administration, had been over the site and had had difficulty manipulating his wheelchair on the grass.

But putting a cement walkway in to make

Marine Corps League...Withdraws Support of Vietnam Veterans Memorial

Arlington, VA., The National Legislative Committee has gone on record as supporting the concept of a suitable Vietnam Veterans Memorial, including the federal grant of property in the nation's capital. Following the Congressional approval of the land grant a design competition was held and the final selection of the memorial design has been approved by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. The Legislative Committee adopted the following as a unanimous statement of

position regarding the memorial. "The design that has been selected is inappropriate. It represents an insult to those it is intended to memorialize. The Vietnam veterans deserve better. The Marine Corps League hereby withdraws its support of the memorial in the design that is now proposed." (The National Commandant was advised of the decision of the National Legislative Committee and telephonically voiced his support of the decision.)

Vietnam Film Showing Chicago Film Makers to Present Film Series on Vietnam

The Chicago Filmmakers will sponsor a series of films dealing with Vietnam and its aftermath. The series will be presented on Saturday nights and began on 10 October and will run until 7 November with a special showing on 11 November, Veterans Day.

The topics covered range from the historical viewpoint of the war, the topic of Agent Orange, and the continuing problems facing some of those who served in Vietnam such as post traumatic stress.

Members of the Chicago-based Veterans Leadership Conference and other interested

veterans have been invited by the group to participate in discussions to follow the presentations. Willie Collins of the Leadership Conference, a Vietnam vet, stated "we are concerned that the impression left with the public be that while the issues presented are part of the Vietnam experience for those of us who were there, they are only part of the total picture."

The films will be shown at 6 West Hubbard, Chicago, IL at 8:00 pm and the cost of admission will be \$2.50. For further information contact Brenda Webb of the Chicago Film Makers at (312) 329-0854.

the slope easier for handicapped visitors would spoil the artistic effect of the memorial, he said.

There are three other dark-colored monuments in the Washington area - the Seabee Memorial, the 101st Abn Div Memorial and the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial - "but these are heroic figures rising in triumph," Carhart said.

"The Vietnam memorial is antiheroic, a black hole we are given for faithful service in a misunderstood war."

Years in the future, he said, people will see the design as reflecting "some ugly, dirty experience of which we were all ashamed."

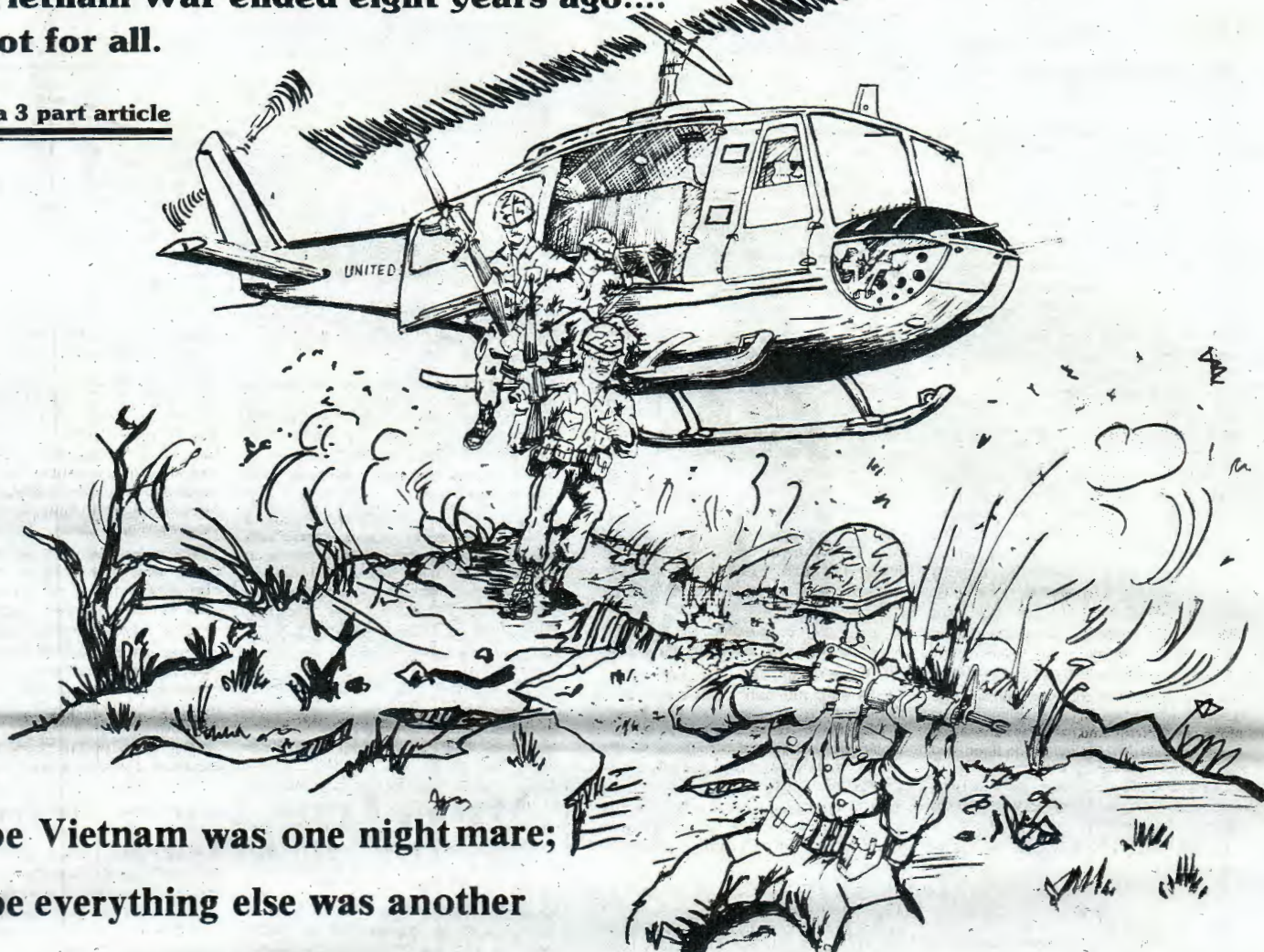
One panel member reportedly was defending the design, saying it conveyed "an extraordinary sense of dignity" and needed no "corny specific references" to the war and no "bits of whipped cream on pedestals."

Asked about Carhart's protest over the design, Scruggs said that there was "still a lot of anger about the war" and "some people need a target to take it out on." ■

Vietnam: No Peace

**The Vietnam War ended eight years ago....
But not for all.**

First of a 3 part article



**Maybe Vietnam was one night mare;
maybe everything else was another**

**by Howard Goodman,
Oregon Territory.**

Some nightmares never end, waking or dreaming.

This was a thought that had not always concerned Ray Baker. But as the years went by, as Vietnam receded into dimmer memory, he came to see it as a truth that held his life in a hammerlock.

It was a loser's life, marked by jobs that wouldn't stick, depressions that wouldn't quit, anger that couldn't be controlled.

He did not like to blame Vietnam for the way things turned out. He had done his duty over there, he'd made it through all right, and besides, a man doesn't dwell forever on the experiences of a year.

Maybe Vietnam was one nightmare. Maybe everything that followed was another.

Here is how life was going for Ray Baker in the summer of 1980. He lost his job, another one, fired after starting a fight with a co-worker. Ready to settle for something lower-paying, he applied for maintenance work with the state Motor Pool.

And when he was turned down because the state's economy had forced a hiring freeze upon the bureaucracy, he knew how to take the news.

He went home. He yanked his garage door in a blind rage and tore it off its hinges.

Damn, he thought. Drinking. Defeated. Dead end.

God and everyone else just left me hung up to dry.

Baker* is an aging 33, a red-faced man with wavy hair and pug nose and traces of Tennessee drawl in his voice.

He stands 6 foot 1 inch, 200 pounds, big like his father was. His father was 6 foot 3, a World War II veteran, later an alcoholic. Pure hell when he was drinking.

He was hell on everybody. He was especially hard on Baker's wife the year Baker went to Vietnam.

She lived with his parents that year and couldn't take the drinking. She wrote often. The letters, Baker said, scared him more than the war did. And the war scared him to death.

Night after night, he rode C-130 gunships stalking Viet Cong convoys rolling down enemy supply routes. He was Staff Sgt. Baker, flight engineer, U.S. Air Force. Scared to death.

The crew flew at night, looking for Charlie's trucks to destroy. On dull nights they flew with their lights on, inviting fire, finding anti-aircraft guns to shoot at in the vast, black jungle.

They'd get hit. One night, a shell tore a four-foot hole through the floor of the plane, blowing a navigator's legs off.

(*A pseudonym. The man described is seeking work in the Salem area and asked that his name not be used. All other names in this story, however are real.)

Another night, a tracer round headed straight for the cockpit. Baker saw it coming. The plane couldn't evade it. Baker dived under the pilot's panel. He heard the round thump. He knew he was dead.

Then, puzzled and amazed, he heard the plane's engines. Still rumbling. He realized he was alive. The shell had failed for some reason. Had it exploded, the cockpit would have been obliterated.

Baker's habit, when the flights returned to base in Thailand, was to head first to the airstrip's chapel to thank God for saving his life. Then he would plant himself in the NCO Club and drink.

He drank 12 to 15 hours at a time. The planes scared him so much he couldn't even look at one sober, he said. He wouldn't step into one without swallowing a handful of Valium tablets.

A drinking buddy, a master sergeant in his 40s, dealt with the pressure by shooting himself in the head with a flare gun. The shot didn't kill him, and authorities shipped him to a hospital in Da Nang. In the hospital, he grabbed an M-16 rifle from a guard, tucked it under his chin and blew his head off.

"I felt somewhat guilty," Baker said. He hadn't known how depressed his friend had been, complaining about wife troubles over his booze.

Baker's year in Vietnam ended in September 1971. At Travis Air Force Base he marked his return to U.S. soil by tossing a bottle of Valium into a garbage can.

"I won't be needing these any more," he told himself.

He spent the last 1½ years of his four-year tour in Texas as an aircraft mechanic, as his father had been.

He left the service March 2, 1973, and opened a gas station in Abilene. On March 27 he got an emergency phone call from Fresno, Calif. His father had drowned.

The burial wasn't until early May; the body had been hard to find in the lake water. That same week, oil company men suddenly offered to buy Baker's gas station. He agreed, half-annoyed at the fat cats' presumption, half-relieved to dispose of a responsibility.

He took a job in Atlanta, Ga., where relatives lived, in a plant which made tow tractors for airplanes. On June 5, six days after he started the job, his wife gave birth to their first son.

His father was dead, a business started and dropped, a move to Georgia, a son born; all within three months of leaving the Air Force. "I guess it was kind of nerve-racking," he said.

He worked at the tow tractor plant 16 months. He began to note a personality change. He would get depressed, hostile, defensive. Other people would set him up to look foolish, he felt. One day he got mad and quit.

Baker worked six months as a policeman in Smyrna, Ga. People hated him; he was sure of it. So he quit.

His job record wobbled. He quit a job as a shopping center security guard. He got fired from a job at an auto bake shop and from a stint as a Cherokee County, Ga. deputy sheriff. He went broke when an employer went bankrupt. He got fired from a truck body manufacturing plant. The word on him was he had an abrasive personality.

Depressions came in quickening cycles. He drank. Desperate to make a change, he

Vietnam: No Peace

The Vietnam War ended for most Americans eight years ago - but not for all.

moved his family to Oregon.

They arrived in 1977 to a succession of short-lived jobs. Apartment-manager. Small-town policeman. Long-distance trucker.

Then came a good one; driving a dump truck in a small coastal town for more than \$20,000 per year. He kept it, off and on, for two years.

But the depressions and drinking worsened. He flew into violent rages. One night, drunk after an argument with his wife, so angry he picked the washing machine from the floor, he fell through the glass of the kitchen storm door, badly cutting an arm.

He suffered terrible headaches. He couldn't sleep. His stomach hurt. He blew up at people. One fight, at work, cost him the job.

A doctor urged him to see a psychiatrist. Baker went, reluctantly, and while sitting in the waiting room with his wife, had a chilling change of heart.

"I was stone sober," he said, "and I just walked out the door. I knew just what I was going to do. I was going to get my rifle and go into the woods and end it there."

His wife, scared by the look in his face, stopped him at the office door. The psychiatrist, hastily summoned, pronounced his problems chemical and prescribed lithium.

The drug did no good, Baker said. He feels better without it. The episode ended what little faith Baker had in doctors.

"I feel like Vietnam vets had to go through a lot of hell," he said fatalistically. "They come back and they go through just as much hell."

Not long ago Baker got turned down for a trucking job in Coos Bay. He went home and looked at a mirror, and hating the answering image, smashed it. He fell to the floor - fed up with fighting, fed up with being refused, fed up with trouble at home - and remained curled there, still and silent, tears forming, for more than an hour.

Oh, Dad. Since you've been gone I've had no one to talk to.

Baker's condition has, of course, a scientific name. Delayed Stress Syndrome.

Plane crash, hurricane, toronado survivors are known to get it. So are children of alcoholics.

And by some estimates some 500,000 American servicemen who served during the Vietnam War period may suffer symptoms: Inability to get close to other people. Depression. Feelings of helplessness. Apathy. Withdrawal. Anger. Aversion to loud noises. Trouble sleeping. Recurring nightmares of combat. Suicidal feelings. Loss of interest in work. Irritability. Survivor guilt. War flashbacks.

Between 40 and 60 percent of Vietnam veterans suffer from some form of post-traumatic stress, according to Dr. John S. Wilson, a Cleveland psychologist responsible for much of the research available on mental problems caused by the Vietnam War.

The majority of Vietnam-era veterans have adjusted well to civilian life, according to Disabled American Veterans, a non-profit veterans' service group based in Washington D.C.

But for many others, the war goes on.

- The suicide rate among Vietnam veterans is 23 percent higher than among the general population, according to a 1977 study by the DAV. Wilson said last year that he believed the rate has climbed to 33 percent.

- Of those veterans who were married before going to Vietnam, 38 percent were divorced, within six months after returning, the DAV says.

- The number of Vietnam veterans hospitalized for alcoholism or drinking problems has more than doubled in the past seven years.

"The truth is that we don't know whether everyone's problems are caused by Vietnam," said Joseph Felix Jr., a Portland-based counselor to Vietnam-era veterans. "But the point is these people have a certain amount of stress from Vietnam."

"And we know that people who survive catastrophic situations - plane crashes, floods - have these kinds of experiences. And we know that it helps the survivors of a plane crash to get together as soon as possible and rap it out."

Psychologists believe that by sharing their reactions to a traumatic event, by talking it out of their systems with others who understand viscerally what has happened, survivors adjust more rapidly to normal life.

On that theory, Vietnam veterans are beginning to "rap-out" their experiences in newly formed support groups.

For the first time, veterans are gathering, like shipwrecked survivors banding together on the beach, to talk about their common war.

These are men who came home to discover they had fought a war nobody wanted to hear about. Many have kept their emotions over the war and its aftermath buried for 10 to 12 years.

This year, through efforts of veterans' activist groups and the government, men in growing numbers are acknowledging, painfully and out loud, the effects of Vietnam. Their war. And ours.

One such group has been meeting in Salem each Thursday night for about six months, in circles of about a dozen men and relatives - people just now discovering what the war has meant to them.

"Before, most guys didn't even know they were feeling stress," said Felix, who advises the Salem group.

"Most of the guys were drinking, getting into fights with their wives, at work. We're saying, there are other ways to work off anger. Go to a park. Take a walk. Go on a picnic. Now these guys are going fishing, taking rafting trips together."

They're regaining a comradeship they last had in places like Pleiku, Da Nang, the Demilitarized Zone, in what seems a lifetime ago.

The war resumes in places like the American Legion Hall Post 136, Salem, Oregon, in the hearts of minds of small circles of friends - like Marvin, Butch, Jeff, Frank, Dan Baker, John and B.J.

But there were no Normandies or Gettysburgs for us, no epic clashes that decided the fates of armies or nations. The war was mostly a matter of enduring weeks of expectant waiting and, at random intervals, of conducting vicious manhunts through jungles and swamps where snipers harassed us constantly and booby traps cut us down one by one.

The tedium was occasionally relieved by a large-scale search-and-destroy operation, but the exhilaration of riding the lead helicopter into a landing zone was usually followed by more of the same hot walking, with the mud sucking at our boots and the sun thudding against our helmets while an invisible enemy shot at us from distant tree lines. The rare instances when the VC chose to fight a set-piece battle provided the only excitement; not ordinary excitement, but the manic ecstasy of combat. Weeks of bottled-up tensions would be released in a few minutes of orgiastic violence, men screaming and shouting obscenities above the explosions of grenades and the rapid, rippling bursts of automatic rifles.

—Philip Caputo
"A Rumor of War" (1977)

He remembers one guy lying on the ground, a lieutenant, new to the war, screaming for help, horribly burned.

Burns appear everywhere: The medics, groping to find unviolated skin, must prick their intravenous needle in the man's ankle.

The chaplain is saying, "You're not going to die."

The medics - watching, anxious - keep quiet. They know better.

"I can still see his face," Marvin Davis said recently. Davis, 37, was one of the medics. "I can't tell you why it stands out. I just see it."

The face appears to Davis at odd hours, he said. Because it usually comes at night, Davis hates trying to fall asleep. Rather, he stays awake, staring at the television set in his living room until he is too tired to think.

"All in all, I got through it pretty well," Davis said. "I can't say I've got too many problems."

Davis drew on a cigarette in his East Salem living room. Still muscular, moving with a country boy's grace, speaking in a deep, rolling Fess Parker voice, Davis shows no war scars.

But his wife sees them. The man she married in 1963 was affectionate and affable, she said. Then he went to Vietnam.

"He came back completely different," said Della Davis.

She married a man with a personal code so genteel he refused to drink in front of her. Back again, he frequented taverns, came home drunk.

He had been an even-tempered man. Back again, he grew angry and his anger grew violent. Arguing over the bills, he once flung his watch at a wall.

He had been a tender man. Back again, he avoided her, she felt.

He had been a conversant man. Back again, he was incommunicative. "We were strangers in the same house," she said.

At times he drifted away entirely. At times he still does.

"He has spells where he blacks out," she said. "He'll be sitting right here, and I'll talk to him and he won't hear a word. I think maybe his mind's back there somewhere."

Marvin Davis joined the Army at 18, soon after high school, planning to be a career man. The Army trained him as a medic, sent him to Korea and Germany.

His younger brother died in Vietnam one day in 1966. His body came home to Muskogee, Okla., the day he would have turned 21, the day before his infant son turned one year old.

"I'm going to volunteer for Vietnam," Davis told friends. But the Army beat him to it. He was transferred to Vietnam in 1967. He was 24.

He was assigned to an armored unit with the U.S. 9th Infantry Division in Bien Hoa. After the Tet Offensive in January 1968 he was switched to the 5th Cavalry, a unit of the 9th Infantry, and saw action near the Demilitarized Zone.

He is proud that his medical unit sought out Vietnamese children to aid. "I think we did some good over there," he said.

But he quit the military soon after his war tour. He had been set to re-enlist until a superior rubbed him the wrong way. "You guys may as well re-enlist," the superior had said. "You'll never make it in the real world on your own." Davis quit to prove him wrong.

He came to Salem in 1972, took a job as a tire man with Wards at \$2 per hour, couldn't feed his wife and two children on the pay. He was set to re-enlist. Then Walling Sand and Gravel Co. hired him as a truck driver.

Restless, he moved the family to Houston, drove trucks long-haul. Family life tore at the seams, Della said; her husband was distant, was drinking, was involved with another woman.

But the Davises patched things up, returning to Salem in 1976, Marvin getting his job at Walling back, struggling at home.



"A lot of wives are afraid of the vets," Della said, "afraid of their tempers. I can see where a lot of women can't live with a vet. You have to be strong to stick it out."

Marvin never talked about Vietnam. He knew no veterans of the war. But acting on a newspaper item, he attended a conference in Eugene last winter for Vietnam veterans. He was moved by what he learned and, always something of a Samaritan, decided to form a Salem vets' group. He placed an item in The Oregon Statesman, inviting local Vietnam veterans to get together.

Two vets responded. The commander of the local American Legion post, Bruce Harbaugh, offered the legion hall as a meeting place. Joe Felix came in, and the group got going.

Since the group has been meeting Marvin is drinking less and is making closer friends than he has in years, Della said.

"I was proud of my husband," Della said. "I saw the hard work he put into being a soldier. All the men in the group - they're not ashamed of what they did. They're proud of what they did."

"They're decent, hardworking citizens and they shouldn't be treated this way."

But difficulties remain. Davis wants more help from the VA in treating a back injury. He must straighten fouled-up records; the military only this year sent him medals he had earned.

Lurking deeper is a fear about the Davises' youngest son, a hyperactive 5-year-old who is becoming increasingly uncontrollable. The dread suspicion is that he may be suffering from nerve damage caused by Marvin's exposure to Agent Orange, the dioxin-laden defoliant spread by the government to kill jungle and brush, the enemy's hiding places. Tests so far are inconclusive.

One day this year Davis took his 16-year-old son hunting, the first time he carried a gun in years.

He walked through the woods, holding the rifle in the sling.

"Suddenly I'm back in Vietnam. Suddenly I'm in the jungle," he said. "A minute before it was the farthest thing from my mind."

He got scared. He thought of his son and their hunting companion, walking nearby in the bush, and feared for their safety. He carried the gun back to his pickup truck and sat in the cab the rest of the afternoon.

Continued next month

Reprinted by permission of Statesman-Journal, Salem, Oregon. From an original printing of September 14, 1980.

Determined Gritz Vows Support for POW's 2,500 POW-MIA's Unaccounted For

Our story is both incredible and tragic. Ladies and gentlemen it is a distinct honor to represent the Vietnam era veteran here in Buffalo today.

The Vietnam vet was that which others did not want to be. He went where others feared to go and did what others failed to do. For over 10 years he fought the most controversial war in our history, involving 8.5 million uniformed men and women, of which 2.5 million served in southeast Asia. Seventy-five percent were less than 20 years of age.

Now why?... The Vietnam vet served because he was asked. Sixty-three percent volunteered for duty. He could have fled to Canada and amnesty. He didn't, and 55,000 died while another 330,000 returned home injured or maimed.

Vietnam was more than just a shooting war, it was also an emotional war. Eighteen to twenty-one is always critical in the development of young people. Normally a person is allowed this time for trying, testing, deciding while striving for meaningful identification, a niche in society. These years others knew as youths learning to love life, the Vietnam vet spent hoping to cling to life. Laughs in the classroom were replaced by shrieks in the jungle. The vet faced terror and fear; pained; cried over fallen friends; and lived times others say are best forgotten. The Vietnam vet has been made out to be both victim and villain.

Typically, a young warrior was trained and taught to believe that he was an expert fighting machine prepared for survival and victory in the field. But, when he arrived in Vietnam, he was not allowed to exercise these skills. Tight political control and prolonged indecision prevented the soldier from performing as he had rehearsed. And when it was over he didn't come home to a ticker tape parade, but came quietly aboard jetliners amid turmoil and demonstration to be systematically processed out; to begin figuring out for himself what happened.

Our war put butter on the table while we were away, but with our return the jobs dried up and instead we were greeted by a hostile, inflated economy. The old recruiting adage, "...service provides experience," turned out to be a cruel gig. Who wanted our Vietnam experience? We emerged from Vietnam marred with the marks of war; criticized by those who avoided our ranks, but we stand today proud and unashamed.

There is a noted book, written by Paul Savage and Richard Gabriel, *Crisis in Command: Mismanagement in the Army*, that concludes the U.S. Army in Vietnam disintegrated under pressures of national alienation to the war and loss of discipline in the ranks. While it is true, like the nation it represented, the U.S. Army fell on hard times in Vietnam, the fact is the nation had a much better military than it deserved.

The army stayed together, fought, and endured under the most trying of combat conditions to emerge bloody but unbowed. The U.S. soldier's performance in Vietnam was equal or better than any other in American history. Not because I say so, but because others with the experience of several wars say it.

Speaking for S.L.A. Marshall, "...the morale of the troops and level of discipline of the army was higher than in any of our wars. There was no lack of will to fight and the average soldier withstood the stress of engagement better than ever before."

Syndicated columnist Robert Heil considered the U.S. Army, "...the best army the United States ever put in the field."

Even the enemy paid tribute. Lt. Gen. Tran Van Tra, chief delegate, Provisional Revolutionary Government, said "...the Americans were good soldiers, but they fought the wrong war." Captured documents cited our ability to launch assaults, encircle tightly, divide rapidly, pursue aggressively and fight fiercely.

Well, that was eight years ago. Yesterday's warriors are today's citizens. We grew up fast and now it is time for us to pay back through what we know to be true and real. The Veteran has a great responsibility to the community. His combat experience adds strength. The common people of America who were bloodied in battle are the greatest protection for this country against inept use of our military might. It is the job of the veteran to temper our government so that swords are drawn only after politics fail.



Former Green Beret Bo Gritz, speaks at the Polish Community Center's Vietnam Vets. Photo Exhibit.

A second obligation is shared by both the vet and citizen. The Armed Forces live in the shadow of it's tradition. It looks to the heroic deeds of the past to inspire its present membership. For this reason, it is essential that the Vietnam vet not be disenfranchised—a forgotten warrior. Our idealism and commitment must not be squandered proving our sacrifices wrong, needless, to be forgotten. Battles are won by soldiers, but wars are won by the great strength of a nation. The soldiers and the citizenry working together.

"The Vietnam vet was that which others did not want to be. He went where others feared to go and did what others failed to do."

Soldiers risk death because they feel a bond of trust and responsibility. A nation's military can endure the hardships of war only if it feels tied to the nation by a sense of common purpose and respect. Dedication of today's Armed Forces depends on their belief that their service is appreciated by the citizenry they protect. The very life of today's society depends on the quality and preparedness of our military. Both men and machinery, but mostly men. So long as the military remains a part of the nation and not apart from it, our society will endure.

We need today to think in terms of service to our country and not in terms of our nation's debt to us. People like Jim Donahue have with personal dedication and loyalty, combined with cooperation and encouragement from local officials and community support, made Buffalo and the great state of New York an example to the entire nation. It is through the selfless efforts of these peacetime heroes that the Vietnam era vet is assuming his rightful place along side his World War II and his First World War ancestors. Peace has her victories, no less renowned than war. The solemn pride of New York in her vets is one of these victories.

"It is a matter of humanity and pay back. We who survived owe it to those who stayed behind."

Not In Vain must be the pride of us who survived. We owe it to those who fell, as well as to those who serve today. Unlike marriage, our camaraderie forms a bond that can never be broken, not even by death. How many times did soldiers die under fire trying to rescue the corpse of a comrade?

Typical of relationships forged in battle and tempered with blood and fire is the story of SFC Hoagland—a soldier who loved life but found there is that which he loved even more.

Sgt. Hoagland was a member of the elite Delta Force Recon Team which, at the time, was the only unit of its kind, responsible to the high command for special operations throughout the whole of Vietnam.

As Recon chief and Intel officer for Delta Project under command of then Major Charlie Beckwith, it was my job to establish SOPs for every conceivable contingency. Because these standard procedures could mean life or death, I openly discussed them with the other 26 men in Recon.

A question came up about what to do in the likely event one of us was hit and unable to continue while behind the lines. With one exception, the group said the wounded member should be left behind in order that

the mission and men might survive. I was that dissenter, knowing deeply that we would never leave a buddy.

Our SOP was soon put to the test during an operation in the Ia Drang Valley to locate heavy troop concentrations. As happened all too often, we landed right in the middle of the lion's den. While fleeing to the pickup zone, SFC Hoagland was hit by one of many machinegun bursts that cracked by our ears. He was tail gunner in our five man team, covering our rear. It was as if we were all hit when Hoagland went down, his legs

Text of address by James "Bo" Gritz, Vietnam Veterans Luncheon, Friday, 29 May 1981, 12:00 noon, Statler Hotel, Buffalo, New York

shattered. There wasn't even a moment's hesitation. We all crashed back through the heavy jungle to encircle our comrade. Hoagland was frantic; not from pain or fear, but because he knew, as we did, that to stay meant certain death or capture. We didn't even have time to tourniquet his severed artery. The enemy was upon us. Even as we stacked magazines and straightened pins on our remaining hand grenades, bullets began cutting bark and vines all around us. Still we could hear Hoagland screaming, "Get the hell out of here, now!"

It was simple, the battlefield is the most honest place on this earth. We didn't need to speak, the communication was clear. We all hated the thought of death, but there was that we couldn't bear; leaving Hoagland to die alone in enemy hands while we ran for our lives. I recall someone muttering, "Knock it off, we're all going down swinging together."

I've relived those few minutes a thousand times since that December 1965, and it still makes my heart overflow with emotion. It is a soldier's nightmare to die alone without a comrade's last embrace; yet Hoagland's unspoken devotion and love for his buddies was stronger than life itself. With a whispered goodbye and last look at his friends, Hoagland put his AR-15 to his head

"I take the Pentagon's disclosure as a cop out and signal that the ball is back in our court. Special Forces is known for miracles on demand."

and, before any of us could react, pulled the trigger, eliminating in a twitch of his finger the need for us to be there. He had not died alone and yet we had a chance at life.

Hoagland still lives, along with others who have dared to die that we might know freedom. Jesus says in John 15:13, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

This week we honor the Vietnam veteran. Last evening we exhibited the Vietnam experience through photos. This morning we dedicated the first Vietnam veteran memorial park in America; as the mayor called the roll that we might not forget the sacrifice of Buffalo's 250 fallen sons. At this luncheon I was privileged to again represent the American soldier and receive your recognition, but the story doesn't end with this address. There is still one group of Americans that has been left behind to die alone in the hands of our enemies. 2500 Vietnam vets remain unaccounted for eight years after we came home. Knowing this, how can we not do everything humanly possible to help our POWs and MIAs, regardless of the problem it may create for families, politicians and bureaucrats. It is a matter of humanity and pay back. We who survived owe it to those who stayed behind. The silent legion watching over us now compels us to return for those who have kept the faith these many years.

I know Americans are alive and captive in communist prisons. Many of the agents I

Continued next page

Why Americans Held?

Why are Americans still being held by Southeast Asian governments? A probable answer is supplied by Assistant State Director for Veterans Employment, James C. Donahue, who comments:

There may be a number of reasons. First, during the war the primary objective of the American military was to destroy the enemy or his will to fight. On the other hand, the primary objective of the other side was to convert the opposition to his way of thinking. When Americans were taken prisoner their treatment was directly related to the way they responded to the conversion process: if they adhered to the Code of Conduct they were branded as reactionaries; if they were responsive they were labeled as progressives. Those who fell into the reactionary category were treated much worse than the progressives. In fact, some reactionaries were told that they would not be released after the war.

Secondly, the Vietnamese may feel that the United States never fulfilled its end of the Paris Accords in that they never received the billions promised by the Nixon administration, so they therefore are under no obligation to release the remaining Americans.

Thirdly, the Laotians may feel that since a state of war never officially existed between Laos and the United States there are no P.O.W.'s. They may however at some future date admit that they are holding "air pirates."

Lastly, Southeast Asian governments may feel that P.O.W.'s could be used as a trump card in future negotiations with the United States.

Gritz Vows Support for POW's

Continued from Page 8

interviewed said the reason they came forward to testify, even though it jeopardized friends and family, was because "it is as if the spirits of those Americans who have died in communist camps cry out for me to come forward." None of those agents would accept the offered reward.

How long can we blot out those Americans? If it is logic we seek, consider:

The bottom line is this. A high official in the Executive branch told me that their plan was to turn the operation back to us in the event the government was prevented from going forward. I take the Pentagon's disclosure as a cop out and a signal that the ball is back in our court. Special forces is known for miracles on demand.

Our POWs have kept the faith. God has helped us locate them. Now it's up to us. We have the personnel and technology. We need financial support.

For less than \$500,000 we can put an operation in the field that will give our POWs the same chance for freedom that Hoagland gave the Delta Recon team. You may decide to do nothing and say, "I told you so" when the communists finally decide to use the POWs as bargaining chips, but I cannot. I invite you to contact Jim Donahue and support his outreach programs to POWs.

God has kept His hand on our nation. We owe our liberty to His good grace and our fallen heroes. Don't let our POWs be forgotten, as God might forget the United States.

Join hands. Pray for POWs. ■

Source: Buffalo Veteran, Fall '81

Missing in Action?

by Karen Chambliss Donovan

In 1953 I was a young girl about eleven years old. My family lived in a small California town near a Naval Air Station. We all knew alot about Navy planes. I knew about the special seat they had. It would get the pilot out if something went wrong. I learned the names of the planes and could identify them when they flew over. I even had an autographed picture from a Navy pilot named "Red". His plane crashed on an aircraft carrier and he sent me a picture of it.

One day things changed in our neighborhood when a gray US Navy car pulled up in front of the house next to ours. The Navy man walked to the door where the Richey family lived. We watched him leave. Mrs. Richey came out and called the children into the house, she was crying. I wondered what was wrong. Later I went in to ask my Mom and Dad why everyone was so sad. They told me Mr. Richey was Missing in Action. I had never heard those words before and asked what they meant. Their answer confused me. Mr. Richey was lost in Korea. His Navy plane had been shot down and no one had found him yet. Korea, where was that? I knew about those Navy planes and the special seat. I had even seen it once. Of course he wouldn't be found with his plane but all they had to do was look nearby and he'd be there, wouldn't he?

Everyone was crying that day. I cried too. My friend Sharon's daddy was lost. I told her about that special seat. I said he would be found after they looked around. I said my rosary alot and went to Church to light candles. Nothing was ever the same again.

After a while, I knew I never wanted to see that Navy car on our street again. Alot of my friends' daddys had gone to fly their Navy planes in Korea. They always left on a carrier but they always came home. This time it was different. What was Missing in Action?

Eventually our neighborhood had all the daddys home except for Mr. Richey. They said he was presumed to be dead. Why didn't they bring him home if he was dead? When people died they have a funeral, don't they? Why wasn't there a funeral? What was presumed to be dead?

I talked to my teacher about Mr. Richey and then wrote a letter to the United Nations. I read the letter to my class and we all knew they would find Mr. Richey and bring him home.

Later the Richey family moved away without their daddy. It sure was taking a long time to find him. I guess they would give him the address of his new house when he got back. If he was really dead there would have been a funeral, wouldn't there?

Thirteen years later my letter to the United Nations had not been answered. I still wonder about Mr. Richey. Did he come home? Was there a funeral? My sister returned from a trip to Hawaii and brought me a photograph. It was a picture of a Korean War Memorial which listed the Missing in Action. Among the names:

LELAND RALPH RICHEY

Lieutenant, USNR, Kansas

We cried and wondered about his family.

I again wrote a letter to the United Nations. I told them of Mr. Richey and asked for their help. I told them that this was happening again and they must help stop it. No more cars driving into the neighborhoods of this Country. I now realized that even though the special seat worked someone might want to capture and harm those pilots. I knew it wasn't just the pilots who didn't come home. I knew about prisoners of war. I also knew where the war was this time.

I continued writing those letters and sent them to everyone who might hear me. I circulated petitions, sold bracelets, handed out materials in shopping centers, talked to people, made telephone calls and cried. Those cars just kept driving up to the houses. Each time a man went to the door he said Missing in Action or Prisoner of War. The list kept growing so I worked harder.

Finally the Prisoners of War came home. Wait a minute, some of the men on our list didn't come back! We know they were prisoners. What about them? Where are they? What about the Missing in Action?

I am a grown woman and myself a veteran but most of my questions remain unanswered. I am more aware now but don't really understand. I continue to work for a full accounting of those who served in Southeast Asia. I wonder about Lieutenant Richey and his family. My letter from 1953 has still not been answered.

All I want is every living man returned to his family and the remains of those who died returned for burial in his Country. More than anything, I want not one name listed on the memorial to the Missing in Action in Southeast Asia. We owe that much to these veterans and their families. Please don't let them be forgotten! ■

Reagan Support for Project Freedom POWs, MIAs

SALISBURY - Project Freedom, a national organization devoted to the full accounting of American prisoners of war and those missing in action, received some much needed support from President Reagan, on Thursday, October 22, during its first annual meeting at the White Hart Inn.

In a telegram to Canterbury resident Robert Dumas, the organization's advisor, Reagan reaffirmed his personal long-standing commitment to obtain the "fullest possible accounting for missing American servicemen."

"As long as we have not received an accounting for those who so bravely served this nation, it will be the policy of my administration to pursue this goal relentlessly," Reagan said.

"Our dedication toward this end will continue to assure our present and future servicemen that we will always press for their accounting should they become missing in action."

The President added that concern for the individual has always been of the "utmost importance to this nation and its leaders" during the country's conflicts. He said the plight of the POWs had been the focus of national attention for their suffering, and the MIAs have been the object of concern because of the uncertainty of their fates in the daily anguish faced by their families.

Reagan pledged that his administration will dedicate itself to pursue every lead that may provide information concerning missing Americans regardless of their status.

In terming the President's comments a huge morale boost for the organization, chairman Ret. Col. Lewis Millet of Trenton, Tenn., and Fred Zabitosky of Pembroke, N.C., - two Congressional Medal of Honor recipients - termed President Reagan's message as unprecedented in recent American history.

"It is most gratifying that Project Freedom has obtained from the President of the United States this unqualified commitment to resolve the POW-MIA issue," they said in a joint news release.

Millet, a chief aide to Gen. William C. Westmoreland during the Vietnam War, added further comment in his meeting address Thursday night.

Noting that thousands of American POWs and MIAs volunteered to fight for freedom during conflicts in Asia, Millet said they sought a noble cause but met an ignoble end.

He referred to the recent action by Congress granting honorable citizenship to Raul Wallenberg, a Swede who helped many Jews during World War II escape Germany's concentration camps and who is now alleged to be held captive in the U.S.S.R.

In calling that act commendable, he said, "It would be a sad commentary, however, when those elected to represent American citizens fail to exercise a similar concern and responsibility to repatriate American servicemen held in captivity since Korea and more recently Vietnam."

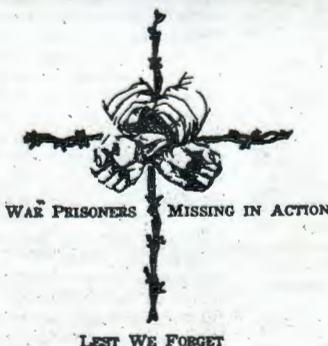
He criticized national leaders for recognizing and providing assistance to those who had allegedly murdered and tortured American soldiers during the Korean and Vietnam conflict. Instead, he called on those at home to support those missing soldiers, adding, "It is the only honorable action to take, it is the only Christian thing to do, it is the only way we can act if we are ever to ask others to serve the cause of liberty."

Millet said he has a calling to speak for those missing "who cannot speak" and a "demand for those whose voices are stilled. I must act for those who cannot act."

He added that his duty to see that his comrades are set free is a non-political decision. He said American politicians have already failed in their challenge and responsibility on the issue. ■

Source: Norwich Bulletin, October 1981

PROJECT FREEDOM



For All American POWs/MIAs

More than 2,800 American troops are unaccounted for from the Korean and Vietnam Wars. There is evidence - including more than 4,000 individual sighting reports since 1973 of U.S. men in Indochina - that many are still alive, in miserable conditions, while the Reds hold our living and dead for ransom.

P. O. Box 103, Woodgate, New York 13494

Phone: (315)-376-3615

Remember
the
POW/MIA
in
your
prayers
for
Thanksgiving
this
November
26th.

POW/MIA Issue

Interested Writer Gets DIA Response

DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

Ms. Karen Donovan
1704 Sarkesian Drive
Petaluma, California 94952

Dear Ms. Donovan:

This is in response to your letter of 22 July to Lieutenant General Eugene F. Tighe, Jr., the Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, in which you requested information regarding DIA's efforts to obtain a full accounting of the U.S. personnel who are missing in Southeast Asia.

My office is in charge of DIA's efforts to obtain information relating to Americans still unaccounted for in Southeast Asia as well as providing assistance to the U.S. Government's efforts to obtain an accounting for personnel lost as a result of the hostilities in Southeast Asia.

Since the termination of American military involvement in Southeast Asia, the U.S. Government has been attempting to achieve as full and complete an accounting as possible for the nearly 2,500 Americans who failed to return from Indochina. We have repeatedly raised the accounting issue during negotiations with the Southeast Asian Communist governments through

both Congressional and diplomatic channels. Unfortunately, progress has been painfully slow due to intransigence on the part of the Indochinese governments. Because a significant amount of the information pertaining to the MIAs is in Vietnamese hands and thus far we have had little cooperation from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the U.S. Government has been unable to determine the fate of those Americans who are missing in action.

The Director of DIA has testified before Congress on five occasions in the past two years on this important issue. He continues to place strong command attention on DIA's PW/MIA intelligence research and

analysis effort. To better explain DIA's involvement in the PW/MIA issue, I have enclosed a copy of General Tighe's 25 June 1981 testimony before the House Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs.

I appreciate your interest in this issue and want you to know that the U.S. Government is resolved to determine the fate of the U.S. personnel unaccounted for in Southeast Asia.

Sincerely,

Allan G. Paulson
Rear Admiral, USN
Asst. Vice Director
for Collection Management

Testimony of LTG. Tighe before Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs

Statement by
Lt. General Eugene F. Tighe, Jr., USAF
Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
The Pentagon
Before the
Subcommittee on Asian and Pacific Affairs
of the
Committee on Foreign Affairs
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515
25 June 1981

Mr. Chairman
and Members of the Committee.

I appreciate the opportunity to come before you today to testify on this most important issue. This will make my fifth appearance before this Subcommittee in regard to the PW/MIA issue within the past two years.

I know that certain members of this Subcommittee, having been members of the House Select Committee on Missing Persons in Southeast Asia and of this Subcommittee, are well aware of DIA's role and contribution. However, in response to the Subcommittee invitation, I intend to discuss with you the current status of DIA's PW/MIA effort and the course we will pursue in the future.

There has been no significant change in the situation since my testimony of six months ago; consequently, much of what I have to report today I have testified to before. There are still approximately 2,500 Americans who were listed as Prisoner, Missing or Killed (body not recovered) that remain unaccounted-for. The exact figure is 2,497 and the status of all but 12 of these Americans has been changed by the military services to that of Presumed Dead. Notwithstanding, I would like to emphasize as I have on previous occasions that there is no distinction between these administrative terms as far as DIA is concerned. We continue to collect and research information which will lead us to an accounting for these individuals, regardless of the fact that they may be listed as Presumed Dead or Missing in Action. We continue vigorously to pursue our investigation of all reports from or of the Southeast Asian area whether they pertain to the Missing or the Dead. We are determined to retrieve any U.S. military man - whether live or dead. We remain as we must, dedicated to the view that at least one U.S. serviceman is alive still in Southeast Asia against his will.

Since the fall of Saigon in 1975, DIA has received 1,104 reports from refugees bearing on the PW/MIA problem. Of that number 327 reports mention live sightings of U.S. servicemen. Our research and analysis has revealed that 119 of those reports (or 36%) of live sightings can be correlated to Americans who have previously been accounted-for and are no longer in Southeast Asia. 33 (or 10%) of the reported live sightings occurred between 1961 and 1972 and probably equate to U.S. prisoners who were released during Operation Homecoming in 1973. Nonetheless, 208 (or 64%) of the sighting reports of Americans held against their will in Southeast Asia remain unverified and are under continuing investigation in an attempt to confirm their

veracity. The remaining 777 refugee reports deal with crash-sites and grave-sites.

In addition to follow-up actions accomplished by our Defense Attaches, DIA's quick reaction team which was established for immediate deployment, continues to travel far and wide to interview sources of potential PW/MIA information. The DIA Overseas Team has interviewed 18 refugees, whose knowledge was deemed essential to our efforts, in four European countries and Canada. DIA team members have also interviewed 124 refugees and other sources now residing within the continental United States. I have continued to ensure no budgetary constraints are imposed on travel funds associated with these interviews and investigative follow-ups even though travel allocations remain austere for other purposes.

The Joint Casualty Resolution Center plays a key role in refugee debriefing with personnel located in Hawaii and Thailand. Their cooperation has been and continues to be exceptionally good. Their support in response to DIA tasking involves conducting numerous interviews and follow-up actions, many on a short suspense, which are regularly completed in an impressive manner. The three members from the Bangkok Liaison Office perform the difficult task of working throughout the various Southeast Asian refugee camps in an exemplary fashion.

DIA provides the intelligence upon which decisionmakers develop U.S. Government policy and we have an excellent working relationship with other U.S. Intelligence Agencies and the Military Intelligence organizations on this issue. In addition to the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other senior officials we have kept members of this Subcommittee and other members of Congress updated on our current intelligence efforts through informal closed session briefings. DIA has regularly participated in, and provided intelligence briefings at the PW/MIA Interagency Advisory Group meetings. The Interagency Group is comprised of representatives of the State Department, National Security Council, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, Joint Chiefs of Staff, DIA, staff representatives from this Subcommittee and the National League of Families.

During my first testimony before this Subcommittee two years ago this month, I stated that I was concerned with the weight of effort being expended on the PW/MIA issue. Since that time I have taken ever increasing steps to intensify DIA's efforts and capabilities to track and cross-check reports of live sightings, crash and grave sites, and to develop and analyze information in an attempt positively to determine the status of those still missing in Southeast Asia. DIA's PW/MIA staff is currently at a manning level of 15 personnel headed by RADM Jerry Paulson, USN, Assistant Vice Director for Collection Management, who just recently assumed direct responsibility for the PW/MIA staff. We are assisted regularly in our efforts by the investigatory

personnel of the U.S. Armed Forces around the world.

I continue to focus strong command attention on the PW/MIA function within my agency and keep a close personal watch on all PW/MIA events through daily reports provided to me which highlight every detail of our efforts in pursuit of this matter. Additionally, I continue to emphasize to all Senior U.S. Military Intelligence Officials worldwide, my keen interest and concern for priority collection and analysis of PW/MIA information. Their support is magnificent. Every source indicating knowledge or information relating to PW/MIAs has been debriefed at least once, most several times. Our Defense Attaches in Southeast Asia are receiving outstanding support from their host governments regarding the search for PW/MIA information. Defense Attaches in other countries, wherever refugees have immigrated for resettlement, have experienced similar cooperation and support from host governments in their efforts to follow-up on refugee reports for us.

The Southeast Asian Communist governments continue to be intransigent on the PW/MIA issue. To the extent that it is a small gain in the complete accounting we seek, the recent announcement by the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that they would provide the remains of three additional missing Americans is welcome. But is, in a larger sense, a cynical reflection on their intransigence on this issue. As I previously testified before this Subcommittee, DIA firmly holds to the information furnished this Committee last year that the Vietnamese government has in its possession the remains of some 400 U.S. military personnel who were lost as a result of hostilities in Indochina. As you will recall this information was furnished by a mortuary technician who testified that he personally prepared the skeletal remains of many of these U.S. personnel. His information is judged to be valid through all the cross-checking we've applied. The former Chairman of this Subcommittee confronted the Vietnamese government with this information in Hanoi. Vietnamese officials denied any knowledge of these remains. The return of 72 bodies by the Vietnamese and two from Laos, only one of which we could positively identify, can hardly be considered as an accounting by the Communist governments of Southeast Asia for the 2,500 missing Americans.

There are a number of reports on refugee sightings of live PWs that we have extensively investigated and others for which follow-up action is continuing. Many of these reports are pure hoaxes, unfortunately. Others are the products of well-meaning but wholly misinformed individuals. Of all the live sighting reports DIA has evaluated, we still cannot prove that there are live Americans being detained against their will in Indochina. Based on detailed research efforts utilizing reported information, confirmed data, and all intelligence collection disciplines, we simply cannot professionally say, frustrating as it may be, that we know in fact that Americans

are being held against their will there.

We know the Communist governments in Southeast Asia hold information about some of our unaccounted-for people. We'll continue collecting and analyzing all available information until as full an accounting as possible has been made. DIA will pursue all information which indicates the presence of Americans, regardless of status, in Southeast Asia, I trust as far into the future as necessary. We'll act on every report as probably true until proved otherwise.

Mr. Chairman, an invitation to testify before this Subcommittee on this most important subject is always welcomed. I have devoted more than 10 years to this effort - at CINCPAC, SAC, HQ USAF, and DIA. Retirement soon will mean that others must take up this vital responsibility. I am sure my successor, whoever he may be, will dedicate himself to this vital task. DIA will aggressively pursue every lead in our quest to determine the fate of the Americans unaccounted-for in Southeast Asia. What your government does to assure that all possible means are expended to prove/disprove or verify reports must oftentimes be classified if they are to be effective. From our President on down and throughout the government there is the strongest possible commitment to the resolution of these matters. Each of the individuals working on this issue deserve the trust of the people of America. ■

Veterans

The POW's came home, and they were heroes, back-pay, promotions, reunions.

But Little Joe, he didn't know none of that; he came home, and became a POW.

The POW's, now some get angry, they were locked up, beaten; now they are free.

Not Little Joe, he got back, and go on the rack, shooting on the inside now.

The POW's, most were pilots, officers, the important people, with medals and stories.

But not Joe, he's still a private, so private, the grunt, he's still bleeding, he hurts.

The POW's, they get invited to San Clemente for autographed books and speeches.

Not Joe, you don't want him around, he still gets sick when scared; he don't read.

The POW's, they did have it rough, and the families, the wives, the bracelets, bumper stickers.

And Joe, he didn't do none of that, he got wasted on the inside bad; and he won't die on TV either.

S.K. O'Halloran
Concord, CA
Veteran 68-69



News From the League of Families

by Ann Mills Griffiths
Executive Director

POW/MIA Update

Recent congressional hearings and United States Government actions have reinforced convictions of the National League of POW/MIA Families that Hanoi continues to hold American prisoners. As recently as October, 1981, in testimony before Congressman Stephen Solariz' Asian and Pacific Subcommittee, a former Minister of Justice of the National Liberation Front (Viet Cong), who fled Vietnam in 1980, stated in response to a question from Congressman Robert K. Dornan (R-CA) that American captives were moved to the north after 1975.

In June, before the same subcommittee, Lt. General Eugene Tighe, USAF Ret., then Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, stated it was his professional judgement that Americans were still being held captive in Indochina. An intelligence officer for most of his career, and Director of DIA from 1977 until his retirement this year, General Tighe's testimony is the most positive public statement from an American government official concerning the POW/MIA question.

Another incident which has raised serious questions is the report, unofficially confirmed by the Defense Department, that the United States financed and trained a group of Lao resistance personnel to undertake a covert operation into Laos to gather conclusive, on the ground evidence of the existence of American captives. The Defense Department refuses to comment on this matter.

The Defense Intelligence Agency is currently investigating over 350 first hand live-sighting reports obtained from Indochinese refugees who continue to flee their homelands in Indochina. Although the descriptions vary, the message is clear: Americans are still being held captive. One

refugee states he and 130 American prisoners were transferred to Thanh Hoa in 1978. "The POWs I saw were very thin," he says. "They were covered with scabies; there was just skin and bones on them. They often fell down and were beaten by the guards."

This summer saw the Vietnamese confirm long-held suspicions they are holding the remains of American dead. In July, Hanoi released the remains of Navy Cdr. Ronald Dodge, Navy Lt. Stephen Musselman, and Air Force Capt. Richard Van Dyke. Both Dodge and Van Dyke were known to have been alive, in captivity, and Musselman was photographed at the time of the incident next to the wreckage of his downed aircraft. Further corroborating evidence supporting the League's contention that Hanoi holds American remains is a Defense Intelligence Agency substantiated report from a Vietnamese defector that the remains of over 400 Americans are being held by Hanoi.

Vietnam veterans can provide tremendous assistance to our missing men. Letters to congressmen, senators, the Secretaries of State and Defense, and the President will encourage them to seek a full and final resolution of this matter. Letters to local newspapers will generate public opinion, and letters to the Vietnamese ambassador to the United States, Ha Van Lau, 20 Waterside Plaza, New York, New York 10010, will drive home to the Vietnamese the concern and outrage the American public feels on this issue.

For more information on the 2,500 Americans unaccounted for in Indochina, contact the National League of POW/MIA Families, 1608 K St., NW, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 223-6846.

For the men still missing and their families, we are their last hope. We must not break our faith with our American fighting men.

Veterans Day Activities in Chicago

The observance of Veterans Day in Chicago will begin on Saturday 7 November with a ceremony in Daley Plaza at the site of the eternal flame and the Vietnam veterans memorial. This event will be sponsored by Vietnam Veterans Against the War and Vets for Peace in conjunction with other interested groups. The focus according to Bill Davis of the VVAW national office, will be to draw attention to the need for testing and treatment for victims of Agent Orange and to protest any cuts in programs for vets. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 11 am and will feature an open mike for those who wish to make comments.

Davis stated one of the reasons for having the event on the 7th is to enable those who are working to attend and participate.

On Tuesday the 10th the Veterans club of Loop College will sponsor a memorial service at the college.

The 11th, Veterans Day, will see the traditional wreath laying and memorial ceremony at Daley Plaza. In the evening at 9 pm the local public broadcasting station, WTTW, will show the two part special on Vietnam veterans which will be shown on many PBS stations around the country.

The first part of the series is called, "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran". It deals with the readjustment problems of a man who served with the Navy in Vietnam. The second part is entitled, "Warriors' Women" and is a study of three women who are or were married to Vietnam veterans.

Continued on Page 27

Evidence of Live Americans



Staff Sergeant Donald Sparks was captured by the Vietnamese on June 17, 1969, and was officially listed by the U.S. Army as "missing in action." That classification was later changed to "prisoner of war" when a letter from Sgt. Sparks was found on the body of a Vietnamese soldier. The letter, dated April, 1970, was addressed to his family and assured them that although he had not seen another American in his ten months of captivity, he was in good health.

American POWs are Alive in Indochina

A Little Bit About 'Finders'

"Finders" was started in 1977 to help all veterans find old friends they had lost contact with. I had started putting together the file system in 1972, but didn't go public until 1978. Our biggest response up til this year has been the WW II era vets, but this year we've been getting a good response from "Nam" era vets. Also in June of this year we went over the one million mark on vets in our files. About 25,000 of these are in the Nam era. The Nam era has been growing very steadily this year. To employ our service they should send \$1.00 and a S.A.S.E. We will check our files. When they write all the information they can send on

their friend is of help. Name, when served, hometown, branch of service, S.S. number, if possible, anything they can remember. Also in our Military Ad Paper we have been running some names to try and locate lost vets. The Military Ad Paper is new, our first issue was Oct. '81. We will run any ad pertaining to the military theme. Organizations ads, military collectors (all eras), business ads, anything along the military line.

If you want to make it easy, send a S.A.S.E. for information on our Military Paraphernalia Ad Paper.



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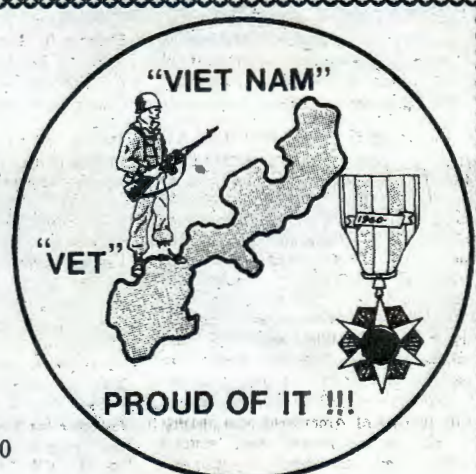
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Action Plans Program for Vietnam Vets

In a meeting in Sacramento, CA on 8 September, 1981 members of Assemblyman Pat Nolan's Veterans Advisory Committee, met with Mrs. Barbara Wyatt of the ACTION Agency to listen to a proposed plan for the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. Mrs. Wyatt told the vets that the purpose of the program is to use the leadership from the Vietnam veterans community to bring the vets in need of services to the agencies offering such help. Peter Tiffany, Western Regional Director of the VLC and a member of the advisory committee, stated "this is one of the few times I am aware of that an agency of the government has planned a program with the needs of the vets in mind and is consulting the vets in the planning stages."

At this time plans are still in the early stages and not all of the targeted cities for implementation of the program have been identified.



Left to right: Assemblyman Pat Nolan (R-Glendale), Mrs. Barbara Wyatt of Action Agency and Peter Tiffany, VLC Western Regional Director, Sept. 8, 1981.

Veterans Leadership Board in California Broadens Program

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the VLC in California on 3 October, new directions were developed by the members. Juan Alcedo, the Deputy Western Regional Director for the Conference and Hispanic Liaison Officer, reported on the activities he has undertaken to involve the Hispanic community in the concerns of the veterans and to address areas in which the concerns of the two groups overlap. Alcedo will be

working with the Spanish language radio and TV stations in the area to reach this group. One of the points raised by Benny Howard, Black Liaison Officer for the Conference, is the need for the black veterans who were in Vietnam to begin to move into leadership positions in the coming years. "We have some real talent here and the community could benefit from it."

Peter Tiffany, the Western Regional

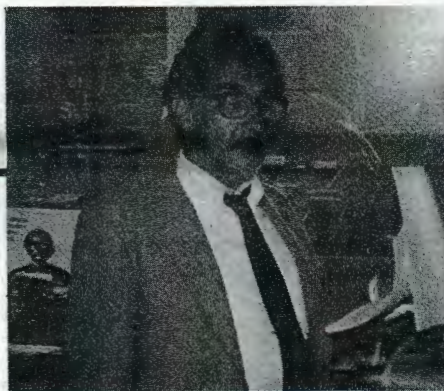
Director for the VLC, mentioned the growing interest of many of the groups who had not been traditionally thought of as concerned with the veterans. Tiffany addressed the West Pittsburg Alliance on 5 October. The Alliance is a group of concerned citizens who address a broad range of concerns and Tiffany presented some of the concerns of the Vietnam vets and stressed the willingness of many of those

who served in Vietnam to serve the community. "We get a very positive response from groups like this," Tiffany added, "as they see that the stereotype of the vet as a 'looser' just isn't true."

Others attending the meeting were William Wamsley SE Contra Costa County, CA coordinator for the VLC and George Hipona VLC Information Officer



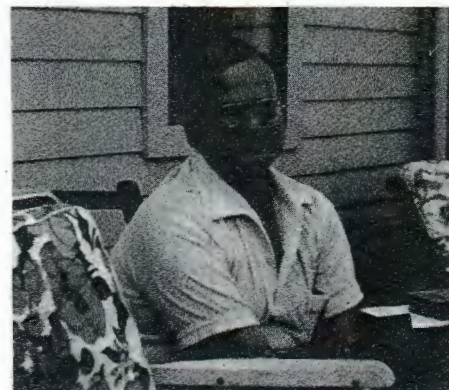
Peter Tiffany Western Regional Director for VLC.



Dr. Juan Alcedo the new Deputy Western Regional Director, VLC and Hispanic Liaison Officer, a veteran of WW II, Korea and Vietnam.



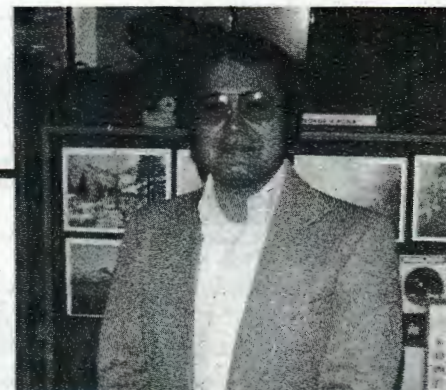
Mr. Bennie Howard, Deputy State Dir. (California) for the VLC. U.S. Navy Vietnam.



Mr. William (Grady) Wamsley S.E. Contra Costa County, CA VLC Coordinator. Grady was a river rat in Vietnam.



Left to right: Edward Spencer, Jr., Pres. of W. Pittsburg Alliance, Mrs. Catherine Kunstal and Mrs. Virginia Spears during the October 5, 81 meeting.



Mr. George Hipona, VLC Information Officer for the Western Region. 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam.

Photos by Pete Tiffany



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"I Shall Oppose It!"

Sen. Larry Pressler (R-SD) speaks out on Hostage Compensation

The following remarks were made before the Senate on September 22, 1981.

Mr. President, I rise to say that I sent a letter to the President in opposition to paying those citizens who were hostages in Iran financial compensation in addition to their hardship pay and regular pay. This was a difficult decision, but I do it for a number of reasons.

As a Vietnam veteran—and I believe as the only U.S. Senator to have actually served in ground operations in Vietnam—I can attest that this payment is blatantly unfair to Vietnam veterans. We cannot find enough money to fund properly the Agent Orange legislation—and Vietnam veterans benefits are at about 35 percent on a parity basis with World War II veterans.

I can attest that this payment is blatantly unfair to Vietnam veterans. We cannot find enough money to fund properly the Agent Orange legislation.

Take the case of a young person drafted into combat in Vietnam. He served for 13 months against his will with no escape. He came home to scorn and derision. He received no such compensation. Why should we not vote him some special compensation? The principle is the same.

Furthermore, it is my conviction that those people who choose to enter a profession—be it military or the Foreign Service or a similar occupation—do so at certain risks, and we establish a bad precedent by paying compensation of so much per day. I think it is proposed to be about \$5,500 per hostage in this case.

I know it sounds that one is not taking a grateful position to the hostages. Indeed, I am very grateful for what they did. They have been recognized—and they deserve it.

For example, according to the September 22, 1981, New York Times:

"State Department and Pentagon officials say that efforts have been to accommodate requests for special assignments at home or abroad. Many requests have been for assignment to posts in Western Europe.

"Momentos and gifts for the former hostages still pour into the liaison group's Washington headquarters. While the flow is slackening, there appears to be little slackening in requests for speeches by former hostages."

If we trace back even in recent history there have been many hostages who have not been paid compensation. Foreign Service officers have the benefit of travel, excellent jobs—and people are lined up to join. There are some risks, too.

I believe in paying the salary, I believe in paying the combat pay, I believe in paying the hardship duty post pay, but I do not believe in paying extra compensation if something goes wrong.

We are establishing a bad precedent here that somehow violates principle. There are people waiting in line to get into Foreign Service—if you are in the Foreign Service of your country, indeed, there are many attractions to serving abroad, the privilege of being a Foreign Service officer, the privilege of representing our Government abroad, the travel benefits, the educational benefits.

We have people waiting in line for these jobs—we should not have a precedent to pay people cash if something that can be reasonably expected to occasionally happen does occur.

Also, there has not been a demand from some of the hostages for additional compensation. I am shocked at this concept of public service.

But my main objection is the basic principle that we compensate people in dollar amounts for being hostages. I think it is a very bad precedent.

Let me repeat that I think our Vietnam veterans—not the ones who were prisoners of war, but the veterans—should be offended by this, should take offense, and the reason being that we have been unable to come up with appropriations that amount to very much for such things as Agent Orange.

It is true we did classify Agent Orange as a disease for consideration, but we did not add any additional appropriations. The parity of any additional appropriations. The parity for Vietnam veterans, in terms of the

veterans' benefits compared to World War II veterans, is below 40 percent.

I am not saying the Vietnam veterans necessarily deserve anything for having served their country. Many of us do not want any special consideration. We merely want the opportunities that usually go with being a veteran, and I say that as a Vietnam veteran.

We merely want the opportunities that usually go with being a veteran, and I say that as a Vietnam veteran.

But this matter is bothersome to me, the payment of additional compensation, in addition to salaries, in addition to time off, and in addition to rehabilitation. We are taking care of these hostages on many fronts, and we have already given them extraordinary recognition.

There have been so many precedents in American history where hostages have been held and we have not paid compensation. We have followed the basic principle of saying to someone that:

"You serve your country abroad and we will pay you this salary. This is the deal. You go. There are certain risks involved. You are not being drafted. You may resign anytime. There may be hardships. You may be captured. It is public service."

This is sharp conflict with what was said to most Vietnam veterans who actually served.

"You are drafted, you must go, you cannot resign, you will fight for your life in a disease-infested environment, and you will be scorned at home."

"You are drafted, you must go, you cannot resign, you will fight for your life in a disease-infested environment, and you will be scorned at home."

Who should be compensated?

So, the point is, to the Vietnam veteran, this appears very unfair. As a Vietnam veteran myself, I tend to agree.

Yes, I think Vietnam veterans should and will take it as an insult, because it is giving more monetary recognition to a group of people who served this country well, granted I am not saying anybody did not.

I am not critical in any way of the hostages. I do not even know if most of them wanted this much money.

But I have talked to Vietnam veterans who are very upset about this. It is another indication at a time when Congress is in a budgetary deficit, at a time when Congress cannot appropriate more money for the veterans and GI bills, similar to what was after World War II, they find this "passing strange" to put it mildly.

Finally, I think it is a bad precedent in principle. You serve your country, you get a certain level of pay, in this instance they were also getting hardship pay. There are certain risks and benefits in the Foreign Service and serving abroad.

When you join the military you take certain risks but you also get certain benefits. And one of the great benefits is one of public service. These people got their pay, their promotions, they also got many other recognitions, many more than the Vietnam veterans did. To pay each of them \$5,500 more is a great mistake. I shall oppose it. ■

Why We Should Remember Veterans' Day

I think in my heart, And it means a great deal to me, That we, the veterans know, undoubtedly The meaning of the word, "FREE." It would be a sin and a shame To forget Veterans' Day, Forgetting the men and women who Suffered the pain.

We have served our country Over and over, time and time, To protect our people— Yes, yours and mine. So I say, with pride, Veterans' Day means a great deal to those of Us who have survived. Everyone says, they're glad to be free, But they're free only because of veterans Like you and me. Veterans have fought in World Wars I and II Many came back, not just physically, But some mentally bruised.

The fought in Korea and in Vietnam And all of them were proud to serve Their country and Uncle Sam. And let us remember 52 of our countrymen Have been seized; Have all been freed.

So standing here, bursting with pride, I'm proud to be a veteran, and I salute those Who went, who fought and who died.

by Terrence T. Hill
VA Medical Center, Altoona, PA
From the Veterans Voices, June 1981

Women's Director, VVA Visits Pittsburg

Lynda Van Devanter, Women's Director of the Vietnam Veterans of America, was in the Pittsburg area, at the invitation of the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center in North Huntingdon, to discuss the dilemma faced by many Vietnam veterans, particularly women vets.



Lynda Van Devanter, speaking to health professionals at seminar sponsored by the Governor's Outreach and Assistance Center.

Van Devanter is virtually on a one woman campaign to alert our government as well as private medical and counseling personnel to the fact that some women, many of whom worked as nurses in Vietnam and faced as much stress as any battlefield soldier, are today suffering from the same kind of postwar adjustment problems as male veterans.

There were 7,465 American women in Vietnam. A total of 200,000 women served in the armed forces during the Vietnam era.

One of Lynda's goals is to develop an Outreach Program for women, so that others won't suffer the isolation she once felt. Sometimes months, and even years after their tour of duty, problems encountered by veterans translate to post-traumatic stress disorder. Van Devanter says, she experienced severe stress after her Vietnam tour of duty. She now spends much of her time crisscrossing the country talking about her experiences.

During her stay at the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center, she discussed delayed stress with Vietnam veterans and their families at area meetings and conducted a seminar for health professionals on recognizing and treating post-traumatic stress.

She used the opportunity to talk to the various medias about "Phase One," which includes addressing the problems of women Vietnam veterans. How many are there? Where are they and most importantly, how are they?

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Who Cares A Damn?

by Mick Angell
VA Medical Hospital, Iowa City, IA
From the Veterans Voices, June 1976

Surgery, a dreadful, frightening word to me. Here I sit, depressed and feeling sorry for myself. Someone speaks and I look up to see a lovely lady in a white nurse's uniform. She smiles a bright, cheery smile - professional(?) - sure, but what's behind that smile?

I sit thinking with a thermometer in my mouth, her light touch on my wrist, and her eye on the second hand of her watch. Suddenly it comes to me that this lady cares; she likes us; she wants us all to be well. In GI language, she gives a damn. In fact, she cares a whole hell of a lot of damns.

Seconds later, I hear her soft, sweet voice across the hall as she soothes the fears of an elderly man. I think from his age he must be a World War I veteran.

Suddenly my mind goes back to a small log, dirt-floored schoolhouse in the Great Smoky Mountains where I was born and I recall the voice of my dear old teacher, now long dead.

He is telling us of the cold, bleak, snowy winter of 1775 and in my mind's eye I see our great general and founding father, General Washington, shivering before a small fire and looking over his ill-clad, half-starved troops who were pitted against the trained professional soldiers Britain was throwing against his rag-tag army.



I wonder, did he sometimes think, "Here I am, truly a gentleman and I could have fared well under British rule."

Still, he has great courage and foresight and realizes that, small though the hope may be, the colonies need desperately to be a nation. In spite of the help our great statesman, Jefferson, got from the French, what a long, hard road from that terrible winter to the proud moment when Washington stood stiff and straight to accept the surrender of the British. At last we were indeed a nation, small, unimportant, but a nation.

What thoughts must have gone through his head after we were well launched and he knew he could become king, the age-old reward of the victor, instead of becoming our first President, a new concept in government. What a temptation to envisage down through the years His Majesty, George Washington the 15th!

It took real courage to reject the temptation and return the power to the people, becoming instead, our first elder statesman and our first ex-President.

After that moment in history, the young nation steered its way through the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, each with its times of crisis and its demands upon courage and coolness.

Finally came that God-awful hour when Abe Lincoln paced the floor of the White House, knowing that he, and he alone, must decide whether or not to let a few thousand rich plantation and slave owners cause a split in our great country. How vital to the country were the lovely old mansions with their white columns, their beautifully trimmed lawns, and their great avenues lined with old ash trees and magnolias with their green, waxy leaves and their great, sweet-smelling white blossoms?

The plantation owners really had it made - a slave to tend the gorgeous rose gardens, a slave to keep their high-spirited horses groomed and well fed, even a slave to polish their tall, well-made riding boots.

Will they fight to keep it? Sure as hell they will. Long before the first shot left a smoky trail at Fort Sumter to start a great war that would tear at the very guts of the new great nation, those issues had been decided. Lincoln, compassionate as he was, knew the great price we would pay, and undoubtedly asked God humbly for guidance.

Far to the west, a cigar-chewing little runt named Grant sits before his campfire thinking of Indians or dreaming of the war he had been through, never realizing that fate had picked him to lead the U.S. troops who one day would humble the proud soldiers of the South, those truly great fighting men who believed with all their hearts that they were right.

These Southerners believed the real villains, the real slave holders, to be the sharp-nosed Yankees from the mills of New England, where young boys and girls, sometimes below the age of twelve, strained and toiled to make shoes and garments in our northern factories. As a general rule, they were underpaid, under-fed and their living conditions were dreadful.

Your true Southern gentleman must have felt well satisfied with himself. His slaves, though considered as animals, were physically well cared for and were seldom sold away from the family to which they belonged.

Little did those fine Southern gentlemen realize that somewhere among those black men was the nucleus of the magnificent fighting force, later known as the Third Division of the 18th Corps, which stormed the portals of Richmond itself under the command of black non-coms after all the white officers had been slain. One of the heroes who comes to mind was Sgt. Major Milton M. Holland. In all, thirteen Medals of Honor were awarded to black men for that engagement. Once and for all in the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, September 29, 1864, it was proved that men, regardless of race, color or creed, could and would fight and die gallantly for freedom.

I can feel the shock and horror General Lee must have felt when he was called to lead and inspire personally the defender of Richmond under those conditions.



I wonder about my great-grandfather, who freed his slaves and left his modest home in Kentucky to cross the Ohio and join the Union cause. He died never knowing who won or lost the war. Where does he fit into the picture of America?

One of Grant's staff officers, when asked if a damned Rebel could be reconstructed, replied that men of great principle fought bravely on both sides and any man, Reb or Fed, who lived and fought his convictions was right.

The sons and daughters of these great Americans helped their fathers pack up whatever was left and start the long westward trek that would one day join the two great oceans. More often than not, the

Hospitalized Veterans' Writing Project, a non-profit volunteer service, publishes "Veterans Voices", a magazine containing the writing of hospitalized and disabled veterans from the Service Departments of the VAMC.

travelers wore the tattered remains of the grey uniform of the Confederacy. Some wore, instead, the blue of the Union.

Who could visualize the suffering, hardship and dying that must come before the first telegraph message would come from California to Washington, DC saying, "It's done; the line has been completed."

What sturdy descendants of the great cattlemen like Goodnight, Loving and even that old reprobate Chisolm, could turn a deaf ear when the Spanish/American War came?

This was the war that demonstrated so clearly what was needed in the way of planning and supply. One time, so many troops were ordered to one island that there wasn't even room for them all to stand shoulder to shoulder, let alone fight. The quality of food and other supplies was so very bad that a few greedy suppliers got rich while the men suffered from the sticky climate, the million bugs of every kind that could torment a human being, the dreadful diseases of the time, the shoddy equipment, and the awful food.

We tend to remember Teddy Roosevelt's brave charge up San Juan Hill and forget the dismal little obstacles that plagued our men who died to prove that our ships had the freedom of the high seas.

Shall we skip over those great years before World War I when our economy boomed and we thought that the boom would last forever?

Who was the first American to yell, "Lafayette, we are here!" remembering the help we received from France in our country's early days?

Whose great idea was it to fire on our poor, damned crippled war vets as they marched, truly desiring and needing their bonus? What bonus can replace the burned-out lungs of a World War I veteran who charged over the trenches into a storm of mustard gas while attempting to win the War to end war?

How wonderful to remember those prosperous years after World War I when money came easy and jobs were plentiful.

About that time, as a small bare-footed boy, I roamed the hills of Kentucky where the Great Smoky Mountains look down on the rich Bluegrass country. I listened to tales of how my people once owned a modest plantation there and wondered what it would be like to have shoes and a full belly, neither of which I could remember having had.

I listened to my mother, of poor Irish ancestry, telling stories of great men. She was especially fond of telling about General John J. Pershing. She'd look fondly at my scrawny 90 pounds and say, "Son, remember this is the greatest country on earth and always defend it. Remember the great debt you owe to those who have gone before you, but most of all, remember the greater debt you owe those who will follow you. If you must die for your heritage, die proudly."

I often thought of her words as I struggled to put one foot in front of the other in the desert, or marveled how it could be so hot under the blazing sun that your helmet could sear your flesh and still be so bitter cold once the sun had dropped. We dug slit trenches and covered ourselves with sand in the vain hope of holding the heat to keep from freezing. Then we faced the morning sun that would turn a dead buddy into a bloated, swollen thing with no resemblance to the gay, care-free kid of 19 you had trained with a year before.

We all wondered how General Wainwright was faring in the far away Pacific, as he fought desperately to help his battered, war-worn troops hold onto their sanity. Captured, yes, but defeated, hell, no!

We know that our Navy is searching the seas



and our young Air Force is helping our allies clear the sea and the sky. Sure, we know we are not alone. We chafe and feel guilty as we quietly wait for the invasion of Normandy, then sweat and are scared when it comes.

Patton says, "Sure, you're scared; we all are. Only a damned fool feels no fear. The brave ones are the ones who admit it, face it, and go on to do the job that has to be done."

We were scared, but we fought well and won, many to come back legless, armless, lucky to be alive. Lucky? That's a matter of opinion. We still had to face Korea and a war that we could win if, only if.

Personally, and I say emphatically it's only my personal opinion, no man, general or private has the right to defy his CO and our President is our CO, so I smiled when the little man from Missouri said, "Go to a place of your choosing."

Peace followed, an uneasy peace with nerve-racking pain from a combat wound and war-shattered nerves.

Then came Vietnam and now at last I am to learn what real hell is like as I sit home, a tired, wounded old vet, and pray to God the boy I call "son" will survive.

Sure, I understood when he volunteered. I understood when he was shipped to Korea and still felt he must volunteer for Vietnam. How proud I stood when he asked for my war medals to take along. I hated to see my cherished bronze star, my purple heart, my combat infantry badge go into his duffle bag, but he stood proudly as he said, "These will give me the courage I need for what's ahead of me."

How grateful I was three years later, when he returned them and showed me his own medals which matched mine, with the addition of a silver star.

We don't talk about how he fought, or why we failed to win. We neither cuss nor discuss those who refused to fight, but some lonely, quiet nights waiting for the operation I hope will help me to be well, I wonder who were the real heroes. Was it Washington, Roosevelt, Wainwright, Patton, Bull Halsey, or many, many others both commissioned and non-commissioned who fought well and died well? Or could it have been my little Mennonite boss, who said, "It's wrong to kill but I love this beautiful country."

He damned near kills himself working, plowing till four a.m., sleeping two hours and working again until he finally falls exhausted into bed, satisfied that he is feeding people, many, many people with his work.

Or could the real heroes be our wonderful doctors, who never seem to stop working? You see them at all hours of the day and night. I know their faces and their names, Dr. Winslow, Dr. Berg and several others, so I know it's not a relief team taking over; it's these same dedicated, tireless men who stand shoulder to shoulder with the angels in white we call nurses. They stand between us and death itself, caring, yes caring a whole bunch of damns.

How shall I sign this - private, corporal, sergeant, major? I have been called by them all and more. I think I'll simply sign it by my proudest title, American Veteran. Thank God, alive or dead, I'm an American Veteran. ■

DR. J. W. WINSLOW



News From the VFW

The President "OKs" ELF; Victory for Country and VFW

WASHINGTON, DC - "At 11:30 AM on Thursday, October 8th, President Reagan approved the installation of the Extremely Low Frequency (ELF) communications link with submerged U.S. submarines. Within minutes, the U.S. Navy called your VFW's Washington Office to express their deep appreciation, i.e., "without you good people this would not have happened."

Arthur Fellwock, National Commander of the VFW, today recalled the long struggle to assure this needed link to our deployed submarines.

"Years back it was called 'SANGUINE.' More recently, the term was 'SEAFARER;' today it is the 'ELF.' By whatever name, it was and is a demonstrably-needed communications link to assure the proper exercise of command, control, and communications with submerged submarines operating at mission speeds.

"This victory belongs to America. It was earned by the VFW, often battling alone against environmental extremists. My special thanks go to the Department of Michigan, and most particularly, my good comrades in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. You never quit. You kept the faith."

(The \$230 million ELF decision covers two transmitter sites; up-grading one in Wisconsin with a 28-mile antenna and constructing a new transmitter in Michigan with a 56-mile antenna near the K.I. Sawyer Air Force Base.)

VFW Demands Vietnam TV Film be Removed from Nov 11 Showing

WASHINGTON, DC—"The VFW has demanded the removal of a controversial Public Broadcasting System Veterans Day showing," said Art Fellwock.

The National Commander-in-Chief indicated to the President of PBS that to show the film, "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran," would be a travesty.

The Vietnam veteran who presents himself as an average GI claims to be a dope addict prior to entry into the service and while on duty, a war criminal, an alcoholic and now unable to cope with his wartime service.

"While the VFW realizes that some veterans had difficulties, most all returned to their communities as responsible citizens," said Fellwock.

PBS President Grossman was asked to reconsider the showing of "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran" on Veterans Day which is the day to recognize honorable service to one's country.

"VFW members are asked to protest the showing to their local PBS stations if it is show," Fellwock said.

VFW Opposes Further VA Budget Cuts

WASHINGTON, DC - The following telegram was sent to David Stockman, Director of the President's Office of Management and Budget, from Arthur Fellwock, National Commander-in-Chief of the VFW, relative to further cuts in the Veterans Administration fiscal year 1982 budget:

"It is now apparent that the Administration plans to undertake an ambitious program to further cut federal spending levels, and it is proposed that the Veterans Administration absorb an additional \$421 million of these cuts in fiscal year 1982.

"This negates the tremendous effort expended by the VFW in support of the Gramm-Latta Compromise Budget, which the Administration and your office agreed would be its budget and would be fully supported by the President.

"It has been repeatedly indicated by the President himself that Veterans Administration functions for the 'truly needy' would be 'exempt from cuts,' and we had been assured that veterans hospital care and other veterans entitlements (such as compensation and pension) would be protected.

"To further reduce Veterans Administration FY 1982 expenditures by \$421 million would, in our view, require cuts in these 'truly needy' programs.

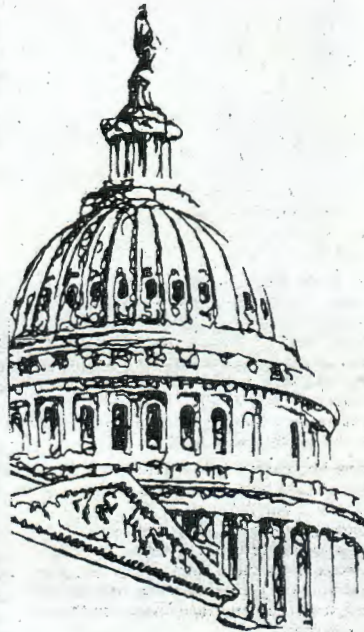
"Frankly, we view this new proposal by the Administration to be a breach of faith and with promises made to the veterans of this nation and that it is indicative of the duplicity practiced with great facility by the previous Administration.

"On behalf of the 2.6 million members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary, we respectfully request that this unacceptable and reckless proposal be abandoned and that the Administration stick with the Gramm-Latta amendment, so that a measure of the faith that we have so arduously developed with this Administration may be restored.

"For your information, a copy of this telegram is being supplied to every Member of Congress."

Veterans News From Washington

by Cooper T. Holt, Executive Director
VFW Washington Office



The President has signed the bill to increase in the rates paid for compensation for service connected disabilities.

The increases are graduated from seven to 20 percent depending upon the rating given a veteran by the Veterans Administration. The largest boosts go to those 70, 80 and 90 percent disabled. Increases are automatic and will be in the checks received the end of November.

As the jump is effective October 1, another check covering the difference in October's payment and what is due will be sent in early November.

Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) was raised 11.2 percent and the same method will be used to catch up with the increase since October.

Two controversial portions of the bill drew Presidential fire. The first bars the VA from spending any appropriated money for studies they must make before letting contracts in health care just because the contractor seems to be able to do the job for

less. The VA will have to ask Congress for special money. It is estimated that over 4,000 studies will have to be made at a cost of \$29 million. The Congress thought that too much for the VA to bear out of their pocket.

The other prohibited the VA from administrative reorganizing without Congress' permission.

Both Houses of Congress have approved the veterans health bill. The President is expected to sign it.

It expands the Agent Orange treatment to include all herbicides used in Vietnam and exposure to radiation. The VFW fought hard for this provision.

It requires the VA to maintain between 100,000 and 125,000 hospital and nursing home beds in the event the Defense Department and the VA need their use.

It requires the VA to operate 90,000 beds of all kinds.

Vet Centers have been extended three years; Veterans Group Life Insurance maximum jumps to \$35,000; and the VA is now permitted to approve graduated mortgages.

The VFW was successful in getting the Office of Management and Budget to return for further study a controversial administrative action which would have set \$15,000 gross income as the maximum allowed and a non-disabled veteran from receiving medical care in the VA. Home ownership or rent would have been the only exception to the limit. Signing the poverty oath would have no more validity if the rule had gone to the field.

The VA may soon deny medical care in its facilities to its own employees who are non-service connected disabled veterans.

Now, they are treated just like any other veteran eligible under law. The VFW believes that a change without Congress approval will bring a quick class-action law suit, one which the VA will lose.

The VFW has made a \$50,000 contribution, approved by the National Council of Administration, toward the building of the Bob Hope World USO building in Washington.

The Ladies Auxiliary contributed \$25,000 to this memorial to one of the greatest morale boosters servicemen ever had.

VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are being asked to make further donations on their own.

For those who fought under the command of the "Soldier's General" Omar Bradley, you will be glad to know that the Army has just named its new fighting vehicle, an armored personnel carrier, the Bradley. It takes its place along side of the Abrams Tank. ■

Nimmo Clarifies.....

'Poverty Oath'

Continued from Page 1

Pursuant to Section 401 of P.L. 96-330 which amends Section 622 of Title 38, U.S.C. - "Evidence of inability to defray necessary expenses."

A veteran will not be required to sign the poverty oath if he:

- (1) Has a service connected disability;
- (2) Is in receipt of VA pension benefits;
- (3) Is eligible for Medicaid; or
- (4) Is over 65 years of age.

All veterans not falling within the above categories will be required to sign an oath of inability to pay for medical care. The VA may look beyond the oath and determine if the individual has enough income or assets to defray the costs of such care.

The legislative history of P.L. 96-330 shows that it was the clear intent of Congress as stated by Chairman Roberts of the House Veterans Affairs Committee that this would be a case by case review based on both economics and the kind of condition being treated.

The financial form required (VA Form 10-10f) will be completed only "after the applicant has been examined and a tentative decision has been made to accept the individual into a VA medical care program."

Emergency cases will be admitted and the financial information will be obtained only after the veteran is able to understand the nature of the questions and answer them accurately or from a next of kin. If it is determined subsequent to providing treatment in an emergency case that the individual is able to pay for his medical care, the VA will bill that individual.

The gross monthly income from all sources will be taken into account. This includes the spouse's income. The value of all assets, both real and personal, other than home of principal residence will be taken into account.

If an individual has an estimated gross annual income of \$15,000 or more or unincumbered assets of \$15,000 or more, it will be interpreted to mean that the applicant is able to provide for his or her medical care needs through membership in a

group health insurance plan or by purchase of a private health insurance policy. The exception to this requirement are those cases where the individuals can produce evidence that they have exhausted their benefits under an existing health care policy and those individuals who after considering their total expenditures required to maintain a normal standard of living are unable to pay for the cost of participating in a group health insurance plan or private health insurance plan.

The intensive counseling to be conducted will be by a member of the medical administration service with a grade level commensurate with the responsibility and authority for denying health care benefits—in no case will the counselor be below the GS-7 level.

In the final analysis, the emphasis must, and the VA assures that it will, be on a case review, taking into consideration the estimated cost of the type of medical care required. If an individual's remaining income or assets are not sufficient to pay for that incident of care, the veteran will be found eligible for medical care by the VA.

Vietnam Veterans Art Show in Chicago

Vietnam: Reflexes and Reflections

by Lem Genovese

Exclusive to:

"The National Vietnam Veterans Review"

After nearly a year of preparation, the Vietnam Veterans Art Group of Chicago assembled the second art show of its kind in the Nation's history. They called their Exhibition - "Vietnam: Reflexes & Reflections" featuring the works of 22 Vietnam veteran artists. Sculptor Michael Boyett, whose work was featured in the "Soldier of Fortune" article covering the first art show last November in St. Paul, Minnesota, along with photographer Jim McJunkin both arrived from Texas with their art. Jim Coker from Montgomery, Alabama, graphic artist Tom Gilbertson of Denver, Colorado; A.J. Jendrzejewski from Vincennes, Indiana; Dick Olsen, an Associate Professor of Art at the University of Georgia in Athens; John Plunkett of Brooklyn, New York and Tom Achiefelbein sent his abstract fabric sculpture from Alexandria, Virginia all brought a national scope to the Gallery. The Vietnam Veterans Action Association's own Bob Gibson sent slides, articles, photographs and memorabilia all the way from Sydney Australia, making it an international assembly.

Othello Anderson, a member of the host N.A.M.E. Gallery's Board of Directors in downtown Chicago's business district stated: "Rick Aztlan, the VVAG President, submitted his proposal in December of 1980 and the Board felt that the show is timely, and it was a valid forum for the veterans to express themselves. Both the Artists Group and Gallery showed mutual support from a community approach."

"The Gallery felt no concern over the public's reception to the art, we wanted to answer a need that we recognized existed at that time. We also recognized that there was not a real outlet for them and I'm glad we were sensitive to their needs. We felt it was and still is a service to the community."

Another Board member, Victor Cassidy felt the Exhibition was: "A triumph. The response has been most positive. It's a participant's-eye view and no one here has an axe to grind. There's been a non-political approach throughout the show's development."

47 families from a rural town in Indiana organized various fund-raisers and from the proceeds, rented school buses for a closed-to-the-public, special show on Sunday, October 18th. The Gallery is usually closed Sundays and Mondays and the staff said it was a first for them.

One of the highlights of the entire program was the slide and music presentation composed of Rick Aztlan's, Ned Broderick's, Joe Fornelli's, Bill Hackwell's and John Shamashita's slides from the Chicago area. Bob Gibson added his Aussie flavor to the collection that spanned the Vietnam Era from 1964 to 1972. Ned Broderick worked non-stop for 48 hours to complete the soundtrack for the opening of the show. Crowds lingered for half hour periods, visibly moved by what the photographs conveyed. A representative from the Vietnam Era Veterans Writers and Artists Guild wrote a recommendation to the Executive Producer of WGBH's Documentary Series on Vietnam to include the Chicago Slide Collection in their project. Vietnamese now residing in the Windy City repeatedly asked Sondra Varco, who collated the collection, for copies of their former homeland's images.

T.M.L. "Pete" Peterson stated his level of commitment to the Exhibition as: "I have a number of my works in private collections in 12 nations across the globe. In the last 11



Left to right: Richard Aztlan, president, Vietnam Veterans Art Group; Joan Maiman, Chairperson, Veterans Leadership Conference; Pete Peterson, Vietnam Veterans Art Group.



Statue of one of our friends from the North, NVA grunt.



Refreshments at the Art Show.



"Wounded", by Ned Broderick



"Jumpin' Jack Flash", by T.M.L. 'Pete' Peterson

years I've produced roughly 2,000 pieces. For me, the Vietnam artwork has been a form of release for the bottled up emotions I've had inside for ten years. In preparation for the "Reflexes & Reflections Exhibition" I devoted 90% of my production time towards Vietnam related subject matter."

"Now that the Exhibition has opened, I'm anxious to return to my non-military artistic endeavors and catch up on my commissions." One of Peterson's most well received pieces, "Jumpin' Jack Flash" was based on a photograph of Jack Pine, a service buddy of Peterson's, who now resides in Clinton, Illinois. The picture was taken by AP Photographer Kent Potter who is listed as Missing In Action in Laos, presumed dead. Adding an additional level of reality to the proceedings.

One of the best known Veteran artists from the Chicago area, Joe Fornelli, won the Chicago Municipal Art League's Gold Medal in 1979. Fornelli found out about the Show and contacted Rick Aztlan who accepted his submittals. He was interested in why they wanted to do a show comprised of solely Vietnam related art works and after Aztlan's explanation, decided to contribute his best pieces but with the stipulation that his work was not for sale, just as an addition to the veterans collection. His limited edition prints were listed in a brochure available to the public. His curiosity and support of the Veterans Art Movement are evident in his beliefs.

"I use art shows as a barometer of the public's reaction and acceptance of my work. One or two of my pieces are under consideration for the Combat Art Collection in the Smithsonian Museum. They've already got my work on file there."

"I wanted to get the message across to as many people as possible regarding our commitments as veterans both then and now. When my upcoming one-man show of the Vietnam Art happens soon, I'll dedicate it to Kim Mead, a 17-year-old Marine Grunt from Chicago, whose brothers I grew up with. Kim died at Khe Sanh."

"If in some way I can make it a little more real, somehow its gonna make it more human. There's usually too much distance between the artist, his work and the public. I hope that through a more intimate relationship with the public, they can better understand the humanity of the Warrior. They have somehow forgotten that we too, are sensitive in spite of our experience."

"The origins of my work are both personal and private. No matter what the public's reaction to my art, I will continue to be true to myself and what I believe in."

The opening night of the Exhibition saw a carefully counted crowd of over 2,000 share a heretofore nearly unique collection of experience presented in the Humanities. The Chicago Filmmakers sponsored a series of documentaries and films in conjunction with the Art Show. Since their theatre was across the street from the NAME Gallery, it was a cooperative effort for the public to attend the concurrent events.

Such films as the Jody Eisemann documentary on Agent Orange Veteran Activist Paul Reutershan called "War Shadows", the David Bingaman-Al Gershen debut of the Bill Kurtis narrated "American Survivors Still Coming Home" and such widely lauded productions like CBS Television's documentary "Vietnam: A War That Is Finished" and the Agent Orange icebreaking "The Human Harvest-Vietnam's Deadly Fog: The View From Vietnam" were shown from October 10th through Veterans Day, November 11th. ■

For further information on the Vietnam Veterans Art Group, the readership is requested to contact: VVAG Secretary Ray Kostura, 2340 West Winnemac, Chicago, IL 60625 or the Chicago Filmmakers, 6 West Hubbard, Chicago, IL 60610.

THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE ART EXHIBIT



"Vietnam Veterans Memorial" by Michael Boyette



"Still Life" by Brian Valento



Photo by Bob Kunes



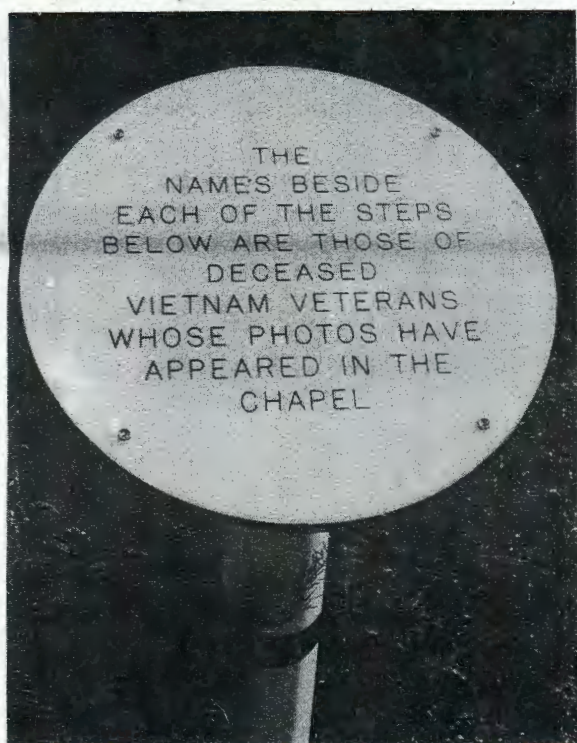
"Remembering" by Bernard Edleman

The Arsenal Gallery & Gallery Annex

Thursday, November 12th through
Wednesday, December 2nd, 1981
9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday
11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday, Sunday
(Closed Thanksgiving)

Presented by SCM Corporation
Produced by Vietnam in the Arts
in cooperation with the
NYC Department of Parks and Recreation
and the Organization of Independent Artists
(Additional funding provided by the
NYC Department of Cultural Affairs
and Valley Film Works)
New York City, New York

For Information, Call (212) 360-8141



Dr. Victor Westphall

When U.S. Marine Corps platoon leader David Westphall, along with twelve of his companions, died during an enemy ambush in Vietnam, Dr. Victor Westphall was determined to erect a visible reminder of the most tragic consequence of war - the loss of loved ones and the snuffing out of human potential.

His message to the entire world is symbolized in the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel, nestled against a hillside in northern New Mexico overlooking the peaceful Moreno Valley and the towering Sangre de Cristo peaks beyond - just 25 miles northeast of Taos near Eagle Nest. The chapel is dedicated not only to his eldest son, "but to all veterans of the fighting in that Asian nation, particularly the maimed in body and spirit, and most especially to those who gave the most precious gift of all - life itself."

The vast, gull-like structure rises above the brow of the hill to a height of nearly 50 feet. The gracefully curving walls flow down from their commanding height so that the tip of each recedes into nothing as it is buried in the hillside. A third inward curving wall completes the chapel exterior.

On the rear wall inside the small, quiet chapel are the color photographs of veterans killed in Vietnam - with David Westphall's picture permanently displayed in the middle. As new photos are submitted by the next of kin, they are placed on view in the chapel. Each day when Dr. Westphall opens and closes the chapel, he remembers the young men represented by the photographs in prayer - as the essence of what the chapel is all about.

"I pray to God their sacrifices will give each of us the firm resolve to prevent future wars and to establish lasting world peace and brotherhood," says Dr. Westphall.

Looking down into the chapel from the photographs, a visitor sees four descending concentric rows of curved seats. Above, the ceiling soars to the top of a narrow window 28 feet high and one foot in width. To the left of the window at the apex of the curving walls is a tall, simple cross bearing an eternal flame.

Hillside paths surrounding the chapel are bordered with small markers, each inscribed with the name and hometown of U.S. military personnel killed in the Vietnam action.

The chapel design - which has suggested to many the wings of a fallen angel - was conceived by Santa Fe architect Ted Luna after sitting for an entire afternoon on the knoll overlooking the peaceful mountain valley. According to Luna, his concept "evolved into a timeless statement, void of all traditional connotations of materials and their use..."

Many visitors say that the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel qualifies as one of the most beautiful and inspiring buildings in the world.

"When we started construction, we realized that it would take far more money than we could provide personally, but we also thought surely money would be available from such sources as a foundation," says Dr. Westphall. "After making a heartbreaking number of applications, we were forced to admit failure in this approach."

"If those who died can become a symbol that mankind and bring about principles which defile, the youth of the world, have died in vain."

So Dr. Westphall, his wife Douglas - who served in an Air Force pilot - went. They completed the wall 1968, and added the summer. In the ensuing years has driven more than 200 his home in Springer. A site to complete the limited maintenance chapel daily to visitors, the public have been me to the overall construction born by Dr. Westphall.

David Westphall believe which he gave his life was his father. Words which testimony to his belief justice and in an ethical could prevail. These Westphall's are inscribed rear of the chapel.

At the sight of the heaven fell on his face, but commanded. "Son of me feet and I will speak with stand on our feet in the what, then, is one man the dignity of another?"

At the entrance to the national in creed and another inscription by Westphall, which feelings about war:

Graced plowed cities des Lusts ran snorting thro. Pride reared up to dese Shrines, and there were So man learned to shed With which he measure

Says Dr. Westphall: "My the thousands who, hav indicates that his writin in many of the noble goa his generation - the some more often and increas called 'younger generat

The Vietnam Veterans hood Chapel is a non which Dr. Westphall secretary. In an effort and greater financial ass directors was recently e number of business an the Eagle Nest-Taos-R

As explained by Dr. V longer devote my entire There are other things years left to me."

As an only son, Dr. W for service during W subsequently saw two y South Pacific - in Guadalcanal, the Soli Borneo.

"Two years of observin to man, strengthened peace, to be attained, mightly and not, like grow," he emphasizes.

Photography by Frank R. Price



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Since World War II, Dr. Westphall has succeeded in two careers. As head of Westphall Homes, he was president of the Albuquerque Home Builders Association, and a regional director of the National

Home Builders Association. In 1956, he received his Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico and taught high school classes and conducted courses in southwestern history at the university. Dr. Westphall retired from active business operations in 1963 in order to devote more time to the New Mexico Historical Society (which he served as president, 1962-65), research and writing. A number of his books have been published, and several others are now awaiting publication.

DAV officials - some of whom had visited the chapel in recent years - became aware of the chapel's financial plight. And, at the April 1977 meeting of the National Finance Committee, it was unanimously agreed to contribute a maximum of \$10,000 annually for the next ten years to help ease the burden of maintenance costs, utilities, repairs, further limited construction requirements and other needs. The gift each year will be subject to DAV approval of the planned budget expenditures.

In announcing establishment of the gift program, then DAV National Commander Frank J. Randazzo said, "I feel nothing could be more appropriate than an organization such as the DAV providing its tangible desire for world peace through support of the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel - and I am sure my fellow DAV comrades will agree with this partnership concept."

Commander Randazzo added, "No one knows better than a disabled veteran - most certainly the disabled Vietnam era veteran... what it's like to spend the rest of your life with the physical and mental scars of war. I only hope that this worthwhile use of DAV funds stimulates a groundswell of public support for Dr. Westphall's noble endeavors in behalf of world peace forever."

As a footnote to this story, Dr. Westphall points out that there were a number of reasons why the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel must be erected. One of these is especially important. While Dr. Westphall was serving in the Pacific during World War II, David's mother purchased for him a book entitled, *Wings for Per*.

This book was his favorite childhood possession. It could not have been known then that he would one day serve his country in Vietnam and that his last official address and home would be Val Verde Ranch, Eagle Nest, N.M., in the foothills of the mountains he loved so much. Prior to his departure for Vietnam, David designated a number of his books to the local school library. His last action before taking the bus on his way to Vietnam was to bring *Wings For Per* to his mother and say, "I can't give this book; it is worth a million other books."

The concluding paragraph of *Wings For Per* reads: "Then I will fly up into the clear, washed air of spring and soar over the eagle's nest and over my home under the crag. Mother will stand in front of the house and clasp her hands in wonder. She will say: Look, Per has wings."

Editor's Note:

On Veterans' Day, 11 November 1981, the Vietnam Veterans Chapel will be featured on NBC's REAL PEOPLE television program. Consult your local listings for time and channel.

The current status of the Vietnam Veterans Chapel as concerns the DAV is covered in a letter to me from Doug Westphall. Please refer to page 23.

Vietnam Veterans Chapel



GREED PLOWED CITIES DESOLATE
LUSTS RAN SNORTING THRU THE STREETS
PRIDE REARED UP TO DESECRATE
SHRINES. AND THERE WERE NO RETREATS.
SO MAN LEARNED TO SHED THE TEARS
WITH WHICH HE MEASURES OUT HIS YEARS.

DAVID WESTPHALL





"Strength in Unity"

National Unity through a

Veterans' Union? ? ?

by Frank R. Price

(Frank R. Price is a Vietnam Era Veteran, works as a Disc Jockey at a Rock and Roll station and a Country Radio station in Texas. He is involved in counseling vets, and is a counselor for the Institute of Christian Counseling Ministries.)

The current trend of the Reagan Administration to attack veterans benefits bespeaks of a total misunderstanding about the nature of veterans rights and benefits. Veteran Rights, Benefits, and Care is not to be confused with 'welfare' even though current and past presidential administrations in recent years have managed to 'pull-off' a successful campaign to couple the veteran with those who are indeed recipients of social welfare. The veteran simply qualifies for this Rights, Care and Benefits through contracts while either entered into verbally or in writing with the Federal Government for services rendered.

The simple signing of contracts of enlistment with the military sets the veteran apart from other programs he has been coupled with by unscrupulous politicians and budget cutters. The veteran for the most part has considered his Rights, Benefits and Care a part of those contracts which he agreed to and which he feels the government must fulfill as their end of the contract. The veteran was drafted, or recruited for duty. Tantalized by offers of Rights, Benefits and Care the veteran suspended his rights as a citizen for the duration of this service obligation, and he offered his highest value (his life) as a tool to complete the vanguard of the nations security. These veterans having fulfilled their contractual agreements have returned to find the very government they served constantly hedging on the issue of recompensation for periods of Federal Service.

Further, to complicate issues, the many veterans organizations around the country have failed to perceive their role in the veterans issue for what it is. (Even though the organizations on a whole have done an excellent job saving and protecting veteran rights.)

The role of the veterans organizations has been interpreted as organizations within the 'social context' of the civilian community. The veteran himself, while he has seen movement on the national level to protect him, he has seen little benefit for himself or his comrades on the local level. What benefit he has seen has been secondary in nature. He gets satisfaction for working with community projects, he is satisfied with contributing time to raise money for disabled veterans organizations, but, he simply is not represented effectively on the national level. His voice grows loud and strong locally, regionally, and state by state, but, his representation is watered down by the numbers of organizations representing sometimes diverse and opposing issues and by the fact that the organizations are divided and unity is impossible. (Though secretly and by nature the major organizations have supported each other's stand and they have conspired to hold out for their members, benefits, rights and care, with great effectiveness.)

The military - mindset has prevented the veteran from considering himself as a laborer and the role of the Federal militia force has been to act as strike-breakers and scabs, and historically to act as Federal Police Enforcers. While at the same time the labor contingent within the country has been actively working for better working conditions, safety, and rights, benefits, and care. Their jobs have been successful, with the few exceptions of too much Federal intervention.

Today, the problem has become apparent that the Federal Government does not intend to honor its moral, ethical, or legal contracts with the veteran. The swing of the ax will undoubtedly sway to and fro and in the next few years the issue of the veteran and his Rights, Benefits, and Care will take each blow until an individual who served will not be compensated for any suspension of his civil liberties, and his time in service. Those who benefit from his service will remain safe and comfortable with security, the potential for economic growth, education and ultimately rights, benefits, and care that he can either work towards during the good years or which are provided for in his 'civilian' social-welfare programs.

The veteran on the other hand will be guaranteed only that he will have worked under 'special' circumstances, without protection of his civil liberties, in hostile environments (it is even hostile in friendly areas), under stress and physical and mental punishment of mind and body, sacrificing education, security, and personal economic gain for dutiful military service to an unthankful civilian established labor force who are hostile and unmoved by the plight of the veteran. The failure of the national, state, regional, and local veterans organizations to form a unified body as a veterans union will undoubtedly lead to disastrous conclusion of veterans Rights, Benefits, and Care.

The Federal Government is under no illusion about this prospect. They will, and do actively move to appease the large membership organizations on issues which will insure that they do not spur the Veterans Organizations to national unity in all causes. These acts are accomplished by the Federal Government hiding behind a cloak of patriotic and conservative philosophies which are so easily stirred within the ranks of those who are the most 'dutiful' of the American public and who have shown a willingness to sacrifice life, limb, and personal liberty for nationalistic causes. These forces within the government place a double-bind on the individual veteran to purposely stand idle while his Rights, Benefits and Care is eroded, and force him to like it or accept it by appealing to a patriotic duty instilled and conditioned into him which allowed him to serve his country in the first place.

If there were ever a 'just reason' for refusal to serve, for evasion of conscription or draft avoidance, there could be no better cause than the **Veterans Double-Bind** which is employed against him if he does not serve employed against him for service he performed. The Veteran (or the potential service member is damned if he does not serve and is damned if he did) and jail terms or psychological problems for serving appear far more devastating to the veteran than does punishment for not serving! This blame can not be directed entirely at those individuals who took what they believe to be a proper course of action based on their integrity and self preservation by military avoidance, but rather the blame must be directed at a system which allows itself to degenerate to the point that it no longer feels a moral, ethical, or legal responsibility to honor its prior commitments to those who contracted to serve, i.e. the veteran. Unfortunately, today there are far too many veterans, and far too less honor within the American system of dealing with those who served. The route around the veterans rights is not an easy route nor is it likely that it will ever be resolved sufficiently or quickly enough to be of much use to those experiencing the current problems. But, the issue will or has directly affected every veteran and therefore it is necessary to look into courses of action which might resolve some of the problems now faced.

A landmark and ultimately successful solution to the veterans problem would be **National Unity**. The proper use and instigation of a **Veterans Union** would insure that the veterans voice could be heard outside the partisan politics of any particular veterans organization. Recognition of the union as the legal representative of the veteran, his Rights, Benefits, and Care. A merger between the Veterans Administration and the Veterans Union, with the Union membership themselves coming in control of programs and facilities and having the power to pursue issues, administrative duties, publications, and appropriations as needed, with ultimate control going to the voting membership. A total disbandment of the Veterans Administration as an 'arm' of the government, and government taking a back-seat and funding role per there moral, ethical, and legal responsibilities, with the total control of those funds (upon Congressional approval) going to the union for the usage of their members.

This answer is not a complete 'program' so to speak. But, it is an outline which will solve many of the problems facing the veteran. First, it takes the problems of the veteran directly to those who are in a better position to help: other veterans. Second, it eliminates the hostile role which the VA has taken towards the veteran. (A number one enemy and killer of veterans.) It will insure that the

veteran has his voice heard above special interest organizations, and that local, state, regional, and national funds raised will go to help the federal programs for the veteran, and it would assure that the veteran has some control over forcing the issues of his Rights, Benefits, and Care which were contracted, between himself and the Federal Government.

A National Veterans Union, is it possible or is it just hopeful thinking? Probably, it is just hopeful thinking...But, it is necessary to demonstrate here that the plight of the veteran is one of a **labor force**. And it is necessary to demonstrate that the Rights, Benefits, and Care of the veteran is a **Contracted** obligation that the Federal Government owes to the veteran. If the veteran fulfilled his legal obligation (which he could have been lawfully punished for not complying with) then he is entitled to all rights, privileges and care which were in effect upon entering into that contract which he signed and a lawful representative of the Federal Government counter-signed. Verbal contracts (in many states) are also lawful binders, and they should be upheld within the jurisdiction of the State in which the contracts were entered into. Therefore it should be maintained that from a moral, ethical and legal standpoint that the United States of America and its lawful representatives should respect and honor all contracts, rules and regulations which were in effect and which were used in recruitment and/or in maintaining a member of the military service upon his or her enlistment or reenlistment into the military services. National unity by veterans and veterans organizations may be the only way to force the hand of the Federal Government upon the book of truth and honesty we must swear by in a court of law.

If the Reagan Administration and its callous cohorts could be trusted from a position of honor and confidence it might not be necessary for one more veteran to suffer from illness and disease, from the madness of warfare, or lack of education. But, with the inherited problems of lack of perspective about the veteran and his rights and benefits and care, Ronald Reagan and wooden may chop down the tree of belief and trust in those who faithfully served at home or abroad, in peace-time or in war. And the only thing which stands between the vet and the Ax is the single voice of the veteran, which is joined by others and which becomes a crescendo at its peak which demands the moral, ethical, and legal Rights, Benefits, and Care so deserved and so justified! As veterans we can understand our past enemies, but it is so, so hard understanding how we became the enemy of our own people. ■

Pennsylvania Art Show



Combat vets sign Sky's "God Loves the Grunt" as the artist looks on.



Dennis Joyner, DAV Vice-Commander, rapping with artist George Skypeck.

Vietnam Combat Art Exhibit

Until September, almost no one in rural southwestern Pennsylvania had seen a piece of original Vietnam combat art. Certainly, few of the residents of Greensburg, Pennsylvania even met an internationally famous combat artist, a war cartoonist, and a movie producer, all in the same week. But thanks to the efforts of the Governor's Veterans Outreach and Assistance Center over 2,200 residents of Westmoreland County were able to visit an exhibit of handicapped and disabled artists' work, featuring the original Vietnam combat art of George L. Skypeck and Tad Foster, author of the *Vietnam Funny Book*.

The five day exhibit, part of the county's observance of The International Year of Disabled Persons, was made possible through grants from the Disabled American Veterans; the American Legion; the National Association of Concerned Veterans; and Don Bailey, Vietnam Veteran in Congress. In addition to the work of local disabled artisans, Skypeck, and

Foster, the controversial documentary "Agent Orange, A Story of Dignity and Doubt," produced by Pittsburg native Jim Gambone, was featured in the main lobby of the Greengate Mall.

On hand at various times to talk with the media, interested citizens and Nam Vets, were Skypeck, Foster and Gambone.

The relationship of the artists to their own particular art form varied throughout the exhibit. For both Foster and Skypeck their work was a way of dealing with their combat experience.

Skypeck's work consisted of very poignant combat paintings which were accompanied by written epilogues. Sky drew on his two tours of duty in Vietnam for his canvas memories. He exhibited forty-four pieces of his art at the show.

At first glance, his work and that of Foster may appear to be in direct opposition. The combat scenes of Skypeck are deadly serious, while Foster takes a tongue-in-cheek look at the war.

choice. They can be characterized as a very practical and pragmatic," said Bob Bishop, director of the Outreach Center, a project of the American Legion, administered by Department Adjutant Edward Hoak, and funded by a grant from Governor Richard Thornburgh through the Pennsylvania War Veterans Council.

One goal of the Governor's Outreach and Assistance Center is to make services and benefits more accessible to rural veterans, particularly employment and training services to Vietnam vets; another is to help the public, the service-delivery system, and veterans to resolve any remaining inner conflicts concerning the war. "We feel very fortunate to have been able to bring Tad's book and some of Sky's most famous pieces, including those which illustrated the Disabled American Veterans' publication *Post Traumatic Stress Disorder*, to some of the guys for whom they were originally intended. The vets who came in, many from 50 or 60 miles away, enjoyed the display. This, for many of them and their families, was their first exposure to Vietnam in the arts.



Illustration by George Skypeck

Tad's cartoons were drawn while he served in Vietnam as a way of coping with his predicament. They were never meant for publication. However, last year, he decided to publicize them (the cartoons) to help others understand Vietnam. He then sold his home in San Francisco so that he could pay for publishing *The Vietnam Funny Book*.

Although their approach to the war in art is different, there are many similarities between the two men. Both were wounded during the war, Foster before he was 20 years old, and Skypeck, after several years of service. Both say they felt a deep need for understanding.

All of the artists were impressed by the differences between the GVOAC, a rural program, and the city-based veterans' programs with which they are most familiar. "I think our three artists left Pennsylvania with a renewed sense of how hard it is to reach people in rural areas of the country. The folks who live in rural areas do so by

"Our secondary objective was to call attention to the need for psychological readjustment counseling; i.e., delayed stress groups in rural areas. A lot of Nam vets live in the country, too, and we are trying to see that their needs are not ignored."

"One of the most important lessons we learned from putting this whole thing together was that the only people willing to help finance the endeavor were veterans," commented Bishop. "We asked about ten industrial and business foundations for grants-in-aid and got as many 'no' answers. We then turned to the veterans' groups and the Veterans Administration and received the support we needed. I guess it still boils down to that old cliché, 'Together then, together now.'"

Veterans interested in obtaining a copy of *The Vietnam Funny Book* or prints of Skypeck's art can contact the GVOAC at: 12923 Route 30, North Huntingdon, PA 15642



Dennis Joyner, DAV Vice-Commander, signs "God Loves the Grunt" while artist George Skypeck looks on.

Vietnam heroes:

-a war's 'forgotten suckers'

By now we've come to expect controversial documentaries from John Pilger, programs which will stir the consciences of some and raise the hackles of others.

Cambodia - Year Zero showed a mostly uncaring world how Pol Pot had murdered millions of his people while **Island of Dreams** documented some of Australia's least fine moments.

On August 19th, Pilger was back with another, an hour-long special called **Heroes**.

In this he tackles another taboo subject, the Americans who fought in Vietnam and who, unlike veterans of other wars, didn't come back heroes.

Although the veterans are American and the program is aimed at Middle America, many people would and no doubt will argue that it has its parallels in Australia.

Agent Orange and the Government's attitude towards the controversy surrounding it immediately spring to mind.

Of the American veterans Pilger says: "They came home, not to parades but to a purgatory of silence, shame, indifference. Or they came home in plain wooden boxes marked 'This Way Up. Unviewable.'"

"Today there's not a single monument to their dead - as if America's longest war didn't happen.

"The right wing insist the war should have been won and blame the veterans for not winning it. Those on the left still see them as baby-killers, dupes, and those in the middle regard them rather like last year's cars; obsolete."

Although obviously emotionally committed to his subject Pilger is less emotive in his narrative than in his previous documentaries.

Instead he lets the facts and the men speak for themselves.

The facts are that the average age of the American soldier in Vietnam was 19 and that a surprising 80 percent of them were volunteers who joined up for reasons which, to the majority of Americans then, were still the right ones - God, flag and country.

Sixty percent of those soldiers are now alcoholics, 40 percent drug addicts, 60 percent of black veterans are out of work and a staggering 55,000 of them have apparently committed suicide, about the same number who died in the war.

But the majority of Americans don't care and don't want to know as shown by a national poll in 1980 which revealed that 62 percent of the population believed that those who gave and risked their lives in Vietnam did so in the wrong war, in the wrong place at the wrong time.

In short, they were suckers.

Mistake Policy

If you find mistakes in this publication, please consider that they are for a purpose. We publish something for everyone, and some people are always looking for mistakes!!!

Army mates save VC's widow

Shoko Simpson, widow of Australian Victoria Cross winner Ray Simpson, will be rescued from humiliation in Tokyo by the Black Beret boys.

A Daily Mirror report of Mrs. Simpson's struggle with poverty in the world's most expensive city has prompted the Z Force Association of NSW to mount a rescue operation.

Operation Shoko will save the 53-year-old Australian citizen from the job of cleaning Japanese toilets.

Former Black Beret wearers are irate that the widow of their distinguished member, the most decorated Digger of the Vietnam War, must turn back to the job that almost killed her, cleaning office toilets and tearooms.

The Z Force has carried out an investigation of the Daily Mirror's earlier report of Shoko's plight.



Ray Simpson and Shoko

News From Down Under

Australia



Pilger lets some of these 'suckers' tell their stories accompanied by some grisly and distressing footage from the war.

Alonza Gibbs, black, decorated and wounded, receives a contemptible \$48 a month disability pension.

When he applies for a job he doesn't say he fought in Vietnam. "I figure it works against me," he says.

They also talk of the nightmare that was Vietnam, of a general who issued his men with hatchets and offered a case of whiskey to the first man to chop off a Vietcong's head; of how one-third of a company was wounded or killed because its commander didn't know how to call in an airstrike; of prisoners being thrown out of helicopters and others whose heads were blown off because they wouldn't talk.

It's chilling, shameful, award-winning stuff which will make your blood boil. Hopefully it will have the same effect in America.

Chipp launches Democrats era

by Paul Kelly and Jenni Hewett
The Sydney Morning Herald, August 1981

CANBERRA - The leader of the Australian Democrats, Senator Don Chipp, said yesterday his party will move to freeze housing-interest rates; sponsor an inquiry into Agent Orange; ease health costs for the poor; and push for electoral reform.

Senator Chipp has foreshadowed a new era of politics by warning that the Australian Democrats will use their balance of power in the Senate to sponsor Private Members Bills; work with the ALP to form new Senate committees; and block any "faulty" Government legislation.

"The day of the gag is gone, the guillotine is no more, nasty and controversial issues will no longer be buried at the bottom of the notice paper," Senator Chipp said.

Democrats, ALP agree on inquiry

The Australian Democrats and the ALP have agreed to press for special Senate committee to inquire into Agent Orange, but their cooperation is under strain.

The Democrats have produced what they see as suitable terms of reference but the Opposition is not satisfied with them and wants further consultation.

And even if they can agree on terms of reference, they need the support of at least one other senator.

The Democrats spokesman on veterans' affairs, Senator Macklin, said yesterday that the terms of reference had been produced according to legal advice and the requests of veterans.

The controversy follows the Government's decision to study the alleged effects of exposure to herbicides rather than a judicial inquiry.

The Senate could in fact set up its own inquiry. This would not have to be approved by the House of Representatives.

by Jenni Hewett
Sydney Morning Herald, August 81

Soldiers Lose Their Footwear

by Mike Kukler

You can lose your shirt in Las Vegas, by the spin of the gambling wheel, but soldiers going to Sydney, Australia, on Rest and Relaxation (R&R) leave during the Vietnam War were shocked when they lost their footwear. It wasn't unusual to see Vietnam veterans walking around Sydney airport terminal in their stocking feet.

Through the Australian Embassy in Tokyo they found Mrs. Simpson to be truly in need of help.

The \$78.65 a week the Australian Government grants her as a war hero's widow is truly the proverbial widow's mite by Tokyo standards.

The uncomplaining Mrs. Simpson in her two-room home in Yayoi-Cho is grateful that Canberra recently gave her a widow's pension.

That and money from the sale of Ray's medals to the Canberra War Museum are allowing her main wish - to care at home for her 85-year-old dying mother.

Operation Shoko will probably take the form of a modest grant financed from an Australian-Japanese movie.

The film is, oddly enough, about a wartime friendship between an Australian Black Beret and his Japanese captor.

Lee Robinson, the Australian producer, flies back to Sydney tomorrow after scripting the \$5.5 million co-production.

Z Force, officially called the SOA or Special Operations Australia, was a cloak-and-dagger unit that single-handedly made two raids on Japanese-occupied Singapore.

The first team sailed 8000km through occupied Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia, to sink 40,000-tons of shipping in Singapore harbor.

The second group was spotted within striking distance of the target and, all 23 Z men were killed.

The Japanese, amazed at the daring of this raid, "honored" the Australians with a hero's execution, beheading.

The film will probe the difference in attitude between the Japanese Bushido code of chivalry with death by the sword and Australian abhorrence of this "barbarism."

The Z Force Association, acting as technical advisers, will get a small percentage of profits as a fee.

Black Berets in the Paddington-Woolahra branch of the RSL, who have special memories of the late Ray Simpson, are considering donating a portion of the fee to a Shoko Simpson support fund.

One of Lee Robinson's tasks during an 11-day script-drafting session in Tokyo was to check on Mrs. Simpson's circumstances.

"It's as the Daily Mirror reported," he said.

"I'll be talking with Ross Crook, president of Paddington RSL branch, when I get back to see what can be done for her.

"Paddington has a special Ray Simpson corner and I know they are very concerned about the plight of his widow."

And the widow? Grateful but concerned.

"I don't want to put anyone to trouble," she said.

It's the same reticence that kept this partially deaf, rheumatic woman subsisting on \$50 a week the Australian Government recently granted as an ex-gratia payment.

That pension forced her to take a menial part-time job. She is willing to go back to it against her doctor's strict warning the work may kill her.

The Black Beret boys have other ideas.

Their fee-sharing plan from the Australian-Japanese film would be a unique contribution to better international understanding.

Australian Daily Mirror, July 1981



Cover to Cover

BOOKS IN REVIEW

by John B Dwyer*

"Wounded Men, Broken Promises" by Robert Klein, McMillan Pub. Co., 278 pages, 1981, \$13.95.

Subtitled: "How the Veterans Administration Betrays Yesterday's Heroes," Klein's book is a documented indictment of VA practices, or malpractices, nationwide.

The author, an award-winning investigative journalist, pulls no punches when detailing the scandals, abusive medical practices and heart-rending case histories that are part of the VA's past and present.

The reader, is taken inside the sometimes filthy facilities run by the VA, exposed to cold, compassionless doctors and staffers.

While Vietnam veterans and issues such as Agent Orange are dealt with, so are the experiences of WWI, WWII and Korean veterans; proud, heroic men, now crippled, bed-ridden or dying, being treated in some instances by medical students who don't give a damn.

I doubt anyone can read this book without an increasing sense of disbelief then outrage.

Klein feels the high point of VA history coincided with its being administered by the former GI general Omar Bradley, 1945-47, who, as Klein puts it, was hired to "revitalize a stagnating, abuse-infected VA." After that, it was downhill.

One of the more interesting problems Klein reveals is that of the affiliation some VA facilities have with medical schools. This results in events such as second year students, unsupervised, handling patients on the wards. Affiliation creates situations such as the patient as guinea pig or teaching tool.

And while the school pays nothing and students get trained, the return for the VA is minimal...after becoming a professional, the

former student rarely returns to facilities where they are desperately needed.

Another area where VA facilities are in need of improvement, though officials claim otherwise, is that of geriatric care. As the author says: "Never mind that the aged vet has had to cope with crumbling buildings, failing equipment, insensitive staff, faltering medical care - not to mention non-aggressive (non-existent?) therapy - the VA is marching forward with vigor."

The last section of the book is a talk with an incarcerated Vietnam vet, another low-priority area for the VA.

What Eldson McGhee tells Klein bears repeating: "If we don't start having some sensitivity towards vets, when they come back, you know, we might be creating a monster. You can't keep training people in the use of destruction and expect them to come back into this country and be the prime of citizenship...America will have to wake up."

Now, as the author points out, his book is not meant as a wholesale, blanket indictment of the VA. There are many places where dedicated people continue to do good work.

I believe books such as *"Wounded Men, Broken Promises"* are meant to shake people and officials and politicians up enough to correct those abuses that certainly do exist in some areas, at some facilities. Klein's book sure as hell ought to do that.

*John is the Editor/Publisher of the national Vietnam oriented monthly newsletter 'Perimeter'. For information on John's newsletter, write to John at 430 Westbrook, Dayton, Ohio 45415.

Rolling Stone

- **Rolling Stone Magazine** is gathering Vietnam oriented photos in preparation of a book.
- We need photos that Vietnam veterans themselves took while they were in Vietnam. Not slick, professional photos, but their own personal glimpses of Vietnam -- the barracks, the rice paddies, the bars, anything at all.
- All work will be returned and of course, nothing would be published without written permission from the owner of each photograph.

Write to: **Frances Pelzman**
Assistant Picture Editor
Rolling Stone Magazine
745 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10151

Or call: (212) 350-1213.

All those who contribute photos please include name, address and phone number on every picture or envelope of negatives.

At the sight of the Heavenly Throne Ezekiel fell on his face, but the voice of God commanded, "Son of Man, stand upon your feet and I will speak with you." If we are to stand on our feet in the presence of God, what, then, is one man that he should debase the dignity of another?"

David Westphall



"Vietnam Veterans Chapel"

DAV and the Chapel

As you know, we have felt for years that a major step must be taken in order to perpetuate the Chapel. Present sources of funds are simply not adequate for completing remaining projects or creating a perpetuity fund. We relied for too long upon the possibility of Federal help; the reaction of the Federal government merely added but one more absurd and tragic chapter to the Vietnam chronology. Some may say that the project should not have been undertaken without adequate funds for all purposes, including perpetuation. One must remember, however, that the effort began almost 13 years ago—at a time when a guarantee of funds for anything related to Vietnam would have been very unlikely. Had we waited for the mood of the country to change, the country would have been denied its most significant tribute to Vietnam veterans at a time when such a tribute was badly needed. Attitudes toward the Vietnam War and toward projects such as the Chapel have changed now, and substantial support is now possible. One such source of support is the Disabled American Veterans (DAV). Although the DAV's support has already amounted to \$50,000, that organization is considering making a proposal for DAV ownership of the entire project. Mr. Richard M. Wilson, DAV Assistant National Adjutant, is forming an ad hoc committee which will decide on a proper course of action for the DAV. While the terms of any agreement which might be proposed are not known, it is contemplated that the basic provisions would be the deeding of the buildings and 5.3 acres of land to the DAV and, on the DAV's part, provision of adequate funds for operations and salaries. My father, Dr. Victor Westphall, has labored for 13 years on an unsalaried basis; under the terms of any agreement, he would be hired as a paid Chapel director. Aside from the obvious justice of such a provision, it would be desirable because any memorialization of any meaningful commitment arising from the Vietnam War must go beyond memorialization of Vietnam veterans and must

include a resolution to participate in the effort to achieve a peaceful world order. We feel that through the Chapel the basis for such participation by those affected by Vietnam has been laid.

Although the Westphall family has borne a large percentage of the financial burden and almost all of the burden associated with construction and administration, many others have substantial investments in the Chapel in monetary, emotional and philosophical terms. Due to that investment on your part and due to the fact that unless a step such as DAV ownership is taken all our efforts may ultimately be proven to have been relatively short-lived, I am asking you to consider showing your support for the contemplated DAV proposal for ownership. To that end, I have suggested below some things which you might wish to do in order to show your support. Please do take any additional actions which you deem to be warranted.

- (1) Write to the DAV and convey your thoughts about the Chapel and about the merits of DAV ownership. Bear in mind that one negative factor in the minds of some DAV officials is the relative remoteness of the site. However, there is a substantial number of visitors to the area and with proper effort and resources the number of visitors to the Chapel could be increased dramatically.
- (2) Let the DAV know what you would like to see the Chapel become in relation to a quest for world peace, and let them know that their involvement with such an effort can only serve to enhance their public image.
- (3) If possible be at the Chapel during the committee's visit to welcome them and convey to them your concerns about the Vietnam War and the Chapel. We will advise you of the date of the committee's visit.

The appropriate address is: Mr. Richard M. Wilson, Assistant Adjutant/Disabled American Veterans/Box 14301/Cincinnati, OH 45214. ■



David's Story A Casualty of Vietnam

A father writes of his son's life,
and of his death in Vietnam

PROCEEDS GO TO THE

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Chapel

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P.O. Box 666
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Price: a \$5 contribution

SEALS: The Triple Threat

by John B. Dwyer

On 1 January 1962, President John F. Kennedy commissioned SEAL Teams ONE and TWO. The Sea, Air, Land teams are organized, equipped and trained to conduct unconventional warfare, counter-guerrilla and clandestine operations in maritime areas and riverine environments.

The SEAL Team mission is five-fold:

1. Destroy enemy shipping, harbors, bridges, rail lines and other installations in maritime or riverine areas.
2. Infiltrate and exfiltrate agents, guerrillas, evaders and escapees.
3. Conduct reconnaissance, surveillance and other intelligence.
4. Accomplish limited counter-insurgency civic action tasks which are normally incidental to counter-guerrilla operations.
5. Organize, train and assist/advise the US, Allied and other friendly military or paramilitary forces in the conduct of any of the above tasks.

SEALS deployed to Vietnam in 1965-66, with platoons going to the Rung Sat Special Zone to interdict VC/NVA sappers based there. Their results proved so effective that four additional platoons were deployed; two to Nha Be, one to Binh Thuy, another to My Tho.

Operations at the same time consisted mainly of LP and ambush in areas well back from main rivers where VC moved with impunity.

As hostilities increased, SEAL TWO was deployed to replace and reinforce SEAL ONE personnel. SEAL TWO's motto: "Second to None."

SEALS utilized heavily armed and armored small craft and later, specially designed, high-speed support craft for lengthening operations. These improvements substantially reduced casualties sustained from VC ambushes.

In late 1966, air support was added in the form of the highly skilled SEAWOLVES.

The combination of Boat and Mobile Support Units, helicopter and air support, plus direct action SEAL platoons led to what became the "SEAL Package".

In December 1966, SEALS participated in OPERATION CHARLESTON, capturing a quantity of enemy documents. Translations of these in January 1967 revealed VC utilization of fresh water wells numerous in southern Rung Sat Special Zone.



Despite initial AO and SOP problems, SEAL platoons amassed an impressive record; capturing and killing numerous VC, finding arms caches, leading US and ARVN on search missions and providing valuable intelligence on enemy locations and movements.

SEAL Team ONE therefore, conducted a series of coordinated demolition raids that completely destroyed these wells, forcing the enemy to travel long distances for fresh water.

Extended LP missions, ambush and recon patrols, continued through 1967. Late in the

SEAL ONE is presently based in Coronado, CA with SEAL TWO situated at Little Creek, VA.

year, high-speed Boston Whalers were introduced for quick recovery of ambushed sampans.

In March 1968, three SEAL squads acting on intelligence from a VC defector, discovered an enemy weapons factory. In the ensuing assault, five VC were KIA, six sampans plus the factory were destroyed. Smithing tools, grenade and rocket molds were captured. Continuing its patrol, the SEALS discovered two underground arms caches while killing four VC guards. Forty mines, assorted weapons and demo equipment were captured.

By 1969, SEAL ONE operated three detachments, GOLF, BRAVO and ECHO. In 1970, SIERRA was added, with SEAL TWO platoons controlled by Detachment ALPHA.

Through 1970, SEAL operations decreased with Vietnamization and an increase in advisory roles. Special operations increased though, and showed spectacular results.

SEAL Team ONE earned two Presidential Unit Citations, one Navy Unit Commendation and one Meritorious Unit Commendation.

SEAL personnel earned one Medal of Honor (LT. J.G. Joseph R. Kerrey), two Navy Crosses, 42 Silver Stars, 402 Bronze Stars, two Legions of Merit, 352 Navy Commendation Medals and 51 Navy Achievement Medals for their service in Vietnam, most all of them for Valor.

Today, SEAL training is considered by many to be the most rigorous in all the services. Besides UDT and SCUBA skills, the SEAL must become proficient in hand-to-hand combat, escape and evasion, jungle warfare, combat medicine, small unit tactics, hydrographic reconnaissance, demolition and weapons, etc. ■

Veterans Day

November 11, 1981-Proud Day!

The American's Creed

I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a Republic; a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice, and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I therefore believe it is my duty to my country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag; and to defend it against all enemies.

William Tyler Page



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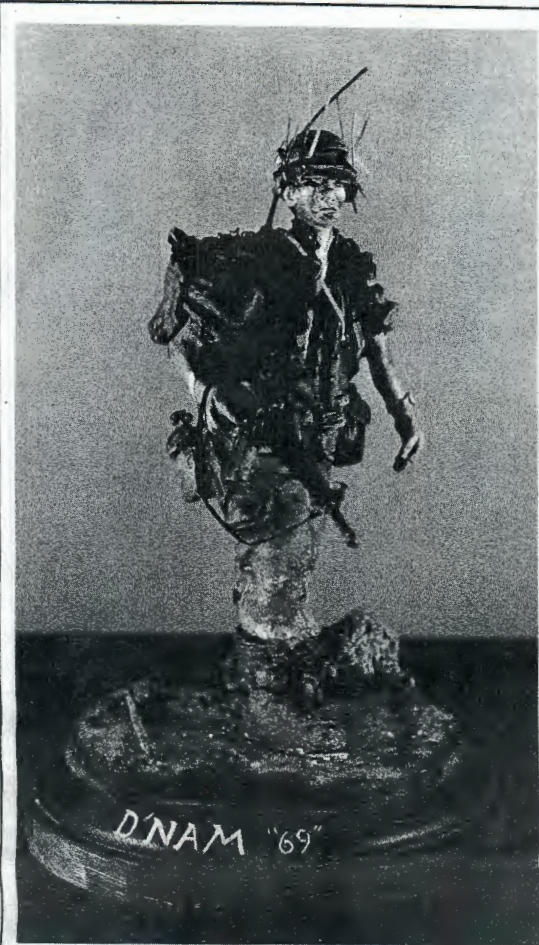


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Military Modeler

The Nam 1969. An RTO in combat gear is returning from a routine patrol. The L-T (his lieutenant) is somewhere close at hand. It has been many months since the RTO arrived in Nam. Neatly stenciled on the front of his helmet is the word 'Short'. The L-T knows he's short and he has offered to replace him as RTO. Lieutenants and RTOs make good targets. Antennas attract incoming. It has been a long time since the RTO took the small Rebel flag from off the antenna...lessons learned well...he has carried the radio this far and he wants to see it through to the end...the L-T understands...and the squad is thankful for the sacrifice of the RTO...antennas do attract rounds...radios get heavy...and the RTO has done a good job...

by Frank R. Price



The Vietnam War has been described in detail in countless articles, books, and newspapers. Few Americans have no understanding of the war. Television specials, movies and films have depicted the life and times of the combat soldier in Vietnam. Some of the scenes have been exaggerated and some have not gone far enough to describe the atmosphere of the activities in Indo-China. There is a mounting effort around the country by former military members to contribute to the 'scene' by whatever method they are talented in. Former marine Anthony Fuentes is one of these countless talented veterans who is doing what he can to preserve the history of Vietnam.

"Vietnam offers a unique opportunity to the artist today," said Fuentes. "It is an area of the art world which has been explored but few people are really mining it for all the power and impact that Vietnam has held on our generation. My Vietnam art is unique...but, at the same time going with the flow of modern technology and science. A few years ago this kind of work couldn't be done by just anyone. Today anyone can dabble in it if they want to...though I strive for quality and not so much for quantity..." Fuentes artwork is military sculpting and modeling.

"Military modeling is pretty much of a hobby to many kids and adults. I take my modeling/sculpting a step further...and in more serious direction," Fuentes said.

Fuentes is a master craftsman, or so he is considered by his peers and those who have been lucky enough to watch and view Fuentes artwork. He takes what would be considered a last step in constructing military models and that is where he begins. Fuentes has not been known to produce anything which could be considered 'stock' (store bought plastic models) every one of his creations is sculpted on and is a unique one time creation. According to at least one expert on militaria, Fuentes is a craftsman.



Former Special Forces Sargeant Thomas E. Pace is an expert in militaria, and his praise for Fuentes is high.

"I have been working in military modeling for most of my life," said Pace, "and I have never seen anyone who could outperform Fuentes in the art of military figure building. He has a knowledge of the anatomy that most modelers have never explored. The items he produces are museum quality pieces of artwork."

Pace's opinion carries weight in its analysis. He is a many times champion of model building in international modeling contests,

an expert aircraft and armor builder and the proud owner of many of Fuentes works of art.

Fuentes is not the run of the mill blood and guts style modeler. Seldom if ever has he built models depicting combat action. Rather, Fuentes has concerned himself with modeling 'grunts' and GIs in their everyday poses... sitting on the top of a tank drinking a cold beer...servicing and arming a Cobra...routine patrol. One of his creations was a suspended Huey over a rice paddy, off-loading a butter-bar Lieutenant (you could tell by the new fatigues) and cases of rations

to a six-man patrol. The fact that he choses such common subjects makes him unique in his field.

"No one really appreciates combat art, says Fuentes, "it is too easy to get into. I believe that there is too much of that kind of stuff going on. Everyone can pretty much understand the action of shooting someone or getting shot. But, in reality there were many more times spent in the service doing mediocre jobs with little glory, no reward, and no appreciation. I try and capture those events, study research material, and create a piece which can be appreciated for its

simplicitic human qualities."

Fuentes latest piece is one described by him as "D' Nam '69". It is a simple 7 1/4 inch figure carved out of plastic scrap. It is a sculpture of an RTO on routine patrol. And it is owned by the senior Fuentes who has learned to appreciate his son's artwork.

"I like to do things," said Fuentes, "for people who appreciate what I do..."

As a part owner in a Slot-Car and Arcade business, Fuentes pursues his sculpting as a hobby and at the same time he is preserving the history of the Vietnam Era. ■

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The Hunger Strike: A Personal Story

A Special to the
National Vietnam Veterans Review
by Thomas L. Langkau, Hunger Striker,
Retired

On May 27, 1981, a fellow Vietnam veteran convinced me to visit the demonstration at the VA Wadsworth/Brentwood Hospital in Los Angeles. My friend Greg was a "dust-off" pilot in Vietnam and we had spent many nights together talking about our experiences in Southeast Asia. My hesitancy in going to the demonstration was founded on guilt. Did I really want to dig up all those negative feelings? Feelings that I had tried desperately to forget. Greg said the least we could do was go and thank those people for what they were doing...fighting for the rights of veterans. I finally agreed. At 5 pm on May 27th, I arrived at the site of the demonstration.

I remember seeing a few men walking around a tent in jungle fatigues. An American flag was hung from a tent support pole. People were talking about their combat experiences. Others were talking about the insensitive and inhumane treatment given by the VA hospital staffs. One man said he hadn't eaten in 3 days.

I felt for the first time in years that I wasn't alone. These people were being open, honest and sincere. The only thing I could do was cry! I sat on a nearby wall and watched. Tears filled my eyes and I could not speak. Greg arrived and asked me what was wrong. I could only say that I was "hurting."

Why were these guys here? Why weren't they eating? Why haven't I been more active in the last 11 years?

I was deeply touched and honored to be in the midst of these patriots. These men weren't radicals or troublemakers. They were the good people of this country. Their only crime was that of being used by the politicians and generals during the sixties. They were here to fight for the last time.

I wanted to end the war in Vietnam and attempt that last step in coming home.

At that moment, I also decided not to eat, pitch a tent on that lawn and stand up for what I believed in...my rights as a veteran of the Vietnam War.

I returned home that night and showed up again 2 days later. I had a tent, my sleeping bag, and the will to join the struggle in hopes of making changes within the system. The issues were Delayed Stress, Agent Orange research and treatment, humane medical practices and the mysterious death and medical treatment of the late James Hopkins.

I started talking to the other vets in camp. Many of them were suffering from Delayed Stress and/or Agent Orange exposure. Others were there to support the hunger strike. There was also a group called the Inside Six that were not hunger striking but were encamped in the hospital lobby. The same lobby James Hopkins had driven his jeep into last March to protest the mistreatment of his claim by the Veterans Administration. We held meetings and decided our course of action. Non violence was to be maintained at all times. The VA and the US government were wrong. Where have they been in helping the Vietnam veteran during the last 10-12 years? The government sent us to Vietnam and now was the time for them to take responsibility for their mistakes and the injustices to the veterans.

Washington sent out a team of high ranking VA officials to talk to us. In the first meeting with them, Walter Buchanan, John McKernan, Clarence Stickler and myself were told that we would be taken care of. I was (in so many words) offered a job with

the VA once the demonstration was over. More than anything else, I felt that the VA could not relate to us as human beings. All they cared about was that the demonstration end. The negotiations (the VA called them discussions) broke down and on June 9, 1981, we were ordered off the grounds.

On that morning, we were awakened at 5:45 am and each of us was handed an eviction notice. The hunger strikers as had been prearranged, broke camp peaceably and conveyed to the Center for Veterans Rights. Seven members from the Inside Six group including a former POW, were arrested and carried off to jail.

The hunger strikers continued their fast and by June 22, 1981, 11 of the 12 hunger strikers were in Washington, DC. We set up a tent across from the White House. We lobbied on Capitol Hill and received some favorable response from Congress.

I ended my hunger strike on June 27th after 30 days without food and returned to the West Coast. I had lost almost 30 pounds and was very weak.

By July 20th, there were 4 remaining hunger strikers. All the others as I did, stopped their fasts as an act of good faith in response to the work being done by the Vietnam Veterans in Congress Caucus. On July 23rd, the hunger strike was over. We received a document from that caucus that asked us for one year in which they would attempt to enact legislation to respond to our demands.

The hunger strike was over, but now, our casualties were being counted. The privilege of being a hunger striker cost us over \$6,000 in bills, many of the hunger strikers were suffering from delayed stress and now are either drinking very heavily, in VA stress

wards, in jail or simply trying to recuperate.

The final blow came on September 14th when Clarence Stickler, USMC, jumped from an eleventh floor window of the downtown Los Angeles Hilton Hotel. Four weeks previous to that date, Clarence had requested treatment at the Sepulveda VA Hospital in Sepulveda, CA. Clarence was refused treatment and in fact removed from the premises.

Those of us who knew Clarence will miss him. He was a man that wanted nothing more than simple respect and to be treated as a human being. I am deeply hurt that his life ended in such a tragic manner. One of the reasons I got so involved with the hunger strike was that I did not want one more Vietnam Veteran to die. I can only imagine what his thoughts were that evening. I now ask that each of you who knows a Vietnam veteran to take a deep look at that person. Can we afford to let that person slip from our midst? Why won't the government realize that it's citizens are the most valuable resource it has? More than anything else, I remember that very first meeting with the VA officials from Washington. I remember one of those officials telling us we would be taken care of. On the morning of September 15th at 6:00 am when I was told of Clarence's suicide, I suddenly realized what that VA official meant...in the near future, Vietnam veterans won't have a problem because there may not be any of us left!

I'm proud that I'm a Vietnam Veteran! I'm sad because I survived to live under the sentence of death. The government won't help you so you better learn to help each other.

Thomas L. Langkau
Hunger Striker, Retired

The French Connection

An almost omnipresent commodity in the Vietnam Americans came to know, opium and its derivative, heroin was a substance largely foreign to precolonial Vietnam. The British and French introduced opium to Vietnamese society, transforming the "Golden Triangle" of Laos, Thailand, and Burma into the major site of opium poppy cultivation in Southeast Asia. The establishment of French opium "factories" in Saigon and elsewhere made France's monopoly on the drug one of its more lucrative colonial investments.

During the twentieth century the Vietnamese witnessed a steady growth in the narcotics trade, while various international crime organizations struggled with the French for control of the drug's distribution. When the French left, the opium remained.

By the mid-1960s, when American troops began to arrive in Vietnam in large numbers, the "Golden Triangle" was producing two-thirds of the world's supply of heroin. Two rival syndicates, the Shan tribe of northern Burma and a remnant of the Kuomintang army of Nationalist China, maintained control over the region through an extra legal "common market" in the drug.

Narcotics abuse among American soldiers remained a relatively minor problem during the first years of U.S. involvement. But in the late sixties and early seventies heroin usage skyrocketed. By 1971, according to Defense Department estimates, 28 percent of American troops in Vietnam had experimented with opium and heroin. Beleaguered GIs found that the extremely pure local product, which could be purchased for as little as two dollars a fix, enabled them to escape from the monotony

and bone-wearying despair of jungle warfare. "Everybody does it," one official in the army's drug abuse program explained. "Vietnam is a bad place and most people want to get through it as quickly and painlessly as possible." The heaviest heroin abuse occurred among white, middle-class draftees with no previous histories of hard drug use. "These kids are a cross section of what the selective service was picking up throughout America," a drug counselor said, "and that is what really shatters you."

The heroin epidemic eventually prompted military authorities to move against drug suppliers. Their efforts bore little fruit, however, as the opium trade was directed by South Vietnamese officials in high government positions. When U.S. drug prosecutors attempted to crack down on heroin smuggling into Vietnam itself, they learned that the Vietnamese customs service, notorious for its indifference to the vast influx of opium, was controlled by the brothers of General Tran Thien Khien, President Thieu's premier.

U.S. drug enforcement efforts were also made more difficult by the American's own complicity in the opium trade. In previous years the U.S. military command had ordered Green Beret units to purchase certain opium products in order to establish good relations with pro-South Vietnamese growers. For much the same reason, the Central Intelligence Agency had lent its planes to the anti-Communist Kuomintang for use in its heroin-trafficking enterprise.

In 1972 the Pentagon announced that it had made great strides against drug abuse in the armed forces. But heroin habits would plague many veterans for years to come. Among the many legacies left to Americans by the French in Vietnam, none proved so deadly as the snow-white powder the Vietnamese call *bach bien*.

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More Protester Arrests

Santa Rosa scene of recent arrests

San Francisco Chronicle, Sept. 19, 1981

Four veterans were arrested for barricading themselves in the federal building in Santa Rosa recently to call attention to the high suicide rate among the Vietnam vets.

The demonstrators took over the building's lunchroom at about 9 a.m., pushed vending machines against the doors and hung a

banner out the window that read, "The V.A. is killing us."

The veterans were protesting the suicide of hunger striker Charles Stickler, 35, who jumped to his death in Los Angeles saying he had not received proper treatment for "delayed combat stress."

A spokesman for the group said more than 70,000 Vietnam veterans had committed suicide since the fighting ended.

Police broke into the lunchroom about 1:30 p.m. and arrested the demonstrators, who put up no resistance.

Santa Rosa police Lieutenant Robert Liddell said, "No one's been hurt and there's no yelling or screaming."

Veterans Bruce Thompson, Mark Howard and Jim Heslin, all of Santa Rosa, and Jose Salazar Jr., of Geyserville, were charged with trespassing. All but Heslin served in Vietnam.

Four officers of the Federal Protective Service came from San Francisco to assist, but took no part in the arrests.

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Veterans Day

Veterans Day? I've always been open to a good joke and Veterans Day has never failed to get a good laugh from me. It is eleven years now since I returned from the "Nam" and ten years since I've been out of the Marines. Veterans Day has always been a day of fun for me and most other Vets that work in private industry.

On Veterans Day I will get up at my usual hour of five a.m., shower, shave, dress in my work clothes and head off for the machine shop to put in my usual eight or nine hours. Its still dark out this morning and it will be dark again by the time I return home this evening. There are only a handful of us vets working for the company (WW II, Korea, Nam) and on OUR DAY we get to work just as hard as any other day. After I've put in my eight or nine hours and the Federal government has taken out their share, I get to fight the traffic back to my home.

I arrive home to find no mail, because all government agencies, state and federal are closed, including the U.S. Postal Service. I also find out that I can't cash a check today, all the banks are closed also. The kids are all charged up and ready to pounce on daddy as he comes through the door, because you see all the schools are closed on OUR DAY. SO after playing with the kids for awhile I finally settle down to read my evening paper. The front page tells me all about the wonderful parades they had downtown, with the high school bands and the R.O.T.C. marching by in review. It also goes on to tell me about all the great speeches the government people gave, praising the millions of veterans of America.



Nov. 11, 1981

My reading is interrupted by the phone. It turns out to be my brother-in-law who works for the Post Office. He goes on to tell me all about the great day he had out rabbit hunting. I cut the call short. (P.S. Brother-in-law never served a day in the armed forces. He was a C.O. in the last war.)

As I hang up, the phone rings again and its my sister. She goes on to tell me about the great day she had downtown watching the parades. I cut this call short also, its been a long day from five a.m. (P.S. My sister works in a bank and has never been in the service.)

A half hour later my cousin calls and we go over some problems he had at work today. The call lasts only about twenty minutes, he's tired too. (P.S. He gets up at five a.m. also. He lost an arm in "Nam" and has been having a little trouble at his job.)

It is now 9:30 p.m. and I'm dead tired, I hit the rack.

ONE WEEK LATER: PAY DAY

I open my check to see that Federal, State and City taxes have been taken out of my check on MY DAY - November 11, 1981.

I hear a lot about Veterans Rights and the rights we're being cheated out of. Well, isn't - OUR DAY - one of our rights. All honorably discharged veterans in the private sector and public service should have this day off with pay just like any other holiday. WHY DON'T WE!!!!

by Howell M. Young ("Finders")
Vietnam, U.S.M.C.

VVA Vet Criticizes Fund Diversion by VA

A Vietnam veteran criticized the government yesterday for failing to spend money designated for helping disturbed combat veterans.

The Veterans Administration reportedly spent none of the \$16 million Congress appropriated for providing counseling to the ex-GIs who are targets of the "operation outreach" program established in 1979.

The program was designed to locate veterans and help them with mental, alcohol, drug and job problems outside of normal VA channels. It expired earlier this month but is expected to be revived when President Reagan signs a three-year extension passed by Congress last week.

Veteran John Terzano, of the VVA, testifying in the House government investigation subcommittee, called Operation Outreach, "the one meaningful program that this government has for Vietnam veterans," but that its work has been hampered by VA higher-ups and its extension was originally opposed.

The VA's chief medical director, Dr. Donald Custis, said the program was started so quickly in 1979 that management controls were not adequate and spending plans ran into a succession of federal freezes on hiring and buying office equipment.

He said \$11.2 million not spent on the outreach program in fiscal 1981 went to cover other medical costs, including Agent Orange examinations.

"That money was allocated for the Vet Center program and should have been used as such," Terzano said.

San Francisco Chronicle, October 1981

Hide My Heart

Watch for me...I am the God of War called Fear

Daybreak silhouettes my soul
and quickens my lust for Death

Today the hero must be brave;
the boy-child within can only weep at night
and there in the darkness become immortal

I have no mercy...
for Life
is no longer precious,
and the anger
never stops

Cold coffee and blood soaked boots
remind me Hell is more than a state of mind

Things that weren't supposed to exit
survive here in the trees and trenches
and I can't remember you face
nor taste the sweetness of love meant only
for me.

Laughter only means I've survived another
day...
another skirmish.

I wonder if I'll ever forgive them for making
me important
and now they dare tell me
I could have saved more lives by staying
home.

I am a product of my past
and yet they wonder why I scream in the
night

I learned to kill everything that looked the
same
and anyone who looked different...
a change of clothing won't help me forget
Equality here gives everyone the same
chance to die,
and a Victors trophy might only be Ears that
can no longer hear

Now...
Now I believe in whatever is necessary
because I can't remember
why I shouldn't.

They'll give me another medal to hang on my
chest
and hide my heart...
it's the only merciful thing to do
by Carla M. Huss

Chicago, Vet Day

Continued from Page 11

Following the broadcast, present plans call for the station to sponsor a 'call-in' session where members of the community may call for information on services available for those who may be having problems related to Vietnam service.

The concept is to have those who served in Vietnam and have not experienced the severe adjustment problems shown in the film speak with the people who call in to provide referral services and to give a balanced picture of the current status of the majority of the Vietnam veterans. Among those scheduled to handle the phones are members of the Veterans Leadership Conference and the Illinois Vietnam Veterans Civic Council. An orientation session is planned for those volunteering to answer the phones which will include a screening of the films to be presented.

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Viet Vet Faces Death Again

Wayne Felde - A Vietnam Combat Veteran Currently Under the Death Penalty in Louisiana for a Crime He Was Not Mentally Responsible For.

Recent events have drawn new attention to the plight of the Vietnam Veterans in this country. Many people, however, are not yet aware of the special case of Wayne Felde, a victim of Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSS) and Agent Orange poisoning who is sentenced to die in the Louisiana electric chair.

Wayne was charged with First Degree Murder of a Shreveport police officer who died during a struggle in which the policeman was attempting to stop Wayne from shooting himself. Nationally, recognized psychiatrists and psychologists testified at the trial that, because of his illness, Wayne was not in his right mind and had no criminal intent at the time of the incident. Although the prosecutor dismissed these doctors as "Quacks", one of them, Dr. Charles Figley, was called upon by the President to aid the returning Iranian hostages because of his skill and expertise in dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome.

After a stressful trial which lasted 14 hours a day, 7 days a week, for several weeks, the jury found Wayne "Guilty", making the inexplicable comment that they believed he was suffering from PTSS but did not have it at the time of the crime.

Wayne was shot extensively by police, spending almost 4 months in the hospital for the wounds he received, losing some major organs and parts of others as well as crippling his right leg permanently.

Badly crippled as a result of police shooting and ill treatment, and living in mental hell, Wayne could not face life in prison. When the jury found him guilty as charged, he asked for death rather than a life sentence.

But Wayne does not want to die. What he wants is justice - recognition that he is a casualty of war and treatment to cure his illness. Wayne, as well as his family and many friends, is hoping that the State Supreme Court will overturn his conviction and grant him a new trial. He is not fighting only for his life but for justice for all Nam veterans who have suffered as he without treatment.

Wayne is a symbol of the lack of justice and compassion in our society. Our tendency to ignore our problems instead of solving them. We tried to forget the war and, in doing so, we forgot those we sent to kill and be killed. We left them to wander our streets as walking time bombs with no understanding of what was wrong with them. We owe it to Wayne and to all veterans in similar trouble, and to ourselves, to try and restore the human beings we've maimed.

Wayne is 32 years old, has 2 sisters, 4 nephews and 1 niece. Wayne's father died tragically when Wayne was very young and his mother just 6 days before Wayne decided to end it all which led to the death of the police officer. Wayne has made some mistakes in his life. One not recognizing the problem beforehand - trying to hide his illness. He has since realized, along with thousands of other veterans, and openly accepts the need of professional help. Wayne is a warm, caring, honest and gentle person. His conviction came from a tricky prosecutor, public lack of knowledge of PTSS and the extremely long hours and days of trial where, it seems, everyone just wanted to get it over with.

Can this injustice be corrected? Can Wayne be placed in a hospital to get the mental care he needs instead of the electric chair? Is Wayne Felde worth the effort? Will we stand

behind people with war-connected illness because our Government fails to recognize all that Vietnam did to Wayne and our other young men and women? We believe the answer to all these questions is YES.

If Wayne is to be successful, funds are needed to carry on the struggle for freedom and building legal costs. Wayne's family have already put all their life savings into his first trial. They do not have the resources to cover the second one. The success of his trial could depend on how many people contribute to his defense. Though Wayne is a caring and lovable person who has made many friends, it will take a bigger network to put on the kind of trial that is needed.

Our prisons confine far too many people who cannot afford the opportunity of justice and understanding. John F. Kennedy said, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Wayne believed he was doing the right thing by volunteering to go to Vietnam and putting his life on the line. Now we ask for the chance for him to recover from the wounds he received in that effort and that his life be given back to him.

Funds are needed to carry on Wayne's struggle for freedom. Freedom from the electric chair. Freedom from prison and freedom from the mental hell in which he lives daily. ■

Please send your tax deductible contribution to:
Prisoner Support Fund
c/o Mennonite Service Unit
817 West Pikes Peak Avenue
Colorado Springs, CO 80905

Indicate on the check or envelope that the contribution is for Wayne Felde.

N. Graves Thomas
Defense Attorney

Nancy Goodwin, Director
Louisiana Coalition of Jails

Dixie Thomas
Wayne Felde Defense Fund Coordinator

Soldiers' Pay And Get Paid

A Marine corporal named Anthony Casamento warmed the heart of America recently by winning a thirty-eight-year battle for the Congressional Medal of Honor. Meanwhile, another, lesser-known tale of a scorned soldier, Sgt. Wayne Robert Felde, was being spun out in the heartland of Louisiana.

Felde and Casamento are both war-decorated veterans. Like Casamento, Felde stood on a hill behind a machine gun and fended off the enemy. Both, limping on crutches, stood recently before high authority and had conferred upon them the belated emblems of their war service. Casamento got the Medal of Honor, Felde received a sentence to the electric chair.

It comes as no surprise to find that while Casamento is a 59-year-old veteran of Guadalcanal, Felde is a 31-year-old veteran of Pleiku firebase in Vietnam. To hear Felde's story is to hear a sickening echo of so many Vietnam veterans who came back, mentally wrecked, to a changed country where medals were thrown out and war heroes had become villains, where life was a descending spiral of betrayal, drugs and crime. Within two years of his return in 1970, Felde got mixed up with an ex-convict whom he killed in a fight. Afterward, he went berserk, yelling "Vietnam, Vietnam, come and get me!" He spent three years in jail, escaped, came up from the lam to be with his dying mother, and was captured shortly after her death. Handcuffed in a squad car, Felde killed a police officer during a struggle for a gun, a fight that left

him with one-half a liver, one kidney and a useless right leg. The defense, which is appealing the August 22 murder conviction and death sentence, brought in more than 100 witnesses, including psychiatrists and scientists, to testify that Felde had been driven insane by Vietnam and by intensive exposure to the defoliant Agent Orange, which left him, among other disorders, raw bleeding sores.

Casamento, in his repeated petitions for honor, searched long and finally found witnesses who would testify to his heroism, to the sheer artistic beauty of his single-handedly holding off a Japanese battalion, blood dripping from the fourteen wounds in his body, his dead buddies all around him; an act so pure and perfect that he got even the Japanese colonel whom he whipped to salute him in an affidavit. The war hero found witnesses who, in effect, sounded the chords of Horace; what glory there is in battle, how sweet and honorable it is to die for one's country.

Felde, on the other hand, sought and found witnesses who would voice a quite different sentiment. On the stand, he recalled his experience in Vietnam, as a boy of 19, "picking up pieces of our guys to send home...I cried for guys I didn't even know. I thought of their moms and my mom and someone offered me a reefer. I never smoked it before and...I smoked it then and from then on." Felde's defense lawyer found witnesses who testified that local police in Shreveport, Louisiana, furious at the death of a fellow officer, repeatedly twisted his shattered ankle in the hospital, that jail guards punctured his colostomy bag to humiliate him, denied him his pain medicine and refused him a doctor when he contracted a lump on his chest. All these witnesses testified not in Shreveport but in Alexandria, where the Louisiana Supreme Court, in an unprecedented move, ordered Felde's trial transferred because of "massive pretrial prejudicial publicity."

Felde's witnesses, in effect, echoed Hemingway, who wrote: "There is nothing sweet nor fitting in your dying (for your country). You will die like a dog for no good

reason." While President Jimmy Carter slipped the medal around the crippled but proud frame of Casamento, a tired Felde asked the Alexandria jury to give him death on the ground that he could not endure the pain of life as a cripple in jail.

The tales of Casamento and Felde, unraveling as they have with Homeric drama, are metaphors, fairy tales even, for what has happened to two generations in our lifetime; a metaphor for the different realities that, in the not too distant past, served to rip asunder fathers who fought a just war from their sons who did not. If time has allowed us to honor war heroes of decades past - in movies, in books, in special White House ceremonies - we have already forgotten the thousands of more recent veterans - in hospitals, drug centers, jails - who, far from fighting for medals, are fighting for their lives. ■

by Lucinda Franks
The Nation, October 1980

"Milestone" Case

Combat Stress Vet Innocent, Shreveport, Louisiana.

Defense Attorney Wellborn Jack successfully argued that delayed stress led to ex-Marine Charles Heads' shooting of his brother-in-law! The case, said Attorney Jack, set a new precedent in state law.

The defense lawyer who successfully argued that delayed Vietnam combat stress led an ex-Marine to kill his brother-in-law called the case a milestone in state law.

A jury Saturday found Charles Heads innocent by reason of insanity in the shooting of Roy Lejay in 1977, 10 years after Heads served in Vietnam.

Medical experts said Heads was reverting to survival tactics when he kicked open the door at Lejay's home. They contend he was experiencing flashbacks and felt as though he were "cleaning out a hooch," or hut, in Vietnam.

The trial was the third in Louisiana to raise the combat stress defense. The other two cases resulted in convictions.

"It's definitely a precedent," defense attorney Wellborn Jack said of the innocent verdict. "It shows the American people will listen to the plight of the Vietnam veteran."

Prosecutor James McMichael said he was "surprised and disappointed" at the verdict.

Heads, 34, was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting of Lejay at Lejay's home. Heads arrived there from Houston to retrieve his estranged wife and their children. Jack did not dispute that Heads shot Lejay when the victim refused to let him enter the house.

McMichael argued to the jury, "Why didn't he shoot the children if he were having a flashback (to combat)? Why didn't he shoot the police? He didn't care what was right and wrong. He was going to take matters into his own hands."

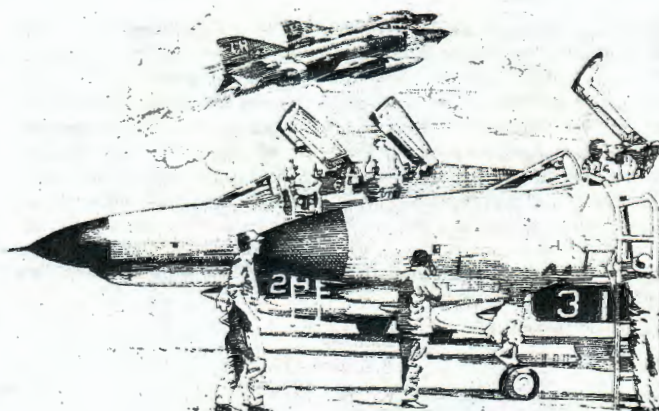
Heads enlisted in the Marine Corps at age 19, and served nine months in Vietnam before being wounded during a patrol and transferred out.

"Charles couldn't put Vietnam behind him," Jack said. "He carried it with him."

The jury of seven women and five men deliberated six hours before returning the not guilty verdict.

District Judge Gayle Hamilton ordered Heads held for commitment to a mental institution for treatment. ■

Veterans Must Support Veterans



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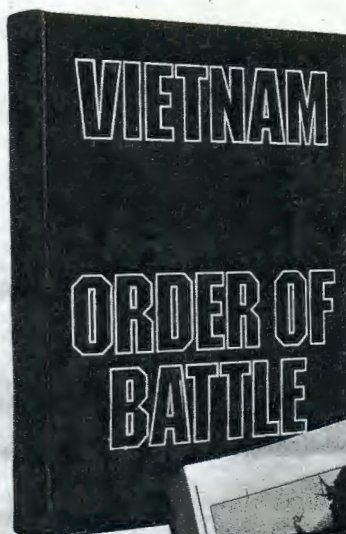
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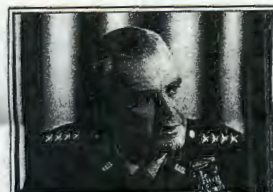
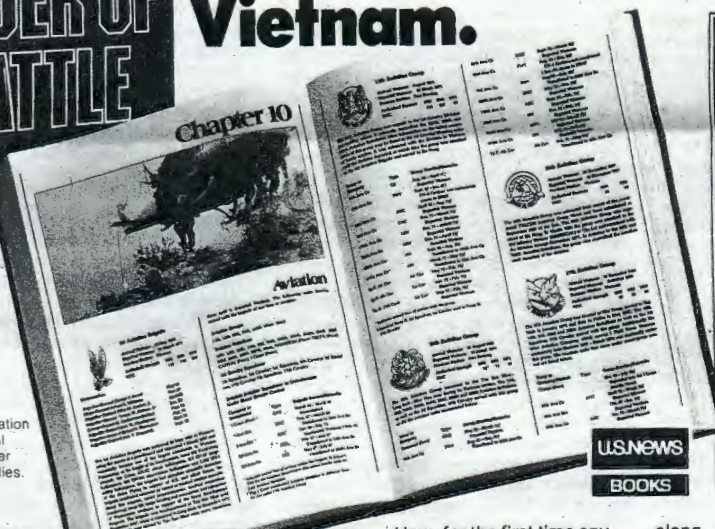


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View from the Outside

by Eugenie de Rosier Petschel

Medical Care and the Civilian Veteran

Many American women—apart from military personnel who worked in Southeast Asia during the last war—fulfilled a citizen's duty to this country by offering entertainment, conversation, medical care, and a psychological shoulder to cry on to the American soldier. They proved themselves an invaluable support system to our fighting forces whether we, the American public, understand this or not.

Where are these women today? The agencies who accepted them as civilian volunteers have not kept accurate records on their whereabouts, have lost or misplaced their files. Perhaps, it could be written off as slovenly record keeping and of no import, if some of these civilians weren't in need today. This is not always the case.

Marion Caldwell is ill. She has felt unwell for many months and has increasing problems with her health that are disproportionate for her age. Her son is sickly as well. Marion believes that her ill health is directly related to another part of her life. Specifically, when she served for the United States in a Red Cross Medical Unit as a hospital caseworker in the Vietnam countryside in 1971-72. Agent Orange was sprayed in the area where Marion worked. Her problems and those of her son have some of the signs of chemical exposure.

Marion is a composite of many American women who served in Vietnam. She made a deliberate decision to be of service to her fellow countrymen. She willingly gave of time, talents, and experience. She often worked in combat areas to fulfill a responsibility to country. Now she is sick and has no where to turn for help.

Marion believes she may be a victim of delayed reaction to Agent Orange. Her son is having problems because through her he may have been exposed to the damaging side effects of the substance. Agent Orange contains a potent poison, dioxin, which can cause impairment in senses of smell, taste, touch, body tremors, temporary focal paralysis, diarrhea to human and animal life. Agent Orange was described in Science Magazine as a carcinogen and teratogen (respectively, causing cancer and malformation of the fetus).

There are possibilities of help for such

women as Marion. One of the first actions they should make is to let the agency with whom they worked while in Vietnam know that they exist, and are in need of care. This may initiate some assistance or referral to a means of aid. It will also help these organizations (i.e. Red Cross, USO, Salvation Army) make an assessment of those who worked for them, when and where. By raising your voices and identifying yourselves you will force a realization on the part of each agency that they have some responsibility in these medical care matters. If you say nothing you will be forgotten.

Next, you must make yourself aware, if you are not already cognizant, of Agent Orange—background, makeup, symptoms. Research what others have done to get aid and perhaps, follow their lead.

Civilian volunteers are not recognized under many of the governments programs as are military veterans. However, Gregory Stayart, a Chicago lawyer, has studied the problem and written a paper—"Compensation for Civilians in Vietnam". Mr. Stayart wrote this article in conjunction with efforts by the Veterans Leadership Conference, a Chicago based organization working toward the unification of disparate Veterans groups throughout the country. The lawyer stated, "A civilian who served in Vietnam and now is experiencing health problems believed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange may have a compensation remedy available."

One possibility for medical care is through the Federal Employees Compensation Act. It is not certain that all civilian volunteers would be covered by this act. However, it is defined as protecting "an individual rendering personal service to the United States similar to the service of a civil officer or employee of the United States, without pay or for nominal pay, when a statute authorized the acceptance or use of the service, or authorizes payment of travel or other expenses." It seems likely that many civilian veterans would be protected under the FECA—including Red Cross, USO personnel, nurses, missionaries. The time period for filing a claim under this Act is three years but there is a clause for an extended period concerning "latent

disabilities." Such a time limit is not effective until the employee has understood that there is a "casual relationship" between his employment and his sickness. After filing, the veteran "may be successful in obtaining a government paid medical examination under a provision of the law."

There are several other compensatory acts that could apply to you as a civilian veteran. Stayart's paper is available through the Veterans Leadership Conference and the VLC can, perhaps, offer aid to those trying to begin the claim process. Stayart closes his paper with this comment, "There are obvious legal difficulties but it costs nothing to file a claim and a lawyer is not needed to do so."

Unfortunately, there are no guarantees for women who apply for these measures of compensation nor is there a set time period by which a veteran would receive aid. Each claim would be processed and decided upon on its own merits. But the civilian veteran must make the first move. You must grind up your courage (it will take far less than volunteering to go to Vietnam) and confront the agency, the system, the American people. If you do it now, it will make it easier for another woman to do it next month. By helping each other, you help yourselves.

The exclusion of civilians from current legislation authorizing treatment of military veterans for chemical exposure and passed by the United States Senate and House has been called to the attention of legislators. Senator Alan Simpson stated in a letter to Joan Maiman—chairman of the VLC—when she questioned him about such exclusion:

"Although I recognize the validity of the point that, to the extent the government was responsible for their being in Vietnam or for any problems related to their presence there, I do not believe it is either appropriate nor likely that these individuals will be accorded veterans status...I believe that the agencies of the government that were responsible for the presence of these individuals in Vietnam such as the Departments of Defense or State, would be the appropriate source of governmental action..."

To date neither departments nor agencies (Red Cross, USO) have taken steps to address this matter.

The non military civilian veteran gave extraordinary service to this country. She was there at the "invitation of the military", she usually served the same length of time a soldier did, she was found any place she was needed—very often in combat zones, she was as much a fighter as the male soldier. We dare not turn our backs on the Marion Caldwells of our country nor her children. When she finds her way through a legal jungle and is indeed worthy of medical care and compensation, we, the American public, must be there—as represented through the agency that sponsored her—to help.

Vietnam Veterans Wheelchair Trek Across Country

As most of you are aware, I have previously announced my decision to hitch-hike across the United States in my wheelchair to Washington, DC. After a three week delay, due to being hospitalized for a kidney infection, I have departed on Saturday, October 3, and am currently in Paso Robles, CA where I have been asked to speak and participate in local festivities.

The two reasons why I think it was necessary and even imperative to make this trip as well as the fact that I am using this method of travel to emphasize a personal sense of urgency to offer these goals to the American people, our representatives in Congress and the Senate and its President for the good of America.

We must now begin to heal the wounds that America is still suffering from after our involvement in Southeast Asia. One positive way of accomplishing this goal will be to assure the American people that Vietnam will not happen again. This can be done by bringing before the voters on the next national ballot in 1982 a proposal that would:

A. Prohibit the United States government "By law" from ever again sending American combat troops into an undeclared war with the United States,

B. Set a lid or ceiling on the number of "military advisors" being sent into a foreign combat situation, and

C. Clearly define and re-evaluate the exact functions of a military advisor.

The second goal is to implore and to impress upon the President of important reasons are that I love and believe in my country with all my heart and that I really believe that the goals we seek must be accomplished if Vietnam is finally to be put to rest. Not just for those of us who served there, but indeed for America. I guess you could say that right now I really feel that I'm fighting for my country, in Vietnam, I did not.

The reason I'm writing this letter Mr. President is because I do not want young boys to ever be sent to "Another Vietnam." I believe in a strong national defense and I'm protecting our country. Even from a wheelchair, I would still defend my country in whatever way I could but I think that you would agree that Vietnam turned out to be an entirely different situation.

It is for this reason that I will leave unaccompanied to hitch-hike coast to coast to Washington, D.C. to gain support for a proposal that I and many Americans feel would offer the American people that guarantee that we would not be involved in another Vietnam.

Therefore, in closing, Mr. President, I would like to take this opportunity to request a personal meeting with you to discuss the issues that I have attempted to address in this letter.

Respectfully yours,

Michael D. "Max" Inglett
Former Combat Medic First Cav. Div.
Vietnam Cambodia 1969-70

Civilians and Vietnam Service

In light of the disclosure of the Secretary of HHS of the more wide spread use of Agent Orange than had previously been revealed, the problem of the civilians who served in Vietnam in direct support of the US military effort has become more evident.

As it now stands, such persons as Red Cross and USO are excluded from any testing and registry programs which exist for the military veterans dealing with the effects of Agent Orange exposure. I have also been contacted by civilians who believe that their time in Vietnam in high stress situations has resulted in symptoms of delayed stress. Such persons are denied access to programs which have been established to treat this problem in military vets.

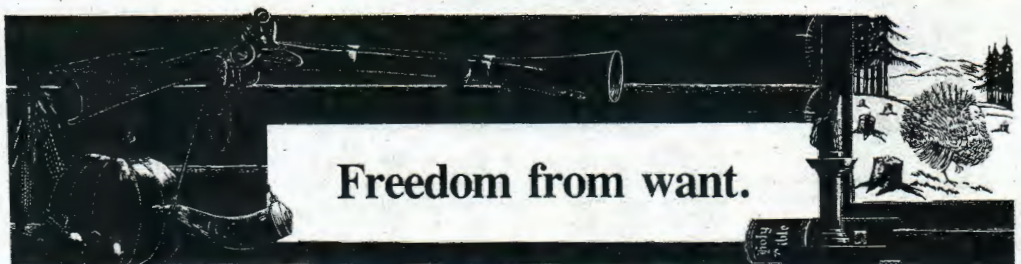
It may be of interest to note that the programs which do exist in this area are open to military who never served in Vietnam but believe that their service during era, even though not in Vietnam, was stressful.

The Veterans Leadership Conference is exploring options available to civilians to ascertain if recourse is available for access to testing programs for Agent Orange exposure, placement on such a registry, and

access to programs for delayed stress should an individual so elect.

We urge civilians to contact their elected officials and make their situation known. For further information civilians and other interested persons may contact the Leadership Conference:

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The Wound

by James Simpson, VA Hospital,
Kansas City, Missouri

Hospitalized Veterans Writing Project
From Veterans Voices, June 1976

I remember well the only time I ever shed blood for my country. It's a humiliating story but one I like to tell. The stage was Vung Tau, Vietnam. I don't remember the exact date, but that isn't important.

I had been transferred there from a tour with the 101st up North and this was a beautiful retreat from the horrors of war. I worked in a large, comparatively secure ammunition dump. The work was gruelling but my good physical condition, adjusted to the heat and excellent food, made it a snap. After work, in Vung Tau, I just wanted to sit down and pull my shoes off.

As a matter of fact, that's just what I did this particular night. I pulled my shoes off and sat on the edge of my nice soft cot. Then I heard it.

A long time before, I had learned to recognize when shells were incoming and when they were out-going.



Well, this "water moccasin" was coming home. I couldn't move. I looked up and out the door and caught the glimpse of a fiery streak, then heard a blast a short distance away.

A big one it was - no time to think now.

I jumped to my wall locker and started hunting for my rifle. This is it, I thought. I figured that if the enemy ever struck at an objective as big as Vung Tau they would come by the thousands.

The second wave came and I knew it was closer than the first. I started yelling. I always yell when I'm excited. I was trying now to put my boots on and still trying to find my rifle. But when the third went off, it was right by the company's shower. I knew there wasn't time to tie my boots. I took off, running, for a bunker. I remember thinking that being from Texas I'd rather die with my boots on and tied.

I was really making tracks. At the edge of a gravel road I stepped on a shoe string, fell down in the gravel, and scraped my elbow. I didn't pay any attention to it at the moment, but got up and kept running.

When I got to the bunker, my elbow pained me but I wasn't as bad as I let on. In the bunker I could see that I was the only "casualty." Suddenly I commanded quite a bit of attention. People started yelling for a medic and others tried to get me to lie down.

One good friend of mine was ripping his clothes off to wrap around my elbow.

A couple of days later the Captain called me in and told me that orders had come in that I was to be awarded the Purple Heart. I got to thinking about my Dad, who had lost a leg, and all those guys with him who had lost their lives in WW II. I told the man that the only honorable thing for me to do was to refuse the ribbon. I explained to him about the "wound" and how I got it. I knew my beans about decorations, and I told him that the wound had to be suffered as a direct result of enemy action.

However, it was no use arguing with an officer, especially with one who had orders in his hand.

Well, Mom's got my decoration and I often go to VA hospitals and tell some of the folks this story and they tell me their stories. Some of theirs are even more incredible than mine, but anyhow this is my story and it's true.

When I think about it, I laugh a little, rub my elbow, and give sincere thanks to Almighty God that this was the only "wound" I suffered. ■

From Chopsticks to Spoons

by Mike Kukler

When the United States Army in Vietnam (USARV) opened their huge facility at Long Binh in July 1967, they used four family style Mess Halls to feed the assigned headquarters personnel. About 100 Vietnamese male and female employees were hired and used as Table Waiters. This was when the Mess Sergeant's troubles began.

Chopsticks are used in the Orient instead of forks, the people usually cut up their food before it is cooked. Chopsticks are made from bamboo, silver and ivory and measure about nine inches in length. The poor people used the bamboo chopsticks, while the rich use the ivory and silver ones.

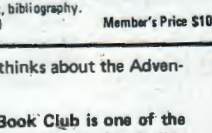
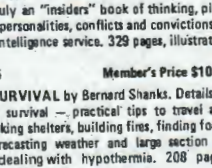
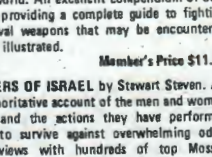
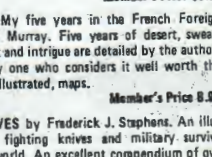
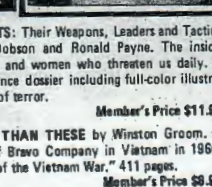
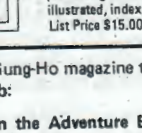
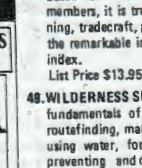
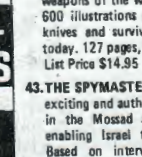
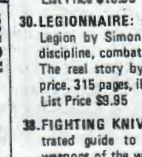
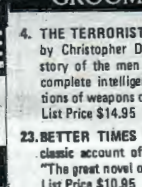
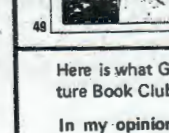
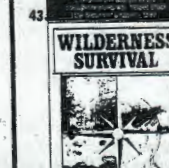
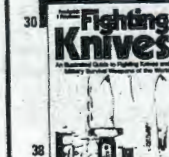
The poor Mess-Sergeant was having trouble keeping the headquarters personnel supplied with teaspoons. Each day the Vietnamese workers would take the spoons home with them. So the little villages and hamlets surrounding Long Binh Post had spoons instead of chopsticks. Many of the poor Vietnamese also used the spoons as status symbols. This proved to the stranger entering their home that indeed, they worked for the rich Americans and they had the spoons to prove it.

Today, some of the Vietnamese who are escaping from Vietnam are using the spoons again. These Boat People are telling refugee officials they worked for the Americans and have the proof. Yes, they are showing the officials the spoons.



To all Vietnam-era Veterans
from the staff of the NVVR

Have a
Happy
Thanksgiving

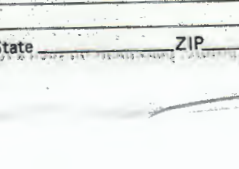
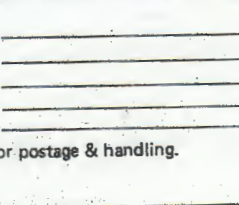
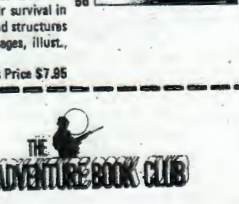
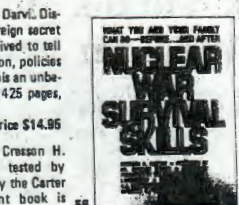
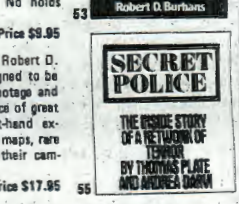
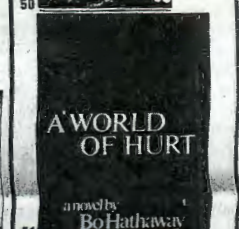
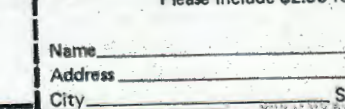
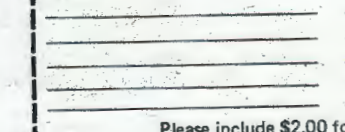
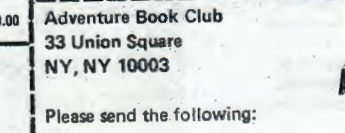
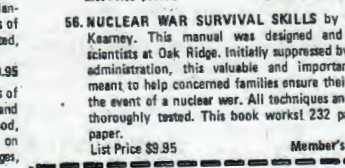
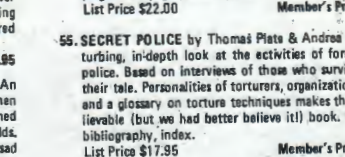
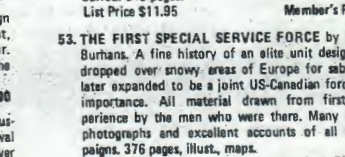
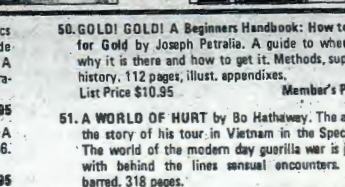


FIREPOWER

by Chris Dempster/Dave Tomkins

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List Price \$13.95 Member's Price \$11.50



Here is what Gung-Ho magazine thinks about the Adventure Book Club:

In my opinion the Adventure Book Club is one of the better outlets of absolutely top-notch books dealing with military adventure, survival, martial arts, and mercenary operations.

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Jim Shults
Editor - Gung-Ho Magazine

Adventure Book Club
33 Union Square
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Win - House, Car



VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

WIN A NEW HOUSE AND CAR

The Vietnam Veterans Foundation, a non-profit organization chartered to assist socially, economically and/or culturally disadvantaged Vietnam era veterans reintegrate into the mainstream of our society, announced today that Mr. Gaines Johnson, homebuilder in Johnson City, Tennessee, has provided a new three bedroom, two and half bath, brick house to the Foundation for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the work of this highly visible organization. Mr. Tom Wineck, Chairman of the Foundation, commends Mr. Johnson for his very generous cooperation.

DONATIONS

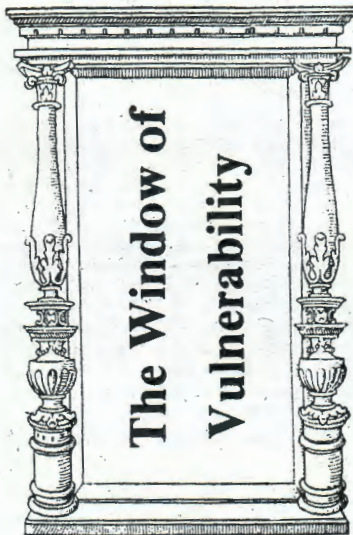
Donations of \$100.00 or more will be acknowledged with a ticket for the drawing to take place on December 24, 1981, 2 pm at the Miracle Mall, Johnson City, Tennessee. Donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE and may be made by mail or to any member of your local JAYCEES, many of whom are Vietnam veterans, and are assisting in this very worthwhile project. Other ticket locations will be announced later.

THE HOUSE AND CAR

The house, located at #2 Enfield Court, Johnson City, TN, is in an area of homes ranging in price from \$75 thousand to \$250 thousand. Situated on one-third acre, the living room window offers a beautiful view of the Tennessee mountains. In your new American made luxury 1982 Lincoln Continental, you are only minutes from the best fresh water fishing to be found. Jonesboro, located only three miles away, is a must for visitors interested in Civil War history. You will be only five minutes from the East Tennessee State University campus.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Vietnam Veterans Foundation
P.O. Box 1544
Washington, D.C. 20013



1a. If the Presidential politics of survival can be described as orchestrating an endurable level of dissatisfaction, President Reagan's MX/B-1 "package" probably accomplished this minimum objective. No one is totally delighted; no one is completely disenchanted. Sullen—yes. Mutinous—no.

b. The \$180.3 billion package—consuming 15% of the Defense budget over the next six years—rejected the multiple protective shelter "shell game" proposed by the Carter Administration, i.e., moving 200 missiles experimental (MXs) among some 4,600 holes in Nevada and Utah to complicate Soviet S-18 ICBM targeting. It also rejected moving some 100 MXs among 1000 holes on public lands in Nevada.

c. What President Reagan did decide to do follows:

(1) **Missiles:** Development of a MX missile with a limited number deployed, starting in 1986, in existing TITAN or MINUTEMAN missile silos that would be "hardened" to withstand the effects of a nuclear attack. At least 1000 missiles to be deployed by the end of the decade in one or more of the following modes: aboard aircraft in continuous flight, in deep underground silos or in bases protected by missile defense systems.

(2) **Bombers:** Development of a variant of the B-1 bomber with deployment of 100 starting in 1986. Research and development to continue on the advanced technology or "STEALTH" bomber, for deployment in the 1990s. More than 3,000 cruise missiles are planned for both B-1 and B-52 bombers.

(3) **Communications and Control:** Extensive improvement in the survivability and effectiveness of radar facilities, warning satellites, command centers and communication links.

(4) **Sea-Based Forces:** Continued construction of TRIDENT missile submarines and a larger, more accurate, sea-launched missile known as the TRIDENT 2 or D-5 missile, to be deployed in 1989. Deployment is planned for several hundred sea-launched cruise missiles on attack submarines in 1984.

(5) **Strategic Defense:** Improvements in North American air surveillance. Aging F-106 interceptors to be replaced by new F-15s. At least six additional AWACs surveillance planes to be purchased. Continued research and development on an anti-satellite system and a space-based missile defense. An expanded civil defense program.

d. The President's rationale:

(1) the weapons are at hand. The costs are, in a comparative sense, reasonable. There will be no environmental/domestic political battles involved as would have been the case with the 200 missile/4600 hole Nevada-Utah option; and,

(2) the package is not "set in concrete", i.e., if the "STEALTH" bomber is deployable sooner than expected, reduce the number of B-1s and vice versa; and,

(3) while admitting that putting MXs in hardened (to 5000 psi) TITAN and MINUTEMAN silos is not a long term solution, it is something we can and should

do now. Improvements and variations can follow.

2. What happens now?

(a) President Reagan's program for modernizing and expanding United States strategic forces now goes to Congress for authorization and financing.

(b) After that, the weapons systems will be years in development and production before being placed in the American arsenal. Here are the major steps in carrying out the strategic program:

(1) **MX Missiles:** Congress has approved initial development of the MX, but additional financing will be required before production can begin on the 100 missiles. President Reagan wants to begin deploying them by 1985. Congress also would have to provide funds to reinforce and harden the existing TITAN and MINUTEMAN silos the Administration wants to use as temporary MX launching sites. The estimated cost of a single MX is \$18 million. The program's ultimate cost cannot be determined until a decision is reached on a permanent basing system.

(2) **B-1 Bomber:** Four prototypes of the B-1 were built by Rockwell International before the Carter Administration canceled the program. Now Congress is being asked to provide funds to begin production of a variant of the B-1 at an estimated cost of \$200 million each. President Reagan hopes to have the first squadron of B-1s operational by 1986.

(3) **Stealth Bomber:** Little is known about the cost and specifics of the highly classified "Advanced Technology Bomber", as it is officially known. The plane would be capable of evading enemy radar and striking targets with a high degree of accuracy. The Reagan Administration wants to step up research and development because of what it calls technical and operational "uncertainties" in the project. Deployment of the B-1 would allow time to develop the "STEALTH" which the Administration hopes would be operational by the mid-1990s.

(4) **Sea-Based Forces:** Eight TRIDENT nuclear submarines are already under contract and the Administration wants to continue building the submarines at the rate of one a year until 1987. Congress will be asked to provide financing at a cost of \$1.2 billion for each TRIDENT, the first of which, the Ohio, is to join the United States fleet this month. Adding to the program's cost is President Reagan's proposal to replace the submarine's TRIDENT 1, or C-4, missiles with a larger and more accurate missile called TRIDENT 2, or D-5, by 1989. The TRIDENT 2 is still in the early research stage.

(5) **Strategic Defense Network:** President Reagan plans to upgrade, in coordination with Canada, the North American air surveillance network. The plan includes a combination of new over-the-horizon "backscatter" radars and improved versions of existing ground radars. Other steps include replacing five squadrons of aging F-106 interceptors with new F-15 jets, the addition of six AWACs surveillance aircraft and the development of space-based missile defense, including an anti-satellite system.

3a. There will be a long Congressional battle to get this program approved. Views of particular interest follow:

(1) **General David C. Jones, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff:** Preferred the 200/4600 MX "shell game" and stated JCS did not review the "details" of package.

(2) **Senator Tower, Chairman, Senate Armed Services Committee:** Termed MX basing mode "enormously vulnerable."

(3) **Senator Goldwater:** Supports entire package.

(4) **Congressman Bill Dickinson (Ala.):** Was "surprised, disappointed, and disturbed" at MX package.

(5) **Senator "Scoop" Jackson (Wash.):** MX basing mode "will give Soviets a better target to shoot at."

(6) **Former Secretary of Defense Harold Brown:** "I thought that we should build up the survivability of our land-based forces. The Carter program (200/4600) did that. This program does not."

(7) **Senator Strom Thurmond:** "A positive step."

(8) **Congressman Sam Stratton (NY):** "The B-1 decision is a good one; the MX is a mistake."

(9) **Former JCS Chairman, General Maxwell Taylor:** "I would say that he (Reagan) has been successful in developing a package of decisions which will satisfy nobody completely. The doves, the hawks, and the moderates will all have some objections to this."

b. Enclosed herewith are (1) a description of the B-1; and, (2) a comparison between the MX and the MINUTEMAN III ICBM—the most modern missile in the current inventory.

4. The President's proposal has strengths: (a) can be started now; i.e., no "paralysis by analysis"; (b) avoidance of political/environmental squabble; and, (c) can be changed in light of technological surprises.

These pluses are offset by fully understood weaknesses. These include: (a) MPS (200/4600 or 100/100) remains the best of some 30 MX basing proposals; (b) survivability of the MX in hardened mode at best is a transitory advantage; and, (c) the cost—\$180.3 billion—will drain critical support away from conventional war forces at a time when real-world, as opposed to computer model, threats are multiplying.

If the 97th Congress gives budget-balancing the same high priority as earlier Congress did the provision of social services, we may well wind up with (a) reduced funding for MX/B-1 package; (b) reduced funding for conventional forces, particularly after the 1 October military pay raise; and, (c) reduced social services.

The worst-of-all-worlds is a distinct possibility.

The B-1

Overall Description: The B-1 is a four-engine, sweeping, subsonic bomber that, advocates say, could penetrate Soviet air defenses 200 feet above the ground and drop conventional or nuclear bombs or stand off and launch cruise missiles, torpedo-like pilotless aircraft guided to targets by remote control. About 100 bombers would be deployed in the 1980s, two this year, and most of the rest by 1986. The B-1 would have a crew of four or five and carry 32 air-to-ground missiles or 115,000 pounds of conventional bombs.

Contractors: Rockwell International is the main contractor; General Electric will build the turbofan engines; Boeing and Eaton Corporation will build the offensive and defensive avionics.

Range: Intercontinental with refueling.

Speed: Subsonic.

Dimensions: Wingspan—137 feet extended; 99 feet swept back. Length—147 feet. Height—34 feet. Gross takeoff weight between 395,000 and 477,000 pounds.

Strategic Role: To replace the B-52—the nation's main strategic bomber for 20 years, which is now regarded as increasingly vulnerable to Soviet defenses—as the nation's principal attack bomber until a radar-evading, high-technology aircraft known as STEALTH can be built in the 1990s.

Cost: Estimates range from about \$15 billion to \$50 billion for 100 bombers.

Minuteman III

Three-warhead missile with 170 kilotons per warhead.

Accuracy: 240 yards*

66-inch diameter

Weight: 78,000 pounds

Length: 60 feet

MX

Ten-warhead missile with 300 kilotons per warhead.

Accuracy: 100 yards*

92-inch diameter

Weight: 192,000 pounds

Length: 70 feet

*Refers to the circular error probable, which is the radius of the circle within which half of the warheads land.

Ed Note: Special thanks to: Mr. Phelps Jones, Director, National Security and Foreign Affairs, VFW of the United States.

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Copy must be accompanied by cash, check or money order remittance. Insertion will not be made without payment. All ads must be received by the 23rd of the month preceding publication. Please type or print all ads. We do not furnish proofs on classified advertising. We will not accept liability for mistakes in spelling except in the case of address numbers, zip codes or phone numbers in which case the corrected ad will be run the following month at no cost to the advertiser.

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National Vietnam Veterans Review The nation's ONLY newspaper dedicated to the Vietnam-era veteran. From sea to shining sea. Monthly, mailed to your home or business. \$12.00 (12 issues). Associations or organizations write for Special Bulk Rate. Check or money order to: National Vietnam Veterans Review, P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, North Carolina 28303.

Perimeter. A monthly newsletter that gives excellent account of relevant news, topical stories, historical vignettes from the war, editorial comment, features on Vietnam heroes, book reviews and other extremely interesting articles. Subscription \$8.00 per year. Perimeter, 430 Westbrook, Dayton, OH 45415.

Vietnam War Newsletter. A comprehensive letter on the latest news, stories from readers, book reviews and a wealth of other information concerning the Vietnam War. As Tom says, "for Vietnam veterans and others interested in learning more about America's longest war and its aftermath." Subscriptions \$12.00 per year. Free copy of the Vietnam Booklist. Vietnam War Newsletter, P.O. Box 122, Collinsville, CT 06022.

Operation Barroom tells the way it was in Vietnam. This remarkable 153 page book by the former Chief Information NCO captures the realities experienced by our men in Vietnam. Send \$3.25 to: Mike Kukler, 2119 Hartford Drive, Gastonia, NC 28052

War Story. For an indepth look at the FULRO movement, the Montagnard revolt and Special Forces, Project Delta Top Secret operation by Jim Morris. \$12.95. Paladin Press, P.O. Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306.

The Vietnam Funny Book. by Tad Foster, a veteran of Vietnam, a poet and an artist. An antidote to insanity, you don't have to be a veteran to appreciate the fine points of all the cartoons. Send \$6.95 to Presidio Press, 31 Pamaron Way, Novato, CA 94947.

The New Americans: Vietnamese Boat People, by James Haskins. Discusses the mass exodus from Vietnam as a result of the war and describes the lives of the Vietnamese who found refuge in the United States. Enslow Publishers, Bloy Street and Ramsey Avenue, Hillsdale, NJ 07205.

David's Story, by Victor Westphal. A bereaved father's tribute to his son and all the men who fought, died, and lived the Vietnam War. \$5.00 contribution to Vietnam Veterans Chapel, c/o Victor Westphal, P.O. Box 666, Springer, NM 87747.

Catalogs

"Military Sportswear Catalogue—World's largest selection of Military Insignia (T-shirts, sweat-shirts, jackets) Special Forces, Airborne, USMC, Air Assault, several foreign (Rhodesia, England, France, Germany) over 140 to choose from—military and civilian Achievement Certificates—send \$1.00—Military Graphics, Box 228VV, Dunkirk, MD 20754."

Militaria

VIETNAM VETERANS: Gallantry Cross and Campaign Medal Certificates of Decoration. Original four color form, suitable for framing. \$3.00 each, both \$5.00. ARVN Senior and Master Parachute Wings certificates. \$3.00 each, both \$5.00. John Berendsen, 909 Noah, St. Louis, MO 63135.

Literature

Anyone wanting a free copy of the booklet, **The Truth About Vietnam**, should send a SASE, with 40¢ postage, to: A.R. Audet, 251 Church, Putnam, CT 06260. If he runs out of copies, he will send you other patriotic/informative literature, and refer you to the publishers of the above booklet.

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Sales Representative Wanted

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Fayetteville, NC 28303

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Give name, address, phone number, type of work desired, qualifications, and relocation desires.

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Governmental agencies dealing with Veterans Employment may place one free ad per publication.

Ads not received before monthly deadline will be held and run in the following month's publication.

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We reserve the right to edit or refuse any ad.

Job Information

Fayetteville, NC

Internal Auditor: Full-time. Accounting or business administration degree. Auditing experience required. \$18,992. Finance Department, City of Fayetteville. Application deadline: Nov. 11, 1981.

Ohio, Dayton area

Contact Marvin Collier, Dayton Vet Center, 438 Wayne Avenue, Dayton, OH (513) 461-9150.

Indiana, Elkhart area

Contact Edmondo "Ed" Scalpelli, Veterans Representative, Indiana Employment Security Division, 430 Waterfall Dr., Elkhart, IN 46517.

Indiana, South Bend area

Contact State of Indiana, Employment Security Division, 203 So. William St., South Bend, IN 46601. (219) 233-6175.

Connecticut, Putnam area

Contact Veterans Service Office, 50 Canal St., Putnam CT 06260, 928-2749.

Connecticut, Danielson area

Contact Vet Employment Rep. Tom Crescimano, 61 Westcott St., Danielson, CT 06239, 774-9379.

For additional details in the Connecticut areas, contact Bob Inmond, Connecticut Labor Dept., Vet Employment Service, 200 Folly Brook Blvd., Wethersfield, CT 06109, 566-8110.

Texas, Amarillo area

Contact David Gutierrez, P.O. Box 1682, Amarillo, TX 79189, (806) 372-5521.

Indiana, Marion area

Fred Shane
Employment Security Commission
(317) 668-8911

Indiana, Hartford City area

Mary Roberts
Veterans Affairs Office
Court House
Hartford City, ID 47348

Illinois, Chicago area

Cook County. Contact Eugene P. Wilson, Manager of Veterans Services, 910 South Michigan, Room 428, Chicago, IL (312) 793-4115.

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Discounts for multiple insertions:
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20% discount for twelve time insertion.

Payment: Payment must accompany copy. Cash, check or money order is acceptable. Do not send stamps. Quarterly billing for pre-payment can be arranged for 6 and 12-time contracts. Payment for the first three months must accompany ad copy. Make check or money order payable to: "National Vietnam Veterans Review".

• Classifieds should be submitted, typed or printed neatly, on a single piece of paper.

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First forty words @ \$10.00	\$ 10.00
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Headlines @ \$2.00 each (optional)	\$ _____
Sub Total:	\$ _____
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Deadline: Your classified ad copy must be received 8 days before the monthly publication date of the first of the month.

Mail to: National Vietnam Veterans Review, P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, NC 28303.

More on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

by Col. Don E. Schaet (USMC-Ret)
Executive Vice President VVMF

A recent article in this newspaper by Gary Schmitt unfairly criticized the planned Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. While Mr. Schmitt is entitled to his own opinion, many of his statements were inaccurate. Therefore, there needs to be some clarification on the matter.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) is a non-profit organization authorized by Congress to establish a national memorial to Vietnam veterans. Its purpose is to honor and recognize all Americans who served in the armed forces in Vietnam, especially those who gave their lives. The memorial will make no political statement about the war, a point Schmitt's article criticized. As far as VVMF is concerned, the issue is not whether the Vietnam war was good or bad, right or wrong, moral or immoral, won or lost. The issue at hand is whether or not the people of this country should pay tribute to their sons and daughters who serve in uniform when called. As a people, we have always done so in the past. VVMF believes we should do so now, for the 2.7 million who served in Vietnam, the 57,692 killed, the 300,000 wounded, the 75,000 disabled, and the 2,500 still missing.

VVMF is not a membership organization. It has a small staff and is supported by a large group of volunteers, located not only in Washington but in almost every state. When the project is complete, VVMF will dissolve, and the memorial will be taken over by the National Park Service.

Congress unanimously passed a bill allocating two acres of land next to the Lincoln Memorial for the memorial. This bill was co-sponsored by 100 senators and 196 representatives. It was signed into law during a ceremony in the Rose Garden on July 1, 1980. During the ceremony, former President Carter commented, "Perhaps even more than those who served, our Nation needs this memorial..."

Among the most glaring distortions in the Schmitt article are those having to do with the memorial design. For the record, the design was selected through a competition that was open to all Americans 18 years old and over. Some 3800 people participated, making it the largest design competition of its type ever held. Included were the nation's top design firms as well as rank amateurs. Many were veterans. The winner was selected by a jury of internationally known sculptors, architects, and landscape architects. One member was a writer in the field.

The overwhelming consensus of art critics about the winning design is that it will result in a magnificent memorial. It will be an open chevron recessed into the ground and located near the Lincoln Memorial. The lush green lawn, gently sloping down to its 10-foot depth will contrast with the highly polished black granite facade on which the names of the 57,692 dead or unaccounted for will be inscribed.

Surrounded by more lawns, modest landscaping, stately trees and pleasant walkways, one will not have to stumble upon it as Schmitt says. In fact, it will be almost as long as the Washington Monument is tall, some 400 feet. One hardly stumbles on something one-third longer than a football field.

Reference was made to its color as if it were too somber. It will be black. Other than the sheer beauty of gleaming black, no other meaning is intended by the color. I suspect the same could be said for the massive base of the Marines Memorial (two Jima flag raising) and entire Seabees Memorial in Washington — both are black.

Had Mr. Schmitt contacted our office, he would have learned several other features of the design which are being detailed in the project's current design development and approval phase. It will be clearly identified

as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, giving context to the names on it. It will be fully accessible to the handicapped and well drained.

The schedule calls for the memorial to be dedicated in November, 1982. That depends upon raising the money, however. Most likely, the money for the memorial could have been obtained from Congress, but the VVMF decided to raise the funds from the private sector — individuals, corporations, unions, veterans groups, civic organizations and the like. In this way, it will be more meaningful: a gift from the American people — not from a governing body — to finally say thank you for having served. Thus, except for the land, the cost of the memorial will be paid for by private donations.

The public should know that, while a number of Vietnam veterans are facing serious problems, most now are productive citizens making up a solid portion of the work force and rising into leadership positions in industry, business and government. These people are a national resource, not victims, as Schmitt claims.

One last point. The VVMF was formed by, is directed by, and is largely staffed with Vietnam veterans. Our purpose is to honor those who served. We will do no less.

People may contribute to the memorial fund by sending tax-deductible donations to Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Box 37240, Washington, D.C. 20013.

They deserve to be remembered.

Those who served.

They came from high schools and colleges, big cities and little towns. Some of them were drafted and others volunteered. The war they fought was controversial at best, greatly despised at worst. But those who fought, those sons and daughters, neighbors, friends and relatives, didn't judge, they served. Recognition of the over 2,700,000 who served has been a long time coming. The Vietnam Veterans Memorial will finally recognize their service and those who died.

Their Memorial

It will stand on two acres of national park land in Constitution Gardens near the Lincoln Memorial. It will make no political statement. The names of each of the 57,692 Americans who died will be inscribed on the memorial.

But we need money to cover the costs of the project. The Memorial will be built solely with funds from your tax-deductible contributions. Twenty dollars will inscribe the name of one Vietnam Veteran who died in the war. All donations will help make the Memorial a reality. Remember those who fought and served our country...

Give to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund
P.O. Box 37240
Washington, D.C. 20013

Enclosed is \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$20 _____
Other _____ for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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Until now, the only Vietnam veterans who got any respect were those who came home in a box.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA, is the only national organization working solely on the problems of Vietnam veterans.

Our goal is to change the attitude and actions of the American public and veterans themselves about those of us who served our country during the Vietnam war.

We're fighting to improve the lives of Vietnam veterans by pressing Congress, the White House, and the Veterans Administration for better employment, health care and educational opportunities and benefits.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. We're helping the survivors survive.

We're working with people in the media and the arts to help them understand and express the reality of the Vietnam experience.

We're working directly with other veterans to get them the help they need and deserve. And to help them cope with the past, the present, and the future. Everything we do is based on one strong belief:

A veteran who survived the Vietnam War shouldn't be punished or ashamed because he served his country.

Moving Congress to help the Vietnam veteran.

The first step VVA took in dealing with Congress was to bring together 19 members of Congress who are Vietnam Era veterans.

With their help we drafted the Vietnam Veterans Act of 1979. A set of strong measures to give us the same kind of help Congress gave veterans after World War II.

The Act calls for:

—First-rate health care, including readjustment counseling and treatment for drug abuse and alcoholism—with the right for veterans to seek help outside the Veterans Administration.

—Extended education benefits under the G.I. Bill, with higher payments for veterans who live in states where public education is more expensive.

—A major program of financial incentives to employers to hire and train Vietnam veterans.

—Low-interest mortgage loans, available through the states, to give Vietnam veterans the same chance to own a home our fathers had after WWII.

In pursuing this agenda, we've already won some important legislative victories in Congress. One gives tax credits to employers of disadvantaged Vietnam veterans.

Another law broke new ground in permitting psychiatric care outside the Veterans Administration. And we convinced Congress to designate Memorial Day, 1979 as the first day in Vietnam Veterans Week. This first official recognition of the contribution of Vietnam veterans helped us combat negative stereotypes. And helped us in important organizing activities at the grass roots level.

Working with the media and the arts: Helping to get it straight.

Only those who served in Vietnam know what it was like. Then and now.

But until recently, most of us were unwilling or unable to share our experiences or express our feelings.

At VVA, we're trying to break this silence. By encouraging the media to seek out veterans and to tell their story. And by encouraging veterans to express themselves through the arts.

With our help, major newspapers and magazines and the national television networks have done feature stories on Vietnam veterans and their condition.

Articles have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, New Jersey's Courier Post, Chicago Tribune, Charlotte Observer, and Time magazine—all within the last few months.

VVA spokesmen have appeared on the Today show, Good Morning, America, and all the network news programs.

Unlike previous wars, Vietnam as a theme for drama and movies has been conspicuously untouched by playwrights and producers.

VVA has actively promoted and produced greater expression by Vietnam veterans with writing, directing and acting skills.

We co-produced, with Joseph Papp, a series of plays about Vietnam entitled From "Hair" to "Dispatches." We helped present "Point of Origin," plays written and acted by Vietnam veterans.

The truth hurts.

Even if you're a Vietnam veteran, the truth about those who served during the war is disturbing:

Our suicide rate is 25 percent higher than our non-veteran peers.

Our divorce rate is double. Our unemployment rate is twice as high. And one in four Vietnam veterans earns under \$7,000 a year.

Drug abuse and alcoholism are serious and widespread.

About 70,000 Vietnam veterans are in jail. Another 200,000+ are out on bail, parole, or probation.

A three-year study of combat veterans found that 40 percent of them were unemployed. And one out of three had "readjustment problems serious enough to impair their functioning."

An estimated 700,000 of us suffer from "delayed stress syndrome" which causes periodic depressions, insomnia, marital difficulties, and irrational rage—often directed toward our families and friends.

Untold thousands of us who served in combat were exposed to Agent Orange, a defoliant that is suspected of causing cancer and other disorders.

The Vietnam Veterans of America is gathering information about the condition of Vietnam veterans not to scare or depress people.

We want to inform the rest of America why the Vietnam veterans deserve special attention.

The VVA. We need veterans to help veterans.

If you're a Vietnam veteran, you probably know somebody who didn't come home right.

But the truth is a lot of veterans still aren't right. And they're not going to get the help they need and deserve until veterans join together and demand changes.

Right now, there's only one group in the country that's bringing Vietnam veterans together. And demanding changes.

The Vietnam Veterans of America.

You've read what we've already done without your help. And you know there's a lot more that needs to be done.

But the only way we're going to succeed is to grow into a strong, unified organization. With millions of people to back us up.

That won't happen overnight. But an important beginning is for you to become a member of VVA. Today.

Our dues are only \$9.00 a year. That's less than 75 cents a month.

But we need more than your money.

We need your time, your commitment.

We intend to set up regional VVA offices in every corner of the country. To press local officials, local VA offices, local employment offices to help Vietnam veterans.

It's the only way to make sure we get what we deserve: Dignity, respect, and pride.

We survived Vietnam by helping each other.

Let's help each other again.

Help Us To Help Each Other.

The VVA is a non-profit veterans organization and is in need of the funds required to effectively continue its efforts.

If you are not yet a member or supporter, please join us now and help us put action into the issues and bring about solutions to our problems. Fill out this form and send with your tax deductible contribution to:

Vietnam Veterans of America
329 Eighth Street NE • Washington, DC 20002

Please make checks payable to the Vietnam Veterans of America.

(202) 546-3700

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Produced by Vietnam in the Arts
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in cooperation with the
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and the Organization of Independent Artists

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Photo by Bernard Edleman

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