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Press Coverage
The Program's First Year
September 1981-September 1982

VVLP

**Vietnam Veterans
Leadership Program**

National

Meet The Leaders . . .

Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Chuck O'Brien, Chairman, Philadelphia

In 1970, as a platoon leader with the 9th Infantry Division, Chuck O'Brien was Airborne and Ranger qualified. He fought in Cambodia, was wounded and lost part of his leg.

"I've emerged from the experience with a positive attitude," he said. "I taught skiing to the handicapped in New England. We put a lot of emphasis on restoring confidence in physical ability."

Last July 3, Chuck was the first of a group of eight handicapped people to reach the summit of Mt. Rainier.

The group returned from the mountain on Independence Day and received national recognition for their climb, including honors bestowed by President Reagan.

"I discovered I have a natural affinity for Vietnam veterans," says O'Brien, who is now an attorney with the Philadelphia law firm of Pepper, Hamilton and Sheetz. "They are more disciplined, more generous and cooperative under pressure. And I just like their company."

"I've worked in the state government and the private sector and I know that to succeed, requires hard work and discipline. These are characteristics of the men who served in Vietnam."

"These men have labored under



Chuck O'Brien

tremendous disadvantages," he points out. "They've had two to four years taken from them. Persons my age who were not in the service are now partners in their firms. This is a fundamental inequity and yet one that can be worked around."

He adds, "I wouldn't change a single thing that's occurred in my life. We need to reassure other veterans that the experience is one that can be built upon, that we can actually provide assistance to help regain those two to four years." ★



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Meet The Leaders . . . Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program Jerry Wamser, Chairman, St. Louis

When Jerry Wamser returned from Vietnam, he says, "I just wanted to put it all behind me." Wamser, 35, is presently an attorney in private practice and is actively involved in a variety of civic affairs including the Board of Elections Commissioners, City of St. Louis, which is a gubernatorial appointment.

As a MACV advisor to the 23rd Vietnamese Infantry Division, Wamser spoke fluent Vietnamese. Several years after his return home, when the Red Cross called on him to help relocate South Vietnamese refugees, he pitched in.

"Even then," he says, "I still wanted to push the war aside. I saw what we all wanted to do was eradicate it from our national memory. I also saw we can't do that. We have to recognize the ones who served there."

So Wamser volunteered to become the Chairman of the St. Louis VVLP. "The existence of the VVLP is long overdue. I've become



Jerry Wamser

more sensitive and alert to those who have problems," he says. "And as we become more sensitive to the issues we can provide more resources to effect change." ★

Point of View

The Leadership Role Of The Vietnam Veteran In Today's Society

By John Wheeler

There is a bit of fairly recent, but unnoticed good news in American life: It is the new community leadership by the men who joined our longest war as riflemen, squad leaders, and lieutenants. Just like their counterparts from previous wars, they are a continuing source of effective leadership.

During the sixties and early seventies these men went to war, usually returning as isolated and unwelcomed individuals to start their professional and business careers, several years off the pace of their male and female peers who did not go to war.

Going could be brutal enough, but often, so was the alienation upon coming home. This hardship has lent maturity and wisdom to our Vietnam veterans, transforming them into a major national resource.

Executives and founders of major businesses in such cities as Memphis, San Antonio, Los Angeles, and San Francisco are Vietnam veterans, as are newer vice presidents and partners in banks, brokerages, and law firms in Nashville, Atlanta, Kansas City, New York, Louisville, Baltimore, Richmond, and Philadelphia.

Today's successful physicians in Washington, DC and Chicago were medics or surgeons in Vietnam.

Executives within national labor unions and interest group associations are Vietnam veterans.

Assistant secretary and deputy posts in the Pentagon, the Department of Labor, the Veterans Administration, and other Federal agencies, are filled by these men.

The chief counsel and staff director of the Senate Judiciary subcommittee on regulatory reform was a Marine rifle platoon commander in Vietnam.

The writer is Chairman of the Board of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. An attorney, he graduated from West Point in 1966 and served in Vietnam 1969-1970.

The Vietnam battlefield has already produced several successful novelists. And last fall, one thing was already certain about Virginia's future: the next governor of the Commonwealth would be a combat veteran of Vietnam—the common bond of the two candidates.

These men have immense strength. Accordingly, national leaders want to learn about them, meet them individually, and bring them into their ranks. Their strength comes from public respect and emotional bonding.

Nearly ten years after the war, Americans have begun to accord honor to the men who soldiered in Vietnam, as reflected in various memorial activities, official public statements, and retrospective books and newspaper articles.

There is a growing deep respect for the maturity, wisdom, and sense of public service of the men who returned from the war and because of this, many Vietnam veterans will earn and maintain roles of increasing public trust.

In earning and discharging their positions of trust, they can be particularly effective because of their strong bonding to fellow veterans in the leadership community, even if they have differing views on some specific issues.

They were young men together in the cauldron of war. Their shared experience gives them a language, memory and friendship that facilitates communication among them.

One early indicator of this strength is the rapid success in creating a national Vietnam veterans memorial on the Mall. In two years, Vietnam veterans have gone from concept to construction, including a recent amicable compromise on specific details of the design.

Old Washington, DC hands know that this is a major achievement, given the decades-long travail of many memorials.

Another indicator is the large number of successful executives who have stepped forward as volunteers in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. The Presidential initiative housed in the ACTION agency enlists successful Vietnam veterans into community programs to address the still unmet needs of many men who fought in Vietnam. The program is underway in 30 cities en route to a target of 50 cities by the end of this year.

The best way to learn about these men is to read what they write and the literature is ample. One good beginning is *The Wounded Generation*, a recent book which presents veterans and non-veterans in a dialogue about America's future.

Of importance on any reading list are the books of Vietnam veterans Philip Caputo, Charles Figley, Tim O'Brien, and James Webb.

Their literature tells many things about these men, what they think, where they are. One recurring theme is that their wartime tour worked to deepen, not diminish, their sense of and capacity for, public service.

Another is that these men seek mature reconciliation across the divisions that fractured their generation during the Vietnam War.

The Vietnam veteran has arrived. He is a leader. ★

Meet The Leaders . . . Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

**John D. Baines, Chairman, San Antonio
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program**



John D. Baines

As President of John D. Baines Properties Inc., John, 35, has brokered and/or developed commercial real estate throughout the Southwestern United States.

His firm has been quite active as well with real estate investments in Great Britain, West Germany, Canada, the Bahamas and Mexico.

From 1968-1970 Baines was a member of Navy Seabee Team #0316 serving in Quang Tri, Dong Ha, Khe Sanh and Hue. His primary function was building

firebases, landing zones and, he says, "building what was the longest bridge in Vietnam at the time."

"I guess I'm like a lot of people. The Vietnam War and my involvement in it are very sensitive matters with me. The current position that there may still be prisoners in Vietnam troubles me gravely," says Baines.

When he returned home from Southeast Asia, John began his career in the real estate business because, although he had only one year left to graduate, he found it difficult to adjust to college life.

"I realize that while I worked hard these past ten years for everything I've got, there are guys out there who haven't been quite so fortunate," says John. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

He concludes, "This nation was ripped and torn apart by the Vietnam War and the Leadership Program can pull it back together... this program can do more to reestablish patriotism in this country than anything that's been done before. We were patriots, not chumps! It's now time to set the record straight." ★



Meet The Leaders . . .

Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

John Cummings, Chairman, Northern California
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

John Cummings served in Vietnam with a Special Forces Team at Kon Tum.

He returned to Vietnam a second time as a rifle company commander with A Company, 4/12th Infantry, 199th Light Infantry Brigade.

Seven months later he was wounded.

When he returned to the States he held a staff position as Captain and acted as prosecutor for court martials.

"I was going up against real lawyers," he says, "and someone said to me 'you'd make a pretty good lawyer.' I went to Stanford University and then on to law school."

Cummings, now 35, is in private practice in the San Francisco Bay Area.

"Those of us who went to Vietnam did what was required of us as citizens of this country," Cummings says.

"We couldn't understand the unfriendly reception we got when we returned—we did what we were supposed to do but then, suddenly we were bad guys. That stuck in my craw for a lot of years.

"I don't think in this day and age, confrontational-type politics solves anything.



John Cummings

"The VVLP gives me the opportunity to do what I do best—persuade people that Vietnam veterans are more like me than like the stereotype.

"A lot of us are now in positions where we can turn around and give a hand. The VVLP is the correct response, as far as I'm concerned, to a problem that must be solved before we, as a nation, can move forward."

Glen Kendal, Co-Chairman, Northern California

"I jumped at the opportunity to be involved with the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program," says Glen Kendal, 40.

"I've felt for a long time there should be a program for veterans that would accomplish what we intended with the VVLP."

Kendal is married to an attorney and has a 10-year-old daughter.

Kendal is President of Terradata, Inc., and works internationally with the mineral, oil and gas industries. He is also president of Kendal Associates, a consulting firm.

Glen holds a Masters degree from Dartmouth College and was selected in 1971 to be a White House Fellow.

Before founding his present business in San Francisco five years ago, he was director of policy planning for the Environmental Protection Agency.

Kendal served in Vietnam with the 196th Infantry Brigade as a rifle company commander and battalion staff officer.

"Vietnam veterans aren't com-



Glen Kendal

plaining," he says, "They are responsible citizens and there's still a ways to go to solve the problems that remain.

"The Vietnam veteran needs to know that the country knows he is a patriot." *

Meet The Leaders . . .

Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Max Patterson, Chairman, Hartford, Connecticut
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Max Patterson, 37, has served the town of Windsor, Connecticut for the past 3 years in the capacity of police chief. Patterson is Windsor's first black chief and the only one in the state of Connecticut.

He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the task force examining prison conditions and was the only police chief to sit on that commission.

After his tour in Vietnam with the 1st Infantry Division Max attended Michigan State University and began his police work there.

He earned a BA in political science and holds a Master's degree in public administration.

"At Michigan State there were a group of Vietnam veterans who were very close—we always were looking out for each other. Through the years we continued to remain close," Patterson comments.

"But when I came to Connecticut a few years ago I put that aside and became absorbed in my work.



Max Patterson

When I heard about the VVLP it started the fire going again.

"People have a deep interest in what this program is all about. I haven't beaten on any doors and yet it's already begun to snowball. It's important and it's time." ★

Trench War Over Vista

When the Reagan administration took office, one of the first targets of its budget ax was the Volunteers In Service to America program. Vista was costing over \$30 million a year, it did not do much clear good for the poor it presumably sought to help, and it provided an offensively large subsidy to middle-class kids trying to organize a left-wing political base in poor neighborhoods. You'd think the Vista cut would be welcome to a scrimping, pennypinching Congress. But of course you'd be wrong.

For fiscal 1982, Congress cut Vista's authorization by half. For '83 the Congressmen halved it again; the administration had requested even less. Old beneficiaries of the program organized as Friends of Vista, began campaigning among their friends on the Hill to try to slow the bulldozers. This spring two House committees claiming oversight jurisdiction over the agency—the subcommittee on Manpower and Housing, headed by Cardiss Collins, and the subcommittee on Select Education, chaired by Austin Murphy—began investigations and hearings into how the administration was treating the Vista program.

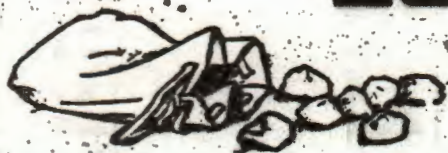
The subcommittees used the technique of torture by questionnaire. They demanded that Vista produce answers to literally hundreds of questions: Provide an updated list of all Schedule B employees, Schedule C employees, consultants, and experts—part time, full time, and temporary since April 1, 1981. Please indicate grade, rate of pay, date of service and

job description. List all Vista projects approved, renewed or denied since Dec. 31, 1981. Indicate reason for denial. Why were FY '81 monies not used to recruit, train and place Vista's from May 1 through September 1981 since that was the purpose of the funds and no Vista's were placed during that period? How many new initiative projects had clear and stated anti-poverty missions?

One aim the subcommittees seem to have in all this is to establish the claim that Vista is as political now as it was under Jimmy Carter. They object to the new Vista's funneling money into something called the Young Volunteers in Action project, which seems to them like old fashioned volunteerism. The subcommittees also dislike the new administration's Vietnam Veterans Leadership project, which instead of organizing alienated veterans to demand bigger entitlements is trying to attract veterans who are in good shape and can give other vets advice on how to be likewise.

One victim of the Vista manhunt estimates that the time required to field congressional inquiries has increased some twentyfold since this oversight exercise began. The questions aren't designed merely to elicit information; they aim to keep administration personnel off guard and build up the pressure to continue authorizing money for Vista even if the White House is reluctant. Unless the administration pays attention to the Vista maneuvers, that is exactly what is likely to happen.

ECONOMIC NUGGETS



Newsletter of the National Economic Commission
The American Legion
1608 K Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006



Frank Kelly, Chairman
National Economic Commission

James G. Bourie
Director for Economics

Jean Atallah
Editor

No. 3, Vol. IX

August 1982



ACTION - Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, designed to bring together Vietnam era veterans who have made good readjustments to help others, has just received a grant of \$850,000 from the discretionary

funds of the Employment and Training Administration, and not from any funds allocated to the ASVE.

These programs are in the following places:

Albuquerque, New Mexico (for state)
Pine Bluff, Arkansas (for state)
Baltimore, Maryland
Chicago, Illinois
Hartford, Connecticut
Houston, Texas
New York City
San Francisco, California (for northern part of state)
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Phoenix, Arizona (for state)
St. Louis, Missouri
San Antonio, Texas
Seattle, Washington
Rapid City, South Dakota (for state)
Los Angeles and San Diego, for southern California)
Nashville, Tennessee
Waterbury Center, Vermont (for state)
Wilmington, Delaware

VFW

VVLP Wants You

Vietnam veterans helping Vietnam veterans—and veterans of other wars helping them, too—is the emphasis of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP), a new federal initiative administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Edward Timperlake, VVLP national director, is urging that members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars through its community service activities volunteer to assist VVLP in its program for Vietnam veterans.

Timperlake said VFW members need not be Vietnam veterans themselves to participate, although Vietnam veterans are being encouraged strongly to take part.

VVLP will cost \$2 million a year for three years or approximately \$50,000 for each of the 50 cities where it is planned to go into operation after a one-year buildup.

VVLP's pilot phase began in Baltimore, Md.; Philadelphia, Pa.; Nashville, Tenn.; San Antonio, Texas; Wilmington, Del., and Phoenix, Ariz.

Since then, it has become active in Albuquerque, N.M.; Pine Bluff, Ark.; Chicago, Ill.; Hartford, Conn.; Modesto, San Francisco and San Diego, Calif.; St. Louis, Mo.; Rapid

City, S.D.; Waterbury Center, Vt.; Houston, Texas; New York, N.Y., and Seattle, Wash. Plans are being made also for a city in Indiana.

By December, Boston, Mass.; the Columbus, Ohio, area; Denver, Colo.; Portland, Ore.; Louisville, Ky., and cities in Hawaii, Mississippi, South Carolina and Florida are expected to be included.

Timperlake said the program encourages successful Vietnam veterans nationwide to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve problems still faced by some of their fellow veterans.

In each of the 50 communities a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director will oversee VVLP programs.

The specific characteristics and needs of the local Vietnam veteran population are being studied and a specific plan of action designed to solve the most pressing problems are being developed. VVLP volunteers are working at the senior social, economic and political levels of their communities to solve the lingering problems of Vietnam veterans.

While specific details of each program depend on the characteristics of the individual community, typical activities include liaison with local employers aimed at improving job opportunities for Vietnam veterans and business activities for Vietnam veterans who want to start to build up their own business.

The program does not attempt to

duplicate or overlap VA services and its outreach centers, local community based organizations and veterans' service organizations, Timperlake said.


Rather, VVLP complements them and works to make the entire range of available services as cohesive and effective as possible.

VVLP is not a one-on-one service delivery mechanism nor is it intended as a referral service, he added.

VVLP is intended to be a short term, cost effective, volunteer program with significant but realistic, limited goals, he continued.

Approximately 9 million Americans served during the Vietnam War from 1963 to 1973. Of that 9 million, about 2.7 million, or nearly one in three, served in Vietnam itself. Some 98% of that number were men. Most of them now are between 26 and 35. During the war 57,698 were killed and 270,000 were wounded. More than 21,000 were disabled and about 5,000 lost one or more limbs.

While it is estimated that as many as 500,000 still have problems associated with their Vietnam military service, most veterans have adjusted well. More than 70% of all veterans who served in Vietnam, including those who experienced heavy combat, in retrospect, feel glad that they served their country, according to a poll by Louis Harris and Associates.

The nation's Vietnam veterans, like the veterans of earlier wars, constitute a tremendous source of strength and leadership for the country. 

Meet The Leaders... Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

**Leo Thorsness, Chairman, Southern California
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program**

When asked about his service in Vietnam, Leo Thorsness says, "I flew 92½ missions and then relaxed on a hard bed until the war was over."

Thorsness, 50, spent six years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

When he returned home, he underwent extensive surgery for the injuries he had received when his plane was shot down and from the treatment he received while in prison.

In prison his captors constantly bombarded the POWs with news from the United States—"Only the bad news, of course," says Thorsness. "We couldn't turn it off. We heard about floods and tornadoes and were quoted speeches from the anti-war movement."

While in prison Thorsness decided if he made it home, he would run for the Senate in South Dakota to challenge George McGovern.

Thorsness, who holds the Medal of Honor, campaigned against McGovern while still on crutches.

But his race was run at the time of Watergate and "the day Nixon resigned," he says, "McGovern won."

"When the prisoners came home,



Leo Thorsness

we were treated very well. Quite the contrary is true of the way the rest of the Vietnam veterans were treated. I feel a debt to them, as well as to those who are still listed as missing in action.

"Even for those of us who have adjusted—who are doing okay, raising our families—there are still things left to be done. It's time to cough up the chicken bones. The VVLP will go a long way towards the final resolution." ★

Meet The Leaders . . . Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Mart C. Treanor, Chairman, Baltimore,
Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

A graduate of the Naval Academy in 1968, Mart, 34, served with the 1st Marine Division as a rifle platoon commander in Vietnam in 1969-1970.

After his tour in Vietnam he spent three and one-half years in the Marine Corps as an artillery battery commander, side de camp to the Commander of the Second Marine Division and instructor at the Basic School. Treanor is now an attorney with the law firm of Miles & Stockbridge.

"It's been a long time since anyone has done anything at a senior level to afford successful veterans the opportunity to help those who are not yet so successful. I think we all want to be involved, and I think Baltimore has proved to be an excellent place to start. Baltimore is in the forefront of the revitalization of American cities. It combines a business community having a sense or leadership and public spirit with a diversity of multiple ethnic and social groups, each of which has its own community and public spirit. And those communities are the home of nearly one hundred thousand Vietnam veterans. Many of those men are an untapped source of quiet leadership, self-sacrifice and patriotism which we can put to good use now."

Treanor reflects, "A lot of us who are Vietnam veterans have tended to put the war out of our minds for the last ten years or so as



Mart C. Treanor

we moved forward with other aspects of our lives.

"But I find that there are many of us who served in Vietnam who now want to remember—not the war, but the warriors.

"We have no desire to debate the merits of the war, but we do want to use whatever talents we have to help those men who did their duty with us but who have not had the same good fortune in their lives which we have experienced since our service."

He concludes, "If we weren't personally scarred, there is a tendency to forget. Now it's time to remember." ♦

Pauken

From Pg. 1



Tom Pauken

Meet The Leaders Of The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

**The Honorable
Thomas Weir Pauken
Director, ACTION**

Tom Pauken left his law practice in Texas to head ACTION, the national volunteer agency. He directs the activities of some 300,000 Americans who serve as volunteers in ACTION programs.

Pauken graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, DC in 1965 and two years later enlisted in the U.S. Army, where he served in Vietnam. He earned his law degree from Southern Methodist University in
See Pauken, Pg. 3

1973.

"The Vietnam veteran was portrayed in the late 60's and early 70's as little more than a drug crazed killer. Now we are portrayed as guilt-ridden victims...I've had enough," said Pauken recently.

"More than 80% of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made the successful transition back to civilian life and are doing fine.

"There are those that still do need help but it does them no service to encourage them to wallow in self-pity to reinforce their doubts about their own self worth.

"I have been tremendously impressed by the caliber of men who want to participate in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

"We want it known that there is no shame or stigma to being a veteran of the Vietnam War."

"We may not yet comprehend the full meaning of that common experience which Vietnam veterans shared, which somehow binds us together in spite of our disparate backgrounds and viewpoints.

"Yet of one thing I am certain—there is no better way to insure that those who gave their lives for our country will not be forgotten, than for the returning veterans to demonstrate that we are capable of exercising the kind of leadership so badly needed in America today." ★

Darts & Laurels



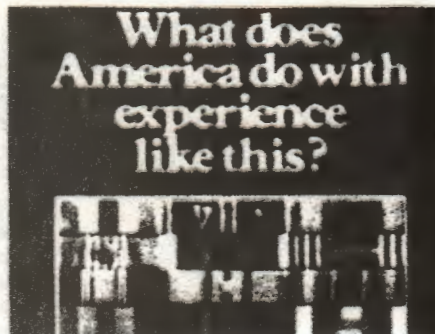
To Postmaster General William Bolgers—for displaying an ACTION-sponsored poster dedicated to Vietnam veterans in post offices throughout the country. Illustrated with combat ribbons and service decorations, the poster quotes President Reagan's advice to "extend a helping hand . . . to our fine Vietnam veterans. Recognition and appreciation . . . is long overdue." The message's intent: to put their experience "to work."

■☆☆



Employment Poster . . .

George L. Skyeck, seated, whose art has frequently graced the covers of DAV Magazine and other DAV publications, recently designed a new poster for the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLV). The poster being signed here for VVLV National Director Ed Timperlake, left, and ACTION Director Thomas W. Pauken, is now hanging in post office buildings across the U.S. Featuring four rows of military ribbons, including the Silver Star, Purple Heart, and Vietnam Service Medal, the VVLV poster boldly asks, "What does America do with experience like this?" and answers, "Put it to work!"



DAV MAGAZINE AUGUST 1982



cathedral age

SPRING ISSUE 1982
VOLUME LVII, NUMBER ONE

Moderator Bishop John T. Walker directed the evening's discussion by panelists James Webb, David Martin and John Zengerle at the program on November 11. Photo: Broffman

THE VIETNAM WAR UNFINISHED BUSINESS

JOHN P. WHEELER III

Almighty God, we remember before you the Vietnam war and those who lost their lives in the war. We commend to the healing power of the Holy Spirit the wounds of the war, wounded bodies, wounded lives and wounded countries, and we ask for grace to face our past and to show forth your love now and in all days to come. In the name of your son who was wounded and who gave his life for us. AMEN

(From the service in Washington Cathedral on November 11, 1981)

The Vietnam war lasted ten years, the longest in our nation's history. At the cathedral last summer, Canon Michael P. Hamilton began discussions with several laymen who had served in Vietnam. It became plain during the discussions that there is much unfinished business regarding that war and that the church has a role in the task of identifying and healing the wounds of war.

Those discussions led to a symposium held on Veterans Day (November 11) in the cathedral. A crowd of over four hundred gathered to hear three speakers in a dialogue with Bishop John T. Walker and to participate in a concluding service in which the congregation commended the wounds of the Vietnam war to God's healing power.

The evening opened with a tape, "Sounds of Vietnam War Era." The voices of Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon echoed from the cathedral's walls, with combat noises, popular music of the era, anti-war demonstrators and a Huey helicopter recalling the trauma of that ten-year period in American history.

"What are the wounds and how should the church respond?" Bishop Walker asked at the beginning of the session. Over the course of the evening, the bishop, Vietnam

CONT'D

veterans Joseph Zengerle and James Webb and conscientious objector David Martin helped to clarify the matter. They indicated that the Vietnam war affected the generation that came of age during that war in ways that merit consideration of the war's spiritual effects. If the war affected our material life in such aspects as economic, political and military attitudes, then the war must also have affected our spiritual life. The war did this through its manifestation both in the combat zone and in life in the United States.

The result, according to the participants, is that the Vietnam war will be an even greater force in American life in the next two decades than in the last two. This is because the war created deep separations within the huge generation that became adults during the decade of the war. The separations will damage our national life unless we take conscious steps toward healing. Healing offers a redoubled sense of unity which, in the view of the speakers, could make that generation a stronger source of world leadership than if no war had so traumatized them.

The speakers said that the forms of separation in the generation are one man from another man, men from women, self from self and self from God. They pointed out that literature of recent years portrays the first three separations. Notably, *The Wounded Generation* by James Webb, which was reviewed in the fall issue of Cathedral Age, addresses the first three. But these are themselves evidence of some spiritual separation of individuals. An individual sealing himself or herself off from another is not loving another as one's self, and is not giving or receiving the acceptance, fellowship and love that define God. People, when they turn away from others, are usually turning away from God.

For the church, the wrenching experience of the war, combined with these submerged divisions, suggests that there is work to be done. In part that work must get the generation to focus on each other and to accept one another. A resolution was passed at the convention of the Diocese of Washington focused on this need, commending the issue to the attention of the General Convention of the Episcopal Church to be held in New Orleans this fall.

The speakers at the cathedral called upon the community to put this matter directly to the country. Open dialogue on these issues can help the brokenness of Vietnam veterans and others in that generation; it can also aid in restoring unity at a time when concern about the military draft and defense preparedness appears in the church and throughout the country.

Both veterans Webb and Zengerle and conscientious objector Martin agreed that the Vietnam war was a class war unfairly borne by minority and lower income men and

their families. They particularly singled out the inequities of the selective service system which allowed educational deferments to those who could afford college and graduate school. Webb and Zengerle agreed that the war might have been shortened if more sons of influential and leadership families had been subjected to serving in it.

At the close of the evening, in his summation, Bishop Walker said, "Each side waits for the other to confess it's wrong. And nobody confesses, and true reconciliation goes begging. Somewhere along the way we very frail and fallible human beings must put aside the question of who is right and who is wrong and acknowledge that, before God, none of us is right because none of us is good enough to be right. Therefore we forgive each other, take each other back, and the wounds can be healed."

Participants

JOSEPH C. ZENGERLE III is a law partner in the Washington office of Bingham, Dana and Gould. He was assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower, Reserve Affairs and Installations) during the Carter administration. A West Point graduate, he served in the Army in Vietnam in 1968 as a special assistant to General Westmoreland during the Tet offensive and as a unit commander in I Corps.

DAVID A. MARTIN, currently assistant professor at the University of Virginia School of Law, was a conscientious objector during the Vietnam war. He has served as a special assistant for human rights and humanitarian affairs at the Department of State and he has published and lectured on the legal status of refugees. A graduate of Yale Law School, he has served on the board of Common Cause.

JAMES H. WEBB JR. is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and Georgetown University Law School. He served as a Marine officer in Vietnam and was wounded twice. He is a frequent contributor to journals on military affairs and is the author of the novels, *Fields of Fire* and *A Sense of Honor*. He is currently at work on a new book. ✻

Photo: Broffman



John P. Wheeler III is an attorney and a vestryman at the Church of the Epiphany, Washington. He is a Vietnam veteran now serving in President Reagan's administration.



Vietnam Vet Leadership Program Is Up and Running in 17 Cities

As a boy, Wayne Hanby longed to become a professional baseball player.

That's not an unusual dream, but it came to an unusual end—an ending of boyhood dreams all too familiar to many DAV members.

Hanby lost a hand and the sight of one eye to combat wounds in Vietnam while serving with the 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines. "At 22," he said recently, "I had to take stock and re-evaluate my whole life."

He achieved a level of success in the following years, eventually becoming a justice of the peace in Delaware. But, he needed something else, some way to make a special contribution. He found it a few months back when he became the program director of the Wilmington, Del., operation of the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP).

Hanby, a member of DAV Chapter 2 in Delaware, is probably typical of a number of achievement-oriented DAV members who are taking an active interest in VVLP. The new

program is the brain child of Vietnam Veteran Tom Pauken, who took over the reins of ACTION from Sam Brown shortly after Ronald Reagan became president.

Pauken wanted a program that would mobilize successful Vietnam veterans as volunteers to help solve the problems of other Vietnam veterans who aren't doing so well—a program that would complement, not duplicate, what the VA and such community-based organizations as the DAV were doing for these veterans.

However, VVLP shares one goal with the DAV and just about every veterans' group in America. "Integrity of service," VVLP National Program Director John P. Wheeler keeps repeating; "Integrity of service."

Harping on this single idea, Wheeler joins the many who insist that vietnam veterans have a right to be proud of their military service—that they *should* be proud of the sacrifices they made at their country's bidding.

Too often, however, that pride just isn't there . . . or it's buried without escape deep in the hearts of Vietnam veterans. The experience of the DAV Vietnam Veterans Outreach Program bears this out.

"During and after the Vietnam War," explained DAV Assistant National Adjutant Robert H. Lenham, "our society's message to Vietnam veterans didn't have to be stated openly. The reactions on people's faces were enough to tell the veterans to keep their stories to themselves—that Vietnam veterans had no right to feel good about having served their country when their government called them to arms."

The DAV's outreach program is attacking the question of pride on a one-to-one basis, through individual and group counseling. The VA's Vet Center program, modeled after the

VVLP Kickoff . . .

President Reagan greets Wayne Hanby, director of VVLP's Wilmington, Del., office. Best-selling author Jim Webb, to Hanby's left, and Wilmington College Dean Kip Becker, right, also participate in the VVLP kickoff. Becker is VVLP's local chairman in Wilmington. Webb is serving as a volunteer advisor to the national program.

DAV's outreach effort, is doing much the same thing. VVLP's approach complements these programs in what Pauken and Wheeler hope will be an effective way.

VVLP is unique in that it uses as volunteers and spokesmen Vietnam veterans who have made it—veterans who are doing well in business, the professions, the trades, government, the arts, or education. This, hopes VVLP Deputy Director Bill Jayne, will "counteract the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as losers."

Jayne harks back to a statement President Reagan made when dedicating VVLP. "Contrary to the unjust stereotype," the president said, "the vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia and have excelled at their post-war endeavors."

Veterans like DAV member Wayne Hanby and others who are giving some of their time to or working in VVLP have a story to tell—a story that runs directly against the grain of the popular characterizations of Vietnam veterans as either victims or villains.

Hanby is nobody's villain; he's a good man. Nor is he anybody's victim; he's a winner.

So, what is Hanby doing? VVLP leaders have identified unemployment and underemployment among Vietnam veterans as problems they want to attack. And Hanby's on the go, talking with employers throughout Delaware. He's making sure Delaware's veterans receive timely notice of state government job openings. And he's working on the steering committee of a Veterans' Fair, set to focus on employment opportunities in Delaware this September.

VVLP volunteers who are working with Hanby in Delaware are deeply involved in these and other projects. They're talking with business people and government leaders. They're convincing people that employment of veterans makes good sense. They're trying to make constructive things happen and get an up-beat story about Vietnam veterans told.

Wheeler hopes to have VVLP programs working on activities like these in 50 cities by Sept. 30, but the program needs successful Vietnam veterans to step forward as volunteers.

"What these people are doing," commented the DAV's Lenham, "is very positive, and our organization supports their efforts. I'd encourage successful Vietnam veterans in the DAV to consider giving this program some of their time. I think it would be worthwhile for the veterans who volunteer, as well as the veterans who are helped."

Pauken Building New ACTION Agency

In the midst of long-overdue cutting of the Washington spending machine's budget, one federal social program is not being cut back. The Older Americans Volunteer Program in the ACTION agency is being expanded.

The man responsible for this notable exception to the rule is Tom Pauken, appointed last year by President Reagan as director of the federal government's massive volunteer agency which provides more than 340,000 Americans with meaningful social work every year. The agency has long been a center of political controversy as a result of political appointees previously in charge of the \$145 million bureaucracy who often seemed more interested in furthering ideology than in helping America's needy.

Of the program, Pauken says "we consider this the cornerstone of a major administration initiative to encourage voluntarism among in America. Dollar for dollar, I think it's the best government program there is." The program operates on an \$87 million annual budget. The program includes three elements, Senior Companions, Retired Seniors Volunteer Program and Foster Grandparents, which has received substantial national publicity.

Mentally and emotionally handicapped children in low-income homes are the primary focus of the Foster Grandparents program, which has also been strongly supported by First Lady Nancy Reagan. Federal funding is being maintained at current levels, while Pauken aggressively develops new funding from state and local sources.

Nader Grants Ended

"Many VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America, a major ACTION program) grants went to groups associated with Tom Hayden, the anti-nuclear movement, elements of the New Left and Ralph Nader-related organizations," Pauken points out. In one instance, a self-described "socialist" group in Dallas, Texas, received VISTA funding.

"These groups don't really help the poor," Pauken contends. "They tend to be middle to upper class white, leftist and radical. They tend to organize in the name of the poor and try to mobilize, if you will, people in opposition to this present



President Reagan launches ACTION's Vietnam Veterans' Leadership Program. Tom Pauken and presidential advisor Elizabeth Dole join him on the podium.

economic and political system."

In Pauken's own succinct words: "We have stopped that kind of funding."

While seeking to end taxpayer financing of fringe groups seeking political power rather than providing assistance to the needy, Pauken is dramatically reforming ACTION and each of its major programs to fulfill their original purposes. Along the way, he has also initiated several innovative efforts designed to bring the agency into concert with President Reagan's comprehensive programs to renew neighborhood voluntarism. Pauken has initiated programs dealing with drug abuse among young people, runaways and chronic illiteracy in low-income neighborhoods.

Pauken is also the highest ranking Vietnam veteran serving in the Reagan Administration and he has inaugurated a new program, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, which illustrates the director's basic approach to social action. The Vietnam Veterans program is establishing volunteer programs in 50 communities across the country, each to be manned by a

volunteer chairman and a salaried project director, both of whom must be successful Vietnam veterans and community leaders. Each of the 50 offices will study local Vietnam veteran needs and then develop a specific action plan designed to meet those needs in conjunction, first, with local resources, then with other sources, including available government programs.

Bureaucracy Slashed

While reinvigorating ACTION's volunteer emphasis, Pauken has successfully reduced the agency's bureaucracy. "We've cut our administrative overhead by 25 percent and we feel we're going to be spending less and getting more for it in terms of encouraging voluntarism."

Pauken is determined to put his agency back in the mainstream of American life and values. "I argue that there are two majorities in American life. One, I call the popular majority. The other I call the cultural or intellectual majority. The popular majority still believes in the traditional Judeo-Christian values.

"The intellectual majority has adopted a set of values which are primarily secular, relativistic and rationalistic. There naturally is some conflict. I think it confuses someone who grows up with the experience of home, of neighborhood, of personal relations and who finds traditional values make a lot of sense to suddenly hear from experts that those values are outdated, wrong, naive and parochial.

"There is a tremendous push in the intellectual majority to influence the rest of us to accept their values. If you go along with the intellectual majority viewpoint, you are considered a little bit brighter, progressive and moderate. If you dissent from that view, you are pushed into a corner. It's a very powerful force."

Tom Pauken shares the values of the majority of Americans and is determined that ACTION will reflect faith in those values, as he goes about marshalling more than a quarter of a million people giving their time and resources helping fellow citizens. ■



Thomas W. Pauken, Director of ACTION and a man determined to make voluntarism work for all Americans.

8 Vietnam Vets Who Came Out Winners

They've succeeded despite great adversity—blindness, crippling wounds, deep public hostility. Now they help less fortunate war buddies make it.

No other veterans in U.S. history have endured the kind of hostility that confronted the GI's who came home from Vietnam, yet most have slipped into the mainstream of American society and today lead productive lives.

The passage has not been easy, and thousands more are still struggling to find their way. But the picture is changing significantly. What is happening is that large numbers of successful vets, those who have found their niche, are assisting in a widening effort to help others do the same.

All across the country these Vietnam veterans are banding together in a variety of groups to give aid and comfort to one another. At least 24 such organizations have sprung up, including one—the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program—launched by the federal government.

In many of the programs, vets offer practical advice about how to get jobs and start businesses. In some, disabled ex-servicemen work with others handicapped by war wounds. All are equally intent on blasting the stereotype of the Vietnam veteran as a person with deep emotional problems.

"The time has come for the public to be made aware that many of us are much more successful socially, politically and economically than the derelict so often stereotyped by the media," comments William C. Stensland, a former marine who heads a veterans' program in Texas.

"It is very important to recognize that more than 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans, even with enormous difficulties, have come home and made the successful transition to civilian life," asserts Thomas W. Pauken, an Army veteran who heads the federal ACTION program. "I have

been distressed to see veterans portrayed as losers, fools or dope addicts."

Among the hundreds of thousands of successful veterans are these eight who now are working to help their less fortunate Vietnam War comrades find their place in America—

Helping Others "Good for Me"

John D. Baines was at loose ends when he arrived home after two tours in Vietnam as an officer in the Navy Seabees. Today he is a pillar of the San Antonio establishment, owner of a real-estate-development firm with an annual business volume of more than 25 million dollars.

"People were very rude to us, very antimilitary," says Baines of his unsettling return to Texas in 1970. "There was no one to talk to about it. I was bitter. My reaction to those long-haired hippies was abrasive."

Baines, who played football at the University of Texas until sidelined by injuries, returned to college after his discharge from the Navy. He did not stay long. "I just couldn't concentrate on my studies," he says.

After picking up the pieces of his life, Vietnam veteran John D. Baines found success as a real-estate developer.



"After four years it was hard to get back in the groove again."

Baines, now 36, quit college, then worked for construction and real-estate-brokerage interests in Texas. Ten years ago he opened his own business.

He feels that the image of the Vietnam veteran as a drug addict and criminal has made it difficult for many to win acceptance in civilian life. Especially harmful, says Baines, were reports that 60,000 or more veterans wound up in state prisons.

"They are talking about Vietnam-era veterans," says Baines. "Eve is the key word. Only 13,000 are Vietnam War veterans, out of 2½ million who served in Vietnam. That is less than half of 1 percent. Not much."

Baines recently began helping out in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a federal project that got under way in six cities last year and is being financed for three years with a modest 6 million dollars in federal funds. The goal is for the program to expand to 50 cities by 1984, when it is to become privately operated and financed.

So far, says Baines, his value to other veterans has been mainly as a sounding board. "We get together, and it does a lot of good for guys to get things off their chests," says the ex-Navy man. "I can immediately relate to them. It's going to do a lot of good for me, too."

I'm Glad I Served

John F. Nash, Jr., 35, doubts that he would have wound up as a key congressional aide if the war had not intervened in his life.

"I turned over a new leaf in the Marine Corps," says the former platoon commander. "I hadn't been living up to my family's expectations, and life had been easy—sort of Camelot. It wasn't until the Marines that I realized we have a meritocracy society. A glib tongue isn't enough. I went back to school with a vengeance."

Nash, chief counsel of the Senate's Subcommittee on Regulatory Reform, went to Vietnam with reservations about the war but came back convinced he had done the right thing. "I'm so glad I served," he says. "I came back, and my conscience is clean."

But his stint in Vietnam earned him heavy criticism from some quarters. At one school where Nash tried to enroll, he recalls, "an assistant dean of admissions told me, 'We are not really partial to hired killers here.'"

Nash graduated from another school, the University of California, and then entered Georgetown University's Law School. While studying in Washington, he was offered a part-time job with Senator Paul Laxalt (R-Nev.), who later



Capitol Hill staffer John F. Nash, a former Marine lieutenant, now listens to troubles of other vets.

arranged for the subcommittee job.

In his spare time, Nash counsels Washington-area veterans on their troubles. He is hopeful that enough successful veterans will catch the spirit to make a difference. "Anybody who waits for the federal government to improve his lot is going to have a long wait," says Nash.

"We Feel Estranged"

Richard Eilert, director of a veterans' project in Chicago, knows what it is to need a helping hand. Severely wounded in Vietnam, he has undergone 37 major operations in 13 years.

Eilert, 34, was a Marine enlisted man when a grenade blast ripped off most of his left leg, shattered his right one, broke both arms and caused other injuries. As he lay wounded, a North Vietnamese soldier shot him in the leg.

Once Eilert was up and about, he says, many people treated him with a puzzling indifference. "I found everything changed," says Eilert. "I couldn't get a date. Friends were not unfriendly—just cool."

He tried twice to return to college but quit because he felt out of place. "I always felt they were looking at me like I was John Wayne with cartridge belts hanging all over me," recalls Eilert. "There was no one to talk to."

Eilert eventually went to work for the Union Oil Company in California and wrote a book—soon to be published, he says—about his hospital experiences. He took over last year as director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Chicago.

The program, he says, is vital to Vietnam vets because, for the first time, it

gives them a place where they can discuss among themselves the feelings of alienation and disappointment that many have.

"Most Vietnam veterans don't belong to any organization," explains Eilert. "We feel estranged. I got tired of going to an American Legion club, for example, and getting bawled out at the bar for losing the war and for not knowing what combat really is."

Scaling the Heights

Charles O'Brien, who lost a leg in Vietnam, was once cautioned not to try college because amputees have trouble climbing stairs. Last summer, the former Army Ranger was among eight handicapped persons who scaled the heights of Mount Rainier.

The Philadelphia lawyer's aim in the climb, hard enough for someone with both legs, was to demonstrate the worth of injured veterans and other disabled persons. It would, he thought, help build confidence and self-esteem.

O'Brien, 35, accepts no limitations as a result of his own injury. He has even learned to ski again. "I'm an amputee, and often that troubles me," he says. "It is hard to walk on an artificial leg, and yet I had to because I couldn't ask for sympathy. I couldn't allow my disability to interfere."

O'Brien, who says his younger brother

Loss of a leg in Vietnam did not keep Charles O'Brien from a career in law—or from climbing Mount Rainier.



er performed alternative service as a conscientious objector during the war, feels too many who served in Vietnam have wasted time feeling sorry for themselves. "They nurtured each other's bitterness," he says. "I hate to call it self-pity, but that's what it was."

He concedes, however, that the public failed to give Vietnam veterans the measure of understanding and gratitude they had a right to expect from their countrymen.

In his own case, says O'Brien, some friends and acquaintances ended up feeling threatened by his war experience. "There was a degree of hostility because I hadn't taken the easy way out," he recalls. "So it was kind of an embarrassment to them."

O'Brien now does volunteer counseling in a veterans' program in Philadelphia. Through such efforts, he says, "we hope to help get jobs, help them start small businesses. That's what is needed."

Straight Talk About Veterans

Street-level experience has taught Max Patterson that his fellow Vietnam veterans are no likelier to end up in jail than anyone else.

Patterson, 37, is police chief in Windsor, Conn., the only black ever to hold the post. Before that he was chief in Albion, Mich., and a campus policeman at Michigan State University.

The Vietnam veteran, says Patterson, is no special threat to society. But what is a problem, he argues, are public attitudes toward those who fought in the conflict. "People think veterans carry the guilt for the war rather than the government," says the former Army intelligence officer.

"I would be very hesitant to say the war, the year's experience in Vietnam, did anyone in," commented Patterson. "They would have been on that track before they ever went over there."

"Twelve months' negative experience in Vietnam was the final thrust that pushed them over."

In this, Patterson is supported by major studies that show little basis for the perception of Vietnam vets as troubled individuals unable to fit into society. One federal survey finds fewer than 5 percent of all state-prison inmates ever served in Indo-China. Still another survey indicates that 90 percent of vets 25 and older are employed. What's more, those who went to Vietnam are making more use of federal education benefits than have the veterans of earlier wars.



Police Chief Max Patterson feels fellow vets have been wrongly stigmatized.

Patterson himself came out of Vietnam determined to improve himself. A college dropout before joining the Army, the Detroit native worked his way through Michigan State after his discharge, earning a degree in political science.

Now that he has settled into the job in Windsor, he is helping out in Vietnam veterans' groups. "I look at it from the standpoint of receiving a request to help someone like an old fraternity brother," says Patterson. "If there's something I can do, I am willing to make the effort."

Dropout With a Doctorate

There was a time, says Kip Becker, when he tried to hide from potential employers that he had piloted an Army combat helicopter in Vietnam.

Becker, 34, believes that most employers do not identify with the veterans of Vietnam the way they did with soldiers who fought in other wars. Thus, he reports, "I kept Vietnam off my résumé at first, and it kind of hurt to do that."

Now marketing-and-development director at Wilmington College in Delaware, Becker wants to see the day when all Vietnam veterans can do as he did and "get out of the closet." That is one of his goals as a volunteer worker in a veterans' group in Wilmington.

"I am not a joiner, but what I like about this program is that the people involved are able to get along," reports Becker.

He makes the point that "this organization cares about the ideas of veterans, what they have to say and what they need."

Becker, a college dropout before joining the Army, earned two master's degrees and a doctorate after his discharge from the service.

"In flight school and then Vietnam, I learned discipline," says Becker. "I learned that anyone has the intelligence to get where they want to go. I learned to persevere, and Vietnam fo-

cused me in a direction. It gave me the feeling that I could do it."

Winning Over Blindness

Blinded by a booby trap and with little formal education, David L. Huffman found life especially hard after his tour in Vietnam as a Marine rifleman.

"When I first came back I was kind of wild," relates Huffman, 33, whose youth included eight years in an orphanage. "In 1970 I was in a car accident and broke both shoulders and my spine. I was two months flat on my back and another two months in a brace. I floundered for a couple of years, looking for unskilled employment, but I couldn't nail things down."

Huffman's salvation turned out to be the source of much of his childhood misery—school. After learning Braille, he completed high school, then earned two undergraduate degrees and a law degree from the Delaware Law School. He would like to carve out a career in international law.

Once the bar examinations are behind Huffman, he intends to devote most of his spare time to helping other disabled vets—and to working toward a black belt in judo.

"I Want to Help Others"

Luis Sanz, a Cuban refugee, paid for his U.S. citizenship the hard way—with an 11-month stint as an Army combat medic in Vietnam.

Sanz, now 37, returned from Vietnam proud of what he had done for his adopted homeland. That's why he was shocked to find not all Americans were as pleased.

"Those were the years of antiwar demonstrations," says Sanz, who is today a faculty member at Georgetown University's Medical School.

"It was very frustrating for me. I kept very quiet about my service in Vietnam," he admits.

Although Sanz knew only a smattering of English when he returned to America, he zipped through college in three years, graduating at the top of his class, and then earned a medical degree at Georgetown University.

The unrelenting grind of medical school, says Sanz, plus his determination to do well, kept him from feeling the isolation that has troubled other Vietnam vets. "All I did was read and study," he says. "I put all my energies into my books."

"I'm not in the dumps," asserts Sanz. "I never was. I need no help, but I want to help others. That is the main point, getting people together, making contact with other veterans and helping them." □

By WENDELL S. MERICK

Luis Sanz, now a medical professor, wants to help other veterans achieve their goals.



VIET VETS AID PALS

WASHINGTON—A decade after the end of the Vietnam War, the government is tapping some of the more financially successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

"I realize that while I worked hard these past 10 years for everything I've got, there are guys out there who haven't been quite so fortunate," says John D. Baines of San Antonio, Texas, a prosperous real estate broker. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

Baines, a Navy Seabee in Vietnam, is the volunteer chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio, one of five communities where similar efforts are gathering steam.

ESPRIT DE CORPS

The program is designed to encourage successful Vietnam veterans to volunteer their efforts to help solve the problems still faced by other veterans.

Sponsored by ACTION, the government's volunteer agency, the program will be established in 50 communities, each with a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director who are both Vietnam veterans. Besides San Antonio, initial programs have been started in Baltimore; Nashville, Tenn.; Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia.

"High-quality Vietnam veterans, preferably with combat experience, and who have excelled in their jobs" are being sought to contribute their efforts, says William Jayne, deputy director of the national program. Programs will be tailored to each individual city, with emphasis on solving the most severe local problems faced by Vietnam veterans.

NOT HAPLESS VICTIMS

For instance, Jayne says, program leaders "might speak to a group of small-business men or go one-on-one with larger employers" to improve job opportunities by dispelling the stereotype of Vietnam vets as "drug-crazed time bombs or hapless victims, wallowing in self-pity."

Other efforts might include helping veterans who want to start their own businesses or developing community support for a veterans' center, Jayne says.

Volunteers are not expected to do counseling or provide health care offered by other agencies, Jayne says. And they will not provide a referral service.

The program will cost \$2 million a year for three years. Then federal funds will be withdrawn, and it is hoped that the program will continue on local initiative.

Shipmate

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

The VVLP began last October as part of ACTION, the national volunteer agency, with successful veterans volunteering to help solve the problems still faced by fellow veterans. Program officials emphasized that one goal of the VVLP will be to counteract the stereotype of the Vietnam veteran as a loser, a notion they said most harms those who do have significant problems and also deprives the country of fully using their leadership potential.

"It is time to tap the enormous resources of able and successful Vietnam veterans who stand ready to come forward to help solve the problems of their fellow veterans," said Thomas Pauken, a director of ACTION and a Vietnam veteran.

"The men who served in Vietnam have a tremendous amount to offer this country. Because of the hardships of their service they are stronger and more mature," said John Wheeler, VVLP's national program director.

During the next year, VVLP will be established in 50 communities across the U.S. Programs are already underway in Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Antonio, Wilmington, Phoenix and Nashville. Each of the 50 communities will have a volunteer chairman and salaried project director. Both will be able and successful Vietnam veterans and community leaders. They will recruit Vietnam veterans to work at the senior levels of the local business and government structures to help the communities build and maintain a coordinated community-wide effort to help Vietnam veterans.

In addition to encouraging Vietnam veterans to step forward as volunteers, the program is designed to demonstrate the leadership of Vietnam veterans and to stimulate effective help for the men and

women who still have major problems resulting from Vietnam experiences, problems such as underemployment or unemployment.

The program is designed to serve as a catalyst rather than a one-on-one service delivery mechanism or referral service. It will not attempt to duplicate or overlap services provided by the Veterans Administration or outreach centers, or by local community or veterans service organizations. At a cost of \$2 million per year, the three-year program is intended to be a short-term, cost-effective volunteer effort. The federal role will be phased out by September 1984, when the program will be turned over to the local communities.

Among the leadership of VVLP so far are Edward Timperlake '69, national deputy director; James Webb '68, national advisor; and Mark Treanor '68, Baltimore director. All three are Marine veterans of Vietnam.

JANUARY 1982

ACTION Program Gets Underway

A new volunteer program, intended to fill some of the gaps in service programs to assist Vietnam veterans, is getting underway, with pilot projects operating in six cities.

Designed to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans to assist other veterans, the program was established as part of ACTION by Thomas W. Pauken, the Vietnam veteran President Reagan named to head the federal government's volunteer agency.

Called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP), the new ACTION project is attempting to attract successful Vietnam veterans to help solve the problems still faced by many of their fellow veterans. Pauken has appointed several DAV members to management positions in the VVLP.

Included among them is James Webb, author of the best-selling Vietnam combat novel, *Fields of Fire*, and a new novel, *A Sense of Honor*. Webb will be an advisor to the program.

The advice of several established Vietnam veterans' leaders, including DAV National Employment Director Ronald W. Drach, was sought in setting up the VVLP, which will be funded at \$2 million a year for three years. VVLP National Program Director John P. Wheeler, III, hopes to get the program going in 50 communities nationwide.

Each community will have a salaried project director and a volunteer chairman, who will seek as volunteers Vietnam veterans who have been successful in civilian life. "We're looking for veterans who have excelled in a wide variety of civilian pursuits—the professions, business, labor, the arts," VVLP Deputy Director Bill Jayne told *DAV Magazine*.

"We're looking for people who can function at the senior levels of the business and

government structures in their communities to help build and maintain coordinated community-wide efforts to help Vietnam veterans."

While VVLP would like to concentrate on combat veterans as volunteers, Jayne stressed that commitment and integrity are the essential characteristics of the Vietnam era veterans the program is seeking.

Among the problems VVLP wants to confront are unemployment and underemployment of Vietnam veterans, though VVLP leaders hope to avoid duplicating or overlapping services already provided by the VA, the DAV and VA outreach centers, existing community-based organizations, and veterans' service organizations, such as the DAV.

However, the program will attempt to tackle some symbolic goals as well. Most important among these, according to Jayne, is "counteracting the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as losers—a notion that most harms those Vietnam veterans who do have significant problems."

The DAV's Drach agreed with VVLP coordinators that the program "cannot be a panacea that will cure all of the problems Vietnam veterans have experienced." But, he said, "It can, if successful, serve as a needed link in a chain of services for Vietnam era veterans."

"There are many Vietnam veterans in the DAV who today occupy responsible positions in their communities—business managers and executives, doctors, union officials, lawyers, clergymen, and so forth," Drach said. "These are the kind of people VVLP needs as volunteers, and this program offers such leaders a genuine opportunity to do something really meaningful for their fellow veterans."

DAV MAGAZINE

JANUARY 1982

Program Taps Vietnam Vets

President Reagan has established, as part of ACTION, the national volunteer agency, a new program, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, designed to highlight the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans.

"It is time to tap the enormous resource of able and successful Vietnam veterans, who stand ready to come forward to help solve the problems still faced by their fellow veterans," said Thomas W. Pauken, director of ACTION and himself a veteran of Vietnam. John P. Wheeler III, also a Vietnam veteran, serves as the VVLP national program director.

During 1982, the VVLP will be established in fifty communities across the United States. Programs are already under way in Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Antonio, Wilmington, Phoenix, and Nashville. Each of the fifty communities will have a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director, each to be both Vietnam veterans and community leaders.

They will recruit volunteer Vietnam veterans to work at the senior levels of the communities' business and government structure to help build and maintain a coordinated community-wide effort to assist the thousands of men and women who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience, such as underemployment or unemployment.

The program, designed to serve as a catalyst rather than as a specific service delivery mechanism, will not attempt to duplicate or overlap the services already provided by the Veterans Administration and its outreach centers, or by local community-based organizations or veterans service organizations.

At a cost of \$2 million per year, it is intended to be a short-term, cost-effective volunteer effort. The federal role will be phased out by September 1984, when the program will be turned over to the local communities.

Successful Viet Vets Urged to Join Volunteer Effort

By LAURIE PARKER

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Vietnam veterans who have established successful civilian careers after their military service are being encouraged by a new federal program to volunteer their time and leadership to help solve some of the problems still facing their fellow veterans.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, an effort recently begun under ACTION, the federal volunteer agency, will establish volunteer programs in 50 communities across the country.

The local programs will be led by salaried project directors, who are Vietnam veterans and community leaders successful in business, the professions or academia, and volunteer chairmen. The programs will study the specific

needs and characteristics of the local Vietnam veteran population and then develop plans for solving those problems, working with local business and governmental structures.

VVLP activities might include liaison with local employers to help improve job opportunities for Vietnam veterans and business development efforts to help veterans who want to begin or build their own businesses.

Pilot programs already are under way in Philadelphia; Baltimore; San Antonio, Tex.; Wilmington, Del.; Phoenix, Ariz., and Nashville, Tenn.

The other cities have not yet been chosen, said Bill Jayne of the VVLP.

"Almost every large city needs an effort like this," Jayne said. "We're recruiting volunteers to run the program first, and then deciding on the cities, based on how many Vietnam veterans are there, what their needs are and what resources are available to them."

Since the program relies on Vietnam veterans who are established community leaders, city selection also must be made on that basis, he said.

The VVLP will not duplicate or overlap services already offered by the Veterans Administration, veterans service organizations or local community organizations, organizers said.

"We're not a panacea; we can't solve all the problems by ourselves," Jayne said. "We're just another thread in the fabric of veterans services."

The program is planned to last about three years, with federal participation and funding scheduled to phase out by Sept. 30, 1984. At that time, individual programs may be turned over to the local communities.

"It's a short-term, cost-effective, volunteer program with significant but realistic, limited goals," Jayne said.

People interested in starting a volunteer program or working with one already established, may contact Jayne or Ed Timberlake at the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, ACTION, 806 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20525.

NOV-11-81

Free the Veterans

What would you think if to celebrate, say, Martin Luther King's birthday the Public Broadcasting Service were to air a film suggesting that blacks have good rhythm? Or if, to honor Saint Patrick's Day, it ran a long documentary portraying the Irish as drunken brawlers? Or if, on a day set aside to honor the achievements of women, it showed a film depicting female executives as shrews and barracudas?

If you think PBS would never be so insensitive, think again. For it seems that to mark Veterans Day today the public network is going to show a film called "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran." In the wailing tradition of Jane Fonda's exploitation, "Coming Home," "Frank" is a one-hour documentary about a former GI who finds himself wracked with guilt over his war deeds (he claims to have taken part in an atrocity), unable to sustain his marriage, susceptible to homosexual urges, unable to stay away from drugs, and fearful that some day he'll snap and murder his children.

We don't question the right of Congress to set up a Public Broadcasting Service to show this kind of movie with taxpayers' funds, if that's what the taxpayers want, even on Veterans Day. But we do think it's important to bear in mind what the film really is—a vicious stereotype of the Vietnam veteran and one, moreover, that has been carefully nurtured for more than a decade by an antiwar movement intent on nailing down the American defeat.

Thomas Pauken, director of Action,

the government agency that includes the Peace Corps, Vista and other volunteer activities, brings all this to our attention. He writes that more than 80% of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made a successful transition to civilian life and are doing well. This includes many who were critical of the way the war was fought, and who grieve over its tragic outcome. It includes many who feel hurt by the ambiguous public attitude toward their service. Just the same, most don't regret serving and would serve again if called.

None of this is to deny that there are veterans who need help with problems associated with their Vietnam experience. Mr. Pauken, however, argues that it does them no good to encourage them to "wallow in self-pity, to reinforce their doubts about their own self-worth, to encourage, in effect, a self-fulfilling prophecy of Vietnam veterans . . . as losers." President Reagan yesterday announced a new program, to be run by Action, that will mobilize veterans to help other veterans shake off this stigma and get back on their feet.

Mr. Reagan himself took the first, most important step when during the campaign he declared that the American cause in Vietnam was noble. What the nation can dedicate itself to today is recognizing that the vast majority of men and women who fought in the war did so with a nobility worthy of the cause and deserve better than the stain the antiwar movement has burdened them with in the postwar years.

NEW ACTION CHIEF TALKS ABOUT VOLUNTEERISM (900)
BY MARY PAUL
USICA STAFF CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON -- THOMAS PAUKEN, THE NEWLY-APPOINTED HEAD OF ACTION, BELIEVES PEOPLE CAN HELP EACH OTHER BETTER THAN BUREAUCRATS CAN. "I HAVE NEVER SEEN A TIME WHEN PEOPLE ARE MORE WILLING TO COME FORWARD TO HELP EACH OTHER OUT," HE SAYS. "THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR AN EXPANSION OF VOLUNTEERISM."

IN HIS FIRST FEW WEEKS IN OFFICE, PAUKEN HAS WORKED LONG DAYS TO ESTABLISH A SOUNDER FRAMEWORK FOR ENLISTING VOLUNTEERS TO HELP THE DISADVANTAGED IN ALL SECTORS OF AMERICAN SOCIETY. BUSINESS, CHURCH AND PRIVATE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM LEADERS FILE INTO HIS WASHINGTON OFFICE TO TALK ABOUT HUMAN NEEDS; TO TALK ABOUT HELP; TO TALK ABOUT TAKING ACTION.

ACTION, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY FOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS, ENCOMPASSES NUMEROUS PROGRAMS TO AID THE YOUNG;

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DISABLED; ELDERLY AND UNDEREDUCATED IN THE UNITED STATES. THE PEACE CORPS, WHICH DIRECTS ALL ITS VOLUNTEER SERVICES OVERSEAS, IS AN AUTONOMOUS PART OF ACTION.

PAUKEN WANTS TO DO MORE; TO BROADEN EXISTING PROGRAMS AND ESTABLISH NEW ONES. HE DOES NOT EXPECT TO HAVE ANY TROUBLE FINDING VOLUNTEERS.

"MOST OF THE PEOPLE IN THIS NATION WANT TO VOLUNTEER TO HELP OTHERS BUT HAVEN'T BEEN ASKED AND DON'T KNOW HOW BEST TO CHANNEL THEIR EFFORTS," HE SAYS, CITING A RECENT INDEPENDENT POLL ON VOLUNTEERISM. "THE POINT IS THAT MOST PEOPLE ARE WILLING TO HELP" AND IT IS ACTION'S JOB TO SET UP A NETWORK SO THEY CAN.

THE NEW ACTION CHIEF, HIMSELF A LONG-TIME VOLUNTEER WORKER IN PROGRAMS IN HIS TEXAS HOMETOWN OF VICTORIA, IS A VIETNAM VETERAN; A FORMER AIDE TO SENATOR JOHN TOWER (R-TEX.) AND WHITE HOUSE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM DIRECTOR (1971-72). HE HOLDS DEGREES IN LAW AND POLITICAL SCIENCE.

AN INVOLVED AND LITERATE MAN, HE IS FOND OF QUOTING THE 19TH CENTURY FRENCH PHILOSOPHER ALEXIS DE TOQUEVILLE.

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"TOQUEVILLE SAID THAT THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM, THAT WILLINGNESS TO BAND TOGETHER TO SOLVE COMMON PROBLEMS, IS WHAT DISTINGUISHES AMERICA," PAUKEN SAYS. "THIS IS THE SPIRIT THAT GOES TO THE CORE OF OUR WHOLE SOCIETY."

WORKING WITH A SMALL BUDGET AND HIGHLY COMMITTED STAFF, PAUKEN PLANS TO BROADEN THE AGENCY'S WORK INTO THE AREAS OF TROUBLED TEENAGERS AND VIETNAM VETERANS.

"THE BREAKDOWN IN AMERICA'S FAMILIES HAS CAUSED SIGNIFICANT SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND MOST OF THEM HAVE FALLEN ON THE YOUNG," HE SAYS.

LEAVING AN OFTEN BROKEN HOME, MANY TEENAGERS BECOME PART OF THE NATION'S GROWING DRUG PROBLEM AND STATISTICS IN THE GROWING EPIDEMIC OF RUNAWAYS, PAUKEN SAID, MANY FIND THEIR WAY TO URBAN CENTERS WITH NO MONEY, NO FAMILY AND NO HELP. OFTEN, THEY BECOME ADDICTED TO DRUGS.

"I HOPE TO HAVE A DRUG ABUSE AND REHABILITATION PROGRAM TO ALERT TEENAGERS TO THE DANGERS OF DRIFTING INTO THE DRUG CULTURE AND HELP THEM OUT IF THEY DO," PAUKEN SAYS.

PAUKEN IS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED WITH THE WORK OF

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COVENANT HOUSE: LOCATED NEAR NEW YORK'S SEAMY TIMES SQUARE; WHICH HELPS RUNAWAYS FIRST TO FIND THEMSELVES AND THEN FIND THE WAY BACK HOME.

"COVENANT HOUSE HAS A 35 PERCENT SUCCESS RATE WITH THE PEOPLE IT WORKS WITH AND THE KEY IS VOLUNTEERISM -- THE STAFF HELPS THESE KIDS BECAUSE THEY WANT TO. THAT'S BETTER THAN ANY BUREAUCRATIC STRUCTURE CAN DO," PAUKEN SAYS.

THE ACTION DIRECTOR IS CURRENTLY WORKING TO GET OTHER COMMUNITIES INTERESTED IN COVENANT HOUSE'S WORK AND SET UP WORKSHOPS AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO WORK IN OTHER CITIES. THAT, HE SAYS, IS WHERE THE FEDERAL ROLE SHOULD END.

HIMSELF A VIETNAM VETERAN, PAUKEN ALSO HAS PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM IN WHICH VETERANS HELP EACH OTHER IN AREAS RANGING FROM EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS TO GETTING STARTED IN THEIR OWN BUSINESSES.

"THERE IS A TENDENCY TO LOOK AT VIETNAM VETERANS AS VICTIMS," AND THIS HAS CREATED PROBLEMS WITH THEIR OWN CONCEPTS OF SELF-WORTH, PAUKEN CONTENTS. "THIS WHOLE THING

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MUST BE CHANGED. THERE ARE A HECK OF A LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO ARE LEADERS WHO WERE GIVEN AN ADDED DIMENSION BY THEIR WAR EXPERIENCE."

THE VIETNAM VETERANS HAVE BEEN AMONG THE MOST ACCESSIBLE AND EASY TO TAP IN TERMS OF VOLUNTEERISM. A GROUP THAT RECENTLY MET WITH PAUKEN TO TALK ABOUT WAYS TO HELP OTHER VETERANS STAYED ON INTO THE EVENING TO TALK AND PLAN. THEY REMAINED AT ACTION HEADQUARTERS LONG AFTER PAUKEN HIMSELF HAD TO LEAVE FOR ANOTHER ENGAGEMENT. PAUKEN RELATES THE STORY OF A VIETNAM MARINE CAPTAIN WHO STILL GETS CALLS FROM HIS PLATOON MEMBERS TO HELP WITH THEIR PERSONAL PROBLEMS. "HE TELLS THEM THEY CAN DO IT; THAT THEY CAN MAKE IT -- AND HIS MEN STILL NEED THAT," PAUKEN SAYS.

THE ACTION DIRECTOR SAYS HE IS NOT TROUBLED BY FEDERAL SPENDING CUTBACKS IN THE RUNAWAY YOUTH PROGRAM AND SEVERAL OTHERS BECAUSE HE FEELS THESE ARE AREAS WHERE FEDERAL MONEY DOESN'T NECESSARILY HELP.

"THROWING MONEY AT THE PROBLEM DOESN'T MEAN THE PROBLEM GETS SOLVED," HE SAYS. "IN FACT, THE PROBLEMS ARE GETTING

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WORSE AND WHAT WE MUST DO NOW IS ACT AS A CATALYST TO GET THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO RESPOND TO REAL NEEDS. AN EXPANDED VOLUNTEER EFFORT IS GOING TO BE FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN DOLLARS FROM WASHINGTON."

PPO/PAUL/6 (JU/JZ-3:50)
ITEM

The Star and Stripes

The Weekly Voice
Of Veterans & Dependents
Of All Wars Of
The United States



THE ONLY NATIONAL VETERANS' NEWSPAPER

"To Care For Him Who Shall
Have Saved The Nation And
For His Widow And His Orphan"
Abraham Lincoln

Our 104th Year

Number 17

WASHINGTON, DC, THURSDAY, APRIL 30, 1961

ACTION Sponsors Voluntary Effort

Thomas Pauken, Director Designate of ACTION, announced Sunday, April 26, that the volunteer agency which includes Peace Corps and VISTA, will sponsor a volunteer program for Vietnam Veterans.

The ACTION effort will attempt to encourage Vietnam veterans to voluntarily assist other Vietnam veterans who are having readjustment, psychological, alcohol and employment problems.

The program is still in the concept stage, and Pauken said that details will be announced as soon as they are completed. ★

North East

JULY 7 /82

Viet Vet Builds Company, Much More

by Thomas W. Pauken Director of ACTION

Often it seems there's a hidden purpose to luck. In Vietnam, Bob Rummel was with the 101st Airborne Division. A member of a machine gun crew, he and his fellow-gunner, for no particular reason, decided to change positions. No sooner had they done so than a misfired U.S. artillery round hit and instantly killed Rummel's buddy. Dazed, knowing he was wounded, Rummel began looking for a medical aid station. His hand felt for the wound in his throat, and it was then he realized his jugular vein had been severed. He attempted to cut off the bleeding with his fingers. Again luck placed an aid station directly in his path. The medics did the rest. Had the station not been where it was, Rummel would not have survived.

After Bob returned home and attended the Georgetown School of International Relations, it appeared a political career was in the offing. However, after his wife, Marion, had their first child, Erin, they began to think in terms of the kind of future they wanted. The result was a look-see visit to Vermont in 1974. What they saw they liked, and a year later they took the plunge. Since boyhood, Rummel had been in and out of the construction business; so, in the town of Rochester, Vermont, the Robert E. Rummel Construction Company was founded. In the beginning there was little more than the name.

Anyone who has given up city life knows there are large and difficult adjustments to make. Not the least of which is earning a living in a rural community. Today the Rummel Construction Company employs five neighbors during the hard winter months and 10 to 15 in the summer. In the last three years, Bob has tripled the company's size and earning power.

A member of the volunteer fire department, a citizen whose company performs volunteer services for the town, Bob Rummel is a volunteer in another capacity that ties in directly to that day in Vietnam 13 years ago. He is the Chairman of the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. As such, with the aid of Project Director Bill Fagginger-Auer, seven VVLP directors and nine ACTION volunteers, he is building a structure based on mutual aid, making Vietnam vets an identifiable group with grass roots support. If a Vietnam vet has a business, he takes a chance on a vet who has had a tough time. If a vet doesn't know the ropes or he's hanging on them, the VVLP is there to counsel and to offer the kind of understanding that's meaningful. As Bob says, "I waited a long while for a program like this to come along. Now we're helping lost veterans to finally find themselves."

It's not unlike a wounded G.I. stumbling through the jungle, bleeding to death, looking for help. Only today the medic in the aid station is Bob Rummel.

The Baltimore Sun 7/6/82

EDITORIAL Section (Front Page)

Alive and Kicking

Is patriotism dead?

Hardly.

Not when upwards of a quarter of a million Baltimoreans and their guests could turn out Sunday, ostensibly to enjoy cannon blasts and aerial spectacle but actually to express quiet gratitude that this free republic has survived in reasonably good health for 206 years.

The big noise, of course, was at the Inner Harbor, where bodies were massed like the Saharan sands, but an equally impressive show took place at Oregon Ridge. There the Baltimore Symphony performed a rousing version of the 1812 Overture, to the accompaniment of multi-colored rocket blasts. The waves of applause from the 13,000 gathered there were as much an outpouring of national pride as they were appreciation of the musicians' skill.

Perhaps the most typical of the celebrations were the hundreds of neighborhood parties where

the loudest noises were the hammering of wooden mallets. At nearly every one some stranger within our gates was being initiated into the subtle mysteries of Maryland crabdom.

It was entirely appropriate that the city should finally record its official appreciation of the sacrifices of the veterans of Vietnam. The Fourth must always be a reminder that the freedom we share was secured by blood, and that shed in Vietnam was as precious as any other.

Most of us probably entertained few somber thoughts Sunday, for it was a day of dedication to the backfin, the hamburger, the mustard pot. But underneath it all, as the beer cans collected, we knew in our hearts that the national birthday is a very special time, that it will be celebrated by our children and grandchildren—as long as free men and women tread this land.

Patriotism dead?

Not at all. It's alive and kicking.

Thousands salute the Vietnam vet

By Curtis Krueger
Evening Sun Staff

The crowd of Vietnam veterans, their families and scores of people who came just for a good time shared a moment of silence for the 410 Baltimore soldiers who never returned from the war.

It was the 206th birthday of the United States, but for at least one member of yesterday's crowd at Fort Smallwood Park in South Baltimore the day symbolized something else.

"I was shot down today," said William B. Shields, a former helicopter pilot in Vietnam, now a U.S. Customs Service worker who lives in the 1800 block of E. Baltimore St.

On July 4, 1965, Shields elevated his helicopter and heard a "bam, bam"—enemy fire broke through the helicopter's fire wall and exploded a hydraulic line. His craft went down and, amazingly, none of the crew was injured.

That was 17 years ago but his wife, Myrna, said, "Today is the first time

... that anyone has ever said 'thank you, you did a good job.'"

Yesterday's Special Salute to Vietnam Veterans was designed to single out Shields and thousands of other Marylanders who did their job in Vietnam without, perhaps, ever receiving the thanks they deserved.

The event, which drew more than 5,000, was organized by a group of veterans organizations, led by local attorney Mark Treanor and backed by Mayor William D. Schaefer. Despite predictions of thundershowers,

the sun prevailed.

"It's great," said Jim Dye, a former U.S. Navy electrician who served in Vietnam and now is a NASA employee and Pasadena resident.

Dye said the festival was a welcome gesture, even though it may have come a little late.

"None of us that were over there really started the war. But we thought we were doing the right thing," he said.

[Continued, Page A 8, Col. 1]

Thousands pay tribute to the Vietnam veteran

[Continued from Page A1]

Some veterans recalled the disillusionment their service brought. "I was very patriotic when I went into the Marine Corps. I believed everything they said. But everyone knows how it ended up," said Ray McCullen, of the 3000 block of Dundalk Ave.

Pointing to his 16-year-old son, Tim, he added, "My main concern is that they don't do to him what they did to me."

The affair was complete with tributes to the veterans' efforts, but it also held true to Treanor's earlier promise that "it's not a military day or a somber day."

The music ranged from swing-era sounds trumpeted from the Baltimore Big Band, to rock 'n' roll music, to "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Karate demonstrators lunged at one another, food stands raked in a profit, and a color guard marched along the length of the park. Teen-agers bounced volleyballs, children tossed darts and adults listened to speeches from dignitaries.

Gov. Harry R. Hughes, who joined Schaefer and others in addressing the crowd, said the nation would never again enter a war without the certainty that it was just and could be won.

"And we'll know not to send a soldier to war unless we're willing to accept him back with warmth and grace and honor," he said.

Brig. Gen. Jackson Rozier, the first Morgan State University graduate to become a general, repeated the need to salute the Vietnam vet.

"When called to serve, the Vietnam veteran did not fail you. Let us not fail him now."

BALTIMORE, MD.

City celebrates Vietnam vets' contributions

By Joseph Perkins

Even after 10 years, there were still some traces of bitterness, but not enough to cast a pall over the city's first official celebration of the contributions made by its Vietnam veterans.

There were no political pronouncements. The mood was decidedly upbeat at the city-owned Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel county.

More than 1,000 veterans and about 7,000 others turned out for the festivities—including a parade, several band performances, cultural exhibitions and a ceremony that featured speeches by Governor Hughes and Senator Paul S. Sarbanes (D, Md.) and a proclamation of "Vietnam Veterans Day" by Mayor Schaefer.

"You ask everyone why this is happening," said Thomas C. Shaner, a member of the Salute to Vietnam Veterans Committee, which cosponsored the festivities with the mayor's office. "They say 'guilt trips' or 'this is an election year.'"

In fact, said Mr. Shaner, the main thing is "getting people to see Vietnam veterans [apart from] the Vietnam war."

What it was all about to Catonsville resident Armen Enkababian was the welcome he expected—but didn't get—when his tour in Vietnam ended in 1970.

"I came back, went to college and people were burning the American flag that I had just fought for. I felt alienated. It was difficult for a while to get into the mainstream," he said.

Yesterday's salute was "a beginning step to understanding how Vietnam veterans feel," Mr. Enkababian said.

To Han Young Kim, an Essex resident, the salute was "really a long time coming." Mr. Kim may have been the most unusual Vietnam veteran at Fort Smallwood Park yesterday. He was a member of the Korean army, which fought with the Americans in Vietnam.

"We never talk about Vietnam veterans. The war is long past, but it's good to inform everybody to recognize" the contributions of the veterans of that war, he said.

Too often, when Vietnam veterans are recognized, it is for the wrong reasons, said Mark C. Treanor, chairman of the Salute to Vietnam Veterans Committee.

"Eighty-five percent of us came back and led normal lives," he said. But for some reason, he added, more attention has been focused on the 15 percent who had problems when they returned.

The salute was a kickoff activity for the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a six-month-old organization that was formed to help the 15 percent with problems.

Yesterday's event was not planned as a one-time thing, Mr. Treanor said, adding his hope that the activity will continue.



Legionsnaire Chris Keefer bows his head in silent tribute to those who fought in the Vietnam war.

Celebration held for Vietnam vets

VETERANS, from C1



Tina Mullins, 15 months old, waves the flag at Fort Smallwood Park.

CONT'D

MARYLAND

• Section C



Sun photo—Jed Kirschbaum

Talbert Shepke of Pasadena holds daughter Jennie, 3, at the city's "Vietnam Veterans Day" celebration at Fort Smallwood Park.

(CONT'D)

CONT'D BALTIMORE SUN JULY 5, 1982



Sun photos—Jed Kirschbaum

Vietnam veteran Talbert Shepke, his wife, Nancy, and children Jennie, 3, Michael, 7, and Connie, 5.

JUL 4 - 1982

A day for veterans, too

Plenty is happening today in celebration of the Fourth of July — indeed, we can't remember a Fourth around here with so many events, and so much to do. Of the many observances worthy of mention, one particularly stands out. It is taking place at Ft. Smallwood Park and it is concerned with a large number of Americans coming to terms with themselves in connection with something that happened many years ago; it is even more concerned with the people of this nation finally recognizing and appreciating what these Americans went through during that something.

What those Americans went through was the Vietnam War, a war which almost everybody back home hated. And with good reason. But in their hatred and shame and guilt everybody turned their backs on — made scapegoats of — the men and women who served in that war, who fought in the rice paddies and the jungles because, through any number of circumstances, they were under obligation to the nation to be there, and did the best they could to meet that obligation.

Given the indifference and even hostility they met when they got home, it is small wonder that the men and women who served in Vietnam quickly put their uniforms — and symbolically themselves — in the closet. Amazingly, it is only now, 10 and a dozen or more years after most of them served, that collectively they are saying, "Hey, we have nothing to be ashamed of. We're Americans who served our coun-

try. We don't need to hide that."

If Americans thought of the veterans at all after the war ended, it was in terms of failure, drugs, crime, unemployment. Which was mostly nonsense. The fact is that well over 80 percent of the veterans quietly began building successful lives for themselves.

To help people understand that, to put the war finally to rest, and to give a hand to the 20 percent or so who are still in trouble, a number of them have organized in Baltimore and other cities.

And it is the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program Inc. which, with the backing and cooperation of Mayor Schaefer and the city government, is putting on today's 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Special Salute to Vietnam Veterans at Ft. Smallwood. The format, as it should be, is old-fashioned, traditional, Fourth of July — a parade, music, picnicking, beer drinking, all the rest. And even appearances by politicians — Gov. Harry Hughes, Senators Paul Sarbanes and Charles Mathias, Mayor William Donald Schaefer.

We are heartened that this event is taking place today: What better day than the Fourth of July for Americans to take a look at themselves? The veterans have come to terms with their participation in the war; now they want their fellow Americans to understand what the war really meant to the people who were in it. In understanding that, we think, they will better understand the nation.

'Salute' honors Vietnam vets

By JIM LYNN
Staff Writer

It's been a decade since the Vietnam conflict concluded. Some young men and women came home to welcoming families, but a negative attitude about the unpopular war has closed the door on many veterans.

Films, television and other components of the media have highlighted Vietnam vets who couldn't cope with a world still angry, shamed and confused by the war. It seemed the average vet was losing the fight against unemployment, mental problems, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Some, however, came to Main Street, U.S.A., and continued their lives as successfully as veterans from more "popular" wars. To them, the military experience was not an overriding factor in their lives. It was a standard war-time experience, for better or worse, and they were ready to continue with business as usual, building careers and families.

That distance of 10 years has decreased some anxiety about Vietnam and brought a re-evaluation of the contribution made by those young men and women. A Vietnam veteran memorial is planned for Washington, D.C.

On Sunday, Marylanders will have their chance to show appreciation for Vietnam veterans at Fort Smallwood Park when a salute will be held from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

A joint effort of the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, area businesses and the people of Baltimore, the event will include live bands on three stages, jugglers, clowns, military displays, a martial arts exhibition and a parade. The day will be highlighted by a special noon ceremony with Mayor

William Donald Schaefer.

The ceremony will honor those who did not return and those who have become active contributors to their communities. Countless numbers have become leaders in area businesses.

John Bertak, at 36, is the director of public affairs for the Department of Transportation, located at BWI. From 1966-67, he was an Army information specialist.

"The media has been building this image of the woe-begone Vietnam veteran," Bertak said. "But I am the average vet. I came back, got married and the Veterans Administration helped put me through college. I got on with living when I got back. Some of us are professionals, some blue collar and some in jail, but I don't think that it had much to do with Vietnam."

He added that he is pleased about the salute and the monument in Washington.

"I am not so sure that the Vietnam vet is mistreated as much as a lot of people say," he added. "I started college in 1968, and many people were prejudiced against the war but not against vets. There was even a certain amount of respect from the students and the teachers."

Lt. Cdr. James Williams teaches history at the Naval Academy and had a chance to work out his own self-doubts about the United States' involvement in the war at a veterans center in Indiana. The twist is that he was there to counsel other vets who were having trouble coping with their own lives.

"I am not sure who got more out of it, the other guy or me," Williams said of his counseling. "The experience (Vietnam) had a tremendous impact on my life. There were many people who did come back with a set

(Continued on Page 14)

(Continued from Page 1)

of experiences that were a radical departure from experiences of civilians. The domestic experience of the Vietnam vet was as profound an impact as any military experience."

Williams said that the experience was a valuable part of his life, and he served because he saw it as a duty that had to be fulfilled.

He feels that help for Vietnam vets is a good thing for those who need it, but he added that it is no longer a main concern for him.

"I got the 'strokes' I needed when I needed them," he said.

Mark Treanor is a Baltimore businessman who is voluntary director of the Vietnam Veteran Leadership Program. It is the hard work of his staff over the past six weeks that brought about the salute.

"It's taken about 10 to 15 years for the public to separate the concept of the war from the young men and women who fought it. Those men and women had no part in saying how it should have been handled. A decade later, the people realize that the negative stereotypes just are not true," Treanor said.

He added that the salute will make no political statement for or against the conflict.

"We just want to recognize young folks who went over and served in a tough time," he said. He added one goal of the the salute is to initiate a network of groups across the country to eliminate the negative

attitude and help some of the veterans who are having problems. Treanor said that 15 roughly percent of the vets are having difficulties.

Other Fourth of July celebrations will take place throughout the state and county.

Fort Meade will have a program of celebration beginning Saturday at 9 a.m. with a 10 kilometer foot race starting and finishing at Mullins Field. There will be game booths all day and bluegrass concerts at 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m..

There will also be a model aircraft show starting at 11 a.m. and a 50-gun salute at noon. Country and jazz music will be performed during the evening hours.

Most of the days' events will be held around Fort Meade's Burba Lake. For further information call 677-6363.

The Glen Burnie Improvement Association will hold its fireworks display at 9 p.m. Saturday with a raindate of July 5. The display will be held at the Third Avenue Park.

The Severna Park Chamber of Commerce will hold a parade at 10 a.m. today starting at Severna Park Junior High School.

Also today, Aquafest will be held at the Annapolis City Dock from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a variety of water sports exhibited.

The annual fireworks display at the Navy-Marine Corps stadium will be held at dusk tomorrow, preceded by a performance of the Naval Academy Band.

MARYLAND GAZETTE 7/3/82
ANNE ARUNDEL CO.

Vietnam vets: creating a more positive image

By Luther Young

Mark Treanor wouldn't have burned his draft card, even if he had had one. He knew his future included duty in Vietnam.

Accepted at the Naval Academy at 17 (draft cards came at 18), he was part of the small percentage of his class which chose the Marine Corps option at Annapolis. Four years later, in the heat of the war in Southeast Asia, he was a newly minted lieutenant leading a rifle platoon near the Laotian border.

"I don't want to come across as John Wayne. This isn't something I wear on my sleeve," says the 35-year-old Vermont native of his combat experience in 1969. "But reading about me, about somebody who went through it and is doing pretty well now... it may help some other vets."

He's a law partner now in the firm of Miles and Stockbridge in Baltimore, a father of two small children and an active participant in community programs sponsored by the local bar association.

He's one of the majority of Vietnam veterans who "came back and just got on with life," as Mr. Treanor puts it. An estimated 25,000 to 30,000 men and women in the Baltimore metropolitan area served in Vietnam; the total nationally was 2.7 million.

"It's taken this country 10, 12, 15 years to separate the concept of a bitter and divisive war from the 18- and 19-year-olds who fought it," Mr. Treanor says. "I think the time has come for people to look at it a little more objectively."

Recognition is coming Sunday, July 4, in a day-long Salute to Vietnam Veterans at Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel county. From 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. there will be free entertainment including bands, jugglers and clowns, military displays and a martial arts exhibition. Refreshments will be available.

The highlight is at noon, when Mayor Schaefer and Governor Hughes will participate in a ceremony honoring Vietnam veterans, including the 416 Baltimore-area servicemen who were killed or missing in action in the war.

"We're making no political statement at all," Mr. Treanor says of the salute, which he helped organize. "It's unfortunate the recognition didn't happen earlier, but it's not too late."

He doesn't express the bitterness of some veterans at the fanfare accorded the American hostages when they returned from Iran, although he says, "An awful lot was made out of them, and nothing was made out of the vets."

He doesn't dwell on the past and can recall his Vietnam experience with humor. "I just remember, no matter how bad things get—if you've got dry

See VETS, B4, Col. 3



Sun photo—Joseph A. DiPaola

Mark Treanor is volunteer chairman of the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans' Leadership Program.

Vietnam vets are looking out

VETS, from B1

socks and nobody's shooting at you, things could be much worse."

But it affected Mark Treanor more deeply than that. "It's a tough age to see things people shouldn't have to see," he says. "I'm not sure there's ever a good age to see it."

The day after he arrived at firebase An Hoa near Laos in January, 1969, the baby-faced lieutenant was in combat. "It was sort of an unreality," Mr. Treanor says. "I remember, the left side of my body was suddenly covered with mud, before I even heard the sounds of the machine guns shooting at us. I got all 5 feet, 8 inches into my helmet in a hurry, believe me."

He earned the respect of his seasoned unit by successfully leading them through that first fire-

fight without casualties (their previous lieutenant had been killed in action). He momentarily blew it by lighting a cigarette that night outside his tent. "I never saw people hit the ground so fast," he recalls of the reaction to his open-air puff, which could have drawn enemy fire.

Under the daily pressure of "sweeping" rice paddies and bamboo forests and villages, he quickly dropped 30 pounds. Under the intense sun, he "looked like Treanor of Arabia—I always had a towel under my helmet" to protect his fair skin from scorching. "You were always wet, too. If it wasn't raining, it was 115 degrees."

There were light moments: His platoon was passing time one day while dug in on a hillside, "just a little ramshackle town of foxholes with ponchos keeping out the sun." The powerful rotor wash of a transport helicopter changed that, sending pon-

for their image

chos "like flying carpets through the air, 30 half-naked marines tearing off after them."

There were grim moments: Pausing in a Vietnamese graveyard on the way back from field action and watching several buddies "virtually disappear" in the explosion of a booby-trapped ammunition can. "The world just went apart. I ended up 8 or 10 feet away from where I was, with pieces of a couple of guys on me. I remember thinking it was me."

The camaraderie within his platoon is one of the good memories, "just some of the closeness of the guys. You rely on each other so much." But he bristles at the "misconceptions" about Vietnam veterans. "The press makes it sound like every grunt was a hophead. And the baby-killer thing... that aggravates me tremendously. I've seen marines pick up a child during hostile action and give 'em bandages out of their own pocket."

It's part of what Mr. Treanor says is a stereotype of Vietnam veterans that has made life difficult for many of them, but especially the 15 percent who have had re-entry problems of varying degrees. "The image now is of kind of a loser, a sucker," he says. "It's a harder image to fight than the drug addict-baby killer stuff."

The July 4 Salute to Vietnam Veterans is not just belated recognition for Baltimore-area veterans of the Vietnam War—it's also an attempt to improve the image. The event is sponsored primarily by the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, Inc., of which Mr. Treanor is volunteer chairman. The full-time program director is David DeChant.

Formed last winter and funded by a \$50,000 federal grant from ACTION, the nonprofit group is part of a national effort—now operating in 17 cities—to form local networks of Vietnam veterans in business and government to help those vets who have problems, particularly in employment.

Mr. Treanor says surveys show the majority of readjustment problems suffered by Vietnam veterans "center around unemployment and underemployment. You've got guys who have been turned down for jobs just because employers didn't want to take a chance on a Vietnam vet. It's the stereotype again."

He acknowledges the real physical and mental problems that exist, and points out that VVLP recently arranged for the city health department to be briefed on the "delayed catastrophic stress syndrome," which has been identified in some survivors of the traumatic Vietnam experience.

"The Veterans Administration works with direct care services. We want to grease the skids for them [the veterans] on the other end, to change the stereotype by letting people know about neighbors who are successful vets. The salute is really the start," Mr. Treanor says.

Whether the effort will produce any jobs for Vietnam veterans is yet to be seen, but the need is definitely there. Before it was closed in March because of budget cuts, the Veterans Outreach Laboratory at Mondawmin Plaza helped upgrade discharges and find jobs for some 500 Vietnam veterans in two years.

Local resources still in place for assisting Vietnam veterans include Veterans Administration outreach centers at Mondawmin and in southeast Baltimore and programs within the Maryland State Job Service—the disabled veterans outreach program and special priority treatment for job placement.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program will be closely watched to see what it can do with its \$50,000 of precious federal funds. "It's late," says Mr. Treanor, "but it's not too late."

EVENING SUN
BALTIMORE, MD 6.30.82
D-170,000

Veterans

Finally, something for the Vietnam guys

By Elise T. Chisolm
Evening Sun Staff

THE FOURTH of July will have an added dimension in Maryland this year: a belated welcome home to Vietnam veterans and commemoration of those who gave their lives in that unpopular war.

The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, July 4, at Fort Smallwood Park in Anne Arundel County. Parades, music, refreshments, games, presentations, awards and fun for the whole family will be part of the fare. And the admission is free.

"This isn't a day for just vets," says Mark C. Treanor, volunteer chairman of the gala. "We hope the entire community turns out. We anticipate at least a crowd of 12,000 people. It is a form of honoring the 1,675 servicemen from Maryland who gave their lives in Vietnam."

The event is being co-sponsored by Mayor William D. Schaefer and the citizens of Baltimore in connection with the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. The mayor will be there, as will other dignitaries.

Vietnam veterans, says Treanor, have suffered from an unfortunate stereotype, with the vet "... usually painted as a loser. The truth is that 85 percent came back and went on to productive lives."

Treanor, 35, is one of the majority whose life has been relatively unscathed by the war. He is a successful young partner in the prestigious law firm of Miles and Stockbridge. Neatly dressed, sure, suave and loquacious, he looks very much at ease behind his huge executive desk embedded in deep carpet.

A former Marine captain and graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, he served a year in Vietnam
[Continued, Page C3, Col. 1]

ward my country, too. And I still am not convinced that we lost that war. We added 19 years of stability to the Pacific rim.

"Of course, some will say, 'Yeah, but you came out OK.' And yes, I went to law school on the GI bill and graduated in 1976. But I don't regret my military career. My military training has been a great advantage to me in decision-making and attitude. I'd do it again."

The Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program gets assistance and guidance from the Federal Action Agency and cooperates with other organizations fighting to help the Vietnam vet. This is its first communitywide celebration.

The young lawyer points out that many people have forgotten that 410 Baltimoreans lost their lives in the Vietnam war. In comparison to the outpouring that greeted returning soldiers after World War II, there has been little homage paid to the Vietnam vets.

And that is another reason for the Fourth of July salute at Fort Smallwood, says Treanor.

To get there, take the Beltway to Md. 3, south to Md. 100, east to Md. 607 and left to Fort Smallwood Park.

and saw plenty of action.

"This is what I am fighting for now: a chance to help the Vietnam veteran, skilled or unskilled, get a job, or a better job," he says.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program was formed to reach out to and help the men and women veterans—the 15 percent—who have had problems readjusting to civilian life. The 6-month-old organization is non-profit. Its executive director is J. David DeChant.

"The purpose of our organization is to increase receptivity among employers in the community and increase economic opportunities for our vets," says Treanor. "Jobs are the big problem for our people right now."

And just how will this be done?

"We want to be able to pick up the phone and talk to a high management executive or a corporate vice president and say 'next time you have an opening, we have so and so...' Let us know."

"We're going to sell the Vietnam veteran to business and industry. And simultaneously we will be tapping the successful Vietnam veteran, using his expertise."

Treanor jokes that he opted for the Marine Corps when he graduated from the Naval Academy because he could run faster than he could swim. But, turning serious, he explains the true reason.

"When I graduated from the Naval Academy I felt a patriotic duty to go to Vietnam, so I signed up for the Corps. I thought the U.S. was correct in its involvement in Vietnam. I felt an obligation to-



Honor Vietnam Vets

Baltimore residents will be gathering for a special ceremony—and some food, fun and entertainment—during the day-long salute to Vietnam veterans planned for July 4 at Fort Smallwood Park.

A military band will kick off the festivities which begin at 10 a.m. in the 100-acre park. The event (which ends at 6 p.m.) will also feature continuous entertainment including bands, jugglers, and clowns, military displays, a martial arts exhibition, a small parade and lots of good food and fun for the whole family.

Mayor William Donald

Schaefer will be present for a special ceremony at noon, honoring those veterans who served in Vietnam including the 410 Baltimoreans who did not return.

The Independence Day program is a joint effort among the business community, the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, and other organizations.

Vietnam veterans and other community members are encouraged to attend this special day of recognition.

The city-owned park, which permits fishing and swimming, is located at the end of Route 173 in Anne Arundel County.

THE ENTERPRISE 6/17/82

City's July 4 festival to honor Vietnam vets

By Joe Nawrozki
News American Staff

For more than a decade, Mark Treanor kept his Marine combat service a single line on his impressive resume, a dark shadow in his subconscious.

"Vietnam," the Baltimore attorney said, "was just part of my life that happened. There was really no down side to it. It was something I just kept inside. I never talked about it."

Then, last April, he said, "There was an awakening."

Now a successful lawyer in the law firm of Miles and Stockbridge, Treanor, 35, said the war was something that finally spilled out when he talked with a friend.

"We talked about how many Vietnam veterans came home and progressed in their lives," he said. "And we talked about how many haven't realized those successes because of Vietnam. ... He convinced me I should help."

Treanor is helping. So is Thomas Shaner, who runs a local advertising agency. And so is David DeChant, director of the Baltimore office of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, one of 20 such offices in the nation.

The group of combat vets has helped organize—with a strong commitment from Mayor William Donald Schaefer—a Fourth of July festi-

val at Fort Smallwood Park, a day designed to salute veterans of the Vietnam War.

Events planned include a parade, continuous entertainment, family games, military displays, bands, jugglers, clowns and a martial arts exhibition.

On a more serious side, there will be a special ceremony honoring those who served in Vietnam, particularly, Schaefer said, the 410 men from Baltimore who were killed in action.

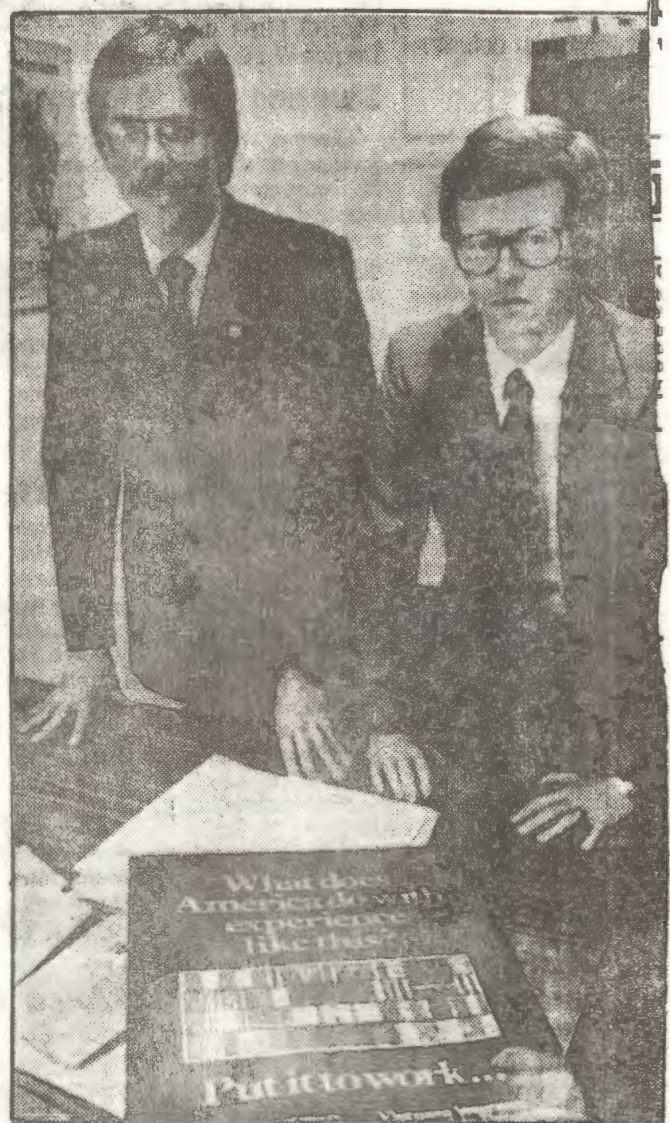
William Boucher, former head of the Greater Baltimore Committee, is directing the fund-raising drive for the festivities. He said his appeal to Baltimore merchants for \$20,000 has raised about half its goal, Treanor said.

Treanor, a Naval Academy graduate and infantry officer in Vietnam for five years, said Fort Smallwood—about 20 miles from Baltimore in Anne Arundel County—was selected because the city-owned park covers more than 100 acres and because visitors can fish and swim in the Patapsco River and the Chesapeake Bay.

The festival will be held from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m., with city agencies and private industry working together to provide logistics and funds.

Martin Resnick, a local caterer, said he will donate time and food for

See FOURTH, 3B



The News American - Richard Tomlinson
VETERANS: David DeChant, left, and Mark Treanor

International
New York City

NEWS-AMERICAN
BALTIMORE, MD.
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JUN-3--82

FOURTH from 1B

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Shaner, an Army combat correspondent in Vietnam in 1970, said he is helping with the project because "it's been a long time coming."

"The Vietnam vets need to be recognized, attention must be focused on both the successful ones and those who still need help."

Shaner said the Baltimore Orioles will announce the festival on the Memorial Stadium scoreboard before the event and radio and television advertisements are being prepared.

Shaner emphasized the festival will not be a political statement on

the war, nor a comment on U.S. foreign policy, "although feelings about such things, obviously, are quite strong."

"Everybody is welcome," said DeChant, a former Marine intelligence scout in Vietnam.

"We felt the salute and Independence Day go hand in hand. There were lots of questions such as why now and what were the motives of the people behind the scenes."

"Well, we have gotten more than just a blessing from Mayor Schaefer," DeChant said. "It is a definite commitment and people, some very powerful, have given their time, talent, money and most importantly, their understanding."

The Washington Times

CAPITAL LIFE

Canvases of war: Vietnam and veterans remembered

By Valerie Haddon
WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF

George Skypeck, or "Sky," as he likes to be called, is a rough talker, as if straight from the trenches. His speech is splashed with expletives like the paint that splatters the walls of his studio.

Skypeck is a painter in the tradition of other war painters, but he is the most prominent from the Vietnam era. And yet, he says, it's dangerous for him to show his kind of art because people will accuse him of trying to glorify war. "I am not glorifying war, I am glorifying the human aspect, that transcends the frailty of being human, and the selfishness and individuality."

His paintings hang in the State department, the West German Ministry of Defense, and Boston City Hall. He's had shows in the major East Coast cities, and his poem, "Soldier," was read at the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and entered in the Congressional record.

His goal as an artist is to "resurrect that pride that's always been with the Vietnam veteran. The vet needs to be told that his experiences were valuable, that they've not just gone down the drain. I have a purpose, and it's to be a scribe of Vietnam as the 'grunt' knew it."

The first thing one sees coming off

A patriot's view of an era of conflict

the hand-operated elevator to his fourth story warehouse loft is a Marine poster: "If you can make it here, you can make it anywhere." An I.V. bottle with whiskey inside hangs from the wall and from the ceiling model airplanes. Each of the planes means something to him from the war: The big jet that flew him there, the helicopter that med-evac'd him out, the smaller planes that flew low over the jungle to draw fire.

His acrylics of female nudes on the wall seem intruders in this dirty, paint-splattered man's world.

He is a big man, this patriotic Picasso, in his beat-up sneakers, jeans and beige workshirt, like a giant wrestling with the problems of war and peace, and his love/hate relationship with America.

He came from his hometown of Holyoke, Mass., to Washington, D.C., to paint in the patriotic atmosphere that he loves. He rented the first apartment that he found, in Arlington, overlooking the Pentagon.

"A lot of people don't realize it, but when you go out to Arlington Cemetery, if you stand at the tomb of the Unknown Soldier, you look straight across at the people that put 'em there."

He wants to redefine his Vietnam experience in terms of the excitement he finds here. He loves America, but Americans have dealt him a blow he finds hard to forgive.

"I didn't lose this war," he said. "You lost the war. Don't ever tell a Vietnam veteran that he lost the war. He'll have every right to take your teeth and put them right over there on that table."

He is very aware of death and dying. His conversations are occasionally peopled with ghosts and spirits: The ghost of a woman who haunts his loft, bringing with her the smell of bacon and eggs. The disquiet of the spirits in Arlington if America should ever die. And the title of excerpts from his unpublished book, "Ghosts of a Forgotten Era: The Combat Art of George L. Skypeck."

In the midst of seeming morbidity, he has a big smile and a laugh that expresses a humor apart from his words. His whole face becomes a smile and his eyes almost slits, and one can almost imagine what he was at 19 when he enlisted in the army — a happy-go-lucky teenager, who loved Jack Kennedy

see SKYPECK, page 2B

continued

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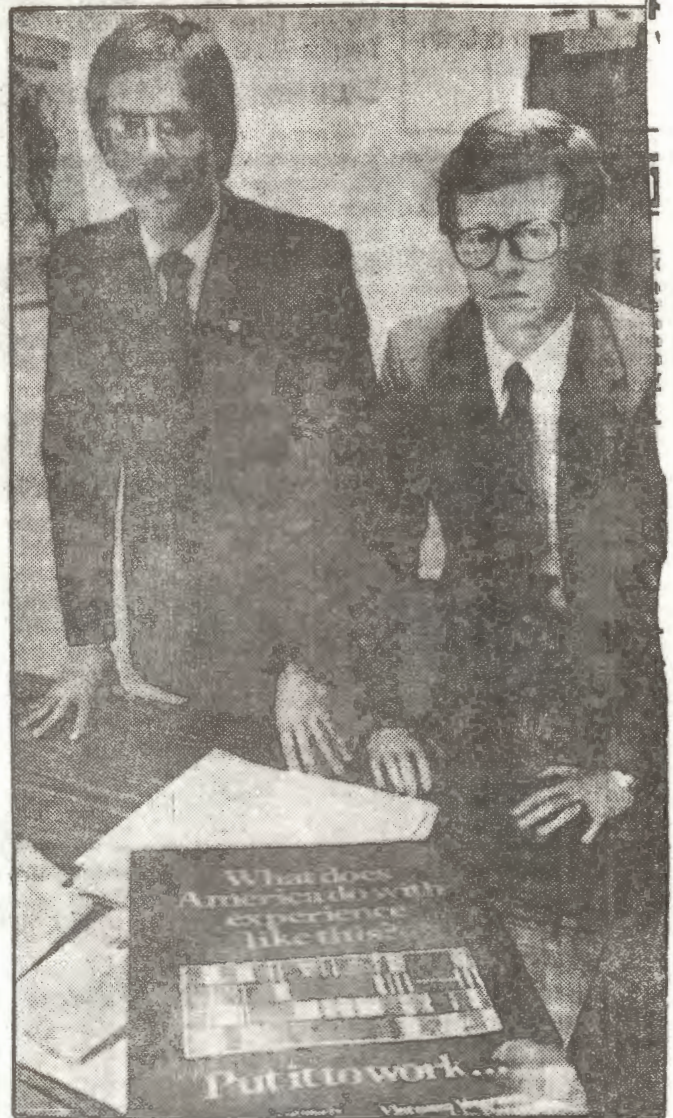
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see SKYPECK, page 2B

continued



Kimberly Haught/Washington Times

George "Sky" Skypeck keeps Vietnam alive in his artist's studio.

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SKYPECK

Continued from page 1B

and wanted to see what he could do for his country.

Of Polish-Lithuanian parents, he grew up in an ethnic tradition that stressed patriotism and hard work. "A lot of us came from the same kind of background," he said. "Lower middle-class. You were supposed to go to the Army and make something of yourself."

He and his friend John Boronsky, whom he'd grown up with began to fear that the war was going to pass them by. They enlisted together. Boronsky never came back.

"We wanted to show that we were just as good as our uncles and fathers and things like that — that we had a role, and a date with destiny."

Now he doesn't think that he'll ever have friends like that, or laugh like that again. "When you're in combat and you see your friends getting waxed (killed), you stop making friends." He said that he'll talk to people, but he'll never allow them to become close.

He points out a piece on the wall, awash in confetti-like color, called "New York City, August, 1945." For the last

year and a half, he has begun to experiment with an abstract painting style to express what he could not express representationally. "The reason it's called 'New York City, August, 1945' is it's an analogy for the victory parade that they had that we never got."

He said that he was compared to Jackson Pollack when his paintings were showing in New York. Pollack also went into abstract painting after coming back from war.

Another painting is swirls of red, white, blue, and yellow, the only colors that he uses now, the colors of the American and Vietnamese flags. "That's 'American Foreign Policy, 1960 - 1962,'" he said. "You can tell where our foreign policy was going — all over."

As a special services advisor, and an intelligence officer, he had an unusual experience in Vietnam: living with the Vietnamese, many of them former Viet Cong, who were called "counterparts."

"We got to know the Vietnamese — lived with them, fought with them, died with them, ate with them, went to their weddings, went to their funerals, patched 'em up...they patched us up."

"I respected them, and they respected me. I respected their traditions and they mine. I felt like going up to all those permanent press, wash-and-wear types with the state department, and saying, you... Well I can't say it."

"I wanted to tell them exactly how I, as an American, who's living out there

in the bush with them and everything, realized how these people, the lowest little farmer, had a sense of integrity that you don't violate. That they have a culture that is important to them, and important to us if we're going to win that war. And a lot of our classic educated leaders never got even close to the Vietnamese."

He wonders what happened to his counterparts, the people he served with. "They never got out. They didn't make it to Arlington, to own a restaurant. They probably died over there, or got killed by the VC when they took over."

"When I think about my experience with the Vietnamese there's a tinge of sadness there, because they were good people."

He spoke the language, and knew the customs. "I was more Vietnamized than the Vietnamese. What was I gonna be coming back to? I was coming back to a house that was gonna be taken by urban renewal. I was coming back to a family that had essentially disintegrated. My father died. My mother was alone. My brother was still in the service."

"I came back to a country that didn't appreciate me."

When he came back, he stayed in the service until 1974 when he was released as a captain. He went back to school and got his B.A. from the University of Massachusetts, and got his masters in Public Administration. When he tried

International
New York City

NEWS-AMERICAN
BALTIMORE, MD.
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MAY-28-82

\$25,000 worth of good news

The federal agency called Action performs an important task, one made even more important because of Ronald Reagan's philosophy. Action's mission is to encourage voluntarism, and its \$130 million budget — which will be reduced by at least \$10 million next year — is spent to pay government employees to help people organize various volunteer activities, and to provide, in some cases, start-up money for those activities.

Many have the purpose of motivating or assisting older Americans — the Senior Companion Program, for example, and the foster grandparents and retired senior volunteer projects. A recent activity which is meeting with success is called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program; in it, veterans who had little trouble making the adjustment to civilian life — and that means 80 percent of all Vietnam veterans — are aiding their troubled bretheren in many ways, including helping them get jobs.

At a time of budget cut-backs, and reductions in government social programs, is Action worth the expense? If, as seems to be the case, Action truly succeeds in swelling the ranks of volunteers dedicated and able to help other people, we think it is an efficient, productive use of taxpayer's money.

Almost, anyway.

The agency is spending \$25,000 a year to send a publication called *The Good*

News Report to about 100 big city newspapers and an indeterminate number of weeklies. The report, which is really a press release, consists entirely of a big *Good News* banner and a success story about some volunteer who, having overcome fearful odds, is doing worthwhile work in his or her community. The idea is that newspaper editors will be intrigued and publish the story and then readers will be so inspired that they, too, will want to do community work.

Action director Thomas W. Pauken tells us that he started *Good News* with the proviso that it would be abandoned if there was indifferent acceptance. But, according to Mr. Pauken, the thing has been a huge success — editors have commented favorably and, moreover, have been printing the material.

Maybe so. But it seems to us that a time of heavy budget cuts, high unemployment and government confusion, the self-styled *Good News Report* is out of synch. Perhaps the example set by a courageous volunteer in Paragould, Ark., would prompt people to volunteer in *that* town, but not in Moline, Ill., or Baltimore.

There are plenty of forces pulling together today that encourage Americans across the country to volunteer their time and talent. Necessity is one thing. Pride is another. But to our mind, the \$25,000 Action spends on its *Good News Reports* has precious little to do about it.

International
New York City

EVENING JOURNAL
WILMINGTON, DEL.
D-95,000

MAR-17-82

Wilmington launches Viet vet job program with federal funds

By Sandy Dennison

Staff reporter

The more than 32,000 Vietnam-era veterans in Delaware have been targeted for help in a \$50,000 pilot program using volunteers from government and business.

Wilmington is one of the first cities in the country to try the concept, in which successful veterans will help their less fortunate former military counterparts in getting jobs and changing their negative image.

The new organization, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP), began operations Monday. VVLP is funded by ACTION, a federal umbrella agency.

ACTION was formed by President Nixon in 1971 to administer the Peace Corps, VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America), Foster Grandparents and other volunteer programs.

The VVLP's director is Wayne R. Hanby, a former Marine who lost an eye and hand in Vietnam. Hanby, a justice of the peace, is taking a leave of absence to run the program which began this week.

Board members include Kip Becker, a Wilmington College professor; New Castle County Executive Richard T. Collins; Wilmington attorney James A. Robb, and Jerry Smith, a teacher at the Pilot School for Special Children.

Hanby and the board of directors will recruit others to serve in the program.

The volunteers won't provide individual job counseling. They will use their authority and job resources to create more opportunities for veterans and to better coordinate existing services.

Most of the program's estimated \$50,000 budget will be spent on salaries for Hanby and an administrative assistant.

Most Vietnam veterans are not "ticking time bombs," as they often have been portrayed, Becker said.

Hanby said volunteers will not "give somebody a song and dance" to encourage them to hire veterans, but they will use their influence to promote hiring.

Vietnam veterans who would like to join the effort may call Hanby at 571-3250.

Williamlyth DE
Evening Journal 3/17/82

Group helps vets help themselves

By SANDY DENNISON
Staff reporter

A GROUP of government and business leaders has set up a volunteer organization to help fellow Vietnam veterans counter their negative image and succeed.

Wilmington is one of the first cities in the country to set up the federally sponsored organization, the Vietnam Veteran Leadership Program. The project will serve the 25,000 Vietnam era veterans in New Castle County and the 7,500 in Kent and Sussex counties.

Program Director Wayne R. Hanby and the board of directors aim to recruit other successful veterans to overcome problems such as unemployment that have plagued many of those who fought in the Vietnam War. The volunteers will use their authority and their resources in their jobs to create more opportunities for veterans and to better coordinate existing services.

"Now we are the establishment," Hanby said Monday afternoon when the opening of the organization was officially announced. "We know that we can relate to each other as Vietnam veterans."

Hanby, who lost an eye and a hand while serving with the Marines in Vietnam, is tak-

ing a leave of absence from his job as a justice of the peace to organize the program. Most of the program's estimated \$40,000 budget will be spent for Hanby's salary and that of an administrative assistant.

Hanby wants to highlight the positive attributes of veterans. Serving in the war fostered discipline and the ability to cope with tense situations, he said.

His office also will help coordinate and sponsor programs for veterans, using resources such as the Vol Center without overlooking the two groups' services. Hanby said. Veterans will not "give somebody a song and dance" to encourage them to employ veterans, but will use their influence to hire veterans or help provide opportunities themselves, he said.

The VVLTP will not provide individual counseling or other referrals. Instead, Hanby hopes to establish a network of volunteers to help veterans help themselves.

The leader of the network will be Kip Becker, chairman of the board of directors. Becker, assistant dean of the behavioral sciences department and coordinator of the master's degree in business program at Wilmington College, noted Monday that most Vietnam veterans are not "ticking time bombs," as they often have been portrayed. But many found themselves behind their peers in education and vocational training

because of the years they spent in the service, he said. The VVLTP is calling on those who were able to readjust and succeed anyway to use their experience to help others cope.

"Now's the time for Vietnam veterans who were in the closet to come out and lend a hand," Becker said. "One of the things we'd like to do now is come back and say we can do things. We can do and we will do."

The other Vietnam veterans on the board are New Castle County Executive Richard T. Collins, Wilmington attorney James A. Robb and Jerry Smith, a teacher at the Pilot School for Special Children.

Wilmington and five other cities were chosen as pilots. Wilmington became one of the ground-breakers because of its group of "outstanding" volunteers and because of its proximity to Washington, according to Bill Jaynes of ACTION. ACTION is the federal umbrella organization for such groups as Volunteers in Service to America, Foster Grandparents and VVLTP.

By October, groups similar to Wilmington's are expected to be established in 50 cities across the country. In keeping with President Reagan's budget cuts and emphasis on voluntarism, federal support for the project will be cut off by Sept. 30, 1984, and local governments will be asked to step in.

Vietnam veterans who would like to join the Delaware effort may call Hanby at 571-3324.

Wilmington DE
Evening Journal
3/17/82

viet vets will profit from grant

WILMINGTON—Delaware will receive \$150,000 in federal money over the next three years to pay for a program which will co-ordinate existing services for Vietnam veterans in the state.

Wayne R. Hanby, director of the newly-formed Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program based in Wilmington, said this morning his program and the federal money will be used "to coordinate existing services (for the vet) and make them more cohesive."

The money will also be spread throughout the state to make existing programs "a little more creative and a little more imaginative," Hanby, a Vietnam veteran, said.

The new program will encourage Vietnam veterans to step forward as volunteers to help fellow veterans with problems, assure help for Delaware veterans who still have lingering problems relating to their Vietnam experience, and demonstrate the leadership skills of the Vietnam veteran.

Hanby estimated there are 7,500 Vietnam vets in downstate Delaware and 25,000 more in New Castle County.

Wilmington is one of the pilot cities for the program, as are Baltimore,

Vietnam veterans

«Continued from page 1»

Philadelphia, Nashville and San Antonio.

By next year, a city in each state will have an operational program. Each city will receive \$50,000 a year for three years.

With most veterans' service 12 years behind them, most have adjusted successfully to civilian life, Hanby said. But some may still have problems.

He hopes the new program will encourage well-adjusted veterans to help those who may still be suffering emotionally.

"Those who have been successful have more or less hid in the closet," said Hanby, who lost a hand and an eye

International
New York City

EVENING SUN
BALTIMORE, MD.
D-200,000

MAR 6 -- 82

Veterans program closing its doors

By Thomas Hasler
Evening Sun Staff

While the Reagan administration puts its faith in pinstriped volunteerism of the private sector to find jobs for disadvantaged Vietnam veterans, grassroot job outreach efforts are folding.

Closing next week is the Veterans Outreach Laboratory, which in two years helped find about 500 jobs for mostly black veterans, only 10 percent of those who came seeking help, said Ed Jackson, the director.

Even that record is considered "quite successful" by the Department of Labor, said Paul Robertson, a veteran employment specialist for the department.

But, because of budget cuts, the \$109,000 grant that helped subsidize the Mondawmin Plaza operation, along with funds and services from the city and the Veterans Administration, was not renewed.

At one time, eight such outreach efforts operated around the country, helping veterans find jobs, getting discharges upgraded or providing other job services.

For veterans with less-than-honorable discharges, "it's almost impossible to get a job," Jackson said. An estimated 12,000 veterans in the Baltimore area have less-than-honorable discharges, he said.

About 500 veterans came to the outreach office for help, and so far 75 have gained upgraded discharges.

But as Jackson's outreach office is closing, a new program initiated by

the Reagan administration is being organized.

Called the Baltimore Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, the project seeks to build a network of "successful" Vietnam veterans to try to open doors for less less fortunate comrades-in-arms, said Mark C. Treanor, who heads the effort.

Treanor, an attorney with the firm Miles and Stockbridge, said the group's first priority will be to work on finding jobs for Vietnam veterans by talking to veterans in management positions or who run their own businesses.

The group will try to find "alternative sources of funds" to help other efforts like Jackson's outreach project, Treanor said.

Funded with \$50,000 in seed money from ACTION, the program will not provide direct services.

Rather, it is designed to "make sure professionals get support in the community to serve the guy in the street," Treanor explained, adding that the group is "slowly making contacts through word of mouth."

The difficulty of finding jobs for Vietnam veterans was demonstrated by an attempt last year to use TV commercials to stimulate interest in providing jobs.

The Greater Baltimore Coalition for Veterans set a goal for 500 jobs, but was able to find only about 75, said Jackson, who was one of the coalition leaders.

That response was discouraging, Jackson said.

MAR 2 82

JUNIATA NEWS
PHILADELPHIA, PA
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The Good News Report

By Thomas W. Pauken
Director of Action
The David L. Huffman Story

Dave Huffman of Wilmington, Del. claims he was such a poor student, he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up home life and eight years in an orphanage. He didn't finish high school, dropping out in the 10th grade. When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was November 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman. On September 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital at Da Nang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got worse.

He came home to find he really wasn't wanted, not as a veteran, not with his disability which was too much of an inconvenience for those around him to handle. The future looked extremely bleak, but Dave was not willing to accept defeat. "I knew I had to turn my life around", he said. "And I knew I had to rely on my head".

He entered the Hines VA Rehabilitation Center in Chicago, Ill., to learn to adjust and how to cope in a world of darkness. The course was scheduled to last four months for David it lasted six. He passed his high school equivalency and was making steady progress when he was in an automobile accident which left him with a broken back paralyzed from the neck down. He wasn't about to quit, wasn't going to be left lying flat. He began lifting weights in bed. Determination combined with medical treatment put him back on his feet.

But now what to do?

At first, he figured he'd be content with unskilled work, not demand much of himself or of anybody; a nine-to-five job with a beer waiting for him at the end of the day. Two things happened. He couldn't find employment, and at a dance, he met Sharon Ann.

"She turned the world around for me", he said. She convinced him to go back to school, and with the VA benefits due from his military service, he did so. He was the first blind student to earn not one but two degrees from Wilmington College — in behavioral science and criminal justice. He was also the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law school. Soon, he'll be taking his bar exams, and he plans to specialize in international law.

Right now, he's a program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The purpose of the program is one of aid, from veterans to veterans whatever the need may be. Dave has definite ideas on ways to approach employers, ideas that are innovative and different. You've got to accentuate the positive", he says, and he's living proof of that axiom.

Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the President it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments at 33, which include a brown belt in Judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want.

FEB 25 1982

The Good New Report

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CHINESE DAY RECORD

Chattanooga, Tenn.

FEB 24/62

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By Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION

The David L. Huffman Story

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News 2

EVENING JOURNAL

• • Tuesday, Feb. 23, 1982

The P.M. report

Dave Huffman's whole life has been a minefield

YOU START PAINTING Dave Huffman, you wonder where to start, because there have been many Dave Huffmans — all the same admirable 34-year-old man.

There was the kid from a busted home, son of an alcoholic father, who lived in eight orphanages.

The school dropout — "I flunked kindergarten, seventh and ninth grades and quit P.S. du Pont High in tenth."

Dave Huffman, 19, the Marine volunteer. "A spontaneous thing. I guess there was a little patriotism involved."

Dave Huffman, less than a year later wounded by a booby-trap in Vietnam. That's the painless way to say it — for you, for me. The "wound" took away his sight, immediately.

Dave Huffman, the unwanted. He came home not only blind, but unskilled. No work for the unskilled disabled. "The most misunderstood people in the world. I felt . . . abandoned. I felt an association with the blacks and their complaints; after a while you just don't bother looking any more."

We are going to get to the happy life of Dave Huffman, but it is going to mean encountering even more tragedy.

He entered a rehab center in Chicago and sweated out his high school equivalency diploma. It was a four-month course. It took him six. He came home — "I felt uncomfortable, couldn't find work" — and 12 years ago was involved in an automobile accident that broke both shoulders and left him temporarily paralyzed from the neck down.

A beloved sister who took him in to her home was to commit suicide. A brother

Al Cartwright

was murdered.

Adversity? Dave Huffman was making a career of it.

"You take adversity, take your mistakes, you can make them into your strength if you learn from them," he said, sitting in the living room of his pleasant home in Melanie Woods. There was female talk coming from the kitchen. His wife, Sharon Ann, or Sherrie, was having coffee with friends. She is Dave Huffman's "golden person." He met her while he was still wearing the brace from his accident. She turned his world around.

Her encouragement and the vets' rehab program helped him to resume his education. Dave Huffman, although too impatient to use either Braille or a guide dog, became the first blind student to be graduated from Wilmington College. Then he became the first blind graduate of Delaware Law School.

Today, this day, he is taking the Pennsylvania bar exams. He'll take a reader with him, and someone else will write his answers. He ruefully admits he did not pass the Delaware tests — "I botched it, but it only made me dig deeper."

He asked that there be some credit here for Wilmington College. "They accepted me at a time a lot of colleges wouldn't. I got my degree in criminal justice, but still couldn't get into law school. So I went back to Wilmington and got another degree, in

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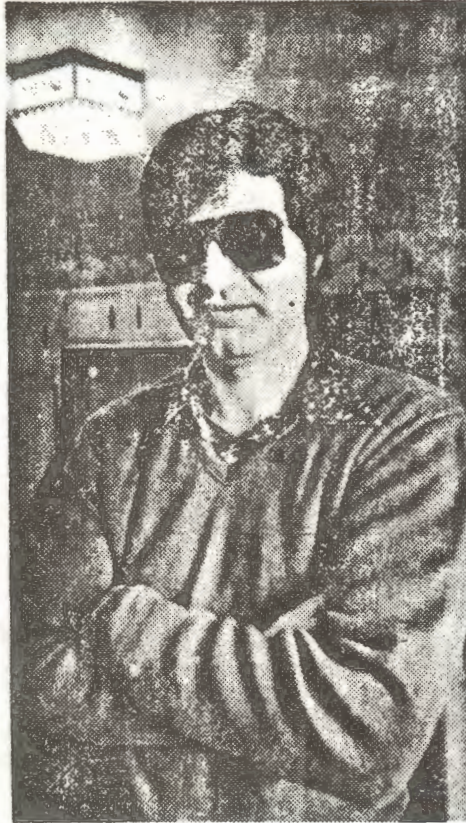
behavioral science. Now they had to take me."

He wants to specialize in private international law, and when he talks about it he does not sound like a fellow who struggled to a pale English mark of 27 at the rehab school. "What you need is a mixture of law, political science, business — how to form a subsidiary in another country, the tax consequences, the stability of the country, whether or not a joint venture is required."

DAVE HUFFMAN ADMITS there was a time he thought of taking his sister's way out of a tormented life. He and his wife have adopted her daughter, incidentally, and have two children of their own. But that again, was the old Dave, the one who had a jug of apple wine on his lap the night the driver of the car smashed it up in Silview — "I guess I deserved what happened."

Today's Dave Huffman leads. He is a paid program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program out of Washington, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. He is a key in the employer contact system designed to provide aid, from veterans to veterans, and he seeks the cooperation of professional people. A Wilmington VVLP division, one of 50 to be organized, soon will be kicked off.

"I would like to stay with this program and at the same time go for a degree in business administration," Huffman said, "and enter the law field in 1984. Did you know there are enough blind lawyers, like



Dave Huffman

300, to warrant their own association?"

I asked him what he missed most, visually. "Watching women walk, I guess," he said with a laugh. "I like mountain scenery, things like that. But my theory is that

you do not miss what you cannot have. I've never been happier. To return the things, the love people gave me, that is important to me. You know, my mother went blind and she came to live with us the last few years of her life. She set an example for me when things were starting to get on my nerves. To her, everything that Sherrie and I did was right."

If anyone had an opening to be the bitter cinematic Vietnam veteran, it is Dave Huffman. "No, not bitter," he said. "Whether that war was right or wrong is unimportant to me at this time — the veteran himself is all I am concerned about."

"I am convinced people are situational. I had the right opportunity, the right people helping me. School was a long shot, but it worked. Put almost anyone in the same situation and the same would happen. The handicap itself is a motivation. And I had that lovely lady, my wife, going for me. She was even my reader in undergraduate school. I owe it to her to be the type of husband and father she deserves."

Huffman is a believer in the holistic life — the physical, the emotional, the intellectual complementing each other. He is a weight-lifting, bag-punching, judo-practicing fitness fan. "You have to satisfy all the parts. The physical, I think, helps give you faster recall — and I sure need that in the bar exams."

David Lawrence Huffman is a blind man but a whole man. He sees and leads with his heart.

Al Cartwright's column appears Tuesday and Thursday in the Evening Journal and Saturday and Sunday in The News Journal.

Honoring Vietnam vets

Wayne R. Hanby, program director for the Wilmington Vietnam Veteran Leadership Program Inc., was good enough to inform me of Sen. David McBride's intention to introduce a joint resolution in the General Assembly calling for the dedication and naming of I-495 in Delaware as the Vietnam Veteran Memorial Highway.

I view the failure of this nation to recognize the Vietnam veterans and their sacrifices as extending the tragedy of that war. I feel that such a memorial would simply be a first step in recognizing the public and private acts of courage exhibited by our Vietnam veterans. I sincerely believe that these veterans are deserving of this fine tribute and I totally support this resolution.

I am hopeful that the citizens of Delaware feel the same, and will lend their support to make this a reality.

Barbara Wright

Rutherford

Evening Journal Feb. 3, 1982

Wilmington News-Paper

Wilmington Evening Journal - February 3, 1982

Wilmington Evening Journal

Morning News - Feb. 9, 1982

Fine way to honor vets

I salute the state of Delaware! An associate of mine (Wayne R. Hanby, program director for the Wilmington Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program Inc.) has informed me of Sen. David McBride's intention to introduce a joint resolution that will call for the dedication and naming of I-495 as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Highway.

As a member of the armed services during the Vietnam War, I appreciate not only the formation of the WVLP to represent the veteran community, but also the present efforts of Delaware's General Assembly.

I feel that such a memorial would simply be a first step in providing recognition to the countless heroes never recognized by a nation that sent its sons and daughters to war, and then disowned the cause for which they sacrificed.

GREGG B. NEUMANN

Wilmington

Dickinson College

PA

I Did Not Think It Would Work

2

A different technique of climbing, a new way to communicate—Chad O'Brien '69 added these to the daily challenges any handicapped person faces, and then he climbed Mt. Rainier.

O'Brien was one of the 12 handicapped people who mastered Mt. Rainier this past summer. All of the climbers were blind, deaf, or had other physical disabilities. The Dickinsonian lost his left leg below the knee while with the U.S. Army in the Mekong River delta.

Chad O'Brien practices law in the Harrisburg office of Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz. He said that the firm was very supportive of his involvement with the climb which took him from the office for several weeks. Both Pepper and O'Brien have since become involved with White House programs.

"President Reagan has made a program in which I've become involved the focal point of his efforts on behalf of the Vietnam veterans, and Pepper has agreed to support the program."

The program is the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program which is part of the ACTION agenda. ACTION administers the Peace Corps and Vista. The veterans program is now joined to it.

The President, O'Brien said, thinks that conventional avenues have had their credibility with Vietnam veterans eroded; most veterans believe the Veterans Administration and the Department of Labor, for example, are not able to do anything new and innovative. Vietnam veterans feel, he believes, that nothing new will come out of these two agencies. President Reagan wants the initiative for the new program to come from the private sector, with initial funding and organization from ACTION.

O'Brien explained that the idea is to establish a network of Vietnam veterans who are successful in business. He expects them to "provide a cadre to assist those with the desire and talent but who have not had opportunities." This cadre will help those who have not been as fortunate.

Originally from Connecticut, Chad O'Brien became a Dickinsonian through a chance encounter while working at a summer theatre. A college student also working there was "the most articulate student I had ever met, and he turned out to be from Dickinson."



Chad O'Brien is third in line here as the group climbs. (Philadelphia Inquirer photo.)

O'Brien graduated from Dickinson cum laude in 1969. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi and ODK.

Chad was ROTC battalion commander and went into the Army at graduation. As a result of his activity in Vietnam, the Army awarded him a Silver Star, the Bronze Star with Valor, the Air Medal, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

He graduated from Dickinson School of Law after leaving the Army. Governor Thornburgh of Pennsylvania appointed Chad chief counsel to the Pennsylvania Department of Commerce in March 1979.

The O'Briens have four children: Charles Leonard, Jr., Christopher Scott, and twins, Matthew and Megan, born while Chad was on Mt. Rainier.

Mt. Rainier is the largest mountain mass in the continental United States. It is not the highest but is a straight rise from sea level and the largest glaciated mass outside Alaska. It is one of the better known climbs, according to Chad, and a challenge.

The 12 handicapped climbers were involved with glacier, not rock, climb

ing. Both require ropes, but the technique is different for glaciers. Climbers wear crampons attached to their boots and are roped, groups of four on a 150' rope.

Crevasses present the real peril. As a glacier moves down a mountain it goes over rocks and valleys. The ice breaks and crevasses form. Some are wide at the top and narrow at the bottom, others narrow at the top and wide at the bottom, and the openings are covered with snow. It is because of the crevasses that glacier climbers are roped together.

"I joined the climb," O'Brien said, "because I had helped form the Institute for Outdoor Awareness which sponsored it." The institute was started by Phil Bartow in Swarthmore, Pennsylvania. Bartow, O'Brien said, worked two years preparing for the climb. "I did not think it would work."

O'Brien believes that Jim Whitaker, the first American to climb Mt. Everest and leader of the Mt. Rainier climb, made it work. "Without Whitaker's leadership, it would not have happened."

continued

Chad said he had serious misgivings about climbing with the blind because the rope technique is so important. He carried this trepidation to Aspen, Colorado where the group trained, one sighted person leading two blind people. The problem was to develop a way to communicate with each other.

Every participant is important in this kind of climbing. All four on the rope depend on each other. Just before Chad's climb, 11 people had been killed in an ice fall on Mt. Rainier, and seven people had died on Mt. Hood on the same day. In the Mt. Hood disaster one man of a four-man rope fell, and the other three were not ready. The four-man rope fell and collided with another, creating a domino effect. In all 25 climbers were involved; seven were killed. On Rainier, an ice fall caught 11 climbers and buried them in a crevasse under 20 feet of ice. Their bodies have not been recovered.

O'Brien had not been sure the group would develop the ability and the confidence necessary, "but during training my fears were allayed. These were

During training in Colorado my fears were allayed

people who happened to be blind but who were courageous and quick to learn. They mastered the rope technique quickly."

"I had to learn a new climbing technique," O'Brien observed. "I was an Airborne Ranger and had learned all forms of climbing. After the wound I had to develop my own style. It was not consistent with guiding a blind climber. I rely on my arms and take the most direct route. This is not available to the

blind, and I learned to walk around obstacles which ordinarily I would have stepped over." He mentioned that it meant serious abrasions to his stump.

"I was particularly inspired by Fred Noesner," O'Brien said. Noesner has been blind from early childhood and graduated from Eastern College the same year as Chad did from Dickinson. He was so well adjusted to his blindness, according to the Dickinsonian, that he tried to enlist in the Air Force because he felt he could offer something.

By learning to communicate with the blind, "I got a whole new appreciation of what I was seeing. Unless they are with a child," O'Brien said, "people don't articulate what they see. I did a lot of verbalizing and now have far keener recollections. I saw a mountain goat scampering one day and described it. It enhanced my enjoyment and made a more vivid memory."

Discussion of the Mt. Rainier climb and its challenge led O'Brien to talk of Vietnam.

"The Vietnam experience was a positive one. We learned a discipline and an understanding of life. We suffered, but we entered the mainstream with greater strengths, more discipline, more determination. I think you must look for the positive in anything in life. I have been forced to overcome my own prejudice about those not physically able, but I still can't tolerate laziness and lack of discipline." □

N.L.W.



President Reagan congratulates Chad O'Brien at a White House ceremony.

The Daily Intelligencer

DOYLESTOWN, PA.

PM-18,930

12/4/81

Self-help veterans' program inaugurated by Reagan

WASHINGTON (UPI) — President Reagan officially inaugurated a self-help program for Vietnam veterans Tuesday, a program designed to buff up their tarnished image and increase their chances for jobs.

"Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue," Reagan said in a ceremony in the chilly White House Rose Garden. "The nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation."

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program "is designed to draw volunteers from the pool of successful Vietnam veterans to provide guidance for those with lingering problems," he said.

Reagan said the U.S. troops who fought in Vietnam "have never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication" for their efforts "in a war they were not allowed to win."

The VVLP is budgeted for \$2 million per year for three years through ACTION, a federal agency coordinating administration volunteer programs. The veterans' program began at the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1 but was formally initiated Tuesday, a day before Veterans Day. Federal participation is to be phased out by September 1984.

Plans call for the VVLP in its first year to set up

centers in 50 cities to offer guidance and employment help for Vietnam veterans, said Thomas Paulken, ACTION director and a veteran. The centers will be headed by men and women who served in Vietnam and have since risen to solid positions within their communities.

The list of those already signing up to help fellow veterans include lawyers, educators, physicians and writers such as best-selling author Jim Webb, who wrote "Fields of Fire."

Spokesmen said the primary goal is to attack "unemployment and underemployment" among veterans, but also major steps would be taken to refurbish the image of the Southeast Asia veterans.

"The image is a critical factor," said Paulken, saying much of the program will be geared for "the young high school-age ground pounder...who came back confused" and has not shaken his wartime problems in the decade that has passed since the end of the conflict.

Paulken said that "more than 80 percent" of those who served in Vietnam "have made it back successfully ... but there are a lot of guys that need a hand."

The Washington Post Book World

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Those Who Served and Those Who Stayed at Home

THE WOUNDED GENERATION: America After Vietnam. A Washington Post book. Edited by A.D. Horns. Prentice-Hall. 226 pp. \$12.95; paperback, \$5.95

By RICHARD DUDMAN

FIVE VIETNAM VETERANS and two former war resisters sat around a table at *The Washington Post* one day last year. Their mission: to try to work out a formula for a reconciliation between the nation's 1.5 million or so combat veterans of the Vietnam war and many other millions who avoided or resisted it. They assumed that both groups remain terribly wounded by their respective experiences.

An edited transcript of their discussion (misnamed a symposium; actually it was more of a bull session) forms the central portion of this book. Part One is mainly excerpts from books about what the war was like, including selections by three of the discussion participants, James Fallows, Philip Caputo and James Webb. A final section consists of short essays reflecting on the meaning of the war.

The result is engrossing, and may even succeed in pointing the way toward how to live with the memory of a rotten decade.

Those who missed Caputo's book, *A Rumor of War*, will have a chance to read his story of how he and his platoon went temporarily mad in the heat of battle and rampaged through villages, burning huts and killing anything that moved.

A selection from Webb's *Fields of Fire* tells how Will "Senator" Goodrich watched his comrades die in a misplaced American fusillade, lost his own leg, and later, returning to Harvard where he had been a student, couldn't resist denouncing other students at a peace rally: "How many of you are going to get hurt in Vietnam? I didn't see any of you in Vietnam."

And an edited version of James Fallows' 1975 magazine article, "What Did You Do in the Class War, Daddy?" tells of his shock at watching fellow Harvard draftees at the Boston Navy Yard throwing their urine in the faces of young orderlies, as well as his contrition over working his weight down to 120 pounds so as to be ruled unfit for service.

The bull session demonstrates for one thing that most



JACKET PHOTOGRAPH FROM "THE WOUNDED GENERATION"

people can write better than they can talk. Like most such transcripts, edited lightly if at all, this one contains a lot of hay, a lot of half-thought-through examples that trail off into "or whatever."

A recurrent theme, documented persuasively, is that the draft and the later volunteer army caught mostly the poor and the non-white and have largely exempted the well-off and the white.

At one point in the rambling conversation, several seem to bemoan the death of machismo as a meritorious trait. Webb takes issue with a remark he recalls by Betty Friedan, that machismo died in Vietnam. Not so, he says. "If it died at all in this society, it died among the people who had to question who they are as a male because, through one way or another, they avoided what is the quintessentially male function in a society, and that's going into uniform. They're having to deal with that."

John P. Wheeler III, a former Army captain in Vietnam, asks: "What's the 'quintessentially male' thing again?"

Webb replies: "Defending your society. Taking up arms and defending your society, in the history of the world and every civilization that exists today."

In an effort to get to the main point, Caputo says that, for all the sarcastic comments he has made about peace-niks, "I would like one day to put my arms around this Elizabeth McAlister or Philip Berrigan and even Tom Hayden, for that matter, and literally say that we—all of us—went through something together."

"That none of us caused," adds Fallows.

And Lucian Truscott IV, a West Pointer who resigned his commission rather than go to Vietnam, adds further:

Continued on next page

CONT'D

"Went through different kinds of hell."

But Caputo says the burden of the reconciliation is more on the peace movement's side. "They are the ones who were the most strident and the most vocal and in many ways are the ones who did a lot, unconsciously or no, to undermine and destroy our sense of self-worth."

It goes on like that for page after page. The main line is that the combat veterans are a "screwed minority," unappreciated for their heroism and service to their country.

The discussion avoids almost entirely the question of why the war was fought. For starters, they might have considered the role of the national leaders who believed incorrectly that Communism was a monolithic force centered in Moscow with Peking and Hanoi as its tentacles. Or the role of national leaders, starting with John F. Kennedy, who believed America's vital interests were threatened by every victory by anything called "Communism" anywhere in the world. They might also have considered the inflated propaganda that kept the war going—the "light at the end of the tunnel" and Lyndon Johnson's description of Ngo Dinh Diem as the Churchill of Southeast Asia.

Such matters doubtless were considered beyond the scope of this short book. But what about the question of what an American citizen should do when confronted with a bad war? There is such a thing, you

know. It's a tough but an important question.

It remains for the essayists in Part Three to wrap up the issue in any sort of satisfying way. Sam Brown, the former peace movement leader turned bureaucrat, is unrepentant but risks attack by his old comrades by coming out for an "equitable" conscription for both men and women. But he sees no indication that "those now in power in Washington" have any understanding of how to go about regaining the trust lost by "the deception of the American people by two presidents."

Susan Jacoby, another unrepentant opponent of the war, also favors universal service by men and women, partly as a deterrent to future ill-advised military adventures. Her recollections of male chauvinism in the peace movement are worth noting.

Nicholas Lemann, executive editor of *Texas Monthly* magazine, winds things up with a reminder that the post-Vietnam generation thinks differently. Born in 1954, he says: "I cannot remember having any perception of the Vietnam war other than it was a bad war that we were losing. I cannot remember ever not thinking of the incumbent president as a failure." Vietnam and other disruptions caused him and millions of others to vote less than their parents, to feel no loyalty to employers, to think of marriage and children as a frightening prospect.

His account of slowly working his way toward love, political responsibility, and even a form of patriotism supplies a hopeful note that eluded many of the book's representatives of the wounded generation. □

Patterson at White House

Police Chief to Lead New Veterans Project

Chief of Police Maxie L. Patterson came back from Washington with a new role.

Called to the nation's capital by his friend, Thomas Pauken, director of ACTION, the national volunteer agency, Patterson met with federal officials who are inaugurating a new program that will use successfully returned Vietnam veterans to help solve the problems still faced by their fellow veterans.

"I need three Vietnam vets" like himself, Patterson said Monday, "who have reached responsible positions in their careers to form a board of directors" for a newly approved Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

He said that \$50,000 is available to start up the program and to hire a project director "who would then attempt a needs study in the Greater Hartford area .. to see if there is a significant number of Vietnam vets sharing a common problem."

The program "cannot duplicate what any other program does. It's not designed to do any one-to-one counseling or job placement," Patterson said.

However, the project director would be contacting area industries to encourage them "to give greater attention to Vietnam vets."

The new program is a short-term, volunteer effort; funding will be phased out by Sept. 30, 1984.

Patterson has received some positive input from other Vietnam veterans who are willing to volunteer their efforts. If others are interested, they should call or write him at the police department.

Patterson met with President Ronald Reagan during his meeting with Pauken over the new program. Reagan noted that Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

Pauken noted that "80 per cent (of the Vietnam veterans) made it back successfully" with "10 per cent or a little higher" having emotional and employment problems.

The VVLP will be established in 50 communities across the nation with programs already underway in Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Antonio, Wilmington, Phoenix, and Nashville.

The program is designed to demonstrate the leadership of Vietnam veterans and to stimulate help for the thousands of men and women who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience.



President Ronald Reagan greets Police Chief Maxie Patterson at the White House during a ceremony to inaugurate a new Vietnam veterans program. The town's police chief serves in the national Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

White House Photograph

The Philadelphia Inquirer people

Tuesday, November 24, 1981



"The Vietnam veteran was portrayed in the late '60s and early '70s as little more than a drug-crazed killer. Now, we're

portrayed as guilt-ridden victims — and I've had enough of that."

— Thomas J. Pauken

Interview

He urges vets to enlist in ACTION

Continued on next page

By Gary Ronberg
Inquirer Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Tom Pauken is a Vietnam veteran. He spent a year there, as an intelligence officer for the Army. Now that he is the new director of ACTION — and the highest-ranking Vietnam veteran in the Reagan administration — one of his first moves has been to encourage veterans to volunteer their services in helping the 500,000 men who have lingering problems associated with their Vietnam experience.

But the key word here is "volunteer," for Pauken is turning ACTION — the federal volunteer agency — 180 degrees away from what it was under former director Sam Brown, who sought mass social change by funneling federal funds through activist groups throughout the country. "They certainly have a right to be political, but not with taxpayer dollars," Pauken says of such groups. "They weren't helping the needy. They were pursuing a political agenda."

Now, consistent with President Reagan's emphasis on less government and more individual initiative, and in spite of a budget that has been cut from \$165 million to \$145 million, Pauken is convinced that ACTION will be able "to do more with less." The bulk of the cuts will be in administration and staff.

There will, however, be some changes.

In addition to its new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, the agency is starting a program tentatively called Young Volunteers in ACTION that will call upon people 14 through 22 to tackle the problems of runaways, drug abuse and illiteracy on the local level.

Also, for the first time, existing social service-type agencies that have targeted problem areas will receive grants from ACTION of no more than \$50,000 to hire a coordinator of volunteers and cover related expenses. The Peace Corps — perhaps ACTION'S best-known arm — appears headed for a split from ACTION, and VISTA no longer will be funded. But such programs as Foster Grandparents, Retired Senior Volunteers and Senior Companions will receive more emphasis.

Considering the respective backgrounds of its former and current director, it comes as little surprise that ACTION has taken an abrupt swerve from left to right. For in the late '60s, when Brown was becoming a national figure by organizing protests against the war in Vietnam, Pauken was in the middle of it as an Army lieutenant.

Raised in Dallas, Pauken had gone to Georgetown University, studied political science, worked for Sen. John Tower (R., Texas) and former Rep. Bill Stinson (R., Wash.), and become president of the university's Young Republicans. In 1965, he was elected national chairman of the College Republicans and served for two years as a chief spokesman for the Republican Party on campuses.

He enlisted in the Army in 1967, was commissioned a lieutenant, and spent a year as an intelligence officer in Vietnam. Then he returned to Washington, where he served as White House staff assistant and associate director of the White House Fellowship Program in 1970 and 1971. From there, it was back to Texas, where he earned his law degree at Southern Methodist University, practiced law and twice ran unsuccessfully for Congress before returning to Washington as a member of Reagan's transition team. He was nominated to head ACTION in February.

Pauken's confirmation was not without controversy. Some Senate Democrats, particularly Alan Cranston (D., Calif.) and his staff, were concerned that Pauken's background in military intelligence might tarnish the Peace Corps' reputation overseas. He finally was confirmed in May, but only after Democratic criticism was muted by assurances from Republicans, who control the Senate, that legislation would be adopted to separate the Peace Corps from ACTION.

"Before, some groups were more interested in confrontational politics rather than getting the job done," says Pauken, who once was narrator of a conservative film attacking the "leftist" politics of Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden. "Now we're looking for groups that don't have a political agenda."

"We want to identify model groups in neighborhoods of cities like Philadelphia, support them and work through them. In principle, we're looking to develop a small complement of paid volunteers at the top recruiting large corps of unpaid volunteers — social entrepreneurs is what we call them, people who can lead and motivate others. And I'm convinced you can get volunteers if the project is worthwhile. Then, as a broader role for those volunteers develops, the government will be able to withdraw to a less official stance."

According to Pauken, the Vietnam veterans' program will operate in much the same fashion, with ACTION funding a local project director who will be the "eyes and ears" of his volunteers.

"The Vietnam veteran was portrayed in the late '60s and early '70s as little more than a drug-crazed killer," Pauken says. "Now, we're portrayed as guilt-ridden victims — and I've had enough of that."

"More than 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made the successful transition back to civilian life and are doing fine. There are those who still do need help, but it does them no service to encourage them to wallow in self-pity to reinforce their doubts about their own self-worth."

Philadelphia's Chuck O'Brien, an attorney with the firm of Pepper, Hamilton & Sheetz, agrees. As the local chairman for the veterans program here, he says: "These men have labored under tremendous disadvantages; they've had two to four years taken from them. Persons my age who were not in the service are now partners in their firms. This is a fundamental inequity and yet one that can be worked out."

To provide the action Pauken envisions for ACTION, it is going to require legions of those unpaid volunteers. And even in these uncertain economic times, Pauken says he believes that potential volunteers are still out there. "Americans had a history of taking care of their fellow citizens until centralized government pushed them away from it and convinced them that needs were being met," he says. "You can get volunteers if the project is worthwhile."

"And ours most certainly are."

Continued on next page



Special to The Inquirer / BARBARA RIES

Thomas Pauken (right above) does some recruiting among fellow Vietnam veterans at a meeting in Washington

9570

Sunday, November 8, 1981

Viet Vets: Doing It Ourselves

Stop trying to make us into another welfare constituency

By William J. Vogt

FOR MANY of our fellow citizens, we are too dangerous to rehabilitate. Forget for a moment that the overwhelming majority of us have managed to put our lives back together, and have moved beyond the trauma of our wartime experiences to lead productive lives. Think instead of those with a vested interest in keeping uncompensated adjectives in front of the words "Vietnam veteran." The lexicon is as dreary as it is long: "scarred," "addicted," "crazed," "unemployed," "victimized," "brutalized," "racist," "alcoholic." Somehow we cannot be mentioned without words such as these creeping into the discussion.

William Vogt, a 1970 West Point graduate, ran a 101st Airborne Division battalion aid station in Vietnam's northern I Corps in 1971. He now works as a middle manager for a Washington area defense analysis corporation.

VETERANS, From Page C1

More insidious are the liberals. The more astute among them long ago figured out that there is more political mileage to be gained by patronizing rather than openly vilifying us. There is no need for them to recognize the validity of our service. After all, we did do the trigger pulling. Instead, their intent is to turn us into another welfare constituency. Their unofficial motto: "Your best bet — pity the vet." Their means to insure an expanding collection of politically marketable, if underfunded and poorly administered, benefit programs is to insure an ample supply of wretched victims to benefit from them.

"You're not really to blame. It's the war, you know," they say. They don't really enjoy making us out to be losers (or so we would believe) but, after all, it is for our own good. All we have to do is smile, shuffle, and be grateful, and they're fulfilled. Just don't let any uncontrolled self-respect slip out. It's not in the plan.

If it weren't so painful to watch, our treatment at the hands of the so-called entertainment industry would be almost laughable. Antiwar protesters and newsmen are the heroes of the Vietnam cinema. We're the backdrop. So rare as to be virtually absent are the courage, compassion, self-sacrifice and genuine anger so many of us displayed both in combat and at home. Drug addiction, suicide and homicidal rampages are apparently better sellers. We're cinematically acceptable only if we confess our guilt (tears are the preferred accompaniment) and embrace the antiwar myth as atonement.

In combat, a grunt's horizon is 15 yards away. He fights and dies for his buddies, not for causes. Wounded men gurgle, moan and scream — they don't make speeches. None of it is neat or organized. Thus we know too well. But when this reality comes in the form of a war in which The Rules, as laid out by previous generations of scriptwriters, didn't apply, the result is a retreat into ideologically acceptable allegory and fantasy by moviemakers and TV producers. We will wait a long time to see the truth about ourselves on the screen or the tube. The people who manufacture movies and TV programs are not capable of understanding what really happened to us, much less portraying it. Keep in mind that this will not prevent them from declaring their version to be reality. In Hollywood, anything is possible.

□ □

The largest group we have to face in our battle for genuine recognition is our peers, our own generation. Their views of us cover a broad spectrum. Some harbor antiwar views still, and to them we are still criminal, victim, or both. To others we may be suckers, or even envious for our experiences, no matter how bitter. Some are vaguely guilty at their role in relegating the fighting to the many poor, the many less educated, the many nonwhite among us. A lot simply don't care, and never will. In many cases, our peers gained a career advantage by getting

It's of little use to try to paper over the worst aspects of having served in Vietnam. They've been reported to the exclusion of almost everything else about that war. More important, we know better than most that any war brings out the worst, as well as the best, in those who fight it. But regardless of the nature of what we've been through, it is past time to take back our good name. It is past time to educate the American public to the fact that we made great personal sacrifices in good faith by serving in Vietnam, and that the tampering our ordeal imparted has not destroyed us, but left us stronger. It is past time to affirm a positive image of the Vietnam veteran. The catch is that we have to do it ourselves.

Arrayed against us are people, some famous and influential, who have profited at our expense and can't afford to see us portrayed in a positive light. They are too thoroughly caught up in their self-created body of antiwar mythology to have it any other way.

See VETERANS, Page C2

started while our education and work were put on hold by events. As we reach the point in life where competition for promotions, positions and other forms of recognition intensifies, don't expect many of these people to give us an edge for having served in Vietnam. Some may appreciate what we've done, but others will prove perhaps the hardest of all to convince of the respectability of our sacrifices.

We are entitled to some grim satisfaction in that time and history seem to be on our side. Yellow rain is dropped on Laotian tribesmen and consigns them to indescribable suffering before it kills them. Cambodia is a graveyard, but it is still fought over. Soviet warships and warplanes rest from their imperial missions in the harbors and on the airfields we built. Everywhere in Southeast Asia armies still march, and those dominions that never were are apprehensive once again. Whole populations vote with their feet against the misery and death that have consumed millions of human beings since our departure. The assumptions that form the foundation of the antiwar myth are beginning to show cracks. There is an uneasy awareness at large in this country of the consequences of our failure of national will in Vietnam.

More to our credit is the restraint we've shown since returning. No "stab in the back" theory has gained our credence. We have not formed the alienated, antidemocratic veterans' organizations that plagued Germany after World War I and provided such fertile ground for the seeds of Nazi hatred. Our spokesmen are largely reasonable, capable men. Their message is not that we seek retribution or revenge, but that we have more to offer our country.

We have seen war, and know that it produces no saints, but neither does it leave its survivors with an indelible evil mark. We bore the sacrifice when it was popular and easy to be self-serving. We have nothing to apologize for.

The most important thing to remember is that we have a lot to teach our children. They should learn that the purveyors of the antiwar myth offer a selective history that is tailored to justify their own expedience. They must know, too, that their government can fail massively, even with their lives in the balance. We owe them a healthy skepticism for every word from the mouth of every politician and ideologue.

Finally, we should know well enough to teach them that there is no glory to be had in war, but that there will always be times when war will threaten. When it does, the only true preventive is preparedness, and the burden of that preparedness must fall equitably on all segments of society.

In a very real way, we've been on our own since the day we first set foot "in country," and enough of that awful time still dwells in our souls that we can never really DEROS (Date of Estimated Return from Overseas Status). But we can take back at least some of what's been taken from our lives. Now, as then, it's up to us. No one else is there to do it. We have to do it for each other. For ourselves.

SCRANTON TRIBUNE

SCRANTON, PA.

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Successful Viet Vets Tapped to Help Others

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Back when it was a dirty word to be a Vietnam veteran, a lot of ex-warriors quietly set out to make their mark in the civilian world.

Now the government is tapping some of the more successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

"We were patriots, not chumps," said John D.

Baines, a prosperous real estate broker based in San Antonio, Texas. "It's now time to set the record straight."

Baines, a Navy Seabee in Vietnam, is the volunteer chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio, one of five communities where similar efforts are gathering steam.

"I realize that while I worked hard these past 10 years for everything I've got, there are guys out there who haven't been quite so fortunate," said Baines. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

The leadership program is designed to encourage successful former Vietnam veterans to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by other veterans.

Sponsored by ACTION, the government's volunteer agency, the program will be established in 50 communities, each with a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director who are both Vietnam veterans.

Besides San Antonio, initial programs have been

started in Baltimore, Nashville, Tenn., Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia.

William Jayne, deputy director of the national program, said the next line of communities under consideration are Phoenix, Ariz.; Hartford, Conn.; Chicago; New York City; Boston; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis and Houston.

"High quality Vietnam veterans, preferably with combat experience, and who have excelled in their jobs" such as successful businessmen, lawyers and artists, are being sought as leaders to work on the program, Jayne said.

Programs will be tailored and developed for the individual cities, with emphasis on solving the most severe local problems faced by Vietnam veterans.

As an example, Jayne said, program leaders "might speak to a group of small businessmen or go one-on-one with larger employers" to improve employment opportunities by dispelling the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as "drug crazed time bombs or hapless victims, wallowing in self-pity."

YAF convention lauds veterans of Vietnam

By Kathryn Tolbert
Globe Staff

Vietnam veterans, who have been stereotyped as killers, dope addicts and guilt-ridden victims, are the focus of renewed attention and appreciation that is long overdue, said ACTION director Thomas W. Pauken last night at the national convention of Young Americans for Freedom.

The YAF honored Vietnam veterans at a banquet at the Park Plaza Hotel and heard from Pauken and Capt. John McCain, who was a prisoner of war in Vietnam, on the theme "A Salute to America's Forgotten Heroes."

About 360 delegates of the conservative youth group are attending the 11th national convention here in Boston that ends today with an address at Faneuil Hall by Robert Bork, a professor at Harvard Law School.

Pauken said that in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Vietnam veterans were characterized as "killers, dope addicts, losers and/or fools for winding up in Vietnam."

Starting in the late 1970s, with movies such as "Coming Home," a new stereotype was born that saw the veteran as guilt-ridden and ashamed of his service, he said.

"I've had enough of what I call the 'Vietnam veterans as victims gang,'" said Pauken, himself a Vietnam veteran. "The time has come to call into question the phony posturizing of aging anti-war activists of the Vietnam era who during that war had nothing but contempt for American soldiers in Vietnam."

He said that 80 percent of the returned Vietnam veterans have made a successful transition to civilian life and that most do not regret their service in Vietnam.

The number one problem for veterans, he said, is jobs - underemployment or unemployment. It is a problem that is due partly to the years missed while serving in Southeast Asia, but also grows out of a "false characterization" of veterans.

In an effort to change the stereotype, ACTION is starting the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Project, in which veterans will work as volunteers in helping other veterans to find jobs and overcome whatever physical or emotional handicaps they suffer as a result of fighting in the war.

ACTION, the federal agency for volunteer programs, has \$2.5 million targeted annually for the next three years to set up organizations in 50 cities, starting this year in Baltimore, San Antonio, Wilmington and Philadelphia.

"I've been tremendously impressed by the caliber of returning veterans who want to participate in this effort," said Pauken. "It suggests to me that there are legions of Vietnam veterans throughout the country who have had about all they can stand of this false characterization of their service in Vietnam and the impact it had on us all."

He said that Boston would be among the cities joining the program next year.

The YAF chose Vietnam veterans as the theme of the banquet because "they have been ignored for so long and in some cases actually reviled," said YAF spokesman Richard LaMountain. "We think the war was just. They've gotten short shrift of gratitude that they did earn."

Capt. John McCain of Phoenix, Ariz., imprisoned in Hanoi for seven years, spoke of a change in the attitude of Americans since the hostage crisis in Iran.

"There were many benefits of the return of the hostages," said McCain, liaison officer to the US Senate from 1976 until he retired this year. "There's been renewed attention to the Vietnam veterans. It rid us of the Vietnam syndrome. We were embarrassed that Americans could be taken prisoner and we felt helpless. But it gave Americans a renewed sense of pride."

McCain, a prisoner of war from 1967 until 1973, said that while most people he knew have adjusted well and that overall he is satisfied with the treatment veterans are receiving, "the vast majority would still like to have a pat on the back and a word of thanks."

Yesterday the convention re-elected James V. Lacey of Los Angeles to a two-year term as national chairman.

GLOBE
BOSTON, MASS.
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AUG-23-81

Five cities will get pilot projects to help Vietnam vets

By Sheila Caudle
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Pilot projects designed to help veterans fight the "Vietnam syndrome" will be established in coming months across the nation, ACTION Director Thomas Pauken said Wednesday.

Pauken, a Vietnam veteran himself, said he plans to put Vietnam Veteran Leadership Networks in five cities, calling on veterans who have made a successful transition to civilian life to help others who aren't doing so well.

He wasn't ready to say just yet

what five cities will be involved, but said three probably will be on the East Coast. All must have high concentrations of Vietnam era veterans without jobs. He said he hopes one city will reflect a high Hispanic population, and another will have heavy black numbers.

ACTION, the federal agency for volunteer service organizations, will provide a national coordinator, Pauken said, but the work burden will fall on successful veterans who will give freely of their time, working one-on-one with the troubled.

Pauken said four of five Viet-

nam veterans are successes in life outside the military, but many still suffer the syndrome of rage, confusion, despair and guilt.

"In the late 1960s to early 1970s, Vietnam veterans were characterized as killers, dope addicts, losers and-or fools," said Pauken, meeting with reporters at the National Press Club. "Now they're characterized as victims, guilt-ridden, as persons to be pitied."

The nation is overlooking the thousands of veterans who came home to build lives and careers, Pauken said, adding that they

may be overlooking their less fortunate buddies.

He said the veterans leadership project will work with veterans organizations, businesses, labor unions, bar associations

and local governments to enlist a cadre of volunteers to reach other veterans with problems.

Pauken said he plans to start with the five cities, and if the counseling, job promotion and le-

gal aid program works, then it could be expanded to perhaps 50 cities.

But he said he hopes the federal government can step out in two years, turning the project over to private enterprise.

International
New York City

NEWS WORLD
NEW YORK, N.Y.
DAILY

MAY-28-81

Political activity could spell end for federal funds

By Josette Sheeran
NEWS WORLD WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON—The Reagan administration is deciding whether to suspend "questionable" federally funded volunteer programs started by the Carter administration because of their involvement in political activity, Action Director Thomas Pauken said yesterday.

Pauken took aim at 32 local volunteer programs, including five in New York, which he said may have a "heavy political involvement."

"I don't think federal dollars should be used to promote particular legislation...or to take a partisan political posture," the 37-year-old director of the federal agency responsible for all federal volunteer programs told reporters at the National Press Club.

Nader programs threatened

The programs threatened in New York include several connected to Ralph Nader's Public Interest Research Group (PIRG) and several tenants' rights activist groups.

Several of the other programs in question, in 11 other states, have stated goals of "equipping poor people with knowledge...to bring about social change," "to organize tenants groups to combat slum land-

lords," and to "educate low income people about the inadequacy of the Justice Department."

Pauken said that based on the controversial nature of some of the volunteer programs which fall under VISTA [Volunteers In Service to America], a part of Action, he supports President Reagan's plan to phase out funding for VISTA by 1983. The Peace Corps and several elderly assistance programs including Foster Grandparents would then be the remaining major programs of Action.

Pauken said that he would also initiate a series of programs "for and by young people," to aid runaways and to fight drug abuse.

Pauken said that the Foster Grandparent Program, in which low-income elderly people provide companionship and guidance to needy children, is one of the most successful of the agency, and has received a big boost from first lady Nancy Reagan, who has identified it as her favorite program.

The agency is also initiating a Vietnam Veteran's Leadership Program, run by volunteer Vietnam veterans, to aid vets suffering from "Vietnam syndrome," or a "sense of rage, confusion, despair and guilt" over their involvement in the war.

South

Group Organizes to Help Veterans

By TOM HONEYCUTT
Of The Commercial Staff

The image of the combat veteran of the Vietnam War in motion pictures often is portrayed as a demented man who dies violently or, less negatively, ends up in a mental institution; however, there are many combat veterans who have come home from the war and assimilated into society.

To improve that cinematographic image and to help some veterans who have experienced problems merging back into society, a group of veterans have organized the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a volunteer organization with funding from the federal Action program.

Leon Clements, a vice-president at Simmons First National Bank and a combat veteran of 12 months duty in Vietnam, has been appointed chairman of the program's Arkansas chapter.

In a recent interview, he said there were some combat veterans who were struggling — either out of work or working in jobs well beneath their own capabilities — and needed help and the organization was begun to get combat veterans who have been successful to aid them.

HE STRESSED THE organization would focus on the combat veteran as opposed to a veteran who was not on the front lines because, he said, the man at the front fighting had a very unique experience that affected him.

"We want to identify and find out who the Vietnam veterans are that are having difficulties," Clements, 39, said.

The director named to head the organization is also a Pine Bluff resident, Don Griggs, who served two tours in Vietnam with the First Air Battalion 12th Cavalry and was discharged as a captain.

"What we're trying to do is separate the warriors from the war," Griggs said, because of the stigma associated with veterans who returned after the war.

He added that Vietnam veterans were not joining the traditional veterans organizations, such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Veterans Administration.

He said public sentiment seemed to be turning from the era when veterans were chastised for their service. "We're trying to upgrade the image and if you think back, there's not too much of the positive" image in television, movies and the media.

CLEMENTS SAID, "IF we can be successful in improving the image of the Vietnam Veteran, we have gone a long way toward what we want to do."

"It's not a political statement, but it's a statement. We don't care what you think about the Vietnam conflict.

What we try to say is don't blame the folk who had to go over there," he said.

The program also aims to help veterans to get jobs, and Clements said he'd recently been talking with some businesses that employ large numbers of employees. Although he said the businessmen have not made any concrete proposals, "they have been receptive to what we're trying to do."

Although it is a state-wide organization, many of the ones to join the board of the group are Pine Bluff residents. Members of the board in addition to Clements and Griggs are Dr. Rick Bell of Pine Bluff, Stuart Hankins, a lawyer in North Little Rock, Jerry Martin of Pine Bluff and Odell Perry, also of Pine Bluff.

Griggs, the director of the organization, maintains an office in the Federal Building.

History of the Diet of the United States

The diet of the United States has undergone a significant transformation over the past century. In the early 20th century, the diet was primarily composed of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables, with a high intake of fiber and a low intake of fat and sugar. This diet was associated with a low risk of chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. However, as the 20th century progressed, the diet shifted towards a more processed and high-fat, high-sugar diet. This shift was driven by a number of factors, including the availability of processed foods, the influence of advertising, and the changing lifestyle of the American population. The result was a diet that was high in calories, fat, and sugar, and low in fiber and other nutrients. This diet was associated with a higher risk of chronic diseases, and it is now widely recognized that the diet of the United States is a major factor in the prevalence of these diseases. In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the importance of diet in health, and many people are now adopting a more healthful diet. This diet is characterized by a high intake of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, and a low intake of fat and sugar. This diet is associated with a lower risk of chronic diseases, and it is now widely recognized that the diet of the United States is a major factor in the prevalence of these diseases.

FLORIDA

JUL-8 -82

The Good News Report

By Thomas W. Pauken Director of Action

Often it seems there's a hidden purpose to luck. In Vietnam, Bob Rummel was with the 101st Airborne Division. A member of a machine gun crew, he and his fellow-gunner, for no particular reason, decided to change positions. No sooner had they done so than a misfired U.S. artillery round hit and instantly killed Rummel's buddy. Dazed, knowing he was wounded, Rummel began looking for a medical aid station. His hand felt for the wound in his throat, and it was then he realized his jugular vein had been severed. He attempted to cut off the bleeding with his fingers. Again luck placed an aid station directly in his path. The medics did the rest. Had the station not been where it was, Rummel would not have survived.

After Bob returned home and attended the Georgetown School of International Relations, it appeared a political career was in the offing. However, after his wife, Marion, had their first child, Erin, they began to think in terms of the kind of future they wanted. The result was a look-see visit to Vermont in 1974. What they saw they liked, and a year later they took the plunge. Since boyhood, Rummel had been in and out of the construction business; so, in the town of Rochester, Vermont, the Robert E. Rummel Construction Company was founded. In the beginning there was little more than the name.

Anyone who has given up city life know there are

large and difficult adjustments to make. Not the least of which is earning a living in a rural community. Today the Rummel Construction company employs five neighbors during the hard winter months and 10 to 15 in the summer. In the last three years, Bob has tripled the company's size and earning power.

A member of the volunteer fire department, a citizen whose company performs volunteer services for the town, Bob Rummel is a volunteer in another capacity that ties in directly to that day in Vietnam 13 years ago. He is the Chairman of the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. As such, with the aid of Project Director Bill Fagginger-Auer, seven VVLP directors and nine ACTION volunteers, he is building a structure based on mutual aid, making Vietnam vets an identifiable group with grass roots support. If a Vietnam vet has a business, he takes a chance on a vet who has had a tough time. If a vet doesn't know the rope, or he's hanging on them, the VVLP is there to counsel and to offer the kind of understanding that's meaningful. As Bob says, "I waited a long while for a program like this to come along. Now we're helping lost veterans to finally find themselves."

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Luck helps Vietnam veterans after war

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Governor Lamar Alexander receives a preview look at two posters which will be on display at the World's Fair to call attention to the Vietnam Veterans Leadership program in Tennessee. The exhibit will be featured in the Technology and Lifestyles Building during U.S. National Week at the World's Fair beginning June 28th. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is a

statewide volunteer group organized to help solve lingering problems of some of the state's veterans of the Vietnam conflict. From left are: Governor Alexander and Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program officers Fred Tucker, executive director, John Furgess, administrative director and Sam Bartholomew, chairman.



Veterans have display at World's Fair

Governor Lamar Alexander admires posters of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program that are being displayed at The 1982 World's Fair in the Technology and Lifestyle Building during U.S. National Week, June 28 through July 4.

Assisting him from left are Fred Tucker, Executive Director; John Furgess, Administrative Director; and Sam Bartholomew, Volunteer Chairman of the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. The posters were designed by George Skypeck for VVLP, a program of the National volunteer agency, ACTION. TVVLP volunteer Hal Dortch, Deputy U.S. Commissioner of the World's Fair, made the arrangements for the display.

JUN-23-82

Sometimes Luck Has A Hidden Purpose

By THOMAS W. PAUKEN
ACTION Director

Often it seems there's a hidden purpose to luck.

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Good
News

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Wounded vet, ex-protester

Couple met halfway after Vietnam

By Judy Emerson
Banner Staff Writer



Banner photo by Bill Goodman

Tom and Mary Ruth Martin are surrounded by pets on their 15-acre farm near Franklin.

Tom Martin's platoon was on a routine patrol in Vietnam's An Hoa river valley when he and four of his Marine buddies were hit by enemy fire. It was June 24, 1969, and he was 20 years old.

A world away, in the "fat" and comfortable surroundings of Vanderbilt University, Mary Ruth Swink was demonstrating against the war, carrying signs and chanting slogans about the craziness of it all.

Now Tom says: "I was perfectly willing to accept the government's version of what was going on, at least until I looked for myself. It was my generation's war, and I felt that burden. It was an easy choice to make, and I'm comfortable with it today."

And Mary says: "I was of the age and 'fat' enough and idealistic enough that I thought all wars were wrong, but I think we made a real mistake in not separating the people from the issue. We didn't even open our arms up to people of our own age when they came back."

The two had gone to elementary school in Nashville together but had lost contact over the years. Their families were friends because both of their fathers were faculty members at Vanderbilt University.

The next time they met — in 1977 — Martin was confined to a wheelchair, his legs paralyzed from the bullet that ripped through his spine. He was finishing his studies at the Vanderbilt School of Law. She had completed a master's degree in special education in Los Angeles and was working in educational research.

Time had fostered maturity in both, and in the relationship that flowered, they came to understand what the other had done and felt during the Vietnam years. They married and together have reconciled with the country that sent its young men to Vietnam.

The Martins live a peaceful, nearly self-sufficient life on a 15-acre farm on Waddell Hollow Road outside Franklin. He does much of the work around the house and farm. She is a part owner of Rebecca's, a kitchenware and furniture shop in Carter's Court in Franklin.

On a sunny spring afternoon, they flipped through Martin's picture album from Vietnam, and he talked about his four-month stint in the bush as if it were yesterday.

The pictures show boyish, bare-chested, smiling Marines with rifles slung over their shoulders. They support the statistical data establishing the average

age of the Vietnam soldier at 19.

"I have some very good memories of the people I was with and the places I saw," Martin reflects. "You did feel alone, but that was OK because you were alone with a lot of people who could appreciate it. It was stressful, but it was not black."

He points to a thin, blond young man of about 18 in the color prints. The Marine's name is Bill and he lives in Illinois, but he and Martin are still very close. Martin said Bill is a "typical" Vietnam combat veteran — those who came home with no obvious injuries, only hidden pain and apparent indecision.

A high school dropout who enlisted at age 17, Bill was the first one to reach Martin when he was hit. After the war, Bill came home, got married, fathered children, went through a string of jobs and stood in unemployment lines.

"It is a difficult marriage because his ambitions have changed, and it is hard to reconcile the expectations of his family with himself," Martin says of his friend. "He is very frustrated, but quietly so."

Martin says it is this type of person who needs the compassion of the American people more than the handicapped vet-

eran. For the injured vet, there was a "cushion" between him and the backlash against the war, visible evidence that he had "paid the price" for his involvement in the war, Martin said.

Other veterans were met at airports on their way from the "front line to their front porches" by protesters who spat on them and called them "baby killers."

"Over there, you didn't know who was a friend and who was not," Martin said about the Vietnamese people. "The line was fuzzy and civilians were killed often."

The situation took on an awful, surreal quality for the soldiers, whose favorite topic was what they would do when they got back home, he said.

"The 'world' was the general reference to the United States," Martin remembers. "We'd say, 'Won't it be great when we get

back to the world?' like we weren't in the real world. But it wasn't true, because there was no place more real than Vietnam — the illusions were in the United States."

"None of us knew," Mrs. Martin says, shaking her head. "I don't know if people now understand the war, much less then. It

was so unlike any war we were ever in."

They both acknowledge there has been some positive change in American attitudes toward Vietnam veterans since the war, but that a resolution still is needed for the soldiers to truly "come home."

"We've got to let it go together because there are other issues becoming more important," Martin says, adding that he and his wife are watching closely what further involvement the United States may have in the conflict in El Salvador and in volatile situations involving other countries.

Neither is categorically against military intervention by the United States, as long as there is a firm ideal of why it is being done and as long as those who are asked to fight receive support from their people.

"It's important to me now that Vietnam is over, that when you send people out to die, to have a sense of what they're dying for," Martin says, closing the picture album.

"Vietnam veterans are not looking for special favors or pats on the back. Basically, they want what they tried to do appreciated so that the same mistakes aren't made again later."

NASHVILLE (TN) BANNER 5/10/82

APR-22-82

^I'Good News' report

Dave Huffman of Wilmington, Del., claims he was such a poor student, he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up home life and eight years in an orphanage.

He didn't finish high school, dropping out in the 10th grade. When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was November 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman.

On September 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital at Da Nang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got worse.

He came home to find he really wasn't wanted, not as a veteran, not with his disability which was too much of an inconvenience for those around him to handle.

The future looked extremely bleak, but Dave was not willing to accept defeat. "I knew I had to turn my life around," he said. "And I knew I had to rely on my head."

He entered the Hines VA Rehabilitation Center in Chicago, Ill., to learn to adjust and how to cope in a world of darkness. The course was scheduled to last four months; for David it lasted six.

He passed his high school equivalency and was making steady progress when he was in an automobile accident which left him with a broken back, paralyzed from the neck down.

He wasn't about to quit, wasn't going to be left lying flat. He began lifting weights in bed. Determination combined with medical treatment put him back on his feet.

But now what to do?

At first, he figured he'd be content with unskilled work, not demanding much of himself or of anybody; a nine-

to-five job with a beer waiting for him at the end of the day.

Two things happened. He couldn't find employment, and at a dance, he met Sharon Ann.

"She turned the world around for me," he said. She convinced him to go back to school, and with the VA benefits due from his military service, he did so.

He was the first blind student to earn not one but two degrees from Wilmington College—in behavioral science and in criminal justice. He was also the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School. Soon, he'll be taking his bar exams, and he plans to specialize in international law.

Right now, he's a program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The purpose of the program is one of aid, from veterans to veterans whatever the need may be. Dave has definite ideas on ways to approach employers, ideas that are innovative and different. "You've got to accentuate the positive," he says, and he's living proof of that axiom.

Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the President it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments at 33, which include a brown belt in Judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, "Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want."

International
New York City

BANNER
NASHVILLE, TENN.
E-105,000

MAR-31-82

Nation owes Vietnam veterans

The Vietnam War has been over for some time, but many of its veterans continue to fight — to overcome prejudice, unemployment and lack of respect that the unpopular conflict still manages to project.

It is grossly unfair that this nation's Vietnam veterans must bear the brunt of the loathing Americans held — and hold now — for that war. Controversy even extended to the planned Vietnam Veterans' Memorial in Washington, which, only after months of debate and negotiation, has finally been agreed upon.

Nashville is one of five cities in the country selected for a pilot program to address the problems of the Vietnam veteran, especially the image crisis, that keeps many qualified veterans on unemployment rolls. "Vietnam veterans are not losers, users, drug addicts or Hollywood-style killers, but that is the image they have to overcome," said John Furgess, administrative director for the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, Inc.

Many, Mr. Furgess said, are denied jobs just because they served during the Vietnam War. "Some employers transferred their dislike for the war to the veteran, even though he did not start the war and he was not allowed to finish it." TVVLP statistics show that there are 6,000 unemployed Vietnam veterans in Tennessee, and while no figures are available, it is certain that some of the 21,000 Davidson County veterans are facing a similar plight. TVVLP efforts to find jobs for these former servicemen are being supported by Vanderbilt University and its Medical Center. WSM, Inc. was the first major employer to throw its support behind TVVLP's employment efforts. Mr. Furgess and Fred Tucker, executive director of TVVLP, are trying to convince other area employers to participate in the referral program. In contacting employers, they stress that Vietnam veterans are considered a

minority and thus the employers are eligible for the same tax credits in hiring them as they would be for blacks and women.

Well-established professionals in the Nashville area, including attorneys, doctors and businessmen — all Vietnam era veterans — have been enlisted to form an advisory board to use their leadership abilities to help influence others to help change the too commonly held image of the Vietnam veteran.

As Mr. Tucker pointed out, that veteran was unlike his counterpart in other wars because he found himself pitted against women and children in combat and fighting an enemy rarely seen. Within a few weeks in Vietnam, the serviceman, if he survived, saw his psyche irrevocably altered, especially in the case of teen-agers.

Although he may have come home a year later expecting to pick up his life where he had left it, things had changed so drastically that he found himself a virtual outcast in his country.

It is to this problem that the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is directing all of its efforts. We hope those efforts are highly successful. We urge more businessmen to join in this battle for human dignity. It is an effort that sadly must be made, but one which hopefully will result in full acceptance of our fellow Americans and full recognition of their bravery and courage in fighting for their country's cause. To do less is a greater disservice to these brave veterans than they have already suffered.

March 26, 1982

Metro picked for pilot study of Vietnam veteran troubles

By Judy Emerson
Banner Staff Writer

Many Vietnam veterans from Tennessee still are fighting the war America came to loathe, but this time under a different name and on their home front.

They continue the battle here against prejudice, unemployment and lack of respect.

Nashville is one of five cities in the country selected for a pilot program to address the problems, especially the image crisis, that keeps many qualified veterans on the unemployment roles.

"Vietnam veterans are not losers, users, drug addicts or Hollywood-style killers, but that is the image they have to overcome," said John Furgess, administrative director for the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program Inc.

"Many Vietnam veterans were denied jobs just because they were Vietnam veterans," he added. "Some employers transferred their dislike for the war to the veteran even though he did not start the war and he was not allowed to finish it."

Vanderbilt University and its Medical Center have announced they will support TVVLP efforts to find jobs for local Vietnam veterans. Unemployed veterans are being urged to contact the local veterans employment representative through the state Job Service

Office to be referred to jobs for which they are qualified.

WSM Inc., was the first major local employer to throw its support behind TVVLP's employment efforts. Vietnam veteran Ennis Jordan, personnel director at WSM, is on the organization's advisory board.

TVVLP statistics indicate there are 6,000 unemployed Vietnam veterans in the state. Although there are no comparable figures for Nashville, it is certain that some of the 21,000 Vietnam veterans from Davidson County are in a similar plight. About 6,200 of those persons served in combat zones during the conflict.

Veterans Furgess and Fred Tucker, executive director of the TVVLP, are attempting to get other area employers to participate in the referral program. In contacting employers, they stress that Vietnam veterans now are considered a minority and employers are eligible for the same tax credits in hiring them as they would be for blacks and women.

They also have enlisted the help of an impressive advisory board comprising veterans of the Vietnam era who are "well established" in professions in the Nashville area. The board consists of attorneys, doctors, businessmen and other professionals.

"We are using our advisory board members as catalysts to help the system work just a little

bit better," Tucker said. "We are utilizing their leadership abilities to help influence others in order to change the image of the Vietnam veteran that many people have."

Tucker said that until now, many of these veterans had been reluctant to be active in other veterans associations, both because of a lack of kinship with veterans of former wars and because of the "loser, Hollywood-style" image that has been given to those who served in Vietnam.

"People might ask, 'What makes a Vietnam veteran different from a veteran of World War II or Korea?'" Tucker said.

"The main thing is that this 18-year-old kid went to Vietnam thinking he was following in the footsteps of his father and his grandfather and when he got there he experienced a real culture shock."

One of the most abhorrent things to American military personnel in Vietnam was being pitted against women and children in combat and battling an enemy who was rarely seen. Within just a few short weeks — if he survived them — the teen-ager's psyche had been irrevocably altered, Tucker said.

A year later, when the soldier came home, he expected to resume his life where he left it, but things had changed, Tucker said.

FEB 25 1982

The Good News Report

By Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION
The David L. Huffman Story

Dave Huffman of Wilmington, Del., claims he was such a poor student, he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up home life and eight years in an orphanage. He didn't finish high school, dropping out in the 10th grade. When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was November 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman. On Sept. 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital at Da Nang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got

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Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the President it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments at 33, which include a brown belt in Judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, "Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want."

This issue of the Good News Report also appeared in the following:

The Post, Salisbury, NC

Lake News, Leesburg, FL

Hanover Horton Call, Hanover, MI

The Herald, Paintsville, KY

Viet vets to get help of buddies

Successful returnees
to work in program

By PATRICK J. KILLEN
United Press International

WASHINGTON — For a lot of Vietnam veterans, returning home meant quietly picking up the pieces of their lives and getting back to civilian occupations.

For some, however, readjustment has been difficult.

Now the government is tapping some of the more successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

Sponsored by ACTION, the government's volunteer agency, the program will be established in 50 communities, each with a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director who are both Vietnam veterans.

"We were patriots, not chumps," said John Baines, a Navy Seabee in Vietnam who is now a prosperous real estate broker in San Antonio, Tex. "It's now time to set the record straight."

Baines is the volunteer chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio, one of five communities where similar efforts are gathering steam.

The leadership program is designed to encourage successful Vietnam veterans to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by other veterans.

"I realize that while I worked hard these past 10 years for everything I've got, there are guys out there who haven't been quite so fortunate," said Baines. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

Besides San Antonio, initial programs have been started in Baltimore; Nashville, Tenn.; Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia.

William Jayne, deputy director of the national program, said, "High-quality Vietnam veterans, preferably with combat experience, and who have excelled in their jobs"

such as successful businessmen, lawyers and artists, are being sought as leaders to work on the program.

Programs will be tailored and developed for individual cities, with emphasis on solving the most severe local problems faced by veterans.

As an example, Jayne said, program leaders "might speak to a group of small businessmen or go one-on-one with larger employers" to improve employment opportunities by dispelling the stereotype of Vietnam veterans as "drug-crazed timebombs or hapless victims wallowing in self-pity."

Other efforts might include helping veterans who want to begin their own businesses, organizing activities such as veterans art shows or developing community support for a veterans center, Jayne said.

He said the next line of communities under consideration are Phoenix, Ariz.; Hartford, Conn.; Chicago; New York City; Boston; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis and Houston.

The program that began Oct. 1 with the new fiscal year will cost \$2 million per year for three years or approximately \$50,000 for each of the 50 cities. At the end of the third year, federal funds will be withdrawn, and the program will continue on local initiative.

Volunteers are not expected to do counseling or provide health facilities offered by other agencies, Jayne said. And they will not provide a referral service.

Monday, November 16, 1981

Successful Viet Vets Are Lending a Hand

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International
New York City

ARKANSAS GAZETTE
LITTLE ROCK, ARK.
M-120,000 F-145,000

NOV-11-81

Reagan Christens Program To Aid Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Mr. Reagan said, "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam veterans and to promote

a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Mr. Reagan said Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self-image,"

the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought."

"Contrary to an unjust stereotype," Mr. Reagan added, "a vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia."

However, he said, "There are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that could be traced to their wartime experiences."



Reagan and John Fales Jr., Blinded Veterans Association employment director.

—UPI Telephoto

NASHVILLE (TNN) BANNER

Bartholomew to head Vietnam vets program

From Banner staff and wire reports

Nashville attorney Sam Bartholomew was one of 28 persons who met with President Ronald Reagan in Washington Tuesday to kick off today's special Veterans Day salute to those who served in the Vietnam War.

Bartholomew, who will head a Vietnam veterans' leadership program in Tennessee, told Reagan that unlike veterans from other foreign wars, many Vietnam veterans have suffered emotionally from the unpopular conflict.

Bartholomew's comments were in keeping with the theme of today's Veterans Day salutes as the nation paid tribute to the often-ignored Vietnam veterans.

In Nashville, a veterans' parade from the corner of 16th Avenue and Broadway was to be led by Gov. Lamar Alexander to Centennial Park. The parade was slated to begin at 1 p.m.

Other Veterans Day activities were to include a visit to Nashville by Gen. Lew Allen Jr., chief of staff of the United States Air Force. He was scheduled to speak to a luncheon co-sponsored by the Nashville Exchange Club, the Middle Tennessee chapter of the Air Force Association and the

Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce.

The top Air Force officer was slated to speak at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at noon.

State and federal offices were closed today in honor of Veterans Day.

Bartholomew said his White House discussion with Reagan centered on the many Vietnam veterans who were left scarred by their service in Southeast Asia.

"Three million men went to Southeast Asia," he said, "and today there are about one-half million who still have problems."

Bartholomew said he was one of three persons who spoke with the president during the meeting in the White House's Rose Garden.

"I believe the president was genuinely emotional and, being a veteran as well as commander-in-chief, he felt unusually sincere," Bartholomew said.

He said the president told the crowd, "It is the time to recognize the Vietnam veteran" and added it is also time to restore pride in the military service.

State General Services Commissioner Francis Guess also attended the meeting and will serve on the state board.

Nashvillian Joins Reagan To Launch Vets Program

From STAFF, WIRE REPORTS

Nashville attorney Sam Bartholomew joined President Ronald Reagan in the White House Rose Garden Tuesday for the official inauguration of a new program to assist Vietnam War veterans.

Francis Guess, Tennessee commissioner of General Services, was also present for the ceremony launching the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, which is designed, among other things, to buff the tarnished image of the Vietnam vet.

"HOPEFULLY this (program) will be a beginning to restore some needed recognition and pride to those 3 million who served their country in Vietnam at great personal sacrifice," Bartholomew told the president during the brief ceremony.

"The stigma of serving one's country is, in my opinion, the paramount problem and this program will go a long way toward alleviating this attitude. It is the case that the Vietnam vets were not treated like veterans of other wars...

"Getting the Vietnam veterans out of the closet will, I believe, improve the self-esteem and pride of those who served during Vietnam and our other wars, as well as those who now serve and defend our country."

IN LAUNCHING the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, Reagan said:

"Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue. The nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation. They have never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication."

The leadership program will enlist the aid of Vietnam veterans who have succeeded in business to help other vets who are either unemployed or underemployed.

As outlined by Reagan the federal government will spend some \$2 million during each of the next three years to establish veterans assistance offices in 50 U.S. cities.

ONE OF THOSE offices will be located in Nashville and will operate under the guidance of Bartholomew, a West Point graduate and highly decorated veteran, who will become chairman of a state-wide, non-profit organization known as the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Program Inc.

"A fair bit can be done to help these veterans," Bartholomew said in the telephone interview from Washington yesterday.

"We will be helpful in getting assistance with employment programs and there is a possibility that we will create a Vietnam memorial."

SUCH A memorial would be particularly appropriate in Tennessee, Bartholomew said, since the first American to die in the Vietnam conflict was from Tennessee.

Preparations for opening the state office will begin next week, the attorney added. A director will be hired to man the office full time and a board of directors will be selected.

"We will be coming out with announcements in the coming weeks," Bartholomew said.

THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

The history of the United States of America is a story of a young nation that grew from a small colony of English settlers to a powerful world superpower. The story begins with the first English settlers in 1607, who established the first permanent English colony in North America. The settlers faced many hardships, but they persevered and built a thriving community. Over the years, the United States has grown in size and power, and it has played a major role in the world. The United States has been a leader in the fight for freedom and democracy, and it has helped to shape the world as we know it today.

The United States has a rich and diverse culture, and it has made many contributions to the world. The United States has been a leader in the field of science and technology, and it has helped to advance the human race. The United States has also been a leader in the field of art and literature, and it has inspired people all over the world. The United States is a country of many opportunities, and it is a country that is always moving forward.

The United States is a country of many achievements, and it is a country that is always striving for excellence. The United States is a country that is proud of its history, and it is a country that is proud of its future. The United States is a country that is always making progress, and it is a country that is always making a difference in the world.

South West

MEET BILL STENSLAND:



Bill Stensland cares about veterans.

VIETNAM WAR HERO HAS A CAUSE

By REED HARP
Staff Writer

He would much rather minimize the talk about his war experiences.

But as history goes, Bill Stensland is remembered by those who were there as one of the most distinguished combat leaders in the Vietnam War.

"Hey," he said, laughing, "I've been a househusband for the past 10 years. Now I want to talk about the veterans' program."

He's director of the San Antonio office of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program at the Petroleum Building, 8226 Tesoro Drive. The program was established nationally last year.

Stensland was seriously wounded on several occasions while serving as a Marine Corps captain in Vietnam from 1967 to 1971, with a year off in Hawaii in 1969.

He graduated from Jefferson High School in 1956 and the U.S. Naval Academy at Annapolis in 1960.

After the war, he studied history in graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin.

He commutes to San Antonio from Austin, where he lives with his wife, Judy, and their two sons and three daughters.

The son of an Army officer, he was born in Sioux Falls, S.D. and lived in California and Germany before coming to San Antonio in his youth.

At 44, and on disability retirement, Stensland accepted the veterans' program director's position last year for no pay, and has only very recently agreed to accept compensation from the program, into which he said he's put \$30,000 of his own money.

Returning from Vietnam in 1971, he was hospitalized for three years and in a wheelchair until three years ago.

"We just sent one of our men in the program to the International Wheelchair Olympics in Edmonton, Canada," he said. "Richard Thomas is winning up there, too."

Stensland does not talk about his war medals, one of which is the Silver Star.

He talks about Vietnam veterans:

"This program has two goals: to help needy Vietnam veterans in any way possible, and to enhance the public image of Vietnam veterans.

"Only a miniscule part of less than half a percentage point of Vietnam veterans are a burden on this society, and it's time the public realizes that fact," he said. "The rest are hard-working, successful citizens who just happened to have been in Vietnam to do a job and to do it well."

He was a Marine Corps company commander in Vietnam, and an adviser there to regional and provincial forces.

He's also the character named "Lenahan" in "A Sense of Honor," James Webb's novel about the Vietnam War.

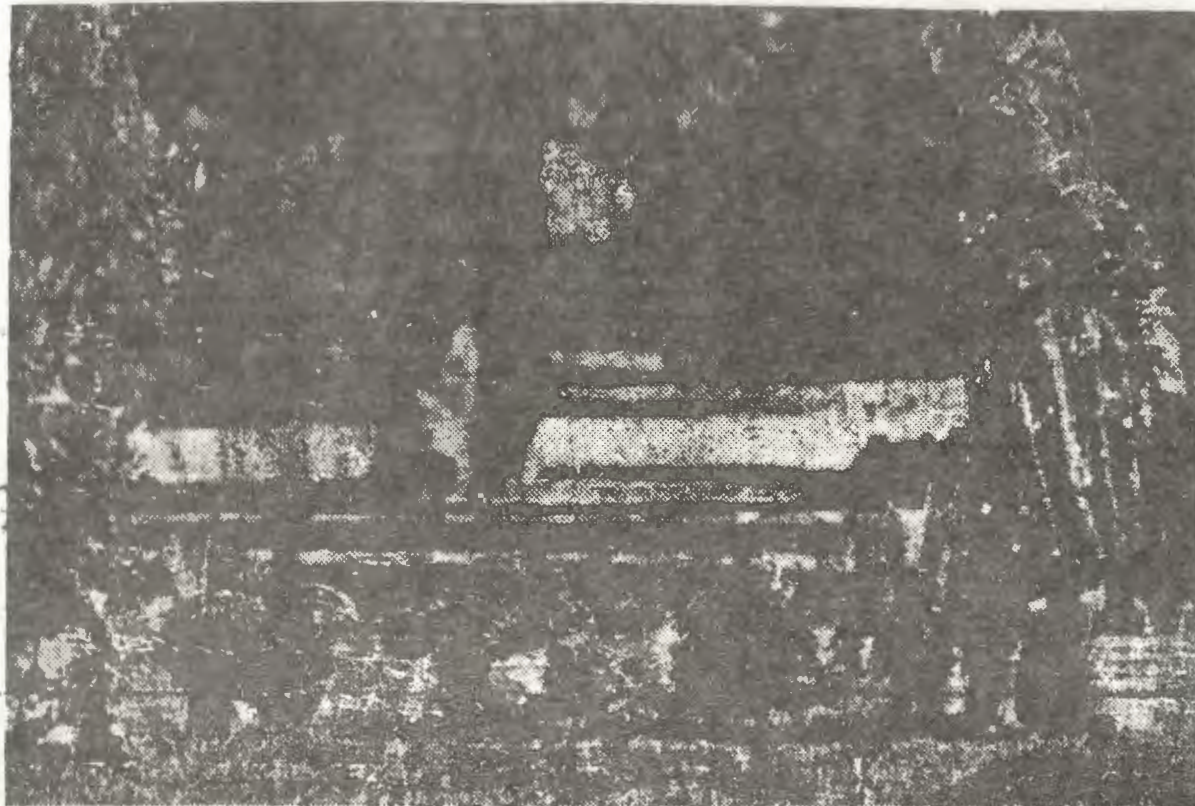
"I like midshipmen," Stensland said. "I like Marines. I like the people who work for me. I trust them implicitly until they prove otherwise; then they better watch out."

He loves to play bridge and has traveled to many bridge tournaments over the years.

About leadership, he simply said: "Loyalty down begets loyalty up. Respect the people who work for you."

Do you know someone you'd like the rest of San Antonio to meet? Send your suggestion to the City Desk, San Antonio Light, P.O. Box 161, San Antonio 78291.

7/82



Tom Yarcik, 89, stands near flowers she grew on his grave at Fairview Memorial Park. Many New Mexicans will be visiting cemeteries today to remember those who have died.

March Honors Vietnam, Bataan Vets

By LEAH LEACH
Journal Correspondent

EAGLE NEST — More than 400 people walked in a two-day volk-march honoring Vietnam veterans and the Bataan Death March survivors Memorial Day weekend.

Most dedicated their 10-kilometer 20-kilometer walks to a deceased Vietnam veteran, according to Ron May, head of the Angel Fire Resort Association, which sponsored the volk-march.

All volk-march routes led to the

Vietnam Veteran Peace and Brotherhood Chapel, built by Dr. Victor Westphal in memory of his son, David, who died in Vietnam. A memorial service at the chapel concluded the observances Sunday.

During the sundown service, approximately 300 people gathered outside the wing-shaped chapel, which overlooks the Moreno Valley. A flyover by four Army helicopters crested the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and signalled the beginning of the service.

Featured speaker Richard Broc-

co, the only living New Mexico Vietnam Medal of Honor winner, urged veterans to organize.

In a voice that broke occasionally, Rocca said, "47,000 vets died in Vietnam. 61,000 have died since the war. We can't go on like this. We have to do something because nobody else is going to do it for us."

Rocca said that the Vietnam War was lost politically, because troops from the United States were never defeated on the battlefield.

Those who died in Vietnam could have gone to Canada, said Rocca, or

enrolled in college, but they chose to go to Vietnam feeling the country was behind them.

The chapel, located between Eagle Nest and Angel Fire, is the only memorial in the nation dedicated to all Vietnam veterans. State and federal government have both elected not to support it. It has cost Westphal \$200,000 and is now being subsidized by the Disabled American Veterans.

More bitterness was heard from Tony Reyna, governor of Taos

Continued on A-3.

Volksmarch Honors Viet, Bataan Veterans

Continued From A-1

Pueblo and a Bataan survivor. "My Indian veterans are the least recognized of these veterans," he said.

Bataan survivors, most of whom are New Mexicans, marked their 40th anniversary this year.

John Garcia, director of the Vietnam Veterans of New Mexico Leadership, moderated the event. Garcia presented Westphal with a U.S. flag that flew over the Marine base

at Khe Sanh, where a regiment was besieged in 1967 and 1968.

Albuquerque residents — led by armed forces veterans — will pause to remember and honor those Americans who died serving their country.

Memorial Day services here will focus especially on the thousands of New Mexicans who fought in the Philippines during World War II — and the hundreds who perished on the infamous Bataan Death March.

Ceremonies at Bataan Park begin at 10 a.m.

Meanwhile, in Rio Rancho, the Service Veterans Council of Rio Rancho will sponsor a 10 a.m. parade in honor of war dead. More than 20 civic, fraternal and veterans groups are expected to participate.

In Santa Fe, memorial services will be held at the National Cemetery beginning at noon.

Texarkana, TX
Gazette
(Cir. D. 32,033)

JUN 3 0 1982

Veterans' program gets \$53,910 ACTION grant

20 LITTLE ROCK (UPI) — Rep. Beryl Anthony Jr., D-Ark., said Tuesday that ACTION, the federal volunteer agency, has awarded a \$53,910 grant to the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program of Arkansas.

In a release from his Washington office, Anthony said the program will be based at Pine Bluff but will operate statewide.

Don Grigg of Pine Bluff will be state director of the program which will operate with two paid staff members and numerous volunteers. Leon Clements, senior vice president of Simmons First National Bank in Pine Bluff, will be volunteer chairman for the program.

Grigg and Clements both are Vietnam veterans. Grigg is a disabled veteran who was awarded the Silver Star for heroism in Vietnam.

Grigg said the program has two goals: to provide professional assistance to veterans by coordinating programs and resources of government agencies and private organizations and to improve the public image of the Vietnam veteran.

Grigg said one of the most important aspects of the program is seeking the help of other Vietnam veterans who have the resources to volunteer technical and professional services to veterans "who lack the knowledge or ability to resolve personal or business-related problems."

Monday, June 28, 1982

Vets fight stereotype

By Dave Eskes
The Phoenix Gazette

You've seen the stereotype on TV dramas — the drug-saturated, maladjusted Vietnam veteran gone berserk, shooting up the city streets amid the wail of sirens and terrified citizenry.

Documentaries about "the only war America ever lost" focus on acts of malice by U.S. troops, drug abuse and subsequent anti-social behavior in civilian life.

"People have a misconception about Vietnam veterans," says Pat Chorpenning, 36, state projects director for the fledgling Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program of Arizona.

"For example, they point to their incredibly high divorce rate, even though others in that age group have the same problem. It's an unfair stereotype."

Chorpenning says 85 percent of those who served in Vietnam made a successful transition to civilian life. Of the remainder, he says, a small percentage "would've had problems anyway."

A former Marine officer who lost a leg near Danang, he is now coordinator for intergovernmental activities for the Arizona Department of Health Services.

Chorpenning attributes the distorted image to the media, politicians and the nature of the war.

"Vietnam became a 'TV serial,'" he explains. "You could turn it on at 6 or 10 and get the next episode. A lot of people became calloused."

"The media and politicians became very enchanted with that war. Everyone washed his hands of it except the veteran, who had that opportunity

"We didn't lose the war," he says. "It was lost in the halls of Congress."

Before Chorpenning joined the Marines, he was, as he describes it, "a super jock," an all-state football player in Maryland who also played baseball and ran track.

Of 120 men in his company, more than half were killed in an early morning ambush. Chorpenning caught shrapnel in both legs and arms; one chunk collapsed a lung.

"The amputation was no big deal," he says of the operation that removed his right leg just below the knee. "It was like getting an extended pair of shoes."

"But my right arm was another story. It required several operations and the loss of two-thirds of the tricep."

"I wondered why it had to be me, but I didn't feel any resentment," he continues. "It was a situation I created for myself, but it just didn't work out the way I wanted it to."

But Chorpenning — a robust, stocky man with a politician's grip — had other obstacles to overcome, such as a gnawing intolerance of other people's minor ailments. He credits his wife and two children for helping him find his emotional equilibrium.

In addition, the interplay between hospitalized veterans provided another avenue to readjustment — something the majority of other veterans did not have.

"You could always find somebody worse off than yourself," he says.

Chorpenning hopes the VVLPA, a brainchild of the Reagan administration funded by ACTION, will help clean up the soiled reputation of the Vietnam Vet.

The organization, with chapters in 30 states so far, seeks to assist the jobless veteran by arranging long-term employment via counseling and training.

At the same time, a public relations campaign is planned to inform the public of past and present contributions to society by Vietnam veterans.

"One of the first things we need to do is get together with industry," says Chorpenning. "To get 50 to 75 middle-management leaders who are Vietnam veterans and find out what the needs of industry will be three to five years down the road."

The leaders will form an advisory council from diverse fields and provide links to industry and business. "Then," says Chorpenning, "we'll bring in vets who need jobs."

Testing programs at the university level will reveal aptitudes and job preferences, plus ferret out applicants who are not serious about the program.

"We can't exhaust the meager resources we have on a small percentage of the veteran community using Vietnam as a crutch," he says.

"We want veterans to know we're not a giveaway program," says Chorpenning, explaining that many ex-servicemen are skeptical of agencies set up to assist them.

"Trust is a factor in a lot of problems veterans are having," he adds.

VVLPA, a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation, is recipient of a yearly grant of \$52,510. After the grant runs out in 1984, Chorpenning hopes business will pick up the tab.

"It's a tax advantage for corporations to

See • Vets, D-2

*Continue on the
next page*

● Vets

From D-1

contribute," he says, then rationalizes, "After all, a lot of them did very well during the war."

It was the Iranian hostage crisis, he says, that renewed the veteran's interest in his image. "He thought, 'Granted they're captive, but doesn't the public know what I've been through?'"

Chorpenning says the average age of the World War II serviceman was 26 in contrast to 18 for the Vietnam veteran.

"The Vietnam veteran was trained and sent to war, where he received recognition for his military skills. Then he came home and was penalized.

"'You dummy,' people were saying, 'Why didn't you tell the government

to stuff it and head for Canada?'"

"If we're going to pull together as a military force in the future," warns Chorpenning, "today's youth will have to be assured they will be recognized and rewarded just as those who came before them.

"We're telling the veteran, if you haven't been successful, for God's sake, there's nothing to be ashamed of. Get your act together and get on with life."

At this point, however, he says "the Vietnam vet is still waiting for his parade."

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program office is at 4949 W. Indian School Road. The phone number is 245-0092.

Vietnam veteran rode with luck

20

By Thomas Pauken
Director of ACTION
Often it seems
there's a hidden
purpose to luck.

In Vietnam, Bob Rummel was with the 101st Airborne Division. A member of a machine gun crew,

he and his fellow-gunner, for no particular reason, decided to change positions. No sooner had they done so than a misfired U.S. artillery round hit and instantly killed Rummel's buddy.

Dazed, knowing he was wounded, Rummel began looking for a medical aid station. His hand felt for the wound in his throat, and it was then he realized his jugular vein had been severed. He attempted to cut off the bleeding with his fingers. Again luck placed an aid station directly in his path. The medics did the rest. Had the station not been where it was, Rummel would not have survived.

After Bob returned home and attended the Georgetown School of International Relations, it appeared a political career was in the offing. However, after his wife, Marion, had their first child,

Erin, they began to think in terms of the kind of future they wanted.

The result was a look-see visit to Vermont in 1974. What they saw they liked, and a year later they took the plunge. Since boyhood, Rummel had been in and out of the construction business, so, in the town of Rochester, Vermont, the Robert E. Rummel Construction Co. was founded. In the beginning there was little more than a name.

Anyone who has given up city life knows there are large and difficult adjustments to make. Not the least of which is earning a living in a rural community. Today the Rummel Construction Company employs five neighbors during the hard winter months and 10 to 15 in the summer. In the last three years, Bob has tripled the company's size and earning power.

A member of the volunteer fire department, a citizen whose company performs volunteer services for the town, Bob Rummel is a volunteer in another capacity that ties in directly to that day in Vietnam 13 years ago. He is the Chairman of the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

As such, with the aid of Project Director Bill Fagginger-Auer, seven VVLP directors and nine ACTION volunteers, he is building a structure base on mutual aid, making Vietnam vets an identifiable group with grass roots support.

If a Vietnam vet has a business, he takes a chance on a vet who has had a tough time. If a vet doesn't know the ropes or he's hanging on them, the VVLP is there to counsel and to offer the kind of understanding that's meaningful.

As Bob says, "I waited a long while for a program like this to come along. Now we're helping lost veterans to finally find themselves."

It's not unlike a wounded G.I. stumbling through the jungle, bleeding to death, looking for help. Only today the medic in the aid station is Bob Rummel.

JUN 24 1982

Good News Report

A
By Thomas W. Pauken
Direction of ACTION

Often it seems there's a hidden purpose to luck. In Vietnam, Bob Rummel was with the 101st Airborne Division. A member of a machine gun crew, he and his fellow-gunner, for no particular reason, decided to change positions. No sooner had they done so than a misfired U.S. artillery round hit and instantly killed Rummel's buddy. Dazed, knowing he was wounded, Rummel began looking for a medical aid station. His hand felt for the wound in his throat, and it was then he realized his jugular vein had been severed. He attempted to cut off the bleeding with his fingers. Again luck placed an

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Anyone who has given up city life knows there are large and difficult adjustments to make. Not the least of which is earning a living in a rural community. Today the Rummel Construction Company employs five neighbors during the hard winter months and 10 to 15 in the summer. In the last three years, Bob has tripled the company's size and earning power.

A member of the volunteer fire department, a citizen whose company performs volunteer services for the town, Bob Rummel is a volunteer in another capacity that ties in directly to that day in Vietnam 13 years ago. He is the Chairman of the Vermont Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. As such, with the aid of Project Director Bill Fagginger-Auer, seven VVLP directors and nine ACTION volunteers, he is building a structure based on mutual aid, making Vietnam vets an identifiable group with grass roots support. If a Vietnam vet has a business, he takes a chance on a vet who has had a tough time. If a vet doesn't know the ropes or he's hanging on them, the VVLP is there to counsel and to offer the kind of understanding that's meaningful. As Bob says, "I waited a long while for a program like this to come along. Now we're helping lost veterans to finally find themselves."

It's not unlike a wounded G.I. stumbling through the jungle, bleeding to death, looking for help. Only today the medic in the aid station is Bob Rummel.

Vietnam veteran rode with luck

20
By Thomas Pauken
Director of ACTION
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BOB POLUNSKY'S FLICKER FOOTNOTES

HEROES IN 1982? THEY DON'T GET RESPECT

We need some heroes. It's not that there aren't any available. It's that we haven't put today's heroism in perspective. What's lacking is respect. If we felt it, it would show in our movies. It always has.

We found heroes during the Depression days. We had Errol Flynn, Doug Fairbanks Jr., Tyrone Power and other swashbucklers. Then World War II put those same heroes in modern uniforms. We clapped. We yelled. We showed respect. It was the patriotic thing to do, and movies played a major role in unifying the country.

Then we had to change. The Germans and the Japanese changed from "enemy" to "friend". The movies had to modify those images and re-route the public's feelings. We also had to find some bad guys over here to be "democratic" about it all. So there went the old-fashioned hero image. It was no longer cut and dried. Besides, TV was showing us in drastic close-ups what the horrors of war really were. TV made Korea and Vietnam real. The never-never land of the movies faded. So did the audience. Hollywood blamed television for taking away its audience, and, in truth, it did. But only because TV contrasted "realism" with "innocence", and "innocence" was something the public wouldn't buy any more. When there was a good story to tell, there was a good movie to be had. The public still bought tickets to see a good show. They still do. But the show has to be worth it.



RICHARD PRYOR

Different hero

And that brings us back to the idea of heroism. The Korean and Vietnam Wars were sore points with the public so Hollywood down-played the honest efforts of servicemen to survive those traumatic events. Regardless of the "right" of those wars, there were soldiers, sailors and pilots who came from homes right next door to the average moviegoer. They deserve respect, yet Hollywood hasn't put it in the right perspective.

We do have movies like "Some Kind of Hero" with Richard Pryor doing his comedy act in response to the problems of the war's aftermath. Playing a veteran is a different kind of role for Pryor. He is funny in the show, but the situations are tragic. Bill Stensland, Director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership program which aims to improve the public's image of the Vietnam veteran, said: "I was appalled at 'Some Kind of Hero'. Young people seeing it won't be aware of the seriousness of the situations and won't take the problems of the veteran seriously."

Stensland said we aren't showing respect for the veteran's problems today. Calling them "wrong" doesn't take away the problems the veteran has, and those problems have not reached the perspective of humorous acceptance. That's a different stage. First comes acknowledgment, and that means recognition of the heroics of survival itself.

Will Rogers once said that "we can't all be heroes," and even today's veterans realize that. Rogers also said "Somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by." Well, we used to applaud more of our movies, too.

(Bob Polunsky's *Flicker Footnotes* is heard weekends at 11:30 a.m. over KQXT-FM Stereo 102.)

1968-82

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**Good News Report
From Action**

BY: Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION

Rick Eilert, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, has written a book that is going to be published next year by William Morrow and Company. It's called *Three South*, and its title is taken from the name of the hospital ward Rick was on when he returned, badly wounded, from Vietnam in 1968. He hadn't planned to be a writer, but in those first months on *Three South* he found, like everyone on the ward, that it was impossible to communicate with those outside. Part of it was wondering why he had survived while his buddies were still fighting in Nam. Part of it was the failure of the American public to support or to understand the sacrifice the Rick Eilerts had made for their country. And so, for reasons of therapy, he began to write about life and reflections on "the dirty orthopedic ward"--called *dirty* because all those on it were suffering from festering, open wounds and bone damage; most of them no more than twenty years old.

When Rick left the naval hospital at Great Lakes, Ill., rated as 100 percent physically disabled with chronic bone disease and shrapnel still in his body, he was not disabled in his mind or in his desire to make a start. The writing he put aside. Later, he was to observe; "In addition to the hostile social attitudes encountered by the Vietnam veteran...he also found employment hard to find, but for the returning disabled veteran, finding a job was almost impossible."

For Rick it was. So in spite of the leg brace, the difficulty in getting around with partially paralyzed arms, he went to Europe and found work in several countries. In Spain he began to write again.

Ever since high school, there had been a girl named Cheryl. Following Vietnam, they had separated because, as he said, "You can't expect a 20-year-old girl to go around with an 85-year-old-man." In time, they narrowed the age gap and were married. It was Cheryl who encouraged him to write, who worked when he attended college, who was there when he had to have additional operations--Cheryl who is always there, the mother of their four-year-old daughter, and soon to be the mother of their second child.

There was also Bill Corson, a Marine veteran of three wars, a colonel in Vietnam, a bulwark of strength who keeps in touch. A professional writer of note, Corson read Rick's manuscript and was instrumental in putting it into the hands of a publisher. And so, *Three South* is coming out early next year. Meanwhile, its author is the Chicago project director for ACTION's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. "We face two major challenges," he says. "One is to erase the stereotype image of the Vietnam veteran as a loser, and the other is to extend a helping hand to fellow veterans in need of employment and hope."

It's a special job for a special guy...a veteran named Rick Eilert.

Indian Journal
Eufaula, OK
Circ. 2,491 X49

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It's a special job for a special guy...a veteran named Rick Eilert.

7 March 1982

VIEWPOINT



WILLIAM STENSLAND

'Conclusion was disturbing'

'WE OWE VIET VETS RESPECT'

On Jan. 31, The Light published Joseph A. Rehyansky's 'America Owes Most Vietnam Veterans Nothing.' This is an answer to that article by William C. Stensland, director of the San Antonio Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. He claims that even though the article "contained several valid and interesting points, the conclusion, exemplified by the headline, is rather disturbing."

BY WILLIAM C. STENSLAND

Every soldier, and especially those who serve honorably in combat, is owed at least the respect of his nation's citizenry. This is particularly true when in a democratic nation such as ours a few bear the burden of fighting for the rights of the many. During the Vietnam War, our soldiers fought for the rights of the few who violently protested against the war.

The naysayers will cry that their protests during the Vietnam War were against the government, not the soldier. These naysayers of today were then getting post-graduate degrees during the week and inciting protesters to riot during the weekend throughout the war. Ask any soldier how freely he felt to walk in uniform among a crowd of anti-war protesters in his own country, and he's apt to respond that he felt more comfortable in the jungle of Vietnam.

Too often returning Vietnam veterans, particularly those who were returning within the medical evacuation system, found that the closer they got to home, the less respectfully they were treated. The story of the maimed veteran being told

"you deserve it" is neither apocryphal nor isolated. It happened too many times in front of too many witnesses.

Joseph Rehyansky sarcastically refers to some 153,000 veterans who received "wounds not mortal." He lumps the permanently disabled (blind, paralyzed, maimed) with "those who got cuts, scratches or bruises, or a temporary ringing in the ears."

The number of veterans wounded in Vietnam was approximately twice the figure cited by Rehyansky. More importantly, I am certain that cuts, scratches, etc. did not qualify anyone to be considered as having received "wounds not mortal."

If that were the case, then some 2.5 million veterans would have been awarded an unlimited number of Purple Hearts. (If Rehyansky spent 12 months in Vietnam and was never cut, scratched or bruised, he is indeed a unique Vietnam combat veteran.)

On the other hand, if Rehyansky's thesis is correct, then roughly 85 percent of those who served in Vietnam deserve "nothing." I wonder how many of the 8 million men who volunteered to serve during the Vietnam War would have volunteered had they known that 85 percent of them would deserve "nothing" for their service? The all volunteer force would have been born 10 years earlier without the necessity of congressional legislation.

Rehyansky disparages the relatively small number of malcontents who attempt to focus the public's attention on the plight of Vietnam veterans. I wholeheartedly agree with him. The vast majority of us are not dope addicted alcoholic timebombs waiting to explode, nor are we placard-bearing protesters.

CONT'D

I further agree with Rehyansky that the television documentary "Frank: A Vietnam Veteran" was the product of breast-beating by malcontented Vietnam veterans. While they seek media attention, the media is all too eager to focus on our "plight." Sensationalism apparently sells better than success stories.

Rehyansky continues, saying that "every specific, legitimate complaint of Vietnam veterans can and should be equitably disposed of." Those who were permanently disabled should be cared for at taxpayers' expense for the rest of their lives. Those temporarily disabled should be rehabilitated, again at public expense.

Here, I also agree. Unfortunately, the Veterans Administration is incapable of handling the legitimate demands made of it. Its bureaucracy is too large, too well entrenched. Hence, even those who according to Rehyansky deserve treatment often cannot readily receive it.

Frequently during the past several months I have listened to Vietnam veterans complain that "the VA is impossible." The government has pledged its support to the veteran, but usually does everything in its bureaucratic power to discourage the veteran from claiming that which Rehyansky describes as "gifts" (i.e., educational benefits, civil service examination points, follow-up medical and dental care, re-employment rights and government-secured loans).

Even case officers of the Disabled American Veterans, probably the most effective and revered of all veterans associations, have complained to me of the endless delays involved in processing claims through the Veterans Administration. According to Rehyansky's argument, the veteran who seeks the various "gifts" available to him apparently should shrug his shoulders and walk away whenever he is confronted with this sort of bureaucratic barrier.

I disagree. Our nation, as well as all nations throughout history, always has rewarded its warriors for their contribution to both national defense and domestic tranquility. What Rehyansky describes as "gifts" are in fact promised rewards for gambling one's life or limb voluntarily to defend the right of all the other citizens to live in accordance with our nation's ideological standards.

Herein an irony abides in Rehyansky's argument. The very people who deserve our nation's full support face a nearly impassable roadblock in seeking that which is owed them. Too often this results in that which Rehyansky deplores — discontent. These former soldiers then become easy prey for the entreaties of "semi-professional Vietnam veterans" who are organized, however loosely, to generate media attention.

Rehyansky's argument concerning benefits is specious. My first reaction to his article was that he is one of the bitter veterans about

whom he complains. Were I qualified to do so, I would suggest that Rehyansky suffers from that which he adhors — post trauma stress syndrome. His argument fails mostly because of the bitterness with which he makes it.

One of the main problems among all Vietnam (and Vietnam-era) veterans both then and now is that respect for the soldier began to dwindle with the first media coverage of an anti-war protest. Those protesters could not spit on or hit at the president; so instead they picked an easy target — the soldier.

With the end of the war, even the usual "peacetime" respect for the soldier failed to emerge. Finally, respect for the soldier was virtually layed to rest when President Carter, as one of his first official acts, issued his pardon to deserters and draft dodgers (and then began taking them into the highest positions in government!).

If we Vietnam veterans deserve one complaint, this is it: Our nation lost respect for its soldiers while those soldiers were performing the very acts which for centuries had heretofore earned the highest respect among citizens of all nations, including our own.

Why was that respect lost? It was lost because a small, rich, vocal group of anti-war intellectuals captured the attention of the nation's media. In the process of vilifying our government, this group, its followers and the media pinpointed the soldier as its easiest target.

To Rehyansky I say we are owed some-

CONT'D

SAN ANTONIO LIGHT 3/7/82

thing. We are owed the respect stolen from us by the handfull of cowards who used the soldier as its whipping boy. Restore to us that respect traditionally granted returning warriors and I think the effectiveness of the small groups of semi-professional Vietnam veteran malcontents will soon dwindle.

Statistics on veterans are easily come by. All of us are "in a computer" somewhere. Approximately 2.5 million of us are "Vietnam veterans." I would like to see a statistical analysis of 2.5 million non-servicemen from the Vietnam-era, with emphasis placed on the individual's participation in anti-war, pro-drug, pro-hippie, anti-government activities.

The average soldier serving in Vietnam was 19 (as compared to the World War II soldier's average age of 26). It must have been traumatic for the soldier to travel alone, without his comrades, from rice paddy to luxury hotel to rice paddy within a five-day period. Although all soldiers were "men" in combat situations, few were mature enough to handle the emotional experience of traveling from hell to heaven and back again to hell within five days.

Finally, Rehyansky says that "those of us who came back hale and hearty, like me (Rehyansky), and most of the rest of us, are owed nothing." With this I adamantly disagree. The pride and professionalism of a nation's military force derives from the respect shown it by the citizenry. During peacetime that respect is not so evident as during wartime, yet it is still there.

Generally, I must confess that I share Rehyansky's views concerning the Vietnam veteran malcontents. We do not need to emphasize the serious problems of a few of us. Somewhere there exists an organization capable of resolving virtually all problems of all veterans who honestly deserve and want help. Vietnam veterans do not need to use protest tactics to ensure their rights. Our pride and professionalism should preclude us from resorting to such tactics.

On the other hand, I can sometimes sympathize with the protesters for their antics because of their frustrations. I don't agree with their methods, however. Instead of protesting their loss of rights or privileges, I suggest they implore the American public to restore to them the most valuable asset of any nation's military force — respect.

The debt our nation owes its Vietnam veterans, and all veterans, was eloquently described by President Reagan on Nov. 10, 1981, during his announcement of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. The president reminded us that "millions of young Americans, when they were called upon, did their duty and demonstrated courage and dedication in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win ... We should always remember that in a hostile world a nation's future is only as certain as the devotion of its defenders, and the nation must be as loyal to them as they are to the nation." ■

23 FEB 82

Good News Report

347-349
by Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION

The David L. Huffman Story

Dave Huffman of Wilmington, Del., claims he was such a poor student he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up home life and eight years in an orphanage. He didn't finish high school, dropping out in the 10th grade.

When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was Nov. 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman. On Sept. 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital at Da Nang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got worse.

He came home to find he really wasn't wanted, not as a veteran, not with his disability which was too much of an inconvenience for those around him to handle. The future looked extremely bleak, but Dave was not willing to accept defeat. "I knew I had to turn my life around," he said. "And I knew I had to rely on my head."

He entered the Hines VA Rehabilitation Center in Chicago, Ill., to learn to adjust and how to cope in a world of darkness. The course was scheduled to last four months; for David it lasted six. He passed his high school equivalency and was making steady progress when he was in an automobile accident which left him with a broken back, paralyzed from the neck down. He wasn't about to quit, wasn't going to be left lying flat. He began lifting weights in bed. Determination combined with medical treatment put him back on his feet.

But now what to do?

At first, he figured he'd be content with unskilled work, not demanding much of himself or of anybody; a nine-

to-five job with a beer waiting for him at the end of the day.

Two things happened. He couldn't find employment, and at a dance he met Sharon Ann.

"She turned the world around for me," he said. She convinced him to go back to school, and with the VA benefits due from his military service, he did so. He was the first blind student to earn not one but two degrees from Wilmington College - in behavioral science and in criminal justice. He was also the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School. Soon, he'll be taking his bar exams, and he plans to specialize in international law.

Right now he's a program planner in the New Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer

agency. The purpose of the program is one of aid, from veterans to veterans, whatever the need may be. Dave has definite ideas on ways to approach employers, ideas that are innovative and different. "You've got to accentuate the positive," he says, and he's living proof of that axiom.

Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the President it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments at 33, which include a brown belt in Judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, "Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want."

LEGION LEADER

SAN ANTONIO, TX

The Post That Sets The Pace

VOLUME XXX

FEBRUARY, 1982

Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

On 10 November President Reagan announced the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. San Antonio was selected as one of five cities to start the program; eventually there will be fifty cities selected throughout the nation.

The San Antonio Vietnam Leadership program is an incorporated, non-profit organization. It will receive a grant of some \$50,000 per year for three years from ACTION. The volunteer chairman is Mr. John D. Baines, the president of John D. Baines Properties, Inc. of San Antonio. The volunteer director is Mr. William C. Stensland, a retired Marine who resides in Austin, Texas. The organization has one employee, Mr. Mike Harris, who acts as clerk, secretary, and administrative aid.

The program has two goals. First, to provide professional assistance to Vietnam veterans by coordinating capabilities of existing government and private organizations. Most important in this regard is that the program seeks the time and effort of fellow Vietnam veterans who have the resource to provide technical and professional services on a volunteer basis to those among us who lack the knowledge or ability to resolve personal or business-related problems.

Our second goal is to upgrade the public's image of the Vietnam veteran. The various media too frequently have concentrated on the few less fortunate among us who have not been able to cope with emotional, economic, or legal problems. If one among us is publicized for a particular achievement, the least emphasized aspect of his career is service in Vietnam. The reverse was true a generation ago - service in World War II or Korea was and remains a revered symbol. Service in Vietnam was and still is something to be hidden or downgraded. This is totally unfair and should not be tolerated. Hiding or denegrating service to one's country is anathema to the American ethic.

From a more practical standpoint, some ten or twenty years from now the Vietnam veteran may be the backbone of all the numerous veterans organizations in this country. It will be Vietnam veterans who will be actively pushing for Federal and State support for all our nation's veterans.

Yes, if the American public continues to view the Vietnam veteran as an alcoholic, dope addicted, war crazed walking time bomb waiting to explode, then whatever clout veterans organizations have today will soon dissipate in geometrical proportion.

Our message to the American public is that the vast majority of us are normal, middle-class, next-door neighbors. We go to work regularly, whether in Levis and T-shirt or coat and tie. We don't beat our wives, we love our children, we go to church, we vote, and participate in community affairs.



Yes, a small minority among us have had and still have a great many problems. The rest of us have problems, too, but we resolve them in logical, conventional ways.

At the same time, a much larger minority among us are highly successful in our field of endeavor, whether it be professional, political, business, or trade-oriented.

For the rest of us - the vast majority - we, too are highly successful in our own right. We may all be looking forward to our next promotion or pay raise, but so too is the vast majority of the American public.

Yes, despite the relative success of so many of us, the American public is continually bombarded with the war crazed veteran image that has become stereotypical of us. Unless this image is changed, the American veteran is going to face a long dry spell of an inattentive public and an unresponsive Congress. Patriotism and service to country will lose the esteem that has existed throughout our nation's history.

The Vietnam veteran was equally as brave and noble as his predecessors. Yet, he was and continues to be publicly vilified and scorned. The actions of a few have stigmatized the vast majority.

We must change this image. If it is not changed, then the future of public support for all veteran's programs will be seriously jeopardized. Coincidentally, if the image is changed then perhaps many related problems - unemployment, underemployment, legal, emotional - will be reduced considerably among Vietnam veterans.

San Antonio, TX

Express DEC 7 1981
(Cir. D. 82,122)
(Cir. S. 183,865)

Now action to help Vietnam veterans

Now something more than a pious statement of good intentions is going to be done to help Vietnam veterans.

San Antonio is one of five cities chosen from across the nation for the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

The other cities are Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and Nashville.

The program recently was announced by President Reagan at a White House conference. The program will be part of ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Primarily under this program successful veterans are volunteering to help solve the problems still faced by their fellow veterans.

San Antonian John D. Baines, a commercial real estate broker and developer with operations across the Southwest, is chairman of the program here and one of five national chairmen. He is a Vietnam combat veteran.

William C. Stensland is unpaid program director for San Antonio. He was a highly respected Marine combat officer in Vietnam — twice wounded.

Said Baines of the program:

"This nation was ripped and torn apart by the Vietnam War and the Leadership Program can pull it back together again. . . . We were patriots not chumps! It's now time to set the record straight."

Vietnam veterans' leadership program opens

Three Vietnam veterans, volunteering to raise the posture of the minority of veterans who have not adjusted as they have, joined U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler Saturday in announcing the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio.

The center for the program, which will open Monday, will be located at 8626 Tesoro Drive. It will be one of five pilot offices devoted to helping Vietnam veterans under a program established by President Reagan in November. Other pilot offices will be in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Wilmington and Nashville.

"The program we are opening today in San Antonio," Loeffler said, "will be a prototype for an expanding national program which should provide invaluable assistance to combat veterans and help all Americans gain a better understanding of what these men went through and how the war affected them."

During the news conference at the Marriott Hotel, Loeffler presented the

local directorship, consisting of Chairman John D. Baines, director William Stensland and national deputy director Ed Timberlake of Washington, D.C.

Baines and Stensland are combat veterans, and Timberlake is a veteran Marine F-4 pilot.

They said they will try to pool veterans in the private sector — professional, technical and service workers — who can assist combat veterans who are unemployed, underemployed or needing counseling.

The program will receive federal funds of \$50,000 per year for three years, Timberlake said.

The leaders stressed the new program was not formed to replace other programs that assist Vietnam veterans. They added while all Vietnam veterans can be assisted by the program, they primarily are interested in helping the 5 percent who have not completed adjusted, most of whom are combat veterans.

About 10,000 Vietnam veterans are in San Antonio, Baines said.

AJO COPPER NEWS

Thursday, November 19, 1981

Viet Nam vet Jim Hartdegen helping others

Representative Jim Hartdegen was named November 10th in Washington D.C. to be State Chairman of the new Vietnam Leadership Program. This is a program in which successful Vietnam Veteran volunteers will try to assist their fellow Vietnam Veterans solve problems associated with their service. Action, the National Volunteer Agency, oversees administration of the community based program.

In 1967, Hartdegen was a fire team leader in the Army with the 25th Infantry Division in the area of War Zone C. After his discharge, Hartdegen attended Mesa Community College and Arizona State University. While attending college, he also worked in the Arizona State Senate.

"I believe, as a Vietnam Veteran, I have a responsibility to help veterans of Vietnam who have service connected problems." Hartdegen went on to say, "when I came home from my tour of duty, I also had problems of readjusting to regular life from the jungles of Vietnam to the streets of Eloy. It only took 48 hours. From war to peace in such a short time was a shock to say the least. Although most returning Vietnam Veterans have done quite well and have been successful in their professions and businesses, it's time we help our fallen warriors. The Vietnam War lasted ten years and nine months; the longest war of our history. For some people who spent time in southeast Asia, the war is still going on. However, I believe with the help of VVLP, positive things will happen."

International
New York City

TIMES HERALD
DALLAS, TEXAS
E-245,000 3-31-81

NOV-16-81

Help for Vietnam vets

Although he did it somewhat grudgingly, President Reagan is to be commended for signing into law a bill that grants medical-care eligibility to Vietnam-era veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange and for inaugurating a volunteer program that will help veterans find jobs and overcome personal problems that may have had their roots in military service.

The programs represent victories for Vietnam veterans who felt they were ignored by the government they served in a bloody, forsaken arena.

As he signed the medical-aid bill, the President said he hoped it would be administered in a manner that would not "add to budgetary costs of Veterans Administration medical care and treatment." Many Vietnam war veterans who were exposed to Agent Orange believe they can prove that the defoliant caused many of the costly medical problems that have plagued them and their children, ranging from skin rashes to genetic defects.

Although an appropriation to fund the measure has not yet been approved by Congress, the bill also authorizes a new small business loan program for disabled and Vietnam-

era veterans and sets the number of hospital and nursing home beds in Veterans Administration medical facilities at not less than 100,000.

The volunteer program will be under the direction of Tom Pauken of Dallas, head of the federal ACTION program and a Vietnam veteran himself, as well as a two-time candidate for Congress. To be called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, it will last for three years and establish centers in 50 major cities to offer guidance and employment help for Vietnam veterans.

The creative aspect of the program is that the centers will be headed on a volunteer basis by men and women who served in Vietnam but have overcome whatever physical and mental scars they may have suffered to lead successful lives.

President Reagan was right when he said that the U.S. troops who fought in Vietnam "have never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication in a war they were not allowed to win." The two federal programs are a decent and proper start toward making up for that deficiency.

NOV. 12-81

Veterans Program:

Healing the Wounds

Abraham Lincoln laid down the premise that still guides the federal relationship with veterans. The government, Lincoln instructed, has an obligation to "care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphan."

Appropriately, President Reagan recently signed an 11.2 percent increase in disability payments for 2.3 million disabled veterans and their survivors, thus keeping the nation's covenant with its servicemen.

And on the eve of Veterans' Day, the administration announced the creation of a new program to help heal wounds remaining from the Vietnam War. The self-help effort, called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, is designed to enlist Vietnam veterans in voluntarily helping fellow veterans with problems.

The program is the brainchild of Tom Pauken, director of ACTION, the federal

agency that coordinates volunteer programs. Pauken, a Vietnam veteran, has designed the program to tap the leadership of the estimated 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans who have made a successful transition to civilian life. The idea is to minister to veterans who need a friend or a job — and do so with a human touch, rather than through a distant bureaucracy.

The continuing controversy over what would be the most suitable memorial to the Vietnam veterans in Washington, D.C., is a reminder that we are still at war among ourselves about the Vietnam conflict. But it is fast approaching a decade since the United States removed itself from the Southeast Asia battle, and the time is long overdue to show our gratitude and compassion for those who served. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is a much-needed step in that direction.

Dallas, TX
Morning News
(C. 283 748)
(Dir. S. 336,320)

Program to utilize Viet vets

20
By William J. Choyke
Washington Bureau of The News

WASHINGTON — At a meeting of Vietnam War veterans in Dallas several years ago, lawyer Tom Pauken looked around the room and was impressed with the caliber of veterans around him.

"I thought at the time, 'If you could only marshal that talent' " to help other veterans help themselves, Pauken, a Vietnam veteran, said Tuesday.

As director of ACTION, the federal agency that coordinates volunteer programs, Pauken has done just that. He has organized a growing group called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program that is designed to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans.

11/81
President Reagan, who joined Pauken and other Vietnam veterans at a brief White House ceremony, formally launched the program Tuesday on the eve of Veterans Day.

"The nation must be as loyal to these veterans as they are to the nation," Reagan said.

The ACTION-backed program, approved by the president July 16, will encourage Vietnam veterans to volunteer their services to help the estimated 500,000 veterans who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience. The project also is aimed at enhancing the image of the Vietnam veteran as well as dealing with problems of unemployment and underemployment.

"More than 80 percent of the Vietnam veterans who came home have made the successful transition back to civilian life and are doing fine," said Pauken, who has been defeated twice as a congressional candidate for the 5th District in Dallas. "There are those that still do need help, but it does them no service to encourage them to wallow in self-pity to reinforce their doubts about their own self-worth."

Programs are under way in six cities, including one led by John D. Baines in San Antonio. By next October, Pauken predicted, 50 programs will be established in cities throughout the country at an average cost of about \$50,000 per year each.

ACTION has budgeted \$2 million for the veterans leadership program in each of the next three years.



United Press International

President Reagan confers with John Fales Jr., employment director of the Blinded

Veterans Association, after officially inaugurating a veterans self-help program.

S.A. man leads fight to improve Viet vet's image

By REED HARP ²⁰
Staff Writer

John Baines is a man with a mission.

And this time, it's not in the jungles of Vietnam, but right here in San Antonio, against an enemy he says is as deadly as anything he and his comrades encountered in combat.

Target: the public image and self-esteem of this country's Vietnam veterans.

Baines volunteered for this one, too. And he has just returned from private meetings in Washington, D.C., with President Reagan, where he — along with four other Vietnam combat veterans — was called upon by the president to "turn the image of the Vietnam veteran around, once and for all."

And this time, these "troops" have the full support of Congress and the president.

Their goal: to establish the President's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, in order to help Vietnam veterans readjust to public mistrust, opposition and ambivalence, and to re-establish in those veterans the self-esteem so many lost because they "fought a war they weren't allowed to win, during a time when this nation's support of their effort was quite a bit less than whole-hearted," Baines said.

"I've carried this thing around on my chest for 10 years," he said, "and enough is enough. I was so damned mad when I came back from Vietnam, it took me a couple of years to even start getting my head straight. And I'm still working at it. No parades. No blessings. Just a lot of very serious flak about Vietnam and the men and women who served there."

Baines is a 35-year-old commercial real estate broker and developer with local and international business interests. He stands 6 feet, 3 inches tall and weighs 240 pounds. He graduated from Robert E. Lee High School and attended the University of Texas at Austin, where he played center and tackle on the UT football team.

"When I got back from Vietnam, I tried to go back to college in Austin, but it just didn't work. I couldn't study, couldn't concentrate. And, I was bitter, real bitter, I had no one to talk to about it. All I could think about was the guys over in Vietnam — where I had been just six months before."

He served two combat tours in Vietnam as an enlisted man — a Navy SEAL (that's "sea, air and land"), a highly trained, special combat Navy force, operating many times just a few miles from the North Vietnam border, "nowhere close to the water."



JOHN BAINES
Man with a mission

His decorations include the Purple Heart, and a list of medals and commendations he — like so many other veterans — is reluctant to discuss, saying, "Well, I just did a job like a lot of other dedicated people, but I sure don't like the 'hero' image."

Baines will be chairman of the San Antonio effort, for which he has refused any compensation. Similar operations will take place in Philadelphia, Baltimore, Boston and Phoenix.

"We'll have a nice office with nice furniture. It won't be a 'store-front mission'," he said. "Services to Vietnam veterans will include help with job-finding, psychiatric counseling, educational pursuits, medical affairs and anything we can do for the less-fortunate Vietnam vets — a clearing house."

The program's formal opening is set for Dec. 5, with a host of dignitaries and officials expected to participate.

Baines said the program will be run "by Vietnam veterans for Vietnam veterans" — as a non-profit corporation. He said that by the end of this year, there should be a dozen more similar offices around the country, and predicts that by the end of Reagan's term there will be a least 50 such offices.

William C. Stensland of Austin will be director of the San Antonio program. An Annapolis graduate and former Marine Corps major, Stensland is said to be one of the most highly decorated and highly respected Vietnam combat veterans in the country. Baines said several Marines have been quoted as saying that if they "had to go back into combat, and could pick a commander," they would choose Stensland "hands down," adding Stensland was the type of leader whose primary concern was his men.

Baines said Stensland, too, has refused any compensation for his duties, and will commute from Austin to direct the San Antonio program.

Baines made it clear that the disenchantment experienced by so many Vietnam veterans "is going to become a thing of the past, and fast."

"The Vietnam War did an untold amount of damage to this country's morale and to the morale of many of the men and women who fought there. We're going to turn that around," he said.

"There are many, many well-adjusted, successful men and women who fought in Vietnam — congressmen, businessmen, attorneys, doctors and people from all walks of life. It's nonsense to look upon Vietnam veterans with anything less than the fullest admiration and respect that is due them."

"The military man that the United States sent into Vietnam was the best-equipped, most elite fighting force this nation and the world has ever known," Baines said.

OCT 30 1981

Vietnam vets job location program planned

Sylvia Campbell
Medill News Service

WASHINGTON - A new volunteer program to help Vietnam veterans find jobs is in the planning stages for 50 U.S. communities before the end of fiscal year 1982, officials say.

The new program will recruit successful, established veterans to serve as volunteers to help other veterans who are jobless because of problems associated with their Vietnam military service.

The new program, operating through ACTION, the federal agency for volunteer service, will attempt to stimulate the private sector to hire veterans, said William Jayne, a deputy director of ACTION.

"We would like to see South Dakota as one of the areas to benefit by the program," said ACTION staffer Marsha Landau.

Jayne, however, said that so far "no hard and fast list of the communities where we are going to go" has been made.

"That will depend to a great degree upon securing the right volunteers," he said. "We want to make an effort to include both urban and rural areas."

Under the program, a successful Vietnam veteran in each community will be chosen as a volunteer to coordinate the community's program. Each program will be designed according to the results of a community assessment made by ACTION.

"At that time, the community's problems and needs will be assessed as well as the problems of the veterans living there," Jayne said.

"Each volunteer veteran would be providing a positive role model while using his position in the community to stimulate interest in local organizations that would use local funds to help unemployed veterans find jobs."

Grants of \$50,000 per city will be awarded once the volunteer veteran for each community has been chosen, Jayne said.

Rosenberg, TX
The Herald-Examiner
(Cir. D 7,000)

FOCUS:

20 Vietnam Vets Finally In Limelight

By United Press International
Vietnam War veterans, rebuffed by a nation that chose to ignore the war they fought, were the special focus of Veteran's Day celebrations Wednesday and the beneficiaries of a new self-help program initiated by President Reagan.

Federal, state and local government offices, along with most banks and schools, will be closed across the country in commemoration of the nation's servicemen and women.

In a special ceremony Tuesday, Reagan said U.S. troops

who fought in Vietnam "never received the thanks they deserve for their extraordinary courage and dedication ... in a war they were not allowed to win."

"Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue," he said as he announced the start-up of a Vietnam veterans' program that is geared to buff their tarnished image and increase their chances for jobs.

The new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program has been budgeted \$2 million per year for three years and "is designed to draw volunteers from the

pool of successful Vietnam veterans to provide guidance for those with lingering problems," he said.

Gen. William C. Westmoreland, commander of American forces in Vietnam, said the nation is moving out of an "irrational, sordid period as the scars of Vietnam begin to heal and the Vietnam vet is beginning to be recognized as an asset to the nation."

The eight servicemen who died trying to rescue the former American hostages in Iran were to be eulogized by Dorothy Royer.

New chief alters course of ACTION

By Marjorie Miller
Staff Writer

Vietnam veteran Thomas Pauken, President Reagan's director of ACTION, says the often-controversial federal agency that runs a variety of volunteer programs will be "180 degrees different" under his leadership than under that of anti-war activist Sam Brown.

"He concentrated on funding New Left politically oriented projects," Pauken said of his predecessor, who headed the agency under President Carter. "I don't think that is the job of the federal government. We are cutting out those programs."

Pauken was on the Stanford University campus Wednesday for a regional conference of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), one of ACTION'S projects.

Pauken said under his tenure ACTION will cut its support to public-interest and consumer groups such as Ralph Nader's Public Interest Research Group, and the Laurel Springs Institute, run by Tom Hayden and Jane Fonda, which trained VISTA volunteers in community organizing.

Over the next two years Pauken will phase out Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), one of half a dozen groups in the ACTION umbrella organization. VISTA sent volunteers into low-income communities to work with local groups.

Instead, Pauken will put his resources into ACTION's elderly volunteer programs and will create new programs to work with problems of run-away youths, drug abuse, illiteracy and Vietnam veterans.

And he wants to establish a youth volunteer program to encourage high school and college students to donate their time to helping people.

"I believe we have got to reclaim a sense of community in our society, and government should provide technical assistance, financial assistance and act as a catalyst," Pauken said.

"We are turning our back on the Judean-Christian ethic in an attempt to substitute a value-free society. You get unforeseen consequences with that," Pauken said.



Thomas Pauken

"There is a breakdown of the family structure, a cultural bombardment upon people to do their own thing and just worry about themselves. It is what I call individual isolationism," he said.

He said that volunteerism is a way to battle the disintegration of family and society. He said he is particularly attracted to the older American volunteer programs which "are nothing more than the idea of an extended family."

ACTION has three programs for senior citizens: the Foster Grandparent Program, which has 17,370 senior volunteers working with mentally, physically and emotionally handicapped children; RSVP, which has 274,700 volunteers helping public and private non-profit organizations; and the Senior Companion Program has 3,585 older people providing companionship to other elderly citizens.

Pauken said he is organizing a Vietnam veteran leadership program, which will recruit Vietnam war veterans to counsel fellow veterans who have not been able to readjust to society.

"It will be run from top to bottom by veterans," Pauken said.

"There is a mythology that Vietnam veterans are guilt-ridden victims. There is a group that wants to

I am tired of reading about them as psychos, killers and losers. That is unrepresentative of the great bulk of vets."

-- Thomas Pauken

keep them stereotyped, but they have to be looked at as leadership. I am tired of reading about them as psychos, killers and losers. That is unrepresentative of the great bulk of vets," Pauken said.

"Eighty percent of the Vietnam veterans are successful and can help veterans who need a boost, who lost three or four years when their peer group was moving ahead."

Pauken, who headed a student support group for Vietnam soldiers in 1965, enlisted in the Army in 1967 and served in Vietnam for a year.

He did what he called "rather limited intelligence work" in Chau Doc, in the Mekong Delta, for eight months in 1969. That led to his ACTION nomination being held up for two months earlier this year.

Sen. Alan Cranston and other Senate liberals said they were worried Pauken's Army intelligence background would jeopardize recruitment and the legitimacy of the Peace Corps, the foreign volunteer organization that also comes under ACTION.

Pauken says that is a "bogus issue" since the Peace Corps has its own director and, he says, is politically autonomous.

ACTION, with a budget next year of about \$145,000 has 305,000 volunteers. The Peace Corps and VISTA were the original federal volunteer groups established in the 1960s. The Peace Corps was founded by President Kennedy and VISTA by President Johnson.

San Jose, CA
(Santa Clara Co.)
Mercury
(Cir. D. 149,544)

AUG 28 1981

Phoenix Co.)
Phoenix Republic
(Cir. D. 228,085)
(Cir. D. 347,801)

JUL 22 1974

1794 **Plan for helping Vietnam veterans considered by volunteer agency**

553
Helping Vietnam war veterans is among proposed new projects for ACTION, a federal volunteer agency.

Phillip D. Brady of San Francisco, Western regional director of the agency, said in Phoenix on Tuesday that the agency is considering recruiting Vietnam veterans as volunteers to counsel their peers who suffer delayed-stress syndrome and other postwar problems.

Brady, quoting a Time magazine article, said there are 2.9 million Vietnam veterans and that as many as one-fourth are having adjustment problems.

Vietnam veterans have made it clear that their postwar experience is vastly different from those of veterans of other wars, Brady said.

"Previous veterans came home to a heroes' welcome, while the Vietnam veteran felt he had to slip back into society and refer to his experiences as little as possible," Brady said.

The agency still is working on the blueprint for its veterans' aid, but possibilities include setting up storefront counseling services similar to those now operated by the Veterans Administration, he said.

"It would tie in with the concept of volunteerism rather than paid counselors," Brady said.

The Agent Orange controversy probably would not be addressed by the agency, he said. Many veterans have claimed the defoliant, which was sprayed in the jungles of Vietnam, has caused cancer and skin rashes in veterans and birth defects in their children.

ACTION might act as a referral service for veterans who claim ill effects from Agent Orange, Brady said.

He said ACTION "will be dealing more with emotional problems, adjustment problems."

— Volunteer, B2

Volunteer 553

Continued from B1

Brady is conducting inspection tours of ACTION agencies in Arizona, California and Nevada to see where new programs such as the veterans' proposal could be plugged into existing projects.

The drug-abuse problem in Arizona, for example, could be alleviated by having trained older citizens counsel young people, he said.

In Phoenix, he toured sites for the

Retired Senior Volunteer Program, Senior Companion Program, Foster Grandparent Program and VISTA.

Brady said Tom Pauken of Washington, ACTION's national director, also has pinpointed programs to combat youth illiteracy, drug abuse and running away as proposed new initiatives for the agency.

At a time when other government agencies and programs are facing budget cuts, ACTION can look forward to program expansion, Brady said.

Vietnam Vets Get New Forum

By JACK LAVELLE

Capital-Specialist

Vietnam-era veterans — labeled frustrated and alienated — will have

a new forum for airing gripes and turning their lives around, according to Action Director Thomas Pauken.

The symposium hearing will come from other veterans who have been there, but have not been left out, locked up or forgotten, he said.

Using a model drawn from sub-



PAUKEN

stance abuse programs, Pauken said Monday he will solicit volunteers from the thousands of ex-GIs who have found there is indeed life after Vietnam.

Pauken was recently confirmed by the U.S. Senate as director of Action, which encompasses the Peace Corps and VISTA, as well as youth and elderly volunteer service groups.

HE WAS IN Phoenix to address a Monday session of the 17th Oppor-

tunities Industrialization Centers convention, which runs through Wednesday.

"I have seen a real distortion of what the Vietnam veterans are all about," said Pauken, 37, a former Army intelligence officer who served in Vietnam.

"They're seen as killers, dopers and liars for going to Vietnam in the first place," he said in an interview. "There is an attempt to identify them as victims who are entitled to compensation for their service in Vietnam."

"In reality, 80 percent of them are not apologetic or ashamed and, in fact, have done well."

Turn to VIET, Page A-1

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, TUESDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 2, 1968

THE PHOENIX GAZETTE

Vietnam Vets Get New Forum

(Concluded from Page A-1)

PAUKEN SAID HE believes a troubled ex-serviceman will have an easier time relating to someone with a common background, rather than trying to explain fears and attitudes to a stranger.

He said he wants people who have had "that experience" to advise veterans.

The program, due to begin soon in Denver, San Antonio, Texas; Baltimore; Pittsburgh; and Wilmington, Del., eventually will spread nationwide, Pauken predicted.

It will differ in function from counseling programs offered by the Veterans Administration, Pauken said.

He declined to comment on a hunger strike among veterans in Los Angeles without more specific information on conditions leading to the protest.

PAUKEN CLAIMED the 1980s will see a return of the volunteer spirit of the 1960s, when the shiny idealism of the Kennedy years caused VISTA and the Peace Corps to flourish.

"We saw it tapped in the sixties in good and bad ways," Pauken said. "The seventies were kind of a 'me, me, me' decade, but I think we're coming out of it."

In a year when budget cuts are taking priority over programs, "We didn't get hit too hard," Pauken said. Action will receive \$145 million for the next fiscal year, a reduction of

\$15 million from the previous year's allotment.

"I see this as a recognition by the administration that there are kinds of programs to be encouraged," Pauken said.

THERE WILL BE a drop in VISTA funding, but Pauken said he hopes to make up for fewer dollars with more unpaid workers, especially in youth and elderly programs.

Pauken said he believes he weathered recent criticism from Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., who thought it strange a former intelligence officer would head a program such as the Peace Corps, which operates in countries which do not necessarily share political goals with the United States.

A compromise of sorts was reached, allowing the Peace Corps to remain autonomous while still under Action's wing.

PAGE 1

PHOTO BY DAVE STREIB

MAY-13-81

Refighting the War

By Rena Pederson
Editorial Staff Writer

IN some ways, we're still fighting the Vietnam War.

In the last few weeks, the war has been popping up again in the headlines: A winning design was announced for a long-awaited Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C. . . . Ex-GIs and their children showed up at the Texas Legislature to give gut-wrenching testimony about the possible damaging effects of the defoliant Agent Orange . . . Gov. Clements declared last Friday "Vietnam Veterans Day" in Texas, so veterans received their overdue "Welcome-Home-and-Thanks" parade in the state capital.



AT THE same time, complaints were cropping up about Reagan administration plans to drop a \$20 million outreach program that provided storefront-type counseling for stress disorders frequently associated with the Vietnam War.

The war, in short, is not dying quietly. One skirmish in Washington, D.C., is an interesting example of some of the lingering political infighting:

Former Dallas GOP candidate Tom Pauken was confirmed last week by the Senate as director of ACTION, the umbrella organization for volunteer groups like VISTA and the Peace Corps. But critics have stirred up a lot of national publicity about the fact that Pauken served as an Army intelligence officer during the Vietnam War. And they've gotten initial approval of a bill to remove the

Peace Corps from Pauken's jurisdiction.

The fight against Pauken has been led by Sen. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., who was an outspoken critic of the Vietnam War. Cranston says Pauken's record as a former intelligence officer could jeopardize the lives of Peace Corps volunteers in the field if terrorists claim the Peace Corps is being used as a front for intelligence activities.

Pauken claims there is more to it than that. He says that Cranston's chief aide, Jonathan Steinberg, is a frustrated anti-war activist who is out to get Pauken because Pauken is not apologetic about his wartime service.

"WE'RE still fighting the Vietnam War here," Pauken says. "They rummaged through my military records and distorted what my role was. I was not a CIA super-spy. I was a second lieutenant and mostly what I did was field interviews. It was very low-level strategic stuff, not very significant quite frankly.

"But they've blown this into a big deal. I don't think it is just coincidence that Steinberg was in the Washington office of the Peace Corps during the war while I was in Vietnam. And I don't think it is just coincidence that Sam Brown, a former anti-war activist, held the post before me. For some reason, it is fashionable for an anti-war activist to direct the department, but not somebody who served his country and isn't ashamed of it."

Steinberg denies he has any vendetta against Pauken. "It's a gross overgeneralization to say I was against the war because I was in the Peace Corps," he said.

He maintains he and Sen. Cranston have a "strong record" of supporting veterans. And he said efforts were started to separate the Peace Corps from ACTION several years before the Pauken nomination.

Is Pauken's Vietnam record unfairly being held against him? Or is Pauken's claim of a Cranston-Steinberg veterans' bias a political counteroffensive to blunt their criticism? Maybe both.

The irony is that one of the first programs that Pauken has worked on while waiting for his confirmation is a new volunteer program in which successful Vietnam vets will help those with adjustment problems. The 2-year pilot project should start soon in 50 cities with a working title of "The American Leader Project."

"I GOT the idea the year Mayor Folsom had Vietnam Vets Day at City Hall. I looked around and saw so many guys who were doing well in banking, real estate and so forth. And I thought this is a formidable talent bank of people. We could just use that talent to help those who still need help. It would be terrific," Pauken said. "So often the image the public gets is from those who are protesters at rallies, professional Vietnam vets. This could be a way for the vast majority who are doing OK to help their buddies."

Pauken says he will carry on with the Vietnam volunteer project even if moves are successful to separate the Peace Corps from ACTION. "I think the time has come to bring together those who fought in the war to heal some of those old wounds."

And maybe some of the new wounds, too.

6 MAY 82

DATE: _____

Good News Report

Blinded Vet has world turned around for him

By Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION

The David L. Huffman Story

Dave Huffman of Wilington, Del., claims he was such a poor student, he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up home life and 8 years in an orphanage.

He didn't finish high school, dropping out in the 10th grade. When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was November 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman. On September 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital at Da Nang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got worse.

He came home to find he really wasn't wanted, not as a veteran, not with his disability which was too much of an inconvenience for those around him to handle. The future looked extremely bleak, but Dave was not willing to accept defeat. "I knew I had to turn my life around," he said. "And I knew I had to rely on my head."

He entered the Hines VA Rehabilitation Center in Chicago, Ill., to learn to adjust and how to cope in a world of darkness. The course was scheduled to last four months; for David it lasted six. He passed his high school equivalency and was making steady progress when he was in an automobile accident which left him with a broken back, paralyzed from the neck down. He wasn't about to quit, wasn't going to be left lying flat. He began lifting weights in bed. Determination combined with medical treatment put him back on his feet.

But now what to do?

At first, he figured he'd be content with unskilled work, not demanding much of himself or of anybody; a nine-to-five job with a beer waiting for him at the end of the day.

Two things happened. He couldn't find employment, and at a dance, he met Sharon Ann.

"She turned the world around for me," he said. She convinced him to go back to school, and with the VA benefits due from his military service, he did so. He was the first blind student to earn not one but two degrees from Wilmington College -- in behavioral science and in criminal

justice. He was also the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School. Soon, he'll be taking his bar exams, and he plans to specialize in international law.

Right now, he's a program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The purpose of the program is one of aid, from veterans to veterans whatever the need may be. Dave has definite ideas on ways to approach employers, ideas that are innovative and different. "You've got to accentuate the positive," he says, and he's living proof of that axiom.

Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the President it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments at 33, which include a brown belt in Judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, "Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want."

Mid-West

SEP- 7-82

Veterans Program Here Has 4 Aims

By Sally Bixby Defty
Of the Post-Dispatch Staff

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in St. Louis began operations in May and recently moved into permanent offices in the Federal Building at 405 South Tucker Boulevard.

It has two paid staff members and eight VISTA volunteers. No other agency in the metropolitan area has as many VISTA workers.

Patrick J. Schommer, the program's executive director here, declined to discuss the program in detail before its official opening later this month.

But Schommer gave a broad outline of the program, saying that it has four purposes: "To upgrade the image of the Vietnam veteran through the example of successful vets; to get Vietnam vets involved both in helping other vets and in general community projects; to get more employment opportunities for Vietnam vets; and to make the service agencies in the community aware of their needs and facilitate getting the vets together with those agencies."

The chairman of the local group is Jerry Wamser, a prominent Republican who was the unsuccessful candidate for mayor last year and who now is director of the city's Election Board.

Wamser heads a 28-member board that also includes such prominent Democrats as Thomas F. Connelly, a former city

alderman who ran unsuccessfully for city circuit clerk this year, and former state Rep. Edward Sweeney. All three are Vietnam veterans, as are most of the 28 members on the board.

Wamser insisted that the local group "is not designed to be a challenge to the traditional veterans organizations." The group wants to augment existing resources, not duplicate them, he said.

Among other things, Wamser said, he wants to improve the image of the Vietnam veteran. "I remember clearly when I went to the organizational meeting," he said. "On the television that week was a TV movie about a vet who became a Mafia hit man and another who was depressed."

Neither one represents his life or that of most Vietnam veterans, Wamser said.

Schommer said five of the eight VISTA volunteers in the local program office were working in the employment field, "contacting potential employers and making liaison with the vets out in the community." He said 40 Vietnam veterans here had found jobs through the program since May.

"We have an emergency food program that is just starting; we've just gotten our equipment, freezer and shelving," Schommer said.

Food is obtained from Food Crisis Network, a St. Louis organization, and then distributed by Schommer's group to veterans with families who are in urgent

need. One VISTA volunteer is working in this area.

"Next, we are trying to set up a congregate living situation for disabled vets. We are using one VISTA volunteer there," Schommer said.

"Our other project is a discharge review project, to give counseling and assistance to veterans who received less-than-honorable discharges and question whether those discharges were justified."

Schommer said a less-than-honorable discharge could make it difficult for veterans to find work and otherwise "be an albatross around your neck for the rest of your life." Through his program's efforts, eight cases already have been presented to a review board, he said.

Schommer said the program had worked closely from the early planning in December with representatives of many veterans groups.

One of them is Gary Collins, team leader of the Vet Center, part of the Veterans Administration's outreach program. The Vet Center opened at 2345 Pine Boulevard in June 1980, providing counseling and discussion groups.

Collins said the veterans program and the Vet Center represent "a combined effort to concentrate on the positive aspects of Vietnam veterans — a lot of them have been successful."

Jo Mannies of the Post-Dispatch staff also contributed information for this story.

Congress Skirted In Plan To Aid Vietnam Veterans

By Jo Mannies

Post-Dispatch Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Various federal agencies have anted up at least \$1.8 million and paid almost \$1 million in local grants for a new program to help Vietnam War veterans. But the program has never been approved by Congress.

It is called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. It will get \$6.5 million over the next three years and is considered President Ronald Reagan's prime initiative for assisting Vietnam-era vets.

The main objectives are to:

— Improve the image of the Vietnam veteran.

— Highlight the talents of those Vietnam veterans who have been successful, such as doctors and lawyers.

— Encourage them and others to aid the estimated total of 500,000 Vietnam veterans who still have major problems associated with their battle experiences.

Grants ranging from \$47,500 to \$100,000 have been awarded to 22 local chapters recently set up in 18 different areas around the country, including St. Louis. Ten more grant applications are being considered.

Most, including the one in St. Louis, are just beginning their efforts. Recent activities include a July 4 picnic in Baltimore to salute Vietnam veterans, a medical seminar on stress and a

behind-the-scenes employment network where successful veterans use their influence to get jobs for their former comrades-in-arms.

But some members of Congress active in veterans affairs — and some veterans groups — are challenging aspects of the program. Although they laud the program's goals, they question the legality of using federal money without going through Congress.

Additional questions have been directed at the fact that such mainstream veterans organizations as the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars got none the money.

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Veterans

POST-DISPATCH
ST. LOUIS, MO

CONTINUED

FROM PAGE ONE

Others question the use of VISTA volunteers to staff local programs when VISTA is being phased out as an anti-poverty program.

The new program for veterans comes under ACTION, the government's umbrella agency for volunteer programs. But ACTION's budget for the coming fiscal year makes no specific mention of the veterans program and no allocation for it.

Program officials confirmed that \$351,000 for the program had come from VISTA, the domestic counterpart of the Peace Corps and an ACTION agency. Most of the money — \$1.4 million — came through interagency transfers from the Community Services Administration (\$350,000), the Department of Health and Human Services (\$200,000) and the Department of Labor (\$80,000).

ACTION also sought at least \$1 million for the program from the Veterans Administration. But that request was withdrawn last month after behind-the-scenes complaints from veterans groups and from members of the House Veterans Affairs Committee — among them its chairman, Rep. G.V. "Sonny" Montgomery, D-Miss.

Thomas Pauken, head of ACTION and the originator of the program, called his decision to get the money through interagency agreements simply "one of those flip-of-the-coin decisions." He said he had decided against the usual appropriations route because the veterans program is not a permanent government project. It's slated for only three years, he said.

Pauken, who is a Vietnam veteran, noted that the practice of interagency agreements was not new in the federal government and said his decision met with White House approval. He dismissed the congressional complaints as politically motivated.

Montgomery had been considered a strong supporter of the program. But he sent a letter of complaint earlier last month to White House presidential assistant Elizabeth Dole, in which he contended that the Labor Department and VA funds were being diverted from other veterans' programs.

"At the administration's request, we have just completed action in the House to reduce, and in some cases, terminate certain veterans' benefits and services," he wrote.

"Serious questions would be raised were the administration to now take the view that 'surplus' funds exist at the VA and that such funds be used for programs outside the agency."

Rep. Robert Edgar, D-Pa., chairman of the House veterans subcommittee on education, training and employment, sent similar letters to Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan and VA head Robert Nimmo. Edgar further asserted that ACTION should be required to get congressional approval for the veterans program.

"I firmly believe that ACTION should be required to go before the Appropriations Committee to provide justification and secure approval of funds for the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program," Edgar wrote.

"ACTION should not be taking the circuitous route of obtaining funds from other departments and agencies, most of whom are still adjusting and adapting their programs as a result of budget cuts made the past two years."

In reply, Donovan wrote that the \$850,000 was from the now-defunct Comprehensive Employment and Training Act, designed to provide jobs for the poor. It could not be used for the department's own veterans' employment programs, he wrote.

Pauken contended that Edgar's position was "a little ironic, when he says he's for vets. Then when the first veterans program by this administration comes along, he opposes it."

Pauken says he has the support of the leading veterans groups, including the VFW and the American Legion.

Spokesmen for both groups said they like the idea of the veterans programs but they criticized any shifting of money from other veterans programs or the VA.

"Our opposition was the key in blocking that transfer" from the VA, said VFW spokesman T.H. Marlow. "We're very supportive of VVLP. But the money is another matter."

The Vietnam Veterans of America has expressed concern about the financing of the program.

"If this is going to be the program that President Reagan is going to be judged on — his main thrust for Vietnam veterans — it shouldn't be done piecemeal," said John Terzano, head of the organization's Washington office.

"It should get official congressional approval. Let's not go through the back door."

Another issue is the 75 VISTA volunteers placed at many of the local program sites, including eight in St. Louis. Staff members of the House Education and Labor Committee, which oversees ACTION, questioned whether those assignments complied with the anti-poverty mandate under which VISTA operates.

VISTA director Constance Horner said the local chapters of the veterans program had to apply for VISTA workers in the same manner as other groups. She said the standards for approval were the same for all groups.

The veterans program director, Edward Timberlake, said the idea of the program was to accent the positive. He and Pauken stressed that its primary purpose is to improve the image of the Vietnam veteran,

to help those who have not been able to adjust to civilian life and to assure the American public that most veterans are not drug-crazed, guilt-ridden or mentally unbalanced.

"The program is not designed to be a one-on-one service delivery system," he said. "We are a small thread in the fabric of veterans help organizations."

Timberlake explained that the various projects could range from help in seeking employment to "something as modest as a football game dedicated to Vietnam vets."

The emphasis, he said, will be on efforts that are "non-confrontational, behind-the-scenes and discreet." The groups also should stay out of politics, he said.

Timberlake noted that the program is slated to get federal funds for only three years, ending Oct. 1, 1984. The local projects then must either run entirely on private funds or close.

He said the local groups had autonomy in determining activities. The federal money is earmarked largely for salaries and benefits for a program supervisor (\$24,000 a year plus benefits) and a secretary-bookkeeper, plus travel and office expenses.

Nationwide, Pauken said, the program has tapped 500 volunteers, including three recipients of the Medal of Honor and numerous veterans who got the Purple Heart for being wounded in action.

Some veterans groups say they will be watching the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program closely in the coming months.

"At the moment, they're in a communications phase, getting people to understand what the program is about," said the VFW spokesman. "Now, they need to get more involved in veterans programs. We want to be sure that the VVLP does not become just a communication program. Now, we want to see results."

Chicago

THE SUNDAY HERALD

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS (ILL.)

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August 8, 1962

Vietnam vet battles

7 Sections — 50 Cents

by Anna Madrzyk

Herald staff writer

Rick Eilert's life nearly ended on a battlefield in Vietnam 15 years ago.

Moments after he and a buddy stumbled on a grenade, Eilert came to with his combat boot in his mouth, both legs shattered and twisted across his body, his arms broken and teeth blown out. Still, for a few seconds, the 20-year-old Marine imagined he wasn't hurt that

badly. Then the blood started spurting from his ruptured jugular vein. And as he lay near death, the North Vietnamese soldier standing over him fired a bullet into his stomach.

Eilert prayed his buddies would get his body out of the jungle.

BUT HE DIDN'T DIE.

He spent most of the next year in Great Lakes Naval Hospital, then went home to Palatine where his mother took care of his wounds and he started

to put his life back together again.

Today, Eilert, 34, is a soon-to-be-published author, the father of two children and the executive director of a new federally funded program — headquartered in Buffalo Grove — aimed at polishing the image of the Vietnam veteran.

"We want to change the image of the Vietnam veteran from the stereotype — the drug-crazed, the wacko, the unemployable," Eilert said. "There are a lot of veterans out there who are raising families, holding jobs and active in their communities... They haven't dropped out because of Vietnam."

Of the 2.7 million Americans who served in the war, more than 80 percent of those who came home adjusted successfully, Eilert said. But their stories seldom make headlines.

INSTEAD, ATTENTION has focused on the very real problems ex-

image problem

perienced by some Vietnam veterans, including drug addiction, chronic unemployment and delayed battle-fatigue syndrome.

The goal of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is to show that the majority of Vietnam veterans have built successful lives since the war and to enlist their aid in helping others who are still having problems.

Many of these veterans succeeded despite formidable obstacles that in-

cluded service-related disabilities, job discrimination and antagonism toward those who fought the unpopular war.

Rick Eilert's story is one example.

...

HE RETURNED to work full time last week after recuperating from his 38th operation since he was wounded.

At first, doctors feared they would have to amputate both legs, which

(Continued on Page 8)

(CONT'D)

Vietnam vet takes action to battle image problem

(Continued from Page 1)

were shattered by the grenade blast, his left leg nearly ripped from his body. Instead, they wrapped the nearly severed leg in a plastic bag for the trip back to the United States, where surgeons at a military hospital were able to rebuild it.

"I can't use it. It's paralyzed, but it's mine," said Eilert, who also suffers from partial paralysis of both arms.

Today, he and his wife, Cheryl, live in Lake Zurich with their 5-year-old daughter and 5-month-old son. In January 1980, he underwent an operation that laid him up for 18 months. During his convalescence, he finished a novel based on his months on the orthopedic ward at Great Lakes Naval Hospital. *Three South* is due to be published by William Morrow and Co. later this year.

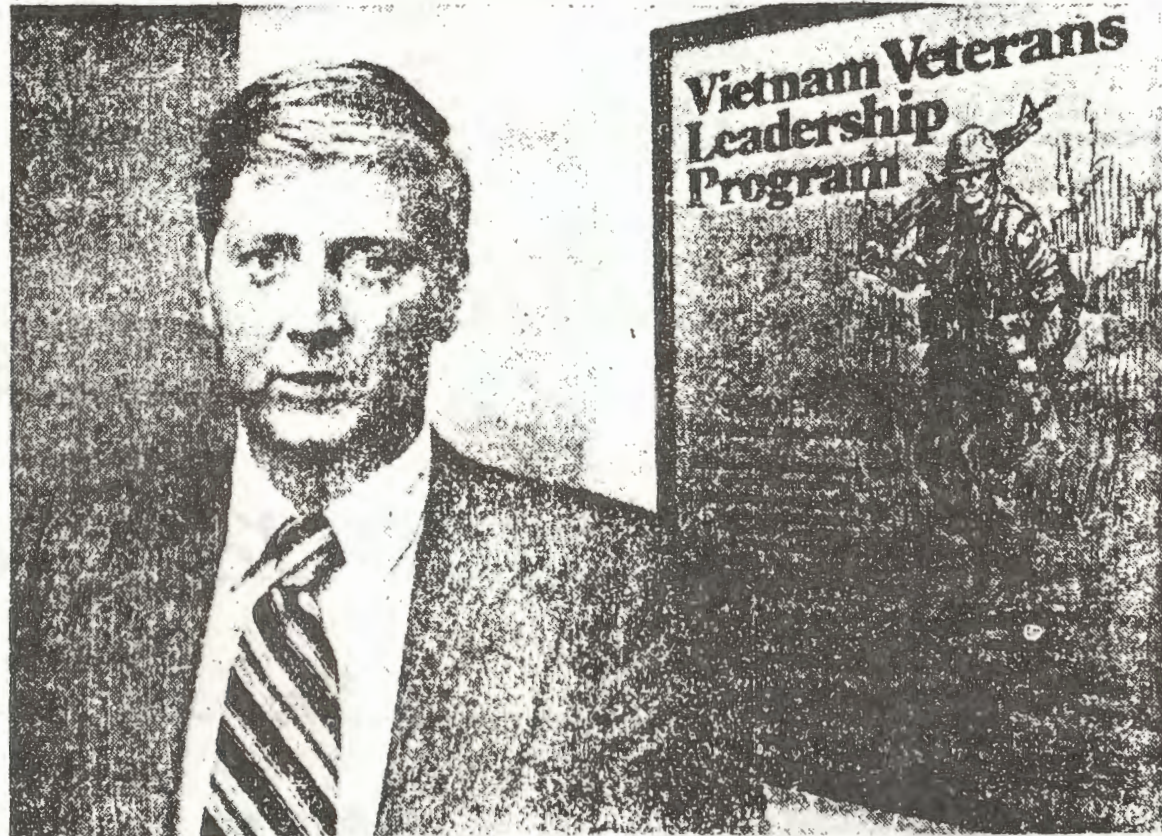
But 15 years ago, Eilert's life did not seem much like a success story.

HE WAS 19 years old when he enlisted in the Marine Corps after his former college roommate was wounded in Vietnam. In less than a year, Eilert was wounded three times, the last time just hours before he was scheduled to go on leave.

"I was showing a kid how to walk point, and he went where I told him not to go and tripped a booby trap," Eilert recalled. "He caught a piece in the spine and I caught the full force of the blast."

When he returned home to Palatine after nearly a year in the hospital, the antiwar movement was at its peak.

Still recuperating from his wounds, Eilert discovered that as a Vietnam veteran, he was "kind of a leper," even among the crowd of friends he used to hang around with in high school.



Herald photo

AS EXECUTIVE director of the Buffalo Grove-based Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, 34-year-old combat veteran Rick Eilert is trying to change the

image of the Vietnam veteran. Contrary to the stereotype, he says, most Vietnam veterans are leading productive lives.

"I remember going out on dates. If the girls found out we were in Vietnam, the question was: how many people did you kill, did you kill any kids, did you kill any women? What a thing for a date to ask."

HE TRIED TO go back to school and enrolled in classes at Harper College in Palatine but had to keep dropping out because of recurring complications from his injuries. He looked for a job but went on 37 interviews without success. He figures he had two strikes against him — he was a Vietnam veteran and he was disabled.

Ultimately frustrated over the hostile attitudes he encountered and his inability to get a job "even a moron could do," Eilert took off and went to live in Europe.

There, he drove a bread truck in Ireland, worked in a Chinese restaurant in Hamburg, Germany, and settled for two years in Madrid, Spain, where he started writing his novel. In 1970, while he was still living in Spain, he married his childhood sweetheart, a flight attendant. When the couple returned to the U.S., Eilert got an office job with Union Oil Co., where he worked between hospitalizations up until the surgery two years ago.

Although he lives with pain daily, Eilert does not consider himself a victim of the Vietnam War.

"I WASN'T WOUNDED," Eilert said. "My body was wounded, but the part of me that's me wasn't hurt. You can't change the things that happen to you. You've just got to get on with the business of living. You never get over the war but you've got to keep going."

That is the attitude Eilert brings to his position as director of the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, which was organized last March as part of a nationwide effort to upgrade the image of the Vietnam veteran. The Chicago program is funded on a shoestring \$50,000, and Eilert is its only full-time paid employee. Everyone else is a volunteer.

Eilert believes the timing is right for such a program.

"Compared to five or 10 years ago, today it's almost (considered) neat to know a Vietnam veteran," Eilert said. "I think people are starting to distinguish between the war and the warrior and (realize) that because a kid went to Vietnam, he wasn't going there to kill children, he was going because he thought it was right."

"It was just a lousy war, that's all," he said.

Vets aim to shed ugly war stigma

by Anna Madrzyk

Herald staff writer

When people think about the Vietnam veteran, the picture that often springs to mind is a negative one.

The stereotype of the deeply troubled Vietnam veteran is one that has been reinforced by movies and TV. And Vietnam veterans who believe it is both inaccurate and unfair are trying to do something about it.

"What we're trying to do is make the public aware that the Vietnam veteran who lives next to you is not different from the Korean War veteran or the World War II veteran who laid his life on the line, and maybe you ought to be looking at him for what he is now, not what the war was to you," said Denni Coll, a Barrington resident and partner in Murdoch and Coll, a commercial real estate firm with offices in Buffalo Grove and Chicago.

COLL IS THE chairman of the board for the Chicago Vietnam Veteran Leadership Program, which has its headquarters in the same Lake-Cool Road professional building as his real estate office.

Others on the board of directors include two attorneys, a corporate vice president and a VA hospital administrator who won the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, for saving the lives of three comrades.

They are all veterans who have "made it" since the war. And they say they are not the exceptions.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is a national program approved by President Reagan and organized under VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America.) The first local programs got off the ground last October, and the effort is expected to expand to all 50 states before September 1984 when the federal funding runs out.

APPROVED AT a time when other social service programs were being cut back and with a modest \$2 million annual budget for the entire country the VVLP is intended primarily as a volunteer effort.

Besides polishing the tarnished image of the Vietnam veteran, the aim of the VVLP is to enlist successful veterans to help those who are having problems and assist them in obtaining the myriad of services available to them.

No one involved with the program is denying there are still many Vietnam veterans who are suffering medical or psychological problems as a result of the war, including those whose illnesses are linked to exposure to Agent Orange, a chemical defoliant. Unemployment among Vietnam veterans is running above the national average and countless others are "underemployed" in jobs that do not match their education and skill levels.

"We are not offering one-on-one counseling. What we can do, hopefully, is cut down red tape in solving problems a veteran might have and direct him to the proper agency," said Eugene F. Connell Jr., a Chicago attorney on the VVLP board.

The Chicago VVLP's first public program was a seminar earlier this month on starting a small business offered at Triton College in River Forest.

Other plans are to present an art show by Vietnam veterans at several local community colleges this fall, to organize a speakers bureau to give presentations to business and college groups and to establish a permanent state archive for the artwork of Vietnam veterans.



RICK EILERT was 19 years old when he enlisted in the Marines and was sent to Vietnam, where he was hit by a grenade blast that nearly destroyed his legs.

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JULY -22-82

13 Volk to head Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program

Thomas W. Pauken, director of ACTION has appointed David Volk as the volunteer chairman of the South Dakota Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

Volk, 35, is the treasurer of the State of South Dakota. Trained as a journalist by the Army Defense School, he served in Vietnam with the 101st Airborne. Volk was elected state treasurer shortly after returning from Vietnam and has held the post ever since.

"We're looking for veterans who have demonstrated the qualities of leadership, commitment, motivation and integrity," said Pauken.

"I feel a kinship with other Vietnam veterans," says Volk, who won the Bronze Star in Vietnam. "I want to give all Vietnam veterans the opportunity to know they are somebody and that if they haven't made it yet, they can."

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP), launched by President Reagan in a Rose Garden ceremony Nov. 10, 1981, is administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The VVLP mobilizes successful Viet-

nam veterans as non-paid volunteers to help solve the problems still faced by some of their fellow veterans.

The program is a short term, low cost, volunteer effort with a major focus on changing the image of Vietnam veterans. "One of our main goals is to dispel the stereotype of the Vietnam veteran as a 'loser'," said Volk.

"The great majority of those who served in Vietnam have readjusted well to civilian life," says Pauken. "And many are outstanding community leaders who have achieved prominence in their professions and businesses."

The VVLP now operates in 17 cities and states and expects to establish programs in 50 communities nationwide.

Volk said that an office is being opened in Rapid City and further announcements concerning programs and personnel would be made shortly.

LITTLE ROCK [Pulaski]

Arkansas Gazette

JUL 3 1982

time after the last town June 20.

**\$53,910 Grant¹³⁷
Given Effort
For Veterans**

Gazette State News

PINE BLUFF — The Vietnam Veterans' Leadership Program of Arkansas has received a \$53,910 grant from ACTION, the umbrella organization for federally funded volunteer programs. The grant, which will fund the program for 12 months, was announced in Washington Monday by United States Representative Beryl Anthony Jr.

Don Grigg of Pine Bluff, a veteran of two tours in Vietnam, will head the program. He said it was "a bootstraps effort to help Vietnam veterans put the war behind them and to assist them in working through a wide range of problems."

Grigg, who lost a leg in Vietnam and was twice decorated for heroism, said that Vietnam veterans who have been successful with their lives since the war would be recruited as volunteers to help others who have not adjusted well. He said a list of 60 volunteers, including lawyers, doctors and business executives has been compiled.

The program will be based in Pine Bluff, but will operate statewide.

The Vietnam Veterans' Leadership Program was initiated on a national basis in November when President Reagan signed a bill making ACTION the sponsoring federal agency for the effort. The Arkansas organization is the 14th in the nation to be funded, Grigg said.

Since early this year, Grigg has been working with Anthony and others to have a program for Arkansas.

Another Vietnam veteran, Leon Clements, senior vice president of Simmons First National Bank in Pine Bluff, will be volunteer chairman of the organization.

DAILY CAPITAL JOURNAL
PIERRE, SD
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JULY -1 -82



Volk heads Vietnam vets program

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - State Treasurer David Volk has been appointed volunteer chairman of the South Dakota Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a volunteer program run by ACTION.

The national program uses successful Vietnam veterans as unpaid volunteers to help solve the problems faced by other veterans, said ACTION Director Thomas Pauken, who appointed Volk.

"I want to give all Vietnam veterans the opportunity to know they are somebody and that if they haven't made it yet, they can," said Volk, who was awarded the Bronze Star in Vietnam. "One of our main goals is to dispel the myth of the Vietnam veteran as a 'loser.'"

Vietnam vets still fighting— this time for understanding

By Eileen Ogintz

MILITARY DOCTORS didn't expect Rick Eilert to survive.

The 19-year-old marine had taken a grenade full force in his leg. Then, as he lay there bleeding, both legs and arms smashed, a North Vietnamese soldier jumped out of the brush and shot him.

"They hustled me home so I could die at home," Eilert said. But the feisty youngster survived and, after seven months at Great Lakes Naval Hospital, went home determined to make something of his life.

That was 1969 and the height of the antiwar movement; Vietnam veterans—even badly wounded servicemen—were not sympathetically greeted. Eilert recalled. "Everyone treated me differently.

Even my friends would ask me how many I had killed."

In frustration, Eilert, who is 100 percent medically disabled, went to live in Europe. He drove a truck in Ireland, worked in a restaurant in Germany and wrote a novel in Spain about the hospital ward in which he spent his long convalescence.

"I WROTE THE book because I wanted everybody who helped me to know I remembered," said Eilert, a strapping 6-footer who is now 32.

But he threw out his first manuscript, all 300 pages, because he didn't think anyone would be interested in a Vietnam veteran's story. Then, after he returned to the United States and couldn't find a job, his wife encouraged him to start

again. "Three-South" is scheduled to be published this year by William Morrow & Co, Eilert said, adding that he has finished a second novel and is working on a third.

Eilert, the father of two, has had 37 operations, must wear a brace on one leg, lives in constant pain and still has so much shrapnel in him they'll never get it out. But he feels good about his life, and positive about his future.

"Look, if there was a positive that can come out of war it is all of those things that happen in combat—all of those little pieces of courage—that serve to strengthen you when you get back. . . . We used that part of our adolescence to grow on."

EILERT SAID THERE are thousands of successful Vietnam vets—doctors and

lawyers and executives and construction workers and teachers—who are rearing families and playing an active role in their communities.

His mission now, he believes, is to dispel the image of the Vietnam veteran as a ne'er-do-well and to help those veterans who have had trouble getting their lives back together since Vietnam.

Eilert is Chicago director of a new federally funded program called the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLVP). Offices are expected to open in 50 cities by September.

The new \$5-million program is a community based volunteer effort, organized under the auspices of VISTA [Volunteers In Service To America] designed to enlist successful vets as volunteers to help those still having problems and to erase

the negative stereotype of the Vietnam veteran, explained Dennis Coll, a commercial real estate developer and chairman of the board of the Chicago program.

"**WE WANT TO HELP** get the point across that the Vietnam vet is like the World War II vet and the Korean vet," said 39-year-old Coll, a West Point graduate and Vietnam veteran. "He's now an active, contributing member of society. That 1 percent of the group [who are having problems] have gotten all of the attention."

"This is the old self-help volunteer program," Coll continued, sitting in his Buffalo Grove office down the hall from the new headquarters of the Chicago VVLVP. "We want to use people locally so

the guys [who need help] will have someone right there they can go to."

Eilert pointed out that there are 200,000 Vietnam-era veterans in the Chicago area and that at least 20 percent of them are out of work. Nationally, about 17 percent of the 2.5 million Vietnam-era veterans are unemployed. Many have suffered psychological problems stemming from delayed stress because of their war experiences. Others have become seriously ill from what is believed to be exposure to the chemical defoliant Agent Orange.

"There are so many agencies and community groups that can help these veterans," Eilert added. "But so many don't know where to go."

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34 the Rapid City Journal

Wednesday, June 9, 1982

State news

Volk appointed to veterans program position

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Argus-Leader
Sioux Falls, S.D.
Cir. D

JUN 9 - 1982

Volk heading veteran program

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APRIL -22-82

13 Action Salutes Some 40 Outstanding Human Beings

When 14-year-old Wanda Campbell first met Kim, her Cambodian "buddy," at the Daggett Middle School in Fort Worth, Texas, she held out her hand and said, "Friend." Kim, who speaks very little English, initially didn't know how to respond and held back.

"But when I did it again," recalls Wanda. "Kim shook my hand and said 'friend.' We've been friends ever since."

Wanda Campbell is one of about a dozen students at Daggett School to volunteer to help a newly arrived Cambodian youngster learn English and feel at home in America. Begun in February, this Cambodian Buddy system is a one-year, local pilot project of Young Volunteers in Action, a new community service program for youth ages 14 to 22, administered by Action, the national volunteer agency.

The word "friend" is universal and volunteering is the American way of expressing friendship. Whether they are 14 years old or 84, no matter whether rich or poor, volunteers are America's greatest natural resource. During National Volunteer Week, from April 18-24, 1982, sponsored by the National Center For Citizen Involvement, Action salutes its own volunteers — more than 325,000 outstanding human beings.

Action volunteers serve under the Foster Grandparents Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Companion Program, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Young Volunteers in Action and Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLV).

"Over our history, Americans have always extended their hands in gestures of assistance," says President Ronald Reagan. "The spirit that built this country still dwells in our people. They want to help. We only need to ask them."

A member of the student council at Daggett Middle School, Wanda Campbell was one of the first students to extend her hand in friendship to a Cambodian refugee student. She sees 12-year-old Kim every day at school and talks to her with or without an interpreter.

"It's quite hard, but we do the best we can," says Wanda, pointing out that they look up words in an English-Cambodian dictionary. "It's worth it. I know that if I went to another country, I'd want someone to help me."

Wanda is one of about 125 Young Volunteers in Action serving at least ten hours a month in their local communities without stipend. Up to 3,000 students are expected to join their ranks within the year.

"This corps of young volunteers will help carry out the President's order to return voluntarism to the local communities where it belongs," says Action Director Thomas W. Pauken. "Young people helping other youths in the community will greatly benefit both the volunteers and those they serve."

At age 85, Ramona R. Lopez of McAllen, Texas, is more than 70 years older than Wanda Campbell, but she too goes out of her way to help those who need her. With 129 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Mrs. Lopez still has the time and energy to be a companion to four homebound senior citizens, all of whom are younger than she.

"I'm not going to sit down and not do anything," maintains Mrs. Lopez, who spends at least 20 hours a week taking care of four women ranging in age from 59 to 78, who are suffering from infirmities. She is one of about 5,280 Senior Companions who give individual care and assistance to other adults, especially the elderly living at home or in institutions.

"What would I do at home? Sleep all day? Sew all day? It's a much better thing to go outside and see someone," notes Mrs. Lopez. She reads and writes letters for the women, who can neither read nor write, and speak only Spanish. She also combs their hair, fixes them tea and takes those who are able for short walks.

"I try to keep them from going to nursing homes. They don't want me to quit and I'm proud of that," she says, adding, "I love my friends here. They are old. I am old, but I think I have a little more energy than they do. We just keep on going."

Before Kip Becker joined the Army in 1966, he wasn't going anywhere in particular. He had flunked out of two years in college and was just drifting along. When he got to flight school, he found that there were things that he could learn. He then went on to serve as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

"When I got out of the Army, my achievements in the war filled a major part of my resume," recalls Becker, 35, of Wilmington, Del. "As the years went by, that section dwindled down to read, 'Military Service — 1966-1970'."

Continue

"Like a lot of Vietnam veterans, I simply wrote it off my resume and went on my way," continues Becker, who proceeded to earn two master's degrees and a doctorate in psychology. "Due to a collective feeling of guilt, we all sort of disappeared in the closet for 15 years. We didn't win the war and didn't want people to know we were involved in it. Now it's time to come out."

Director of development, marketing and public relations at Wilmington College, Becker recently became chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLV) in Wilmington, one of 14 Action-sponsored VVLVs in the country. He volunteers about 15 hours a week organizing a network of successful Vietnam veterans in the community and coordinating existing services that could benefit those veterans who still have problems associated with their military service.

"Vietnam veterans are not all alcoholics and drug addicts. We can make a stand to contradict that negative image and provide positive role models for those less fortunate veterans who just haven't been able to fit back into society," he explains.

"Sure, it was an unpopular war. But we were asked to do something and we're proud we did it. What we in VVLV want to do is replenish that pride that some of our comrades have lost. Then we can all get about the business of living."

Living means giving, especially to children, for many Action volunteers. "What the children need so much is love — to know that you care about them," observes Margie Twiss, 74, who serves five

days a week as an RSVP volunteer, recruiting and coordinating other Retired Senior Volunteers for a Head Start program in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Action's largest program, RSVP has more than 300,000 volunteers age 60 and over, devoting time and energy to community service without compensation. Under a recent interagency agreement between Action and the Department of Health and Human Services, a number of Retired Senior Volunteers and Foster Grandparents are serving as teacher aides and volunteer coordinators for preschoolers in Head Start.

"I love kids. I love this work. It makes me feel like I'm still worth something," says Mrs. Twiss, who "retired" at age 60 after teaching 32 years on the Pine Ridge Reservation where she was born and raised. "I was ready to climb the walls. I couldn't retire."

Mrs. Twiss divides her time between helping the children in the classroom and convincing other "retirees" to join her in RSVP. She's recruited 44 since October and is aiming for 100 by fall.

"I'm in earnest. I keep after them. If they say they don't feel up to it, I tell them, 'If you can talk and move your limbs, you are valuable,'" she exclaims, adding, "If all they can do is sit and let the children hug them, that is enough."

Filling a missing gap in homes where there is potential child abuse or neglect is the mission of Alma Diggs, 60, a Foster Grandparent with a parent-aid group in Hampton, Va.

"There's always something missing in these homes. I can sense it as soon as I walk in the door," says Mrs. Diggs. "It's love that's lacking and that's where I come in. I try to supply the extra love to bring the family closer together."

Mrs. Diggs is one of about 18,030 Foster Grandparents providing companionship and guidance to emotionally, physically and mentally handicapped children all over the country. She and five other Foster Grandparents in the program provide understanding and support to the children and parents or foster parents in homes where social welfare workers have identified potential cases of abuse or neglect.

"Little by little, the children will tell you about their feelings in the home and gradually you'll know better how to work with the mother," reports Mrs. Diggs, who spends about 16 hours a week with two families. "I think that it all boils down to a lack of understanding. A lot of people don't understand how to raise children. They may have good intentions and love their children, but it doesn't come across that way to the kids."

She maintains that potential child abuse can be prevented with gentle guidance. "I don't feel like I'm fighting a losing battle and I don't think I'll ever see a case too tough to handle," she states. "To really have success, you can't do just enough and I'm willing to go that extra mile."

What would we do without these tremendous natural resources?

APRIL 20 82

Marine Corps veteran has book published

Rick Eilert, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, has written a book which will be published next year by William Morrow Company. It's called *Three South*, and the title was taken from the name of the ward Rick was on when he returned, badly wounded, from Vietnam in 1968. He hadn't planned to be a writer, but in those first months on *Three South* he found, like everyone on the ward, that it was impossible to communicate with those outside. Part of it was wondering why he had survived while his buddies were still fighting in Nam. Part of it was

the failure of the American public to support or understand the sacrifice the Rick Eilerts had made for their country. And so, for reasons of therapy, he began to write about life and reflections on "the dirty orthopedic ward" called dirty because all those on it was suffering from festering, open wounds and bone damage; most of them no more than twenty years old.

When Rick left the Navel Hospital at Great Lakes, Ill., rated as 100 percent physically disabled with chronic bone disease and shrapnel still in his body, he was not disabled in his mind or in his heart or in his desire to make a start. The writing he put aside. Later, he was to observe: "In addition to the hostile social attitudes encountered by the Vietnam veteran... he also found employment hard to find, but for the returning disabled veteran, finding a job was almost impossible. for Rick it was. So inspite of the leg brace, the difficulty of getting around with partially paralyzed arms, he went to Europe and found work in several countries. In Spain he began to write again.

Ever since highschool, there had been a girl named Cheryl. Following Vietnam, they had seperated because, as he said, "You can't expect a 20 year old girl to go around with and 85 year old man." In time they narrowed the age gap and were married. It was Cheryl who encouraged him to write, who worked when he attended college, who was there when he had to have additional operations — Cheryl who is always there, the mother of their four year old daughter, and soon to be the mother of their second child.

There was also Bill Corson, a Marine veteran of three wars, a colonel in Vietnam, a bulwark of strength who keeps in touch. A professional writer of note, Corson read Rick's manuscript and was instrumental in putting it into the hands of a publisher. And so, *Three South* is coming out early next year. Meanwhile, its author is the Chicago project director for ACTION'S Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. "We face two major challenges," he says. "One is to erase the stereotype image of a veteran as a loser, and the other is to extend a helping hand to fellow veterans in need of employment and hope."

It's a special job for a special guy... a veteran named Rick Eilert.

APRIL 15-92

13 80

National Volunteer Week Apr. 18-24



ACTION salutes some outstanding human beings

When 14-year-old Wanda Campbell first met Kim, her Cambodian "buddy," at the Daggett Middle School in Fort Worth, Texas, she held out her hand and said, "Friend." Kim, who speaks very little English, initially didn't know how to respond and held back.

"But when I did it again," recalls Wanda, "Kim shook my hand and said 'friend.' We've been friends ever since."

Wanda Campbell is one of about a dozen students at Daggett School to volunteer to help a newly arrived Cambodian youngster learn English and feel at home in America. Begun in February, this Cambodian Buddy system is a one-year, local pilot project of Young Volunteers in ACTION, a new community service program for youth aged 14 to 22, administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

The word "friend" is universal and volunteering is the American way of expressing friendship. Whether they are 14 years old or 84, no matter whether rich or poor, volunteers are America's greatest natural resource. During National Volunteer Week, from April 18 to 24, 1982, sponsored by the National Center For Citizen Involvement, ACTION salutes its own volunteers—more than 325,000 outstanding human beings.

ACTION volunteers serve under the Foster Grandparent Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Companion Program, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Young Volunteers in ACTION and Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP).

"Over our history, Americans have always extended their hands in gestures of assistance," says President Ronald Reagan. "The spirit that built this country still dwells in our people. They want to help. We only need to ask them."

Before Kip Becker joined the Army in 1966, he wasn't going anywhere in particular. He had flunked out of two years in college and was just drifting along. When he got to flight school, he found that there were things that he could learn. He then went on to serve as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

"When I got out of the Army, my achievements in the war filled a major part of my resume," recalls Becker, 35, of Wilmington, Del. "As the years went by, that section dwindled down to 'read, Military service—1966 to 1970.'

"Like a lot of Vietnam veterans, I simply wrote it off my resume and went on my way," continues Becker, who proceeded to earn two master's degrees and a doctorate

in psychology. Due to a collective feeling of guilt, we all sort of disappeared in the closet for 15 years. We didn't win the war and didn't want people to know we were involved in it. Now it's time to come out."

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"Sure, it was an unpopular war. But we were asked to do something and we're proud we did it. What we in VVLP want to do is replenish that pride that some of our comrades have lost. Then we can all get about the business of living."

What would we do without these tremendous natural resources?

North Sider is leader in group aiding Vietnam-era veterans

By JON RINKIND
Correspondent

DePAUL AREA resident Gene Connell survived the physical and psychological horrors of Vietnam to become a successful lawyer and a well adjusted citizen. Now he wants to help others, less well off, Vietnam veterans.

Connell is one of the founding members of the Chicago Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. The program, formed in March of 1982, aims to erase the "stereotype of the Vietnam veteran as a victim and loser, and to enlist the help of successful Vietnam veterans as volunteers to help those who still have problems adjusting to civilian life."

Connell was 23 when, in 1969, he served in the Air Force as part of a B-52 fighter squadron for two years.

Cash
"THE MEDIA, Connell said, is responsible for the image of the Vietnam veteran. 'The media's portrayal of the Vietnam veteran as a baby-killer and a maladjusted loser is an improper, inaccurate one,' Connell said. 'The majority of Vietnam vets came back and successfully readjusted to civilian life.'"

Connell concedes that considerable problems remain for a number of Vietnam veterans, but, he said, "The coverage given to the minority leads readers to believe the problems are suffered by the majority."

Working with veterans on a volunteer basis for seven years, beginning when he was enrolled in Northern Illinois law school, Connell came to believe that "For the most part, Vietnam Vets were no

nam veterans faced some unique difficulties not encountered by World War II or Korean war veterans.

"Generally speaking," Connell said, "the combat stress effect was the same in Vietnam as in WWII and Korea. But the Vietnam veteran faced an additional problem in that no specific front lines were drawn. For the entire period a person was in Vietnam he was constantly faced with a hostile populace which made it difficult to determine who was an enemy and who was an ally."

The Vietnam veteran, according to Connell, literally had no time to relax.

But Connell also said he felt the Vietnam veteran was swept up in the turbulence that was the social scene of the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"THE PROBLEMS Vietnam Vets encountered were nothing more than a microcosm of a changing society in the late 60s and early 70s," Connell said. "The average age of the Vietnam soldier was 19. This would place him right in the middle of the age group that would seem to have been more attracted to drug use and anti-government feelings."

The Vietnam Vet feels, faced the being under unrelenting pressure, as we combat pressure.

"There is no," Connell said, "percentage of

Connell himself was reluctant to discuss his own views on whether America should have been in Vietnam.

THE FACT is that we are not arguing the politics or morality of the war," Connell said. "Recognizing that problems existed, and still remain, we are saying that the overwhelming majority of individuals were able to overcome the problems successfully and readjust to society."

"In prior wars units were sent over and came back together," Connell said. "In Vietnam soldiers were sent over as individuals and returned as individuals to what they perceived was a hostile reception on the part of many people who did not serve."

The government, according to Connell, just was not geared to handle these new types of problems suffered by a bunch of lonely and confused men.

"The traditional programs in place since WWII did not meet the needs of the Vietnam veteran," Connell said.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program wants to fill the vacuum left by the governments inability to assist Vietnam Veterans by

"creating an environment for vets to be aided in the areas of employment, education, and any personal problems which may exist," Connell said.

THE PROGRAM does not directly counsel veterans Connell said. "We try and refer them to the most effective service groups. We don't want to duplicate what is currently in existence, we want to help them overcome any problems they may have in dealing with these agencies."

Five board members presently constitute the full strength of the program. Connell hopes to expand to seven board members, as well as forming a 15-member advisory board, by September.

Trying to involve the government at all levels, as well as private industry and educators, the program needs more volunteers if it is to stand a chance to do what the government could not. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program is located in Buffalo Grove. The phone number is 520-4380.

Connell has no doubts. "We will grow strong enough to make a significant contribution. That's the whole purpose of the program."

**Lincoln-Belmont (ILL.)
Booster**

MAR 24 1982

The David L. Huffman Story By T.W. Pauken

DIRECTOR OF ACTION

THE GOOD NEWS REPORT **Z**

Dave Huffman of Wilmington, Del. claims he was such a poor student, he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up home life and eight years in an orphanage. He didn't finish high school, dropping out

in the 10th grade. When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was November 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman. On Sept. 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital in DaNang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got worse.

He came home to find he really wasn't wanted, not as a veteran, not with his disability which was too much of an inconvenience for those around him to handle. The future looked extremely bleak, but Dave was not willing to accept defeat. "I knew I had to turn my life around," he said. "And I knew I had to rely on my head."

He entered the Hines VA Rehabilitation Center in Chicago, Ill., to learn to adjust and how to cope in a world of darkness. The course was scheduled to last four months; for David it lasted six. He passed his high school equivalency and was making steady progress when he was in an automobile accident which left him with a broken back, paralyzed from the neck down. He wasn't about to quit, wasn't going to be left lying flat. He began lifting weights in bed. Determination combined with medical treatment put him back on his feet.

But now what to do?

At first, he figured he'd be content with unskilled work, not demanding much of himself or of anybody; a nine-to-five job with a beer waiting for him at the end of the day.

Two things happened. He couldn't find employment, and at a dance he met Sharon Ann.

"She turned the world around for me," he said. She convinced him to go back to school, and with the VA benefits due from his military service, he did so. He was the first blind student to earn not one but two degrees from Wilmington College ;; in behavioral science and in criminal justice. He was also the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School. Soon, he'll be taking his bar exams, and he plans to specialize in international law.

Right now, he's a program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The purpose of the program is one of aid, from veterans to veterans whatever the need may be. Dave has definite ideas on ways to approach employers, ideas that are innovative and different. "You've got to accentuate the positive," he says, and he's

living proof of that axiom.

Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the President it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments at 33, which include a brown belt in Judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, "Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want."

Blind, Paralyzed Vet Fights Way to Feet, Changes Life through Love

By THOMAS W. PAUKEN, Director of ACTION

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(Please turn to page 22)

Vet Fights Way...

(Continued from page 21)
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FEB -25-82

The Good News Report

By Thomas W. Paulen
Director of ACTION

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DISPATCH FEB 18, 1982

AIR FORCE - 5
WASHINGTON, DC
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Program to attack Viet vet joblessness

By Richard Bloom

Dispatch Staff Reporter

The nation's first VISTA-staffed jobs program to tackle unemployment among Vietnam veterans will be launched in Columbus March 26 by the central Ohio chapter of Vietnam Veterans of America.

The \$28,000 program, designed and proposed by the central Ohio group, has been approved by Volunteers in Service to America for one year, chapter spokesman David Aldstadt said. He said it is the first such project organized and supervised by Vietnam veterans to be approved by VISTA.

"We hope this program is going to mean that we can turn the unemployment rate around to where the Vietnam veterans' unemployment rate is about the same as the general population," Aldstadt said.

AS OF JUNE, the unemployment rate for all Franklin County veterans was 4.8 percent, he said. At the same time, the unemployment rate for Vietnam veterans was 11.8 percent.

Paul Schrader of ACTION, a government agency that oversees VISTA projects, said six VISTA volunteers will be paid about \$4,600 each to help develop the project.

"I think what's unique about this project is that it's the first such grass-roots project approved by VISTA and is a jobs program run by veterans for veterans," Schrader said.

HE SAID the problems of unemployment and skills training has been neglected by such agen-

cies as the Veterans Administration because of a lack of resources.

Schrader said the volunteers will begin laying the groundwork March 26 and the program should be operational three to four weeks later.

Aldstadt said one of the volunteers would be used exclusively for fund-raising to continue the program after federal funding runs out.

"We all took on a lot of responsibility at a very young age over there," Aldstadt said. "But because of the media stereotypes and negative attitudes in general, employers have been reluctant to hire Vietnam veterans.

"We should be as hireable as anyone."

Aldstadt said the project is designed, in part, to do just that —

make the Vietnam veterans' skills competitive.

"We want the employer to hire the best man for the job," he said, "but we also want the Vietnam veteran to have a fair chance at getting that job."

THE JOB SKILLS program, Aldstadt said, will target four major areas:

- Pre-employment counseling.
- Direct employer contacts.
- Matching available job skills with a job bank.
- Post-employment counseling.

"We want to do our best to make the Vietnam veteran more employable and a better employee," Aldstadt said. "But we have to have tremendous employer support.

"Without it, the project will die."

Program Taps Vietnam Vets

President Reagan has established, as part of ACTION, the national volunteer agency, a new program, the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, designed to highlight the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans.

"It is time to tap the enormous resource of able and successful Vietnam veterans, who stand ready to come forward to help solve the problems still faced by their fellow veterans," said Thomas W. Pauken, director of ACTION and himself a veteran of Vietnam. John P. Wheeler III, also a Vietnam veteran, serves as the VVLP national program director.

During 1982, the VVLP will be established in fifty communities across the United States. Programs are already under way in Philadelphia, Baltimore, San Antonio, Wilmington, Phoenix, and Nashville. Each of the fifty communities will have a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director, each to be both Vietnam veterans and community leaders.

They will recruit volunteer Vietnam veterans to work at the senior levels of the communities' business and government structure to help build and maintain a coordinated community-wide effort to assist the thousands of men and women who still have significant problems associated with their Vietnam experience, such as underemployment or unemployment.

The program, designed to serve as a catalyst rather than as a specific service delivery mechanism, will not attempt to duplicate or overlap the services already provided by the Veterans Administration and its outreach centers, or by local community-based organizations or veterans service organizations.

At a cost of \$2 million per year, it is intended to be a short-term, cost-effective volunteer effort. The federal role will be phased out by September 1984, when the program will be turned over to the local communities.

JAN- -82

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New York City

TENNESSEAN
NASHVILLE, TENN.
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FEB-16-82

WSM To Aid Vietnam Veteran Job Efforts

WSM, Inc., has announced support for the Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program ~~and that group's efforts to find jobs for "in country" Vietnam veterans.~~

Fred Tucker, executive director of TVVLP, said veterans who served in Vietnam may apply for openings by contacting their local veterans employment representative at the Job Service Office, 752 Madison Square Shopping Center. They must bring with them a copy of their DD-214.

WSM, Inc., consisting of Opryland USA, Opryland Hotel, Opryland Productions, WSM-AM/FM and the Grand Ole Opry, presently has 15 job openings with salaries ranging from above minimum wage to \$15,000 a year.

Ennis Jordan, personnel director of WSM, Inc., and one of the volunteer advisory board members of TVVLP, Inc., was instrumental in creating this opportunity, Tucker said.

He said other employers interested in participating in the program should contact him or John Furgess at TVVLP, Inc., 215 8th Ave., Third Floor, Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Vietnam Veterans Program Forms Volunteer Advisory Panel

By LANITA GARDNER

The Tennessee Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program has announced the creation of a volunteer advisory board, composed of veterans who will assist fellow veterans with problem solving.

The veterans will work as catalysts at various social, economic, and political levels to help resolve "the lingering problems of Vietnam veterans," said Samuel W. Bartholomew Jr., local attorney and chairman of the program.

"THE LOCAL program is part of a new federal initiative involving the volunteer efforts of Vietnam veterans who have successfully readjusted to society following their wartime experiences in Southeast Asia."

The Nashville-Middle Tennessee advisory board of directors of the TVVLP had its initial meeting Jan. 29 at the War Memorial Building. Announcements regarding opening of an office and specific priorities of the organization will be made in the future, Bartholomew said.

Board members are asked to volunteer time and leadership to help solve such problems plaguing Vietnam veterans as unemployment, unanswered questions about the unpopular war, and low self-esteem.

BARTHOLOMEW said that while some veterans do suffer from drug-related problems, the negative image of the Vietnam veteran as a drug addict and misfit needs to be corrected.

President Reagan announced the \$2 million, 50-city VVLP program last November at a press conference, Bartholomew said. The VVLP is administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency, and is intended to be a "short term, cost effective, volunteer program with significant, realistic, and limited goals," he said.

The VVLP will not attempt to duplicate or overlap services provided by the Veterans Administration, community organizations, or the veterans service organizations, he added. It will not be a one-on-one service delivery mechanism, nor a referral service, but will work with the VA and other appropriate agencies, he said.

"TENNESSEE VVLP will com-

to make the entire range of available services as cohesive and effective as possible," said Bartholomew.

The program here will ultimately become a statewide operation, he said.

In addition to Bartholomew, advisory board members who are U.S. Army veterans include:

Thomas W. Beasley, president, Thomas W. Beasley Insurance Agency, Inc.

Dr. R. Crants, president, Media South.

Bob Deal, a partner in Purvis-Deal Architects and Engineers.

James R. Everett Jr., attorney, McKinney and Everett Law Offices.

John Furgess, administrative director, TVVLP.

Rep. Albert Gore Jr.

Francis S. Guess, commissioner, Tennessee Department of General Services.

Robin L. Hood, director of photography for the state.

Ennis B. Jordan, director of personnel, WSM, Inc.

Walter C. Kurtz, Metro public defender.

George C. Paine II, judge, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Middle District.

E. C. Stone, executive vice-president, First American National Bank.

James E. Wilson, president, James E. Wilson and Associates, Inc.

Helga Hart, an Army veteran and convention manager with Airport Transportation, Inc., is currently the only female board member. Bartholomew said the group is seeking other female Vietnam veterans willing to serve with the TVVLP.

Those board members who served in the Marine Corps are:

Jack Cate, account executive, Merrill Lynch brokerage firm.

John A. Deering, a former POW who is with the Metro Sheriff's Department.

Charles F. Goggin, general manager, Fireside Distributors and the U.S. marshal nominee.

Board member Cecil R. Conley, chief of procurement affairs in the state's Office of Minority Enterprise, served in the U.S. Air Force.

New U.S. program

Successful Vietnam vets to help others

Washington (UPI) — Back when it was a dirty word to be a Vietnam veteran, a lot of ex-warriors quietly set out to make their mark in the civilian world.

Now the government is tapping some of the more successful veterans to set up programs to help their less fortunate comrades.

"We were patriots, not chumps," said John D. Baines, a prosperous real estate broker based in San Antonio, Texas. "It's now time to set the record straight."

Baines, a Navy Seabee in Vietnam, is the volunteer chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in San Antonio, one of five communities where similar efforts are gathering steam.

"I REALIZE that while I worked hard these past 10 years for everything I've got, there are guys out there

who haven't been quite so fortunate," said Baines. "I want to help give them a chance to make something out of their lives."

The leadership program is designed to encourage successful former Vietnam veterans to volunteer their time, effort and creative leadership to help solve the problems still faced by other veterans.

Sponsored by ACTION, the government's volunteer agency, the program will be established in 50 communities, each with a volunteer chairman and a salaried project director who are both Vietnam veterans.

Besides San Antonio, initial programs have been started in Baltimore; Nashville, Tenn.; Wilmington, Del., and Philadelphia.

WILLIAM JAYNE, deputy director of the national program, said the next communities under consideration are Phoenix, Ariz.; Hartford, Conn.; Chicago;

New York City; Boston; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Columbus, Ohio; St. Louis and Houston.

"High-quality Vietnam veterans, preferably with combat experience, and who have excelled in their jobs" such as successful businessmen, lawyers and artists, are being sought as leaders to work on the program, Jayne said.

Programs will be tailored and developed for the individual cities, with emphasis on solving the most severe local problems faced by Vietnam veterans.

Volunteers are not expected to do counseling or provide health facilities offered by other agencies, Jayne said. And they will not provide a referral service.

President Honors Vietnam Veterans

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Reagan said: "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Viet-

Gift Received

—Page 1

nam veterans and to promote a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Reagan said Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self image," the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought."



— AP Laserphoto

Meets Veterans President Reagan, with a book titled, 'The Wounded Generation: America After Vietnam,' under his arm, meets members of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program at the White House Tuesday. The group works on programs to tap the leadership resources of Vietnam veterans. Reagan received the book from a member of the group. Related story, Page 9.

OCT 30 1981

Vietnam vets job location program planned

Sylvia Campbell
Medi! News Service

WASHINGTON - A new volunteer program to help Vietnam veterans find jobs is in the planning stages for 50 U.S. communities before the end of fiscal year 1982, officials say.

The new program will recruit successful, established veterans to serve as volunteers to help other veterans who are jobless because of problems associated with their Vietnam military service.

The new program, operating through ACTION, the federal agency for volunteer service, will attempt to stimulate the private sector to hire veterans, said William Jayne, a deputy director of ACTION.

"We would like to see South Dakota as one of the areas to benefit by the program," said ACTION staffer Marsha Landau.

Jayne, however, said that so far "no hard and fast list of the communities where we are going to go" has been made.

"That will depend to a great degree upon securing the right volunteers," he said. "We want to make an effort to include both urban and rural areas."

Under the program, a successful Vietnam veteran in each community will be chosen as a volunteer to coordinate the community's program. Each program will be designed according to the results of a community assessment made by ACTION.

"At that time, the community's problems and needs will be assessed as well as the problems of the veterans living there," Jayne said.

"Each volunteer veteran would be providing a positive role model while using his position in the community to stimulate interest in local organizations that would use local funds to help unemployed veterans find jobs."

Grants of \$50,000 per city will be awarded once the volunteer veteran for each community has been chosen, Jayne said.

West

The Page 2 headline made John Cummings mad: "Vet Innocent of Shooting Boss in War-Flashback Rage."

A Chicago judge had ruled that a Vietnam combat veteran was suffering from "delayed-stress syndrome" when he shot his boss. Cummings, an attorney, had no quarrel with the court decision, but the news coverage bothered him.

"Just another crazy vet — that's the image we've had to live with — that's our thanks, our parade," said Cummings, one of a handful of Vietnam combat veterans who are white collar professionals in San Francisco, and who want to hear, read and see more positive reports about the 2.5 million American soldiers who served in Southeast Asia.

I am also one of 6 million Vietnam-era veterans, but I never waded through the rice paddies and crawled through the bush. My memories are of the guys returning, seen from the vantage point of my desk job at Fort Dix, New Jersey. When I talked to Cummings and his friends about what they were trying to accomplish by upgrading the image of Vietnam veterans, the emotional power of combat — the experience I had missed ten years ago — was almost physically present in the room.

"We helped each other stay alive ten years ago, there is no reason why we can't do it again," said Jim Hunt, 35, a Montgomery Street foreign exchange broker.

Hunt led his unit on 70 combat missions in Southeast Asia without losing a life. He says his combat experiences taught him "to take care of his people," an attribute that turned him into "one helluva manager in the business world."

Hunt has done well. He fancied himself as an "easy rider" type when he was drafted and sent to Fort Bliss, Texas, in 1966. He had no ambition, no college education at the time. All that changed when he left the Army in 1970 as a Green Beret captain who

VIETNAM VETERANS

HELPING EACH OTHER SURVIVE AGAIN



By Richard Steffen

knew how to survive.

"I was a good officer," says Hunt. "This was the first job in which I could say I was good at what I did. Survival was an everyday challenge. If you were lazy, you were dead. Earning a college degree when I got out was just another challenge, like staying alive."

Jim Lassart, 39, is an assistant U.S. attorney. Without any flourish, he got to the point:

"Vietnam was a maturation process for me. I had someone die in my arms. There was this terrible combination of sorrow and anger. Holding death was not a topic of conversation when I got back home. Vietnam was a mixed bag — I'd never do it again and I'd never give up the experience."

Cummings had someone die in his arms also: "I was a 22-year-old Green Beret captain leading a patrol through a teak forest — we were hit all at once. This guy was out on his first trail-breaking assignment. He died in his own blood. I wrote his parents. It seems unfair — I should have been fighting to be dorm Frisbee champ, not holding a dying soldier."

Cummings figures he was the only Vietnam combat veteran at Stanford

University in the early 1970s. Or, at least, it seemed that way.

"If you were going to play vet on the campus," he said, "you were going to be alone. Luckily, I had a lot of good friends and a great deal of studying to do to take my mind off where I had come from. Not all vets have been as fortunate as me."

For the record, President Jimmy Carter authorized a study of the plight of Vietnam-era veterans. Its basic findings were as follows:

- Those under age 34 had a 23 percent higher suicide rate than non-veterans in the same age group.

- Vets hospitalized for drinking problems jumped from 13 percent in 1970 to 31 percent in 1977.

- About one-third of the vets are unemployed or underemployed.

So the nation has been aware — at least officially — that there are veterans who have not been able to make the transition from military to civilian life for ten years and counting. But help has not come as it did for WWII vets. The parades have been silent.

"We've had enough of the 'your best bet is to pity the vet' approach," said Cummings. "It's time for combat vets

who have established themselves in life to come out of the emotional closet, as it were, to bring pride and confidence into the vocabulary of those who served our country."

Combat vets are heeding the call across the country. Last year, membership in Vietnam Veterans of America, which lobbies for veterans' benefits, tripled to 8,000. Last year vets also convinced the Reagan administration to set aside \$5 million over the next three years for the Vietnam Veteran Leadership Program (VVLP), which has centers in 40 cities, including San Francisco.

"There are over 185,000 Vietnam veterans in the Bay Area," said Cummings, "and many of them can provide valuable insights into employment opportunities in a way not covered by other federal programs or agencies

These VVLP centers can bring vets together. We aren't going to get walk-in counseling, but let me tell you, when you have a good job, it helps keep your mind together."

A month has passed since I had that talk with the roomful of vets. We could have been in any city, the names and faces could have been different — it wouldn't have mattered. I've interviewed over 100 vets in the last four years — it's kind of a hobby, I guess — and the stories run into each other. The bottom line is survival. Men fought to keep each other alive rather than to kill the enemy. The camaraderie was shattered not in the jungle, but at home; no one wanted to discuss what they'd been through, their strength was diffused. Only now, ten years later, is it finally coming together again.

Volunteers in VVLP centers hope they can become, to a degree at least, interesting to the public. Says Cummings, "We're ready for talk shows, newspaper interviews, whatever it takes to spread the word about the good things happening in the Vietnam veteran community." □

The San Francisco VVLP center is at 609 Mission Street (981-4930).

Bay Area concert aids Viet vets

38 : ROLLING STONE, JULY 8, 1982

By Phil Reser

SAN FRANCISCO

SOME OF THE BIGGEST names in Bay Area music — the Grateful Dead, the Jefferson Starship, Boz Scaggs and Country Joe McDonald — joined forces on May 28th at the Moscone Center in San Francisco for a musical bash to benefit the Vietnam Veterans Project, a coalition of veterans' organizations created with the help of radio station KFRC.

The project's goal is to improve the image of the Vietnam veteran and serve as a clearinghouse for veteran information and activities in northern California. "Most veterans are forgotten people," said promoter Bill Graham, who helped organize the concert. "It's not just the Vietnam War, but it's also the forgotten men of the Korean War. I was drafted when I was twenty years old, and I think if I had to do it all over again, I probably would be a conscientious objector. Korea and Vietnam were political games played by our politicians. And what a tragedy that a man who was asked to lay down a leg, an arm or an eye cannot be treated with dignity and respect on the home front. Obviously, one benefit isn't going to raise enough money to make a dent, but what it might do is open some people's eyes."

In fact, this concert did raise a lot of money. At \$17.76 a head, the crowd of 15,200 brought in a gross of \$274,655. Organizers estimate that \$100,000 will have to be deducted for such expenses as publicity, labor and hall rental.

The largest portion of the concert proceeds will go into the Vietnam Veterans Project hot line, a switchboard that will provide information and referrals for vets on

Agent Orange, delayed stress, medical problems, legal concerns, incarcerated vet problems, employment and training. Other money will be used to put on a Vietnam Veterans Job Fair to be held in the fall, and the remaining funds will be spent on educational programs to aid and improve the image of the veteran.

"There's a temptation to say that because it was a big show, because it was the first and it raised a lot of money, it was a success," said Country Joe McDonald. "I don't judge things on these standards. I feel as though it's one step forward. There're about 1 million more things to be accomplished."

"This work seems to be an all-or-nothing trip," added McDonald, a Vietnam-era veteran who served in the navy from 1959 to 1962. "You're either a part of a tiny, misunderstood, oppressed minority or a part of an absolutely ignorant, frightened majority. My work with the vets is also tempered with the reality that I'm a vet. I'm working with myself, and I'm working to communicate my experiences."

The concert was the first major rock event held at the Moscone Center, a new, fully computerized facility built as a convention center. Seventeen-foot video screens showed close-ups of the performers, and an old San Francisco tradition—the psychedelic light show—was revived.

The audience, which ranged

from teenagers to veterans of the Woodstock era, was transfixed by the light show as Country Joe went through a set that included such recent tunes as "A Vietnam Veteran Still Alive" and "The Agent Orange Song," as well as his Sixties anthem, "Fixin' to Die Rag."

Next, the Grateful Dead took the stage. After playing such hits as "Truckin'" and "Back to Tennessee," the Dead were joined by Air-

to and Flora Purim for a percussion jam. Later, Boz Scaggs appeared with the group for a longer set of rock standards.

Finally, the Jefferson Starship performed a mix of material from their Airplane days to the present. "Ride the Tiger" was dedicated to all those vets "who had been riding the tiger since the war," and "Stairway to Cleveland" was "for all those who would have liked to have

said 'fuck you' to the draft."

"When I came back, one of the first bands I saw was the Airplane," said Ron Perez, an army combat veteran and current president of the Vietnam Veterans Project board. "It's hard to describe the inspiration you get seeing all these people perform for us now, even though it's ten or twelve years later. In a lot of ways, it's the homecoming we never had." □

EDITORIAL

Editorials on topics of public interest are presented regularly on KABC Talkradio 79 by George C. ... General Manager. KABC offers free broadcast time to qualified persons with opposing views. Your comments concerning these editorials will be greatly appreciated. (Signed) A. ... Editor, KABC

KABC TALKRADIO 79

3321 South La Cienega Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90016 (213) 557-7275

#82-55

"VIETNAM VETERANS LEADERSHIP PROGRAM"

KABC would like to give its heartiest endorsement to a new volunteer organization founded to assist some of the most forgotten, yet most deserving American citizens -- the Viet Nam vets. The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program or VVLP has just recently opened offices in Los Angeles and San Diego.

KABC believes these offices are especially significant since we in Southern California have about 150,000 vets among us. Sadly though, nearly 15,000 of them still need help in adjusting to day-to-day life. The VVLP hopes to help them by enlisting the aid of their fellow veterans who have successfully adapted to life after war. The VVLP says that 90% of our vets are well-adjusted citizens with families and jobs. The organization believes the encouragement and support these men can provide are just what the disoriented vet needs to help him find his way back into the mainstream.

KABC agrees and we urge those more fortunate vets to call the VVLP and offer some time to the men who fought beside them. You can reach the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program at 213-381-5033. That's 213-381-5033.

(Broadcast on Thurs. July 8, at 6:29a, 7:30a, 8:30a, 10:57a, and 8:57p.)



The Citizen / Steve Whalen

Dave Szumowski says it's time Vietnam veterans helped their comrades stand tall.

Old war's new heroes

Cardiff man leads group aiding Vietnam Vets

By MARK PETIX
Assistant Editor

"We returned from Vietnam very peculiar creatures, with young shoulders that bore rather old heads." — Phillip Caputo, "A Rumor of War"

Dave Szumowski's stay in Vietnam was a short one.

Forty days after he arrived, the 23-year-old Szumowski was blinded by wounds received while commanding a tank platoon.

He was flown back to the United States, arriving in the middle of the night. There were no friends waiting, not even any relatives. Only a bed in a ward of Walter Reed Hospital.

Only then did his real battle begin, a private conflict he now calls "Dave Szumowski's war."

"In 1969 it was over for me," he said. "I had to face what I would do with the rest of my life."

His dreams of a military career were over in an instant, his plans for the future uncertain at best. Facing a life without sight was not a pleasant prospect.

Still, the 36-year-old Cardiff resident said the first three years went by rather quickly. The Veteran's Administration was there to help him, he says, teaching him how to cope with his physical disability.

But there came a day when the VA told Szumowski they could do no more for him. That was when the gravity of his experience hit home for the first time.

"They turned me loose and they turned their back on me," he said. "They didn't wait to see if I stumbled or fell on my face."

"That's when I first faced the psychological trauma related to my physical condition."

The next three years were spent in what the Cardiff resident calls the pursuit of a suntan. He'd spend his days by the pool, collecting the pension he calls the "government's" (continued on page A2)

(continued from page A1)
thank you for my sight."

He was 31, and frustrated at the hand life had dealt him.

"I expected my service to place me in the middle of the career ladder instead of at the bottom," he said. "I felt the world owed me a living."

He soon realized that was not the case, so he used his VA benefits to go back to school, where he studied law. He received his degree, and passed the bar exam in Colorado.

In 1977, after a stint with the bureau of Equal Opportunity Employment, he moved to San Diego to work for the VA benefits department.

He said the battle is being won, slowly; sometimes one day at a time. But he's winning.

He said the same is true of most of the 600,000 Vietnam veterans living in California. And he believes it's time those who have made it step forward to help their comrades who are having a harder time adjusting.

Szumowski was recently appointed executive director of the San Diego chapter of the Vietnam Veteran's Leadership Program, a program he says will help do just that.

The program is funded by ACTION to fill the gap between the troubled veteran

and the institutions which can offer only limited help in coping with the victims of an unpopular war.

Szumowski said the program is a grassroots effort geared to bring successful vets in contact with troubled ones, offering them the help they may need to find a job, or adjust to civilian life.

"We encourage successful veterans to give some of their time to help some who have lingering problems with trauma stemming from their war experience," he said.

He said the program was successful in four trial cities, and is now beginning operation in 25 cities, including San Diego and Los Angeles. Eventually, he said, there will be Veteran Leadership Programs in 50 cities.

One goal of the program, he said, is to build up the esteem of the Vietnam veteran, to "separate the warrior from the war."

Szumowski said public opinion is shifting in favor of the veterans who were forced to fight a war President Reagan said recently "they were not allowed to win."

He cited a Harris Poll taken in 1971 that showed 48 percent of the American public felt the Vietnam veteran got a raw deal. Another poll taken in 1980

showed that number had increased to 63 percent.

He said when students of high school and junior high school age are allowed to choose a guest speaker today, they often ask for a Vietnam vet.

The problem now is to let the veteran know times are changing.

"We want to tell them they don't have to hide anymore," he said. "They (the public) look upon the Vietnam vet as a hero. They made one hell of a sacrifice."

One big problem lays in war itself. It was not a conventional war, he said. The units who went over together didn't return together, they were simply replaced.

And when they came home, many at night like Szumowski, there was no fanfare, no ticker-tape parades—no interest at all.

"There was no VE day," he said. "There was no nothing day. They were just a cog in an overall machine."

He said that's why the program will also seek to educate the public of the plight of the Vietnam vet. He said they will also wage a vigorous campaign to convince the business community to hire veterans.

"When they see the words

Vietnam veteran on a resume, he said, "we don't want the glow over it too quickly." They had to make some tough decisions over the years, he said, "maybe some life and death decisions. Maybe that experience is worth something."

Szumowski, who is also on the executive board of the Blind Veteran's Association, said the needs of local veterans will be assessed in the coming months.

Those interested in volunteering their time, or who have suggestions on what is needed, are asked to call him at 235-8857.

The group also accepts donations of time and money. The program is funded through 1984, after which it be supported solely by the community.

Szumowski said this won't be a career job for him. He recently took the California bar exam, and plans eventually to pursue a career as an attorney.

But for the time being, he said he can't think of a better way to spend his time.

"It's a good idea that's working," he said. "It's the more successful vets stepping forward to help their comrades; veterans helping veterans."

continued

to get a job with the government, applying for the presidential management internship program in 1980, he found that they were not going to honor his veterans preference. He filed a complaint and took it to Congress, and they had to change the selection procedures.

He has designed a poster that will be in Post Offices across the country this summer. The poster is a design composed of the types of decorations earned by soldiers in Vietnam. The poster says, "What does America do with experience like this? Put it to work."

Vietnam veterans tend to form a subgroup he says because of shared unique

experiences that only someone that was there could understand. He recalled a meeting of a veterans group he helped form in Massachusetts. It was 2 in the morning and the VFW hall where they had been meeting was closed. They were outside in a snowstorm, and no one wanted to go home. They wanted to talk about their experiences. One guy, a machine-gunner in the war, had been in an infantry outfit that was being transported on personnel-carriers called tracks, when they were ambushed.

"They were taught in basic training," he said, "that if you were ambushed on tracks, everybody jumps off the tracks. Well what happened was that the VC

ambushed 'em right in a mine field.

"So when they jumped off, they were all jumping into mines. And this guy is doing this rendition, jumping all over the place. And we are roaring and laughing up a storm. And if anybody had looked at us they'd have said, these guys are animals! These are crude individuals, no heart. 'What's so funny about that?'"

"But we weren't laughing. We were crying. But we were laughing because the way he was doing it, it was so sad, that you had to laugh. You were hurting. We were laughing and shaking because we were there, and we knew what he was going through."

Through LA-Based Group

O'sider Works To Dispel Viet Vet Myths

By MANDY COVARRUBIAS

Staff Writer

OCEANSIDE — Roland Cinciarelli would like to dispel the myth of the Vietnam veteran as a drug-addicted, mentally unstable loser.

Cinciarelli, of Oceanside, is a Vietnam combat veteran who served in Dong Ha. He is also executive director of the Southern California Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

"We're Vietnam veterans helping Vietnam vets by trying to provide assistance," Cinciarelli said.

The VVLP is a federally funded volunteer program operating in 20 cities throughout the country, including San Diego.

Because the Southern California VVLP is based in Los Angeles, Cinciarelli stays there five days a week and comes home to Oceanside on weekends.

Cinciarelli shows such dedication because he believes in the VVLP's goals — to improve the image of the Vietnam veteran, and to identify and organize volunteer veterans and others who want to help less well-adjusted veterans return to the mainstream of society.

The VVLP does this by acting as a referral service for the Vietnam veteran.

Volunteers offer their skills and/or services in a variety of areas, such as medicine, law and employment. Then, when a veteran calls with a problem or question, the individual is referred to a volunteer with expertise in that area.

Cinciarelli said most of the VVLP's volunteers are Vietnam veterans themselves and want to help those that didn't adjust as easily.

"Although 90 percent of Vietnam veterans are doing well, we would like to help others that aren't doing so well," Cinciarelli said.

There are approximately 100,000 Vietnam veterans in San Diego and Imperial counties, according to David Suzmowski, executive director of the San Diego VVLP chapter and a former commander of a tank platoon in Vietnam, where he was blinded by wounds inflicted in 1969.

"Of course, not all of them are veterans with lingering problems," he said. "Maybe 15,000 need help."

The office, which serves all of San Diego

County, officially opened its doors May 11, and with 40 volunteers is well over its target goal of 20.

Suzmowski said his office is looking for volunteers with expertise in counseling, the media, fundraising ("with a big F,") job search skills and recruitment, to attract more volunteers and to speak to groups and talk about the program.

He said he would like to eventually have 10 to 15 people in each of these groups and organize them into committees to "best utilize the talents we have."

The San Diego branch is at 751 Seventh Ave., and the telephone number is 235-8857.

Although the Southern California VVLP is supported by a \$90,000 annual grant from Action, the national volunteer agency based in Washington, federal participation in the program is scheduled to be phased out before Sept. 30, 1984.

But Cinciarelli says he believes the organization can become financially independent before that through vigorous fundraising and private donations, which are tax exempt.

THE BLADE TRIBUNE
OCEANSIDE, CA 23 JUNE 1982

S.M. Evening Outlook June 9, 1973

Vietnam veterans help out those with postwar problems



LEO THORSNESS:
'It's my opinion that
there is still a natural
bond between people
who fought side by side.'

By PAT ALSTON
Evening Outlook Staff Writer
LOS ANGELES — "When
Johnny comes marching home
again, hurrah, hurrah..."

There was a time when the
words to that once-popular
homecoming song sent chills up
American spines — a time when
victorious veterans were greeted
at train stations, bus depots or
airports by enthusiastic crowds
and "Welcome Home" banners.

Then came Vietnam, which
"was not a popular war," said
Leo K. Thorsness of Santa
Monica.

When groups of World War II
veterans returned home in vic-
tory, "the bands came out,
everyone bought him a drink, and
they were heroes — and rightfully
so," said the six-year Vietnam
prisoner of war and Medal of
Honor winner.

But returning Vietnam
veterans came back alone to a
country they no longer un-
derstood. There were no ticker
tape parades, no rousing strains
of "Stars and Stripes Forever,"
no banners, no cheering crowds of
well-wishers to meet them at the
airport. No victory.

At best, it was just another trip
back home. At worst, it was dis-
dain from the very people for
whom they had put their lives on
the line.

"It took more guts to go into
this war than World War I, World
War II or the Korean War,"
Thorsness said, recalling one
veteran who arrived back home
with one arm, little hope and a
greeting of "Well, you deserved
it!"

It's been nine years since the
remaining U.S. troops were
pulled out of that strife-torn coun-
try — nine years to heal the
wounds, march ahead, begin new
lives. At least 90 percent of those
veterans have successfully made
the transition from Vietnam
veteran to American civilian,
Thorsness believes.

But of the 1.7 million U.S.
servicemen who served in com-
bat, he estimates 10 percent still
need help.

As president of the Southern
California chapter of the Vietnam
Veterans Leadership Program, a
non-profit volunteer corporation,
Thorsness believes the people
best able to offer such help —
whether it be legal advice, refer-
ral to job information or medical
assistance — are those who can

relate to the Vietnam veteran's
experience, in particular, other
Vietnam veterans.

"It's my opinion that there is
still a natural bond between peo-
ple who fought side by side."

When Thorsness, a major in
the Air Force, left for Vietnam in
1966 at the age of 34, his daughter
was 11 years old. When he finally
made it back home, she was 18.

Six of those seven years were
spent in Hanoi — as a "guest" of
the North Vietnamese govern-
ment.

An aviator assigned to mis-
sions over North Vietnam, Thors-
ness was shot down in 1967.

He said the first three years as
a prisoner of war "were lousy" —
the initial 18-day interrogation
period of being jolted into con-
sciousness each time he dozed
off, days of torture, solitary con-
finement, beatings if he so much
as whispered to another POW.

J.B.Z.

VIEW

During the last three years of his imprisonment, however, conditions improved: roomier dormitories, less solitary confinement, even approval to talk with fellow POWs. And so they rapped — about the problems they imagined they would have adjusting ~~to civilian life, about~~ their families, coming home to children who wouldn't know them, wives who had learned to become self-reliant during their husbands' absences.

He's convinced the talking saved their emotional lives. Without that comradeship, "we would have been some pretty goofy guys."

He said the goals of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program include helping veterans who have had difficulty returning to the mainstream of American life and improving the image of the veteran.

"We're not counselors, but we know organizations designed to help veterans.

"I think we need to be an advocate of the Vietnam veteran ... change the (public) attitude toward Vietnam veterans," he said.

"We don't claim to be experts, but we sure care."

His group is a program of ACTION, the national volunteer agency. Veterans wishing to volunteer or those seeking help can contact the program at the Beneficial Plaza Building, Suite 855, 3700 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, or call 331-5033.

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Los Angeles Times

Sunday, May 30, 1982 ★

VIEW

Involvement Opportunities

VETERANS—Vietnam veterans are being enrolled in the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a new Southern California nonprofit organization in which veterans will help other veterans who are experiencing readjustment problems or need help with employment or other services. For information call 381-5033 or (714) 235-8857 in San Diego.

Torrance, CA
South Bay Daily Breeze
(Cir. D. 86,001)
(Cir. S. 101,543)

MAY 17 1982

Vietnam veterans offer help to others

By John M. Bogert
Staff writer

The Medal of Honor winner, Lee Thorsness, is honest about the survival chances of the fledgling organization he heads to help troubled Vietnam War veterans.

Simply put, he said the government-supported Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, designed to bring the clout of successful veterans to bear on the readjustment problems of their former comrades, may not work.

"If the VVLP doesn't work on its \$60,000 California budget, it'll be one of the cheapest mistakes the government ever made," says Thorsness, war hero, fighter pilot, former prisoner of war and just-named president of the non-profit volunteer corporation.

A small, youthful-looking man, the 54-year-old former Air Force colonel is in rank, age and career achievement typical of the three men asked by the federal government's ACTION program coordinator to organize the program.

Of the three volunteer leaders, Thorsness, who also was an unsuc-

cessful candidate for the U.S. Senate, is best known.

Szumowski, an ex-tank commander turned lawyer who was blinded in the war, will head up VVLP's San Diego office.

Their goal is to stretch Southern California's meager \$30,000 share of the \$2 million seed money ACTION is spreading through 40 such programs nationwide. At the heart of the matter, says Thorsness, are the 150,000 Vietnam combat veterans living between San Luis Obispo and San Diego.

But the politically conservative veteran admits he may not be able to reach the estimated 15,000 servicemen in the area who still experience re-entry problems.

All his group knows for sure is that federal funds dry up in September 1984. By then the operation, housed in an office at 3700 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles, must be self-supporting or go out of business.

"And as conservative as I am, we had better be doing some good and living out of our own pockets by then," says the polished volunteer, who is also director of civic affairs for Litton Industries in Beverly Hills.

"Our goal is to complement, not duplicate the services of community groups and veterans' organizations. In fact, we plan to refer vets if the service they seek is provided elsewhere.

"Our main goals are to connect men by the natural bond of people who fought side by side, and to shatter some of the myths and illusions surrounding Vietnam veterans. Of Southern California's 150,000 combat veterans — the largest concentra-

tion in the nation — 90 percent are back in the mainstream, working. It is that other 10 percent, the men still having problems, that we're looking to help.

"By saying that, we don't mean to diminish the problems that do exist or to degrade those men who do have them. But by helping them we improve the image of the Vietnam-era service man across the board. That was a tough war to fight and an even tougher war to come home from.

"I know men who write on job applications that they spent two years working on a farm, rather than say they'd been in Vietnam."

Thorsness' transition to home, wife and daughter was far more difficult than most.

"I was the best fighter pilot in the world for 92½ missions," he said, humorously referring to the day in April of 1967 when his two-man, F-105 Weasel jet fighter was shot down by a MiG over North Vietnam.

He glosses over the six years he spent in prison camps around Hanoi, camps called Skid Row and the Hanoi Hilton.

"It was a place where you existed from minute to minute, from dry season to wet season, where we couldn't think too far ahead or we knew we'd go mad."

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CONTINUED

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Charles Michaelis, a former Marine combat commander in Vietnam, is VVLP vice president. David

"Anyone who was in combat, be he a pole climber for Ma Bell or a board chairman, has an affinity for another combat veteran who needs help."

One man who agrees with this is Chuck Walker. A compensation and benefit specialist for a Marina del Rey computer firm, he was an enlisted man in Vietnam serving as an infantry scout in the 173rd Airborne Brigade.

Wounded in battle, he returned home in 1968 to discover that his war effort didn't make him the most popular man on the block.

"Back then if you didn't go you were a traitor. If you went, you were a killer. The attitude makes it so a combat veteran is the only person who can understand another combat veteran."

"I think the program will work because of that. We're a fraternity. We all have the nightmares and we all feel like we've been screwed."

"In my case, I'm black and I didn't have all the advantages in the world, nor am I the smartest guy around. But I've done all right for myself. If I can do it, anyone can," said the 40-year-old Los Angeles resident, who got involved in the project when he met Thorsness at Litton.

"I don't want to be called to talk to some vet who has gone crazy and is holding hostages. And I don't want to be part of a head-hunter service. But if a guy's trying to make it, it'll be like taking a crab out of the water. Let's clean him up, see what he can do and start making some calls to people we know in industry."

In a roundabout way, that agrees with Thorsness' vision.

But winning the nation's highest decoration in an unpopular war didn't bring the same kind of recognition received by heroes of other wars.

When he was released in 1973, he often found himself the focal point of anti-war protesters.

Later, his identification with Richard Nixon — the man who took credit for his release and who presented him the medal — made him "Nixon's boy." He said the label hurt him when he ran against former Sen. George McGovern in South Dakota in 1974, during the height of the Watergate controversy.

However, he doesn't think his highly decorated status will hurt the organization in their hunt for those veterans, many of whom were less than willing participants in that war.

"We're trying to organize this so if a man from Torrance calls in and says he's a welder who needs work, we'll be able to punch his city into the computer and come up with another welder who might be able to help."

"We'll be asking those in a position to help to use their clout, their influence to get a man work. That's

discrimination I know, and unfair, but that's the kind of discrimination I'm all in favor of."

"Our hope is not to come across like some Reagan program, which we're not. We're not all Democrats or Republicans. We may be naive in doing this and we have no idea if it will even work but we're trying to go that extra mile."

CONTINUED



Leo Thorsness, director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, reviews materials in his Los Angeles office. Under

Staff photo by Bruce Hazelton
the program, successful veterans are enlisted to help former comrades who have had readjustment problems.



Thorsness is escorted by a North Vietnamese soldier during his six-year confinement in Hanoi as a prisoner of war. He was released in 1973.

communities

SOUTH BAY
DAILY BREEZE
THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1982 B1

Vietnam veterans offer help to others

By John M. Bogert
Staff writer

The Medal of Honor winner, Leo Thorsness, is honest about the survival chances of the fledgling organization he heads to help troubled Vietnam War veterans.

Simply put, he said the government-supported Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, designed to bring the clout of successful veterans to bear on the readjustment problems of their former comrades, may not work.

"If the VVLP doesn't work on its \$60,000 California budget, it'll be one of the cheapest mistakes the government ever made," says Thorsness, war hero, fighter pilot, former prisoner of war and just-named president of the non-profit volunteer corporation.

A small, youthful-looking man, the 50-year-old former Air Force colonel is in rank, age and career achievement typical of the three men asked by the federal government's ACTION program coordinator to organize the program.

Of the three volunteer leaders, Thorsness, who also was an unsuc-

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cessful candidate for the U.S. Senate, is best known.

Charles Michaels, a former Marine combat commander in Vietnam, is VVLP vice president. David Szumowski, an ex-tank commander turned lawyer who was blinded in the war, will head up VVLP's San Diego office.

Their goal is to stretch Southern California's meager \$30,000 share of the \$2 million seed money ACTION is spreading through 40 such programs nationwide. At the heart of the matter, says Thorsness, are the 150,000 Vietnam combat veterans living between San Luis Obispo and San Diego.

But the politically conservative veteran admits he may not be able to reach the estimated 15,000 servicemen in the area who still experience re-entry problems.

All his group knows for sure is that federal funds dry up in September 1984. By then the operation, housed in an office at 3700 Wilshire Blvd. in Los Angeles, must be self-supporting or go out of business.

"And as conservative as I am, we had better be doing some good and living out of our own pockets by then," says the polished volunteer, who is also director of civic affairs for Litton Industries in Beverly Hills.

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the service they seek is provided elsewhere.

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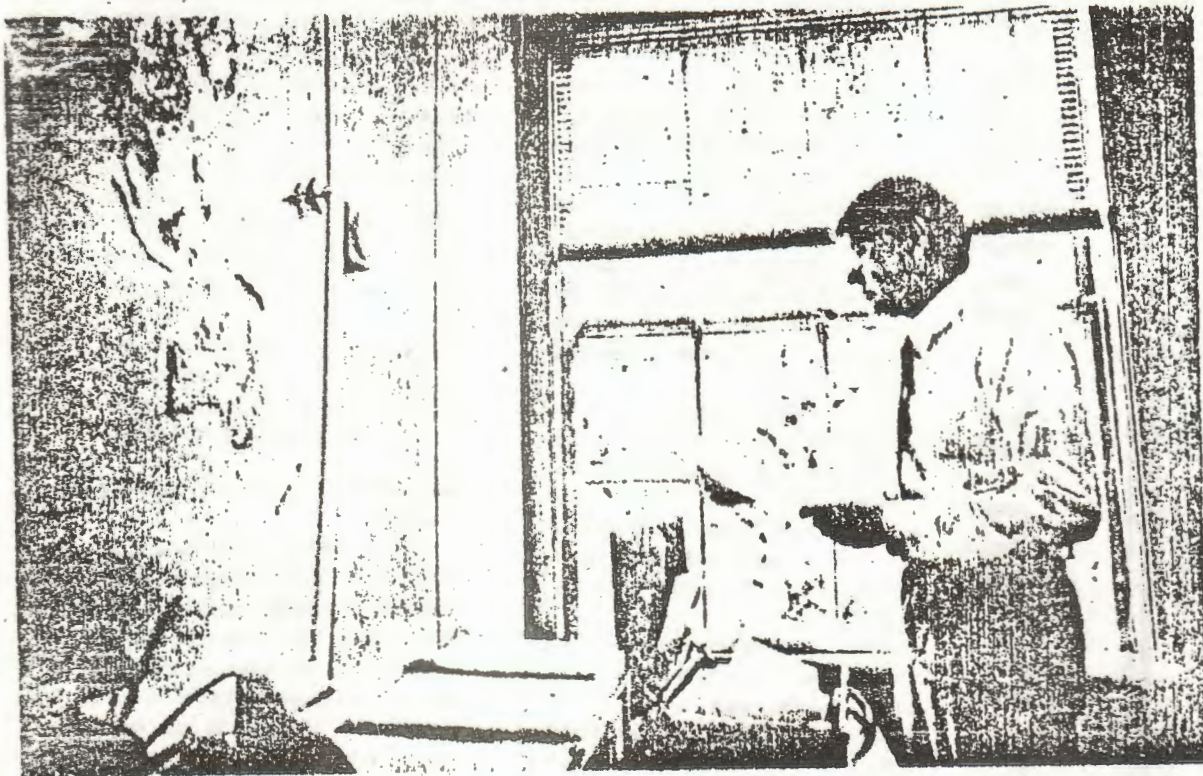
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Job3



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3083

Program launched to help veterans readjust to nation's mainstream

By SUSAN KIRVIN
Daily News Staff Writer

Vietnam-era veterans Monday launched a volunteer program in Los Angeles to help approximately 15,000 ex-servicemen and women in Southern California suffering readjustment conflicts.

The Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, a self-help group of "veterans helping veterans," will call on successful Vietnam-era vets to assist those in need of employment, legal and other professional services, said Leo K. Thorsness, president of the Southern California chapter.

Thorsness, a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for six years, said 90 percent of Vietnam veterans have successfully returned to America's mainstream and do not suffer from high unemployment, drug and alcohol abuse, delayed stress or other psychological problems.

"Our appeal is to the successful Vietnam veteran to lend a hand to that small percentage of us who still needs help getting back into the mainstream," he said.

Successful Vietnam-era veterans in various businesses and professional services will be asked to volunteer their time and expertise to needy vets. Thorsness added pressure will be put on colleagues to give veterans special consideration in hiring.

"We are optimistic that there is still a natural bond between men who fought side by side," he said.

The nationwide program, which has offices in Los Angeles, San Diego and other major cities, will not handle psychological counseling or lobby for veterans' rights issues

such as delayed stress counseling and Agent Orange.

Last year, several Vietnam veterans focused attention on the plight of ex-servicemen and women by staging a sit-in at the Veterans Administration Wadsworth Hospital in West Los Angeles to protest VA care and treatment.

Thorsness said unlike WWI and II veterans, Vietnam vets were not appreciated or treated with respect by the American people upon their return from the war.

"Considering the nation's attitude toward the war, and conduct of the war, Vietnam veterans got cut with a triple edge sword," he said. "But in spite of that, some nine out of 10 (vets) are doing OK."

A major effort of the program is to dispell myths about Vietnam veterans being losers, drug addicts and alcoholics, criminals and anti-U.S. military, he added.

The Bureau of Statistics Bulletin from the U.S. Department of Justice shows a smaller percentage of Vietnam veterans use drugs or end up in jail than non-veterans, said Thorsness.

He added that a Harris study reported nine out of 10 Vietnam veterans expressed pride in serving their country and two-thirds said they would serve again.

Thorsness said 90 percent of Vietnam veterans have returned to America's mainstream employed, raising children and involved in their communities.

Funded by VISTA and ACTION, the national volunteer agency, the program was launched in October 1981 and will receive \$90,000 annually for the next two years. In 1984, federal aid will be phased out.

Tuesday, May 11, 1982

APRIL 11, 1982

DAILY NEWS

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Successful veterans set to help Vietnam buddies

By Don Learned

Tribune Staff Writer

A new program using Vietnam War veterans who have adjusted successfully since returning home to help other Vietnam veterans find jobs, legal aid and other professional services was officially launched here today.

Organizers say the program also will try to counter the lingering stereotypes of Vietnam veterans as drug addicts, prison inmates, and unemployed drifters.

The program is being launched by the newly formed Southern California chapter of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP). At a press conference today, program

leaders announced the opening of the VVLP's San Diego office, at 751 Seventh Ave.

"Our appeal is to the successful Vietnam veteran to lend a hand to those of us who still need a hand," said Medal of Honor winner Leo K. Thorsness, a former Air Force pilot who heads the Southern California effort.

Thorsness, shot down after 92 missions over Southeast Asia, was a prisoner of war in North Vietnam for six years.

"We are not a lobby group. We are not pushing for more programs. We are not a platform for causes. What

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★Veterans

Continued From B-1

we are is a self-help organization of veterans helping other veterans," he said.

Heading the effort in San Diego is David M. Szumowski, a former tank commander in Vietnam, who was blinded by wounds received in 1969 but has since earned a law degree and works as a Veterans Administration counselor.

"We're not looking at it through rose-colored glasses," Szumowski said. "But as executive director (here), I'll be working to see that in some way the sacrifices made by Vietnam veterans are acknowledged."

At the press conference, Thorsness attacked the myths surrounding the "loser" public image of Vietnam vet-

erans as "completely unjustified."

He said a Justice Department study last year shows a smaller percentage of Vietnam veterans using drugs or in prison than the normal population, and Labor Department statistics show 95 percent of all veterans over 25 as employed.

"There's a lot fewer Vietnam veterans outside the mainstream than commonly believed," Szumowski said.

Thorsness also attacked the view that the America public looks down on Vietnam veterans. The public may have its problems with the war itself, he said, but a recent Louis Harris poll showed 83 percent believed Vietnam veterans deserved respect.

The two said they hope to draw

support from the 600,000 Vietnam-era veterans in Southern California — the largest concentration in the country — including about 150,000 who actually served in Vietnam.

"The goal is to get the 135,000 who are making it here to reach out and help the 15,000 who may still need a hand," Thorsness said.

They said they will also seek support from other veterans, men, and women who may lack service backgrounds but want to do something.

Thorsness said the group's goals include putting Vietnam veterans in touch with successful counterparts and shattering the fanciful myths.

"It was tough to do over there and it was tough to come home," he said. "Now it's time to stand up tall and be counted."

Calif.
5/82

Ex-Resident Leads Viet Vets Group

David M. Szumowski, a former city resident and graduate of Gloversville High School, was recently named executive director of the San Diego branch of the Southern California Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program.

Szumowski is the son of Mrs. Mary Ann Powers of 4 Swan Street and the late Michael Szumowski.

A combat veteran who served as a tank platoon leader with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Vietnam in 1969, Szumowski was awarded numerous decorations for service there, including the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars (one for valor) and a Purple Heart for wounds received in action which left him permanently blind.

Following a period of rehabilitation, Szumowski attended Denver University Law School. He was graduated in 1973 and obtained a license to practice law in Colorado.

In 1976, he moved to San Diego and, soon thereafter, was employed by the Veterans Administration as a benefits counselor.

He wrote a recently published article in the Blinded Veterans Association magazine and has formed a local chapter of that association in San Diego.

In addition to serving as president of the Blinded Veterans group, he serves on the executive committee and board of directors of the National Blinded Veterans Association, a veterans organization chartered by Congress.

San Diego Vietnam Veterans Leadership is a community-based effort which is designed to encourage well-adjusted Vietnam veterans and interested citizens to volunteer their time and expertise in helping veterans who need help with lingering problems associated with their experience in Vietnam.

Long Beach, Calif.
(Los Angeles Co.)
Long Beach Reporter
(Cir. 2xW. 750)

APR 30 1982

Blind and Alone, But David Huffman Made It

1794 R

By THOMAS W. PAUKEN
Director of ACTION

Dave Huffman of Wilmington, Delaware, claims he was such a poor student, he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up

home life and eight years in an orphanage. He didn't finish high school, dropping out in the tenth grade. When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was November, 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman. On September 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital at Da Nang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got worse.

He came home to find he really wasn't wanted, not as a veteran, not with his disability which was too much of an inconvenience for those around him to handle. The future looked extremely bleak, but Dave was not willing to accept defeat. "I knew I had to turn my life around," he said. "And I knew I had to rely on my head."

He entered the Hines Veterans Administration Center in Chicago, Ill., to learn to adjust and how to cope in a world of darkness. The course was scheduled to last four months; for David it lasted six. He passed his high school equivalency and was making steady progress when he was in an automobile accident which left him with a broken back, paralyzed from the neck down. He wasn't about to quit, wasn't going to be left lying flat. He began lifting weights in bed. Determination combined with medical treatment put him back on his feet.

But now what to do?

At first, he figured he'd be content with unskilled work, not demanding much of himself or of anybody; a nine-to-five job with a beer waiting for him at the end of the day.

Two things happened. He couldn't find employment, and at a dance, he met Sharon Ann.

"She turned the world around for me," he said. She convinced him to go back to school, and with the VA benefits from his military service, he did so. He was the first blind student to earn not one but two degrees from Wilmington College—in behavioral science and in criminal justice. He was also the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School. Soon, he'll be taking his bar exams, and he plans to specialize in international law.

Right now, he's a program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The purpose of the program is one of aid, from veterans to veterans whatever the need may be. Dave has definite ideas on ways to approach employers, ideas that are innovative and different. "You've got to accentuate the positive," he says, and he's living proof of that axiom.

Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the president it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments at 33, which include a brown belt in judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, "Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want."

APR 22 1982

Good News Report 941

By Thomas W. Pauken
Director of ACTION

Rick Eilert, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, has written a book that is going to be published next year by William Morrow and Co. It's called "Three South," and its title is taken from the name of the hospital ward Rick was on when he returned, badly wounded, from Vietnam in 1968. He hadn't planned to be a writer, but in those first months on Three South he found, like everyone on the ward, that it was impossible to communicate with those outside. Part of it was wondering why he had survived while his buddies were still fighting in Nam. Part of it was the failure of the American public to support or to understand the sacrifice the Rick Eilerts had made for their country. And so, for reasons of therapy, he began to write about life and reflections on "the dirty orthopedic ward"—called dirty because all those on it were suffering from festering, open wounds and bone damage; most of them no more than twenty years old.

When Rick left the naval hospital at Great Lakes, ill-rated as 100 percent physically disabled with chronic bone disease and shrapnel still in his body, he was not disabled in his mind or in his desire to make a start. The writing he put aside. Later, he was to observe: "In addition to the hostile social attitudes encountered by the Vietnam veteran...he also found employment hard to find, but for the returning disabled veteran, finding a job was almost impossible."

For Rick it was. So in spite of the leg brace, the difficulty in getting around with partially paralyzed arms, he went to Europe and found work in several countries. In Spain he began to write again.

Ever since high school, there had been a girl named Cheryl. Following Vietnam, they had separated because, as he said, "You can't expect a 20-year-old girl to go around with an 85-year-old man." In time, they narrowed the age gap and were married. It was Cheryl who encouraged him

to write, who worked when he attended college, who was there when he had to have additional operations—Cheryl who is always there, the mother of their four-year-old daughter, and soon to be the mother of their second child.

There was also Bill Corson, a Marine veteran of three wars, a colonel in Vietnam, a bulwark of strength who keeps in touch. A professional writer of note, Corson read Rick's manuscript and was instrumental in putting it into the hands of a publisher. And so, "Three South" is coming out early next year. Meanwhile, its author is the Chicago project director of ACTION's Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program. "We face two major challenges," he says. "One is to erase the stereotype image of the Vietnam veteran as a loser, and the other is to extend a helping hand to fellow veterans in need of employment and hope."

It's a special job for a special guy...a veteran named Rick Eilert.

ACTION Salutes Outstanding Volunteers

(Editor's Note: April 18-24 has been declared National Volunteer Week — to pay tribute to Americans of all ages who are contributing their time and talent to the cause of volunteerism throughout the country.)

When 14-year-old Wanda Campbell first met Kim, her Cambodian "buddy," at the Daggett Middle School in Fort Worth, Texas, she held out her hand and said, "Friend." Kim, who speaks very little English, initially didn't know how to respond and held back.

"But when I did it again," recalls Wanda, "Kim shook my hand and said 'friend.' We've been friends ever since."

Wanda Campbell is one of about a dozen student at Daggett School to volunteer to help a newly arrived Cambo-

dian youngster learn English and feel at home in America. Begun in February, this Cambodian Buddy system is a one-year, local pilot project of Young Volunteers in ACTION, a new community service program for youth aged 14-22, administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

The word "friend" is universal and volunteering is the American way of expressing friendship. Whether they are 14 years old or 84, no matter whether rich or poor, volunteers are America's greatest natural resource. During National Volunteer Week, sponsored

by the National Center For Citizen Involvement, ACTION salutes its own volunteers — more than 325,000 outstanding human beings.

ACTION volunteers serve under the Foster Grandparent Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Companion Program, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Young Volunteers in ACTION and Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLV).

"Over our history, Americans have always extended their hands in gestures of assistance," says

President Ronald Reagan. "The spirit that built this country still dwells in our people. They want to help. We only need to ask them."

A member of the student council at Daggett Middle School, Wanda Campbell was one the first students to extend her hand in friendship to a Cambodian refugee student. She sees 12-year-old Kim every day at school and talks to her with or without an

"It's quite hard, but we do the best we can," says Wanda, pointing out they look up words in an English-Cambodian dictionary. "It's worth it. I know that if I went to another country, I'd want someone to help me."

Wanda is one of about 125 Young Volunteers in ACTION serving at least ten hours a month in their local communities without stipend. Up to 3,000 students are expected to join their ranks within the year.

"This corps of young volunteers will help carry out the President's order to return voluntarism to the local communities where it belongs," says ACTION Director Thomas W. Pauken. "Young people helping other youths in the community will greatly benefit both the volunteers and those they serve."

At age 85, Ramona R. Lopez of McAllen, Texas, is more than 70 years older than Wanda Campbell, but she too goes out of her way to help those who need her. With 129 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Mrs. Lopez still has the time and energy to be a companion to four homebound senior citizens, all of whom are younger than she.

Continue

I'm not going to sit down and not do anything," maintains Mrs. Lopez, who spends at least 20 hours a week taking care of four women ranging in age from 59-78, who are suffering from infirmities. She is one of about 3,000 Senior Companions who give individual care and

STERLING, COLO. JOURNAL 4/19/82

assistance to other adults, especially the elderly living at home or in institutions.

"What would I do at home? Sleep all day? Sew all day? It's a much better thing to go outside and see someone," notes Mrs. Lopez. She reads and writes letter for the women, who can neither read nor write, and speak only Spanish. She also combs their hair, fixes them tea and takes those who are able for short walks.

"I try to keep them from going to nursing homes. They don't want me to quit and I'm proud of that," she says, adding, "I love my friends here. They are old. I am old, but I think I have a little more energy than they do. We just keep on going."

Before Kip Becker joined the Army in 1966, he wasn't going anywhere in particular. He had flunked out of two years in college and was just drifting along. When he got to flight school, he found that there were things that he could learn. He then went on to serve as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

"When I got out of the Army, my achievements in the war filled a major part of my resume," recalls Becker, 35, of Wilmington, Del. "As the years went by, that section dwindled down to read, 'Military service — 1966-70.'"

"Like a lot of Vietnam veterans, I simply wrote it off my resume and went on my way," continues Becker, who proceeded to earn two master's degrees and a doctorate in psychology. "Due to a collective feeling of guilt, we all sort of disappeared in the closet for 15 years. We didn't win the war and didn't want people to know we were involved in it. Now it's time to come out."

APR 19 1982

Special week showcases nation's volunteers

When 14-year-old Wanda Campbell first met Kim, her Cambodian "buddy," at the Daggett Middle School in Fort Worth, Texas, she held out her hand and said, "Friend." Kim, who speaks very little English, initially didn't know how to respond and held back.

"But when I did it again," recalls Wanda, "Kim shook my hand and said 'friend.' We've been friends ever since."

Wanda Campbell is one of about a dozen students at Daggett School to volunteer to help a newly arrived Cambodian youngster learn English and feel at home in America. Begun in February, this Cambodian Buddy system is a one-year, local pilot project of Young Volunteers in ACTION, a new community service program for youth aged 14 to 22, administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

The word "friend" is universal, and volunteering is the American way of expressing friendship. Whether they are 14 years old or 84, no matter whether rich or poor, volunteers are America's greatest natural resource. During National Volunteer Week, from April

18 to 24, 1982, sponsored by the National Center For Citizen Involvement, ACTION salutes its own volunteers - more than 325,000 outstanding human beings.

ACTION volunteers serve under the Foster Grandparent Program, Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Senior Companion Program, Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA), Young Volunteers in ACTION and Vietnam Veterans Leadership program (VVLV).

"Over our history, Americans have always extended their hands in gestures of assistance," says President Ronald Reagan. "The spirit that built this country still dwells in our people. They want to help. We only need to ask them."

Wanda Campbell is one of about 125 Young Volunteers in ACTION serving at least ten hours a month in their local communities without pay. Up to 3,000 students are expected to join their ranks within the year.

"This corps of young volunteers will help carry out the president's order to return volunteerism to the local communities where it belongs," says ACTION Director Thomas W. Pauken. "Young people helping other youths in the

community will greatly benefit both the volunteers and those they serve."

At age 85, Ramona R. Lopez of McAllen, Texas, is more than 70 years older than Wanda Campbell, but she too goes out of her way to help those who need her. With 129 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, Mrs. Lopez still has the time and energy to be a companion to four homebound senior citizens, all of whom are younger than she.

"I'm not going to sit down and not do anything," says Mrs. Lopez, who spends at least 20 hours a week taking care of four women ranging in age from 59 to 78, who are suffering from infirmities. She is one of about 5,280 Senior Companions who give individual care and assistance to other adults, especially the elderly living at home or in institutions.

"What would I do at home? Sleep all day? Sew all day? It's a much better thing to go outside and see someone," says Mrs. Lopez. She reads and writes letters for the women, who can neither read nor write, and speak only Spanish. She also combs their hair, fixes them tea and takes those who are able for short walks.

Before Kip Becker joined the Army in 1966, he wasn't going anywhere in par-

Continued

ticular. He had flunked out of two years in college and was just drifting along. When he got to flight school, he found that there were things that he could learn. He then went on to serve as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam.

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"Like a lot of Vietnam

coordinating existing services that could benefit those veterans who still have problems associated with their military service.

"Vietnam veterans are not all alcoholics and drug addicts. We can make a stand to contradict that negative image and provide positive role models for those less fortunate veterans who just haven't been able to fit back into society," he explains.

Living means giving, especially to children, for many ACTION volunteers.

'The spirit that built this country still dwells in our people. They want to help. We only need to ask them.'

veterans, I simply wrote it off my resume and went on my way," continues Becker, who proceeded to earn two master's degrees and a doctorate in psychology.

Director of development, marketing and public relations at Wilmington College, Becker recently became chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Wilmington, one of 14 ACTION-sponsored VVLPs in the country. He volunteers about 15 hours a week organizing a network of successful Vietnam veterans in the community and

"What the children need so much is love -- to know that you care about them," observes Margie Twiss, 74, who serves five days a week as an RSVP volunteer, recruiting and coordinating other Retired Senior Volunteers for a Head Start program in Rapid City, S.D.

ACTION's largest program, RSVP has more than 300,000 volunteers age 60 and over, devoting time and energy to community service without compensation. Under a recent interagency agreement between ACTION and the

Department of Health and Human Services, a number of Retired Senior Volunteers and Foster Grandparents are serving as teacher aides and volunteer coordinators for preschoolers in Head Start.

"I love kids. I love this work. It makes me feel like I'm still worth something," says Mrs. Twiss, who "retired" at age 60 after teaching 32 years on the Pine Ridge Reservation where she was born and raised. "I was ready to climb the walls. I couldn't retire."

Mrs. Twiss divides her time between helping the children in the classroom and convincing other "retirees" to join her in RSVP. She's recruited 44 since October and is aiming for 100 by fall.

Filling a missing gap in homes where there is potential child abuse or neglect is the mission of Alma Diggs, 60, a Foster Grandparent with a parent aid group in Hampton, Va.

"There's always something missing in these homes. I can sense it as soon as I walk in the door," says Mrs. Diggs. "It's love that's lacking and that's where I come in. I try to supply the extra love to bring the family close together."

Mrs. Diggs is one of about 18,030 Foster Grandparents providing companionship

and guidance to emotionally, physically and mentally handicapped children all over the country. She and five other Foster Grandparents in the program provide understanding and support to the children and parents or foster parents in homes where social welfare workers have identified potential cases of abuse or neglect.

"Little by little, the children will tell you about their feelings in the home and gradually you'll know better how to work with the mother," reports Mr. Diggs, who spends about four hours a week with the families. "I think that it boils down to a lack of understanding. A lot of people don't understand how to raise children. They may have good intentions, but love their children, but it doesn't come across the way to the kids."

She maintains that potential child abuse can be prevented with gentle guidance. "I don't feel like I'm fighting a losing battle and I don't think I'll ever see a case too tough to handle," she says. "To really have success, you can't do just enough and I'm willing to go that extra mile."

For more information write: ACTION, 806 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C., 20525.

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The Good News Report

347-349

BY: Thomas W. Pauken
Director of Action

The David L. Huffman Story

Dave Huffman of Wilmington, Del., claims he was such a poor student, he flunked out of kindergarten. Maybe so. He didn't have much going for him then; a messed up home life and eight years in an orphanage. He didn't finish high school, dropping out in the 10th grade. When he was 19, he enlisted in the Marines. That was November 1967, and in April 1968 he arrived in Vietnam as a combat rifleman. On September 29, a day he'll never forget, he was booby trapped. When he woke up in the hospital at Da Nang, he was blind. That was the beginning of the bad news, and it got worse.

He came home to find he really wasn't wanted, not as a veteran, not with his disability which was too much of an inconvenience for those around him to handle. The future looked extremely bleak, but Dave was not willing to accept defeat. "I knew I had to turn my life around," he said. "And I knew I had to rely on my head."

He entered the Hines VA Rehabilitation Center in Chicago, Ill., to learn to adjust and how to cope in a world of darkness. The course was scheduled to last four months; for David it lasted six. He passed his high school equivalency and was making steady progress when he was in an automobile accident which left him with a broken back, paralyzed from the neck down. He wasn't about to quit, wasn't going to be left lying flat. He began lifting weights in bed. Determination combined with medical treatment put him back on his feet.

But now what to do?

At first, he figured he'd be content with unskilled work, not demanding much of himself or of anybody; a nine-to-five job with a beer waiting for him at the end of the day.

Two things happened. He couldn't find employment, and at a dance, he met Sharon Ann.

"She turned the world around for me," he said. She convinced him to go back to school, and with the VA benefits due from his military service, he did so. He was the first blind student to earn not one but two degrees from Wilmington College--in behavioural science and in criminal justice. He was also the first blind student to graduate from Delaware Law School. Soon, he'll be taking his bar exams, and he plans to specialize in international law.

Right now, he's a program planner in the new Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, sponsored by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. The purpose of the program is one of aid, from veterans to veterans whatever the need may be. Dave has definite ideas on ways to approach employers, ideas that are innovative and different. "You've got to accentuate the positive," he says, and he's living proof of that axiom.

Recently, when he met Ronald Reagan, he told the President it wouldn't be too long before a Vietnam veteran took over the White House job. He didn't name himself as a candidate, but with all his accomplishments as 33, which include a brown belt in Judo, don't rule him out.

David L. Huffman has come a long way since he dropped out of school. He has the kind of spirit and courage and outlook that our country has always depended on. He's the father of three children, and when he's asked how he has come so far so fast, he answers quietly, "Sharon Ann. With love and kindness you can go as far as you want."

Veteran Wants To Help Overcome Viet War

BY BEN L. KAUFMAN

Enquirer Reporter

John P. Wheeler III, class of '66, is trying to save the Vietnam generation for The Republic.

The Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., taught him never to accept less.

"It's important, unfinished business," he said in a recent interview from his Washington, D.C., office.

"I believe that the Vietnam war will have more impact in the next 10 years than the last 10 years."

Wheeler wants to be a healing agent for the "wounded generation." He took an immodest proposal to the White House and his Commander-in-Chief bought it for \$6 million.

"It's one of those things you have to do," Wheeler said.

Sixteenth in his class. Duty, Honor, Country. And Redemption. Wheeler promotes a military concept of Duty with a religious sense of call but he's no Janus or Jekyll & Hyde. He's integrated his faiths into a program of action for his country and church.

TODAY, WHEELER is national director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program (VVLP), pledged to establishing 50 local/state VVLPs with these goals:

- Recruit veteran volunteers to help other veterans with particular needs.
- Assure effective help for the estimated 500,000 veterans with "significant lingering problems associated with their Vietnam experience, such as underemployment or unemployment."
- Demonstrate leadership abilities of Vietnam veterans and put aside the image of a group to be "pitied or treated as victim."

- Reaffirm military service as an honorable calling.

President Reagan authorized VVLP in July as part of ACTION, the agency for volunteer service. VVLP is a leadership program for men and women back from the war zone. Others need not apply.

"It's the one program aimed at that one particular issue," Wheeler said.

IT'S TIME to do this, Wheeler said. The war must be taken off the shelf where uneasy Americans consigned it after the flight from Saigon.

Moreover, Wheeler said, his comrades are at the age when Americans traditionally assert themselves in government, industry, and commerce.

Wheeler has given himself three years. "Then I and my men are free to be done and declare the federal program a success," he said. "I'm just wired up in a way that I can make it happen soon."

Wheeler, 37, reached the White House through novelist Jim Webb, author of *Fields of Fire*. Webb introduced him to another veteran, Tom Pauken, Mr. Reagan's choice for ACTION's top job.

"They listened to me because I'd been thinking about these things in terms of policy," Wheeler recalled. "It's taken 10 years for these kinds of thoughts and concerns to appear."

Where veterans are willing to incorporate VVLP programs, Wheeler will provide "seed money" for a project director, secretary and office expenses.

THOSE \$50,000 annual grants are to run out at the end of Mr. Reagan's term in 1985. Then local funding is to carry the programs.

Wheeler is looking for local groups in Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana. Interested veterans should contact him or assistant Bill Jayne at (202) 254-8270.

But there's more.

Wheeler is an Episcopalian who picked law over the priesthood as a postwar career. He sees his generation's problems in theological terms as separation—from other men, from women, from self and from God—and self-giving, redemption and call.

His first move was VVLP. Next, he wants to mobilize his denomination as a healing force. "The Episcopal Church has a calling in the full theological meaning of that word."

Outside his role at VVLP, his ministry embraces peers who avoided military service and fought against the war. They, too, have problems related to that "profound formative event for the generation."

MANY VETERANS fear personal association with the Vietnam debacle and those who opposed the war fear accusations of cowardice, he said.

"The submerged, serious nature of the divisions within the generation warrants particular notice now, especially in view of the needless personal pain and disunity which they perpetuate."

Wheeler finds "an aching, yearning, that is Old Testament, for reconciliation and healing" in both camps.

Awkward as it is, he cannot leave it to others. "It's one of those things where the Spirit won't leave you alone until it's done and done right."

Whether his generation's alienation arose from the war or was carried into action by the "Me Generation" is a side issue to Wheeler. Either way, the war made it worse and the country still is suffering.

He outlines his religious perspective in the January issue of the *Anglican Theological Review*, published in Evanston, Ill.

"It is a statement of faith by a layman to his faith community," he said, hoping others will carry on.

"The theological work is essential because if the war affected our material life in such aspect as economic, political and military attitudes, then the war must also have affected our spiritual life."

Wednesday, November 18, 1981

Legislator who saw combat heads program

Vietnam was 'merciless,' but vets to get aid

By PETER REICH
Phoenix Gazette

PHOENIX — "I didn't enjoy killing; I figured the other guy might have a wife and family. But I knew it was him or me," says state Rep. James Hartdegen, R-Casa Grande, who saw combat as an infantryman in Vietnam's jungles in 1967.

Now he's been made state chairman of the Vietnam Leadership Program, a new federal effort designed to help the Vietnam War's troubled veterans to adjust to civilian life.

Hartdegen says he is familiar

with the kind of problems that Vietnam veterans have. He says he has had a few such problems himself.

"I was 21 when I was sent to Vietnam. It was a different way of life," he said in a recent interview. "We were taught: 'If you go into an enemy village, kill (everything) — dogs, pigs, chickens, men, women and children.' They didn't put that in writing, but that's what they taught us."

"I never killed any babies," he said. "But I feel sorry for Lt. (William) Calley." Calley was court-martialed for his part in the My Lai massacre.

It was a merciless war, in which the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese rarely took prisoners, Hartdegen said. "They either killed you immediately, or they played with you awhile before they killed you. We were aware that if we were captured, we didn't have much of a chance," he said.

And, he added, the behavior of the enemy elicited return treatment in kind. Hartdegen said he knows an American soldier who "cut ears off enemy dead, and even a head," on one occasion. "They sent him to a psychiatrist in Saigon, and the psychiatrist sent him back, and said,

"There's nothing wrong with him; he's just taking out his frustrations,"" Hartdegen said.

"When I first came home, I wanted to join some soldiers of fortune. If I could have linked up with some mercenaries, I probably would have," he added. "Combat is addictive. An M-16 or a .50-caliber machine gun gives you power."

He also said he had a few emotional problems.

"It took me awhile to be able to sleep in a bed, between the cover-

Continued, Page 3F

Hartdegen aids veterans

From Page 1B

again. I had a hard time using the facilities in the house," he recalled. "I'd carry a pistol or rifle in my pickup. I figured, if someone wanted to fight me, I wasn't going to let him hit me — I'd shoot him."

So, he said, he knows the problems of the veterans that his organization is intended to help. The program will be administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency. It will be a nationwide program for the estimated 500,000 Viet-

nam veterans who still have problems associated with their time in service.

Altogether, \$2 million a year in federal funds is to be allocated to the program. Hartdegen said that means that almost all the work will be done by volunteers.

"We hope to find professionals and other Vietnam vets who have made a successful transition to civilian life and have them talk to employers about hiring Vietnam vets," Hartdegen said. "You know, a lot of big business made a lot of big bucks off the Vietnam War."

Rep. Hartdegen Heads Program For Veterans

By PETER REICH

Gazette Aviation-Military Reporter

"I didn't enjoy killing — I figured the other guy might have a wife and family — but I knew it was him or me."

State Rep. Jim Hartdegen, R-Casa Grande, was an infantryman in Vietnam in 1967. He saw combat in the jungles.

Now he's been made state chairman of the new Vietnam Leadership Program, a federal initiative designed to help Vietnam veterans with problems adjust to civilian life.

HARTDEGEN is familiar with the kind of problems Vietnam veterans might have. He admits to having had a few himself. He recalled:

"I was 21 when I was sent to Vietnam. It was a different way of life.

"We were taught: 'If you go into an enemy village, kill (everything) — dogs, pigs, chickens, men, women and children.' They didn't put that in writing, but that's what they taught us.

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"They sent him to a psychiatrist in Saigon, and the psychiatrist sent him back, saying, 'There's nothing wrong with him — he's just taking out his frustrations.'"



JIM HARTDEGEN

THE MAN'S brother and brother-in-law had been killed in Vietnam.

The war left its mark on Hartdegen.

"When I first came home, I wanted to join some soldiers of fortune. If I could have linked up with some mercenaries, I probably would have.

"Combat is addictive. An M-16 or a 50-caliber machine gun gives you power," he said.

He had a few emotional problems, he admits.

"It took me awhile to be able to sleep in a bed, between the covers, again. I had a hard time using the facilities in the house.

"I'd carry a pistol or rifle in my pickup. I figured, if someone wanted to fight me, I wasn't going to let him hit me — I'd shoot him."

FORTUNATELY, the occasion never arose.

But there were other difficulties.

"I'd be in the ASU (Arizona State University) library, and I'd see the anti-war protesters, and I knew that in their eyes I was a bad guy — a baby killer," he remembers.

"I wanted to tell them, 'Hey, I never killed any babies. I just did a job. You drafted me.' But I never said anything."

Hartdegen wasn't married at the time, but, he said, "I'll be truthful: If I would have been, I probably would have wound up divorced."

There are many things about the war that still disturb him.

"We had the capability of going in and winning that war — and we didn't," he said.

"And I still believe that had (Arizona Sen. Barry) Goldwater been elected president (in 1964), I never even would have had to go to Nam."

ALSO, HE said, "There still are some Americans being held captive over there."

Vietnam Vets to Help Others With Problems

By KIM BENGHEIM
Staff Writer

A newly created program is expected to help Vietnam veterans in volunteer efforts of their comrades who still have problems, said the state chairman of the program.

State Rep. Jim Hartdegen, R-Casa Grande, was named state chairman of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program in Washington, D.C., Tuesday in a meeting

with President Reagan and 30 key VVLP volunteers.

The initial meeting lasted about 20 minutes with Reagan making supporting comments of VVLP followed by organizing meetings throughout the day.

"The job is a challenge and I'm looking forward to it," Hartdegen said in a telephone interview Wednesday night from his home.

"Often, Vietnam veterans are

portrayed with a negative image," he said.

"We want to show the public all combat veterans don't have problems and many are living a normal life and are lawyers, engineers, doctors and the common working man," he said.

"It's time to show the public why we were there and to relay what it was actually like to be in Vietnam since that's hard to get

across to the people."

Hartdegen was one of the first Vietnam veterans to win a seat in a legislature anywhere in the nation when he took office five years ago. There are 11 in Congress now, he said.

In 1967, Hartdegen was a fire team leader in the Army with the 25th Infantry Division in War Zone C. He was there for six months and nine days, as he quickly remem-

bers.

"I believe as a Vietnam veteran I have a responsibility to help veterans who have service connected problems," Hartdegen said.

"When I came home from my tour of duty, I also had problems readjusting to regular life from the jungles of Vietnam to the streets of Eloy," he said. It took only 48 hours. "From war to peace in such a short time was a shock to say the

least. The Vietnam war lasted ten years and nine months, which is the longest war of our history. For some people who spent time in Southeast Asia, the war is still going on. However, I believe with the help of VVLP, positive things will happen."

VVLP is a new federal initiative administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

See Vietnam, page 3

Vietnam Vets to Help Others

Continued from page 1

"It is time to tap the enormous resource of able and successful Vietnam veterans who stand ready to come forward to help solve the problems of their fellow veterans," Thomas Pauken, ACTION director and Vietnam veteran, said.

VVLP is intended to be a low key and inexpensive volunteer program, Hartdegen said.

The federally funded program will cost \$2 million per year for three years. VVLP will be established in 50 communities throughout the U.S. Pilots are under way in Phoenix, Philadelphia, Pa., Baltimore, Md., San Antonio, Texas, Wilmington, Del., and Nashville, Tenn. About \$50,000 will be designated for each city. There will be a

salaried project director and volunteer chairman for each community.

Federal participation in VVLP is scheduled to be phased out by Sept. 30, 1984.

Specific needs of the communities will be evaluated followed by an action plan to solve the most severe problems, a VVLP spokesman said.

VVLP is also designed to demonstrate the leadership of veterans and to stimulate effective help for the veterans who still have significant problems associated with Vietnam such as under-employment and unemployment.

VVLP will not provide individual counseling or a referral service

and is not intended to duplicate or overlap services of the Veterans Administration, the spokesman said. VVLP will supplement the services to create services in all needed areas.

Some typical activities of the program might include job placement and developing business support for veterans who want to begin or expand their own business.

From 1963 to 1973, about 2.7 million Americans served in Vietnam. About 98 percent were men between age 26 and 35.

During the war, 57,698 persons were killed and 270,000 were wounded. More than 21,000 were disabled and about 5,000 lost one or more limbs.

NOV 11 1981 69

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U.S. prepares to remember its veterans

News wire services

WASHINGTON — President Reagan paid tribute Tuesday to the 2.7 million Vietnam veterans who fought "in the finest tradition of the American military in a war they were not allowed to win."

In a Rose Garden ceremony on the eve of Veterans Day, Reagan said: "Recognition and appreciation for all they went through is long overdue."

He participated in the christening of a program designed to help find jobs for unemployed Vietnam veterans and to promote a positive image of Vietnam veterans.

The program, known as the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program, will recruit successful businessmen and others to help fellow veterans find jobs and build self-esteem. It is being administered by ACTION, the national volunteer agency.

Reagan said Vietnam veterans "have never received the thanks they deserved."

"A long, dragged out tragedy, Vietnam divided our nation and damaged America's self image," the president said. "And part of that tragedy — a major part — was the sacrifice by men who fought as bravely as any American fighting men have ever fought."

"Contrary to an unjust stereotype," Reagan added, "a vast majority of Vietnam veterans readjusted quickly after returning from Southeast Asia."

However, he said, "There are those who found it difficult to come to grips with problems that could be traced to their wartime experiences."

The Rose Garden ceremony preceded Wednesday commemorations when Americans will thank the nation's war veterans by attending church services, viewing parades and participating in other activities.

Banks, schools and federal, state and local government offices will be closed across the country.

The eight servicemen who died trying to



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

President Reagan talks with John Foles Jr., employment director of the Blinded Veterans Association, after

inaugurating a self-help program for Vietnam veterans in a Rose Garden ceremony Tuesday.

rescue the former American hostages in Iran will be eulogized by Dorothy Royer, the mother of one of the hostages, at Houston National Cemetery.

Included among the marchers this year in New York City's annual parade will be members of the Red-Ribbon Red Badge of Courage Campaign, relatives of GI's still missing in Southeast Asia.

And those American servicemen still thought to be captive in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia will be honored by a special mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral being offered by Cardinal Terence Cooke, archbishop of New York.

Indiana Gov. Robert D. Orr proclaimed November as Veterans' Recognition Month, and called on Hoosiers to give the state's 230,000 Vietnam Veterans special attention because they were "never properly honored."

Denver's Vets parade will begin at 10 a.m.

Denver's Veterans Day Parade will begin at 10 a.m. Wednesday with the caravan forming near the City and County Building.

Fourteenth, 15th and many surrounding downtown streets will be closed to traffic during the parade, which normally lasts about two hours.

Marchers will move west on 14th Street to lower downtown, then move up to 15th Street, turn right and march east on 15th Street to Broadway. There, the parade will turn right and pass before a Civic Center reviewing stand before disbanding.



United Press International

President Reagan talks with John Fales Jr., employment director of the Blinded Vet-

erans Association, after inaugurating a self-help program for Vietnam veterans.

President Pays Tribute To Vietnam Veterans

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Walnut Creek, CA
(Contra Costa County)
Contra Costa Times
(Cir. 8xW. 98,896)

OCT 25 1981

Be involved politically, vets urged

By JEAN DICKINSON
Times staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Veterans of the Vietnam War must "come out of the closet" and demand attention from an American public that prefers to ignore their problems of unemployment, delayed stress reaction and exposure to Agent Orange.

That was the message by speakers at the radio station KFRC-sponsored Vietnam Veterans Fair here Saturday.

"It's time to let Congress, the state and the county know that we have needs and that we are not asking for something that we don't deserve," said Richard Garza of the Contra Costa Veterans Service Office.

Speaking on the panel "Change for Vietnam Vets: Affecting the System," Garza and others stressed that Vietnam veterans have a profound distrust of becoming involved in the political process because "it's the same system that took us out of high school, put us in uniforms and packed us off to war."

Yet, according to Tom Langkau of the North Coast Veterans Support Group, the "non-active Vietnam veteran is closing the door on the rest of us, because by not organizing, by not taking a stand, they are asking the government to ignore us."

Although the morning panel was sparsely attended, more than 2,000 people attended the two-day series of speeches, discussions and exhibits at Fort Mason. Fair organizers chose the historic fort for the event because it was the site where two million American soldiers were shipped off to fight in both World War II and Korea.

Topics by panelists ranged from "Agent Orange and Your Future" to "Coping with Delayed Stress" and "Behind the Walls: Problems of Incarcerated Veterans."

Charles Liteke, who delivered the opening speech Saturday, struck an adamant anti-war stance that was to be echoed by other speakers throughout the morning.



Times photo/Sal Bromberger

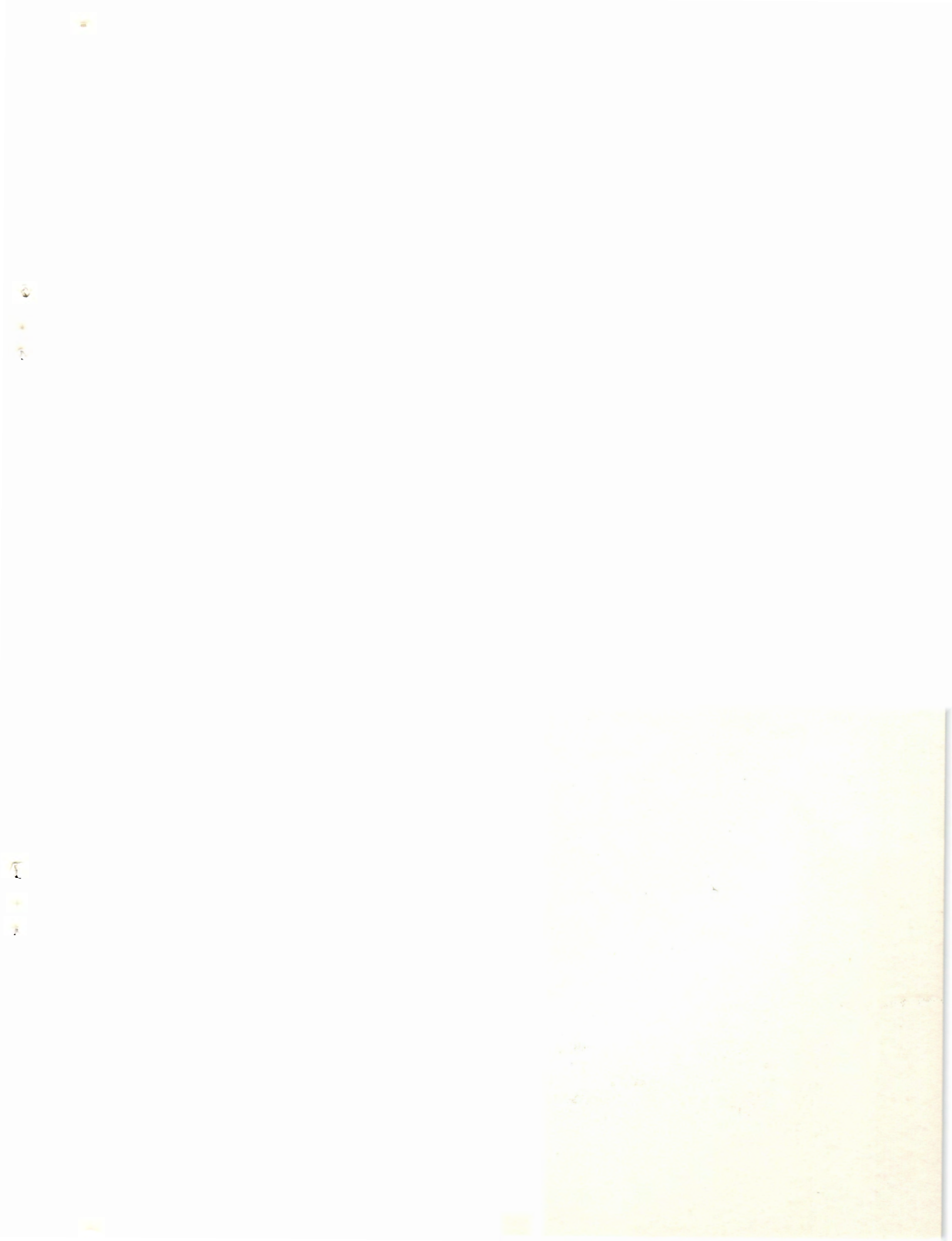
Charles Liteke

A former Catholic chaplain and recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor for his service in Vietnam, Liteke said he has since become a pacifist who "cannot support the possession or use of nuclear weapons which have the capacity to change life as we know it and to make a vast crematorium of this planet."

Calling the Vietnam War "a tremendous, costly mistake," panelist Lankau said that veterans "must speak out and prevent future Vietnams by telling of the absurd nature of that war" in Southeast Asia.

Edward Timperlake, national deputy director of the Vietnam Veterans Leadership Conference, said that while 80 percent of the 2.5 million GIs who saw combat in Vietnam have made a successful transition into civilian life, they have become "closet Vietnam veterans, downplaying those years of service because of the myth and stereotypes about Vietnam veterans."

He said his organization — under the auspices of ACTION, which also oversees the Peace Corps and Vista — hopes to recruit volunteers among those veterans who have made successful transitions to aid those who are still having problems:





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