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Vets Constitutional Rights

Vets Grassroots Symposium

NATIONAL

Vietnam Veterans Review

"Strength in Unity"

Vol. 1, No. 3

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

October, 1981

Vietnam Vets Found Radio Network

Veterans News to be Nationally
Syndicated

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 26

Vets Administration Hospital Rules Change

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 26

Vietnam Veteran Outstanding Disabled Veteran of 1981

David Berry
Story on Page 7



Stockman Admits "Goof"

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

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

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

Former Hunger Striker Plunges to Death

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

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

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

Continued on Page 26

National Vietnam Veterans Review
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Opinions

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

Ernest V. Joiner

Sebastapol Times, Thursday, February 5, 1981

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

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

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

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

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



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

Valparaiso, IN
September 19, 1981

Dear NVVR:

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

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

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

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

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

Dear Veterans of Vietnam:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let us help! Tell us how!

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

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

Where is America's conscience?

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

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

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

New Vietnam Veterans Outreach Center expected in Concord

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Red Cross: Ready for a new century.



NATIONAL

VETERANS REVIEW

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Let's Hear From You!

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

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

Send to: Editor
 National Vietnam Veterans Review
 P.O. Box 35812
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 P.O. Box 35812
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NOTICES

Congratulations in Order

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

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

Agent Orange

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

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

Indiana VVA Going to Art Show

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

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

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

AMA International

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

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

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

Nuoc Mam*

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

By Steve Hanshaw



Steve Hanshaw

Editorials

Using Vietnam as an Excuse

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Source: The Chicago Tribune, September 28, 1981

Guest Editorial

Dear Fellow Nam Vets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reagan Administration Budget Ax Falls On Five Veterans Programs

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

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

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



SPEAK COYLY, BUT CARRY A BIGG' KNIFE.

The action will affect:

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

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

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

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

Furlton M. Burns
Oregon Director
Veterans Leadership Conference

Op Center

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

Lem Genovese

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

Cary Shelton

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

Joan Maiman

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

Jack Morante

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

Frank Price

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

Gov. Gerry Brown

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

Philip Cushman

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

Furlton Burns

For his well written and informative Guest Editorial.

Hire the Veteran!

Time for Vietnam vets to Organize

by Ed Murphy

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

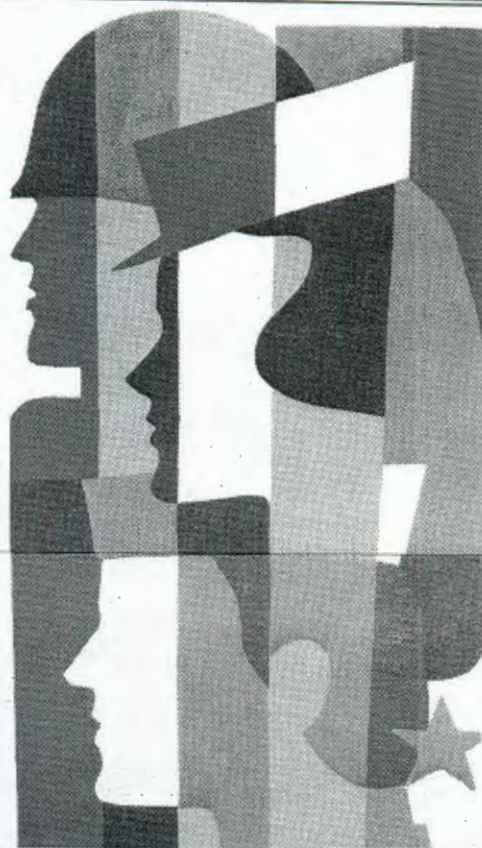
The next morning four of us are in a cab facing rush-hour traffic to the airport. We join thousands of commuters and the honking horns of daily life. We were just another fare to the airport. The only visible difference being that we wore our unit patches on our right shoulder. Only those in the brotherhood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

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

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

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

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



VETERAN'S DAY

NOVEMBER 11TH

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

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

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

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

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

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

The National Vietnam Veterans Review is filling that communications vacuum.

Veterans Must Support Veterans

Mail Room

Letters

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

Dear Chuck,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Steve Hamaker

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

Dear Editor:

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

P.C.S.

South Boston, VA

Certified Heroes

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

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

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



Veteran's Awareness

To the Editor:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Douglas Stuart, Student, SCSC, Connecticut

Missing the Message

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

This is the reason many of us went to Vietnam.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joan M. Maiman

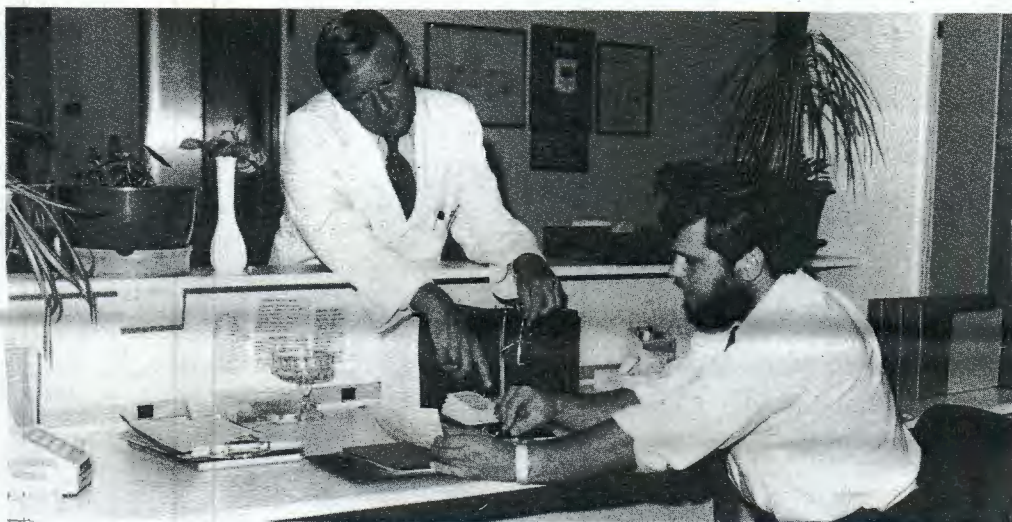
Got a buddy needs help? Bring him into a Vet Center. No appointments needed, no hassles. We're here to help!

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DAV National Service Officer David Nesbitt observed some of Berry's counseling sessions and said the counselor "is able to overlook his disability and get right to the matter at hand. It seems to me that he just forgets about any troubles he might have ever had in life and concentrates on dealing with someone else's life. He wants to get them straightened out so they can become productive citizens.

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



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

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

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

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

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

Area Vietnam Vets Seek Herbicide's Victims

by Tom Juergens, The Gazette, January 21, 1981

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

California Hearings Held Agent Orange effects told

Contra Costa Times, Thursday, August 6, 1981

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

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

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

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

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

Activists appeal for funds to help veterans

by Robin Topping
The Advocate, Wednesday, July 1, 1981

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Under the Rainbow

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

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

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

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

Update

Illinois Passes "Scaled Down" Agent Orange Bill

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Agent Orange and Stamford

by Laurie A. O'Neill

The New York Times, Sunday July 5, 1981

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vietnam Veterans Agent Orange Act

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

Source: The AOV Newsletter, August 1981

"A Different Road Home From Vietnam"

Women's Corner

Women Veterans

by Susan Sweetnam

A Different Road Home From Vietnam

The officer in charge looked up in disbelief.

"How old are you?"

"Twenty."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 11.

Women's Corner

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

"Women are reluctant to come into the centers."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This is evidence that Laura is leaving Vietnam behind.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



National Association of Concerned Veterans

Grassroots Veterans Issues Symposium

September 5th-7th, Springfield, MO

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

September 30, 1981, but there may be a change in the deadline if enough quality submittals are made. Entries are to be sent to: Vietnam Veterans Photo Project Ede Rothaus - Director c/o Veterans Upgrade Center of New York 165 Cadman Plaza East Brooklyn, New York 11201

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

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

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

John Lindquist - VVAW

3433 North Frattney Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53212

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

Forgotten Warriors Poster

ACPA Publishing Company

1120 North Keystone

Chicago, Illinois 60651

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Veterans Memorial Dedicated

Southern Journal, SCSC, Connecticut

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

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

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

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



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

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

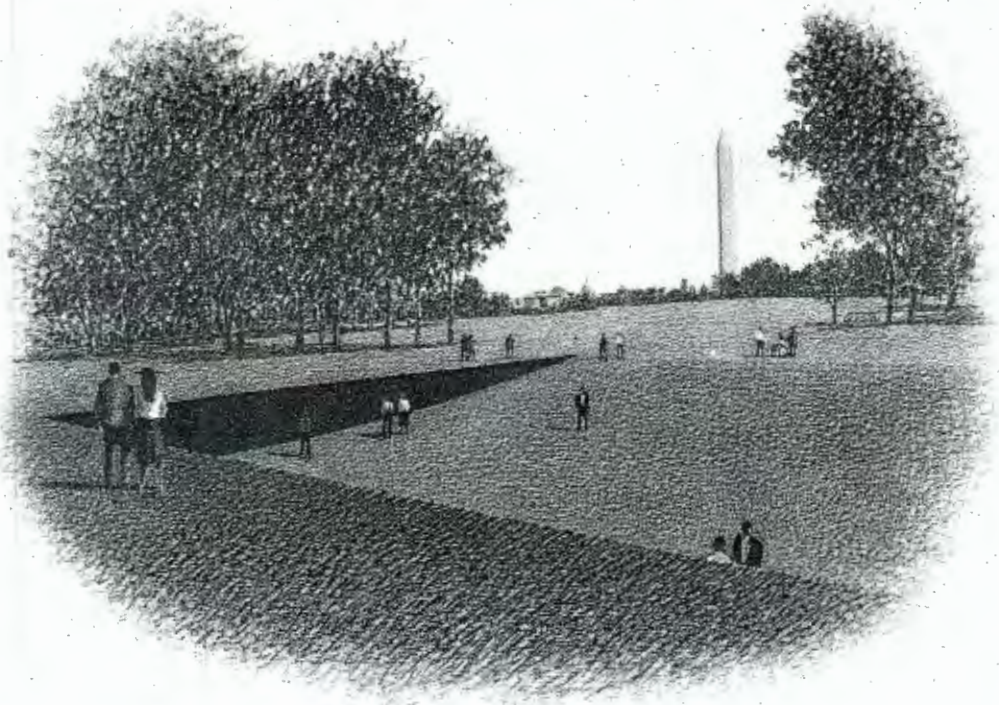
On the other hand, DeNadis said, "I sincerely believe that this country will reach out and help those combat veterans still haunted by the horrors of Vietnam."

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

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

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

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



A People's Memorial To Vietnam Veterans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



THEY DESERVE TO BE REMEMBERED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Give to the Vietnam Veterans
Memorial Fund.



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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

All donations are tax-deductible. Please
send your personal check today.



News From the VFW

VFW Supports President Reagan on AWACs Sale

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

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

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

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

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

VFW Supports Flexible Reserve Call-Up

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

The VFW leader noted:

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

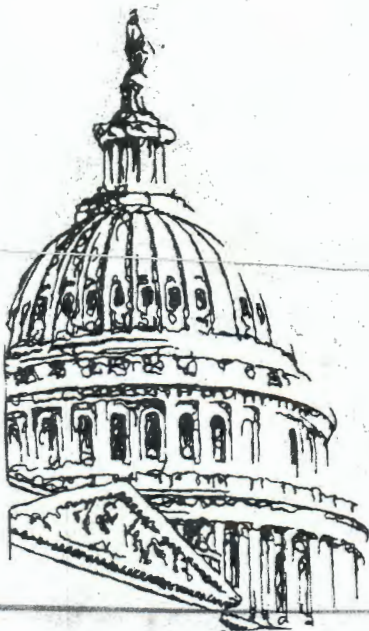
"S. 1574 would permit the President to call-up up to 250,000 members of the Selected Reserves for up to 180 days and would permit the emergency retention of military people with critical skills in both the active and reserve forces.

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

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

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

How A Veterans Bill Becomes Law



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MY FELLOW AMERICANS

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

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

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

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

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

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

The American people **assume** that injured veterans have those rights, but they do not. When I entered the Marine Corps I also assumed that I would have those rights if I was injured, as there was no "disclaimer of liability clause" on the enlistment contract which warned me by saying:

CAUTION, SIGNING THIS CONTRACT MAY CONSTITUTE FORFEITURE OF ANY OR ALL CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS CONCERNING ANY INJURIES WHICH YOU MAY SUSTAIN IN THE DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

IMPORTANT DETAILS

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

Section 211(a)

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

Section 3404(c)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Philip E. Cushman

(503) 659-9912

(signature of no judicial review cases are open)

News from Australia

Break-in Political: Veterans

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We Served Our Country

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

Bob Gibson
Vietnam Veteran
Sydney, Australia

Speedier Inquiry on Agent Orange

The Age, Friday, 28 August 1981

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Messner holds firm on Agent Orange

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

Vietnam Vets Found Network

Veterans News to be Nationally Syndicated

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JOHN J. DE WOLF

Vietnam Veterans Launch "Grey Berets"

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

ALLEN J. GARDNER

NACV Pig Roast and Grassroots Veterans Symposium

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

So Far Away

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

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

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

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

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

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

Roger T. Nichols
April 30, 1981

PROJECT FREEDOM



LEST WE FORGET

For All American POWs/MIAs

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

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

Vietnam in the Arts



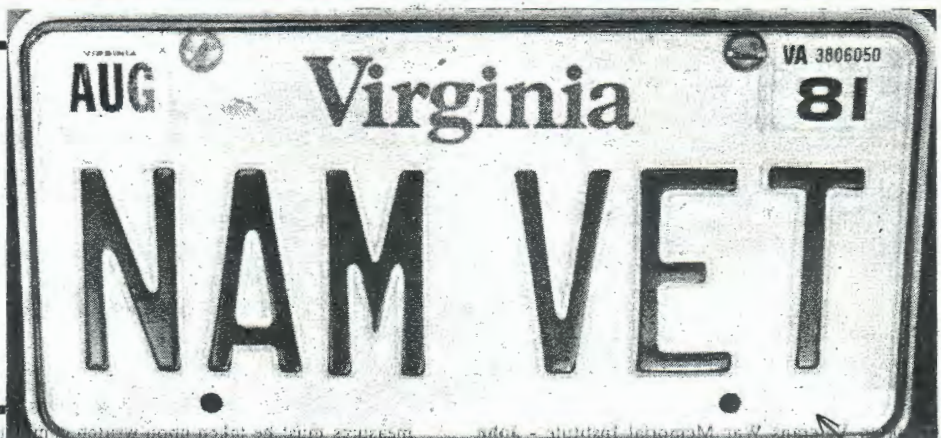
Vietnam in the Arts, which presented the exhibit of artwork entitled "The Vietnam Experience" last November in St. Paul, Minnesota, will mount another show this November in New York City.

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

Dear Mr. Messner:

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

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

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

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

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

With best regards, we are

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle, Chairman, VVIC

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

Dear Dr. Curtis:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Tom Daschle, Chairman VVIC

More "Telling It Like It Is"

Combined Veterans Hospital Committee
Presented Friday, August 14, 1981

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

New York Vet Groups Blast VA Services

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

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

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

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

Continued on Page 30



VIETNAM—CLASS OF '67
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Who Will Answer??

The Year: 1995

Location: Living room of a Vietnam Vet

by Howell M. Young

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

power and money to solve the issues."

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

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

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

Ed Note: This article ought to stir some thought!

Project Delta MIA

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

Eleanor Bott Gregory
82 Boylston Circle
Shresbury, MA 01545

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

"06-Bruiser"

Marines, "Now Hear This"

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

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

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

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

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

Chicago Vietnam Vets Plan Art Show

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

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

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

The Exhibit will consist of:

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

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

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

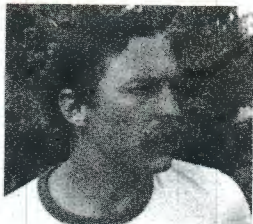
Ray Garza, the art director for the Leadership Conference, will be a participant in the show and the Leadership Conference will be working with the Vietnam veterans arts group to get the word about the show out to the community to ensure as large a response as possible.

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

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



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



Cover to Cover

BOOKS IN REVIEW

by John B Dwyer *

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

by John B. Dwyer



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We need more like him!

Calendar of Events

October 9th-31st

Chicago, Illinois
Vietnam: Reflexes and Reflections Art Show
N.A.M.E. Gallery, 9 West Hubbard Street
Coordinators: Vietnam Veteran Artists Group
Pres. Richard M. Aztlan
312/878-9342
2340 West Winnemac
Chicago, IL 60625

October 20th

New Haven Connecticut
Southern Connecticut State College
General William Westmoreland lectures on campus to the Vietnam veterans.

October 31st

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

November 10th-December 2nd

New York City
New York Vietnam Veterans Art Experience
The Arsenal Gallery
5th Avenue and 64th Street
Coordinators: Vietnam in the Arts
Benard Edleman
212/789-7890
209 Lincoln Place
Brooklyn, NY 11217

November 11

New Haven, Connecticut
Southern Connecticut State College
Veterans Day Ceremony at SCSC Veterans Memorial. Installation and dedication of flag pole.

Late Nov. or early Dec.

Date to be announced

New Haven, Connecticut
Southern Connecticut State College
Awareness Seminar dealing with POW/MIA issues. Anticipate POW guest and films.

It's Time For Political Involvement

But, Never Be Silent

by Frank R. Price

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

DOs

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

DON'Ts

There are some very important don'ts, too!

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

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

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

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

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

A Vet Appeals to Reagan

by John L. Dickison, Jr.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Subscribe to the Vietnam Veterans Review.

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Veterans Leadership Conference
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Chicago, IL 60637

Virginia State Director
Veterans Leadership Conference
LeRoy Jackson
1930 Vine
Lynchburg, VA 24504

The Veterans Leadership Conference

is
looking for sincere, interested veterans
and/or civilians to head up
State organizations.
We intend to lead the way,
We intend to grow...
To accomplish the common goals
of ALL Veterans Groups, we must unite
and work together!

There is Strength in Unity Contact

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Veterans Leadership Conference
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312-828-9563

Missouri State Director
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Troy, MT 59955
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Just What is the Veterans Leadership Conference?

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Let's do it ourselves

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This paper is funded entirely by subscription and advertising sales. We need your support to help grow and serve the veterans nationwide.

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Yes I would like to subscribe to the National Vietnam Veterans Review. Enclosed is my check _____ money order _____ for \$12.00 for the next 12 (1 yr.) issues.

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New Radio Network

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

Former Hunger Striker

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

VA Hospital Rule Change

Continued from Page 1

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

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

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

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

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

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



**THEY ARE
NOT FORGOTTEN.**

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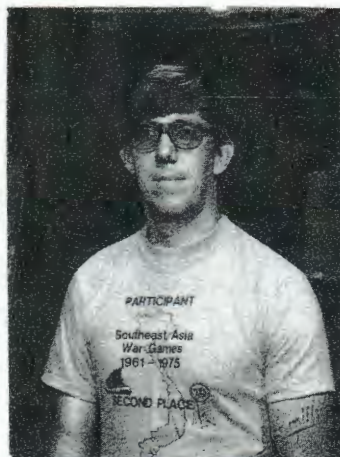
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"A Vietnam Veteran Still Alive"

Copyright Alkatraz Corner Music 1981
 Country Joe McDonald

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

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

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

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

(CHORUS)

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

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

Well, it didn't take long before I began to tell
 I saw so many lose bodies and their minds
 In the jungle and mud of Viet Nam.

But I kept on fighting and the Lord spared my life.
 I lost part of my body, but I never lost my mind
 But the home folks seemed to sicken at the sight
 of a Vietnam Veteran still alive.

(CHORUS)

Please Mister President, don't you think its time?
 To give a little thanks to the boys from Viet Nam
 Just a little something to ease all the pain
 And welcome us back home again.

So listen old son, if you want to go and fight
 Just make sure you know what is wrong and what is right.

The passion of today can be tomorrow's shame
 And the folks at home will just have you to blame.

(CHORUS)

I came home from the War to a war at home
 and I can't help but wonder just what it was I done.
 Now I'm back home and the enemy is me.
 Yes, I'm back home and the enemy is me.

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Advice for Vietnam Veterans in working with the Media

(Mr. Hill is the Public Affairs Director for Radio Station WBMX in Chicago. He has recieved the Martin Luther King, Jr. award three consecutive years as well as many other community and civic awards.)

The primary need of the Vietnam veterans is to organize within themselves. According to Hill, the media is sympathetic to the cause of those who were in Vietnam, but are often afraid to deal with the issues because of the splinter groups and fragmentation which exists within the movement. There is a fear that one group may not represent a broad or accurate view. Credibility is one of the most important aspects of the reputation of a reporter and if this is lost it may be impossible to regain.

At this time, the middle class is beginning to see itself as poor. For this reason there may be less sympathy for the Vietnam veterans. For many people the Vietnam War is old news, they are concerned with the very real problem of surviving in this time of high inflation and unemployment, the Vietnam veterans are seen as just one cause, just one issue.

In the media world any group is "marketing a product." Such a view does not take away from the justice of the cause, rather it is to examine it in a realistic light. For this reason and in view of the competition the veterans face in the media field, they must appear unified and credible.



The Viet Nam Veterans Photo Project invites veterans to submit photographs and slides taken during the Viet Nam War for a forthcoming book and exhibition. All subjects that reflect the Viet Nam-era veterans experience will be considered: in the field, in the rear, K & K, the war at home,

seeing Viet Nam and Southeast Asia, seeing the Vietnamese. We will look at black and white photographs, slides and color prints.

Accepted photos will be credited (if desired) and contributors will be paid an honorarium.

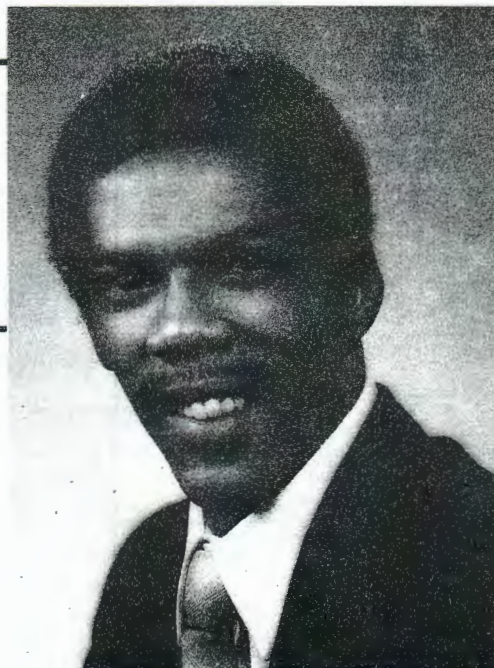
Project will be donated to Viet Nam Veterans/Agent Orange causes.

IMPORTANT MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

If interested in submitting work, please do all of the following:

- Write your name and address on the back of each print or on the cardboard slide mounts.
- Include brief caption information (e.g. Saigon, 1968).
- Do *not* include originals! We cannot assume responsibility for your work in the event of loss or damage. Send b/w prints, duplicates of slides, or color xeroxes made from slides.
- Pack all materials *carefully*. Make sure your prints will not be crushed or bent. Use card board and heavy mailing envelopes.
- Include return postage and a self-addressed envelope. Please include the same amount of postage used on the envelope you sent. If you do not enclose return postage, we will assume that you do not wish your work returned.

c/o Veterans Upgrade Center of New York • 165 Cadman Plaza East,
 Brooklyn, New York 11201
 Ede Rothaus, Director



Derek Hill, Media Advisor,
 Veterans Leadership Conference

Many of the so called "successful vets" may have stayed away from the Vietnam movement as the media has often portrayed it as a group of "all losers." This is partly due to the fact that "bad news sells." Also, the media is full of "hungry" reporters and if they can add a bit to the sensational aspect of their reports they believe it will make a better story.

Those in the leadership positions of the Vietnam movement therefore, have a serious responsibility to stay away from the marketable stereotype if it does not

represent the Vietnam veterans. Extensive media coverage, per se, does not accomplish much. It is solid numbers and organization which will, in the end, bring about lasting change.

In comparing the print and electronic forms of media Hill had the following observations:

The radio and television news (electronic) "tease" the interest of the viewer and serve as the "appetizer" while the print media is the "main course."

Both forms are necessary and veterans must learn the appropriate use of each. The electronic media can arouse public interest of the problems of the Vietnam veteran which need more coverage.

On the political front, Hill sees the value of coalition movements. By focusing on the one thing they may have in common instead of focusing on the differences, groups may work together to achieve a common end.

Hill believes that all of the Americans who were old enough to be aware of the Vietnam War were affected by it to some degree. He lost several close friends and is aware of the impact the experience had on his life. However, he does not subscribe to the concept that the entire nation is guilty of anything or that the Vietnam veterans should advocate this guilt and put it forth as a reason for action and special treatment. Rather, Hill believes that the nation has a responsibility to those who went to Vietnam which arises out of obligation to those who served their country not from guilt over the war.

In summary, Hill believes that the Vietnam veterans should focus on the positive aspects of what they have to offer, i.e. maturity and courage. This is by no means saying that they should ignore the serious problems such as chemical exposure or post traumatic stress being faced by some, but that these problems are part of the overall picture of Vietnam service.

Vietnam veterans have the potential to be a viable economic and political force in this country but to do this they must unify and work with the media in a responsible and mature manner.

We Were There

Flak vest, steel pot, pack, M-16
Slogging through rice paddies,
Humping the boonies in triple-canopied Highlands,
Patrolling through dead-breathed jungles,
On helicopter assault, at sea or in the air,
We were there.

From Hue to Saigon, Pleiku to Qui Nhon,
Da Nang, Chu Lai, An Hoa, Quang Ngai,
Duc Pho, Can Tho, Bien Hoa, Long Binh,
From Long An, to Soc Trang, to Cam Ranh Bay,
From hot LZs to the South China Sea,
To the middle of nowhere,
We were there.

Clerk, cook, chaplain, medic, engineer,

Marine, pilot and sailor,
From the Rockpile to Khe Sanh,
Tet to Hamburger Hill,
Private to General,
We were there.

C-rations, "bug-juice," malaria pills,
Poncho-liners, P-38's, letters from home,
Grenades, Claymores, trip flares,
Bunkers, concertina wire,
Tears, laughter and boredom,
We were there.

Mud, dust, monsoons,
Leeches, mosquitoes, enervating heat,
Fatigue, anxiety, loneliness,
Anger and pain,
Fire-fights, combat patrols, cordon & search,
Search & clear, Recondo, LRRP,
We sweated and bled, knew fear and bravery,
Ran phsycial and emotional gauntlets,
We fought and died, were wounded or untouched,
Were decorated for valor, (over 200 Medals of Honor).

And if we were lucky,
If Fate or Providence had been kind,
Our DEROS date would arrive, time to go home,
Back to the World. A last good-bye to friends,
On to the waiting Huey, then base camp,
Then onto that big iron bird and into the air,
Knowing after that one last look then, as we do now,
That we had been there.

John B. Dwyer

On a Trail Called Ho Chi Minh

On a trail called Ho Chi Minh
Counted were trucks, and sometimes men
When trucks were many and men were few
We sprayed a mist to create a view.

This mist, of course, contained dioxin
In crotches and toes it created pox in.

Our men returned and many were nervous
They all remembered horrors in service
Children borne to these same men
Also bore scars of dioxin.

Nerves, pox - deformed children
Were our legacy and country's burden
When help was sought from the nation
It went to the Veterans's Administration.

They fretted and floundered. They screwed around
I truly ask you, isn't it funny?
Our nation's men are worth less than money!

Jim Jorgensen
Service Officer, DAV
Capt. USA (Ret)



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Viet Vets Design Decal

The "Family Crest," the mark of the Viet Nam Veteran, was designed by two ex-Marines, Viet Nam vets.

The purpose of the decal is to bring down to earth all the misconceptions and clouds of confusion about the Viet Nam veteran and his image.

Someone once said, "Esteem among our peers must begin with Self Esteem." We hope that by displaying the "Family Crest" proudly it will help to remind both the veteran and the American public that the role of the veteran in any war was that of a soldier. Nothing more and certainly nothing less. We were not the CIA, not the politicians nor the campus demonstrators. We were the Americans filling the traditional role as we saw it; that of a soldier from a free nation attempting to liberate our fellow man from his bonds of oppression. There is certainly nothing for which any

We hope that eventually all Viet Nam veterans will display the emblem as a sign of unity behind those of us that are experiencing real and justified pain.

If all of us from all walks of life and professionals show the American people just how many of them come in contact with a Viet vet every day, this may vastly improve our image and foster a sense of mutual respect between us and the public, as well as a sense of relief.

The war must be separated from the warrior. The conflict in Southeast Asia brought with it all the horror of war to the TV screens of America, as well as eruptions of emotions from our streets and college campuses. The American people must be reminded that we were not the source of the country's lack of direction and confusion, but were the few who were willing to make the ultimate commitment in an effort we were raised to believe was worthwhile. Judging from what has happened to the people of Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam since our departure, those of our peers who demanded a halt to the war for humanitarian reasons must wonder if our leaving was the humane thing to do after all.

The decal was carefully designed not to align itself with any political sect or to appear offensive or antagonistic. The symbols of death and suffering depicted by the white cross and the red area below the helmet cannot be denied. The Viet Nam soldier should not apologize for subjecting himself to the horrors of war, when he believed his cause was just!

It is vitally important that the simplicity and the nobility of the soldiers role be communicated to the nation as a whole, but far more important the vet himself comes to realize just how much he in fact did for his country. There was a time in our nation's history when people who had the courage of their convictions, to the point that they were willing to risk self destruction to help others, were admired and respected. We should learn to admire and respect ourselves.

And remember, only time will tell if that effort was really lost; after all we gave those people a might giant sized taste of what "could be". The rest is up to them.

★ **WE SHALL NOT FORGET** ★
Those Who Died - Nor Those Living in Bondage!



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Copy must be accompanied by cash, check or money order remittance. Insertion will not be made without payment. All ads must be received by the 23rd of the month preceding publication. Please type or print all ads. We do not furnish proofs on classified advertising. We will not accept liability for mistakes in spelling except in the case of address numbers, zip codes or phone numbers in which case the corrected ad will be run the following month at no cost to the advertiser.

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Harry Thompson used to be at SF Camp Bong Song 1967. Please contact: Fred Longworth, P.O. Box 1291, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32345. I still have your crossbow! (Sample Ad)

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By Special Request

Due to the many requests we have had for classified advertising, we will start a classified section with the November 1981 issue.

All classified ads for that issue must reach the publishing office no later than the 23rd of October.

\$10.00 Classified

This size ad, counting the zip code of 01930 and the address of 123 Main St., Mytown, USA is the size ad with the correct number of words that one can get for only ten dollars. Write care of A. Jones.

Employment:

Position Available for qualified RPN. Must have experience in operating and emergency room procedures. Willing to relocate. Salary commensurate with experience. Send resume to: P.O. Box 958, Anywhere, USA (Sample Ad)

Positions Wanted:

Vietnam veteran, well qualified, with 2 years experience as Radio Technician, seeks job in Denver area. Salary and benefit requirements negotiable. Willing to re-locate at own expense. Contact: J.R. Jones, P.O. Box 1422, Snake Navel, Utah 91141. (Sample Ad)

Travel:

Need someone to share travel expenses from Fayetteville, NC to Phoenix, AZ. Must have valid driver's license and enjoy traveling. Will be departing Fayetteville on 1 November and taking 2 weeks to complete trip. Write to P.O. Box 487, Yourtown, USA. (Sample Ad)

Services:

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On a hot summer afternoon, does the smell of a diesel going by do the same thing to you that it does to me?

All Vietnam veterans are invited to come to the Art Show in New York City, November 10th through December 2nd, 1981.

For an indepth account of Special Forces in Vietnam, read Jim Morris' War Story.

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If you would like to sell display space in the "National Vietnam Veterans Review" and have media sales experience write Chuck Allen P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, NC 28303

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Perimeter. A monthly newsletter that gives excellent account of relevant news, topical stories, historical vignettes from the war, editorial comment, features on Vietnam heroes, book reviews and other extremely interesting articles. Subscription \$8.00 per year. Perimeter, 430 Westbrook, Dayton, OH 45415.

Certain NVVR Classified Ads Are FREE

Vietnam veterans, seeking employment, if now unemployed, may place classified ad free in NVVR.

Give name, address, phone number, type of work desired, qualifications, and relocation desires.

Locator Ads: Those persons trying to locate former buddies or friends may place an ad free.

Non-profit organizations or associations may place free classified ads providing that ad concerns the submitting association or organization.

Governmental agencies dealing with Veterans Employment may place one free ad per publication.

Ads not recieved before monthly deadline will be held and run in the following month's publication.

No special graphics available on free ads.

We reserve the right to edit or refuse any ad.

NATIONAL

VIETNAM VETERANS REVIEW

CLASSIFIEDS

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Deadline: Your classified ad copy must be received 8 days before the monthly publication date of the first of the month.

Mail to: National Vietnam Veterans Review, P.O. Box 35812, Fayetteville, NC 28303.

New York Vet Groups Blast VA Services

Continued from Page 21

converted into clinic areas. This has been occurring on a yearly basis. From a 1,000 bed facility, we have been reduced to a 650-750 bed capacity. As was predicted years ago, the Brooklyn VA Hospital is now resembling Kings County Hospital, with such a bulging clinic atmosphere.

9. The filling of prescriptions in the pharmacy has not been met. Patients often times have to come back the next day, to receive their medication which is needed to start therapy, or for continual medication needed.

10. Veteran organization representatives must serve on all vital committees, where medical and administrative policies are made, in order to have greater input regarding said changes. And whereby, veteran groups will be able to effectively monitor and investigate occurrences that are taking place.

11. It is strongly recommended that written complaints be acted upon, and that when such complaint is received, a written disposition of such action taken, be sent to the veteran organization issuing the written complaint. Most complaints to date have gone unanswered or has gone astray in file (9), the waste basket. This must stop.

12. We have been, and are convinced that the Chief of Staff and the Chief of Medicine have lost control and at the same time, have abrogated their authority to the downstate medical school service chiefs, leaving their comparable counterparts in the VA service without voice, causing bickering, confusion, demoralization and an unhealthy professional atmosphere. We are not against medical school affiliation, we are against medical school control, and cronyism.

These requests and/or demands are respectfully being submitted for your immediate action and correction. Subsequent to our meeting with you and depending on the action taken, this group will meet to determine to our satisfaction the action taken by you. This group is serious in its endeavor and will take whatever action is necessary to correct the concerns that we presently have on the problems of health care now being administered to our veterans who are ill and require more than they are now receiving.

Ed Note: The above letter was received from the Empire State Veterans Association concerning the activities of the Brooklyn Veterans Administration Medical Center.

Quite an impressive list of veterans organizations, that represents a lot of votes!

We are happy to see the unification of effort of these veterans groups because as we say there is "Strength in Unity."

VIETNAM VETERANS FOUNDATION

Win A New House and Car

The Vietnam Veterans Foundation, a non-profit organization chartered to assist socially, economically and/or culturally disadvantaged Vietnam era veterans re-integrate into the mainstream of our society, announced today that Mr. Gaines Johnson, homebuilder in Johnson City, Tennessee, has provided a new three bedroom, two and half bath, brick house to the Foundation for the purpose of raising funds to carry on the work of this highly visible organization. Mr. Tom Wincek, Chairman of the Foundation, commends Mr. Johnson for his very generous cooperation.

DONATIONS

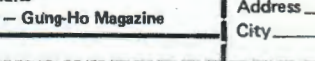
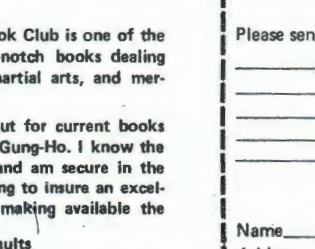
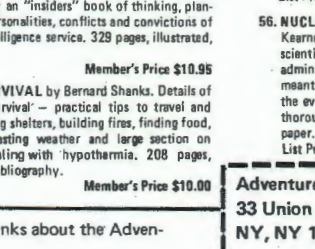
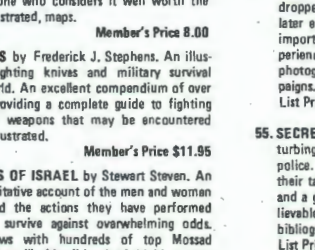
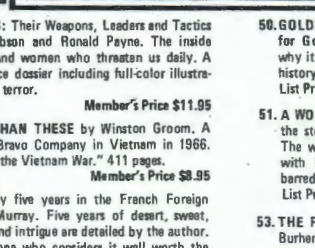
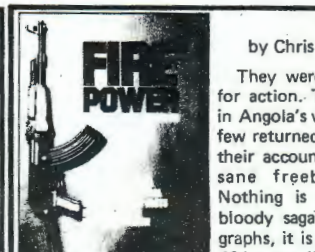
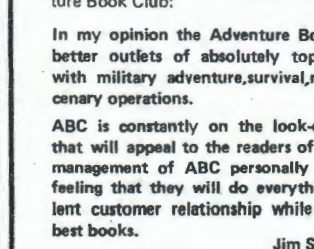
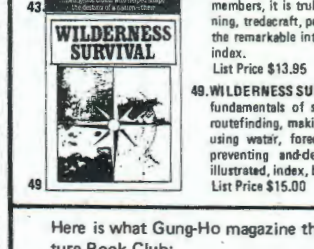
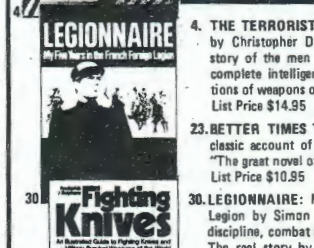
Donations of \$100.00 or more will be acknowledged with a ticket for the drawing to take place on December 24, 1981, 2 pm at the Miracle Mall, Johnson City, Tennessee. Donations are TAX DEDUCTIBLE and may be made by mail or to any member of your local JAYCEES, many of whom are Vietnam veterans, and are assisting in this very worthwhile project. Other ticket locations will be announced later.

THE HOUSE AND CAR

The house, located at #2 Enfield Court, Johnson City, Tennessee, is in an area of homes ranging in price from \$75 thousand to \$250 thousand. Situated on one-third acre, the living room window offers a beautiful view of the Tennessee mountains. In your new American made automobile you are only minutes from the best fresh water fishing to be found. Jonesboro, located only three miles away, is a must for visitors interested in Civil War history. You will be only five minutes from the East Tennessee State University campus.

TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Vietnam Veterans Foundation
P.O. Box 1544
Washington, DC 20013



FIREPOWER

by Chris Dempster/Dave Tomkins

They were mercs, bored and looking for action. They found all they needed in Angola's war in 1975. Many went, but few returned. Two who did have written their account of the FNLA and the insane freebooter "Colonel" Callan. Nothing is spared or left out of this bloody saga; complete with rare photographs, it is a modern mercenary classic. 491 pages, illustrated.

List Price \$13.95 Member's Price \$11.50

50. GOLD! GOLD! A Beginner's Handbook: How to Prospect for Gold by Joseph Petrillo. A guide to where gold is, why it is there and how to get it. Methods, suppliers and history. 112 pages, illust., appendices.
List Price \$10.95 Member's Price \$7.95

51. A WORLD OF HURT by Bo Hathaway. The author tells the story of his tour in Vietnam in the Special Forces. The world of the modern day guerilla war is juxtaposed with behind the lines sensual encounters. No holds barred. 318 pages.
List Price \$11.95 Member's Price \$9.95

53. THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE by Robert D. Burhens. A fine history of an elite unit designed to be dropped over snowy areas of Europe for sabotage and later expanded to be a joint US-Canadian force of great importance. All material drawn from first-hand experience by the men who were there. Many maps, rare photographs and excellent accounts of all their campaigns. 376 pages, illust., maps.
List Price \$22.00 Member's Price \$17.95

55. SECRET POLICE by Thomas Plate & Andrea Darvi. Disturbing, in-depth look at the activities of foreign secret police. Based on interviews of those who survived to tell their tale. Personalities of torturers, organization, policies and a glossary on torture techniques makes this an unbelievable (but we had better believe it!) book. 425 pages, bibliography, index.
List Price \$17.95 Member's Price \$14.95

56. NUCLEAR WAR SURVIVAL SKILLS by Cresson H. Kearney. This manual was designed and tested by scientists at Oak Ridge. Initially suppressed by the Carter administration, this valuable and important book is meant to help concerned families ensure their survival in the event of a nuclear war. All techniques and structures thoroughly tested. This book works! 232 pages, illust., paper.
List Price \$9.95 Member's Price \$7.95

Adventure Book Club

33 Union Square
NY, NY 10003

Please send the following:

Please include \$2.00 for postage & handling.

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Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____



Here is what Gung-Ho magazine thinks about the Adventure Book Club:

In my opinion the Adventure Book Club is one of the better outlets of absolutely top-notch books dealing with military adventure, survival, martial arts, and mercenary operations.

ABC is constantly on the look-out for current books that will appeal to the readers of Gung-Ho. I know the management of ABC personally and am secure in the feeling that they will do everything to insure an excellent customer relationship while making available the best books.

Jim Shults
Editor - Gung-Ho Magazine

329 EIGHTH STREET NE, WASHINGTON, DC 20002

Until now, the only Vietnam veterans who got any respect were those who came home in a box.

The Vietnam Veterans of America, VVA, is the only national organization working solely on the problems of Vietnam veterans.

Our goal is to change the attitude and actions of the American public and veterans themselves about those of us who served our country during the Vietnam war.

We're fighting to improve the lives of Vietnam veterans by pressing Congress, the White House, and the Veterans Administration for better employment, health care and educational opportunities and benefits.

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. We're helping the survivors survive.

We're working with people in the media and the arts to help them understand and express the reality of the Vietnam experience.

We're working directly with other veterans to get them the help they need and deserve. And to help them cope with the past, the present, and the future.

Everything we do is based on one strong belief:

A veteran who survived the Vietnam War shouldn't be punished or ashamed because he served his country.

Moving Congress to help the Vietnam veteran.

The first step VVA took in dealing with Congress was to bring together 19 members of Congress who are Vietnam Era veterans.

With their help we drafted the Vietnam Veterans Act of 1979. A set of strong measures to give us the same kind of help Congress gave veterans after World War II.

The Act calls for:

—First-rate health care, including readjustment counseling and treatment for drug abuse and alcoholism—with the right for veterans to seek help outside the Veterans Administration.

—Extended education benefits under the G.I. Bill, with higher payments for veterans who live in states where public education is more expensive.

—A major program of financial incentives to employers to hire and train Vietnam veterans.

—Low-interest mortgage loans, available through the states, to give Vietnam veterans the same chance to own a home our fathers had after WWII. In pursuing this agenda, we've already won some important legislative victories in Congress. One gives tax credits to employers of disadvantaged Vietnam veterans.

Another law broke new ground in permitting psychiatric care outside the Veterans Administration. And we convinced Congress to designate Memorial Day, 1979 as the first day in Vietnam Veterans Week. This first official recognition of the contribution of Vietnam veterans helped us combat negative stereotypes. And helped us in important organizing activities at the grass roots level.

Working with the media and the arts: Helping to get it straight.

Only those who served in Vietnam know what it was like. Then and now.

But until recently, most of us were unwilling or unable to share our experiences or express our feelings.

At VVA, we're trying to break this silence. By encouraging the media to seek out veterans and to tell their story. And by encouraging veterans to express themselves through the arts.

With our help, major newspapers and magazines and the national television networks have done feature stories on Vietnam veterans and their condition.

Articles have appeared in the New York Times, Washington Post, Boston Globe, New Jersey's Courier Post, Chicago Tribune, Charlotte Observer, and Time magazine—all within the last few months. VVA spokesmen have appeared on the Today show, Good Morning, America, and all the network news programs.

Unlike previous wars, Vietnam as a theme for drama and movies has been conspicuously untouched by playwrights and producers.

VVA has actively promoted and produced greater expression by Vietnam veterans with writing, directing and acting skills.

We co-produced, with Joseph Papp, a series of plays about Vietnam entitled From "Hair" to "Dispatches." We helped present "Point of Origin," plays written and acted by Vietnam veterans.

The truth hurts.

Even if you're a Vietnam veteran, the truth about those who served during the war is disturbing:

Our suicide rate is 25 percent higher than our non-veteran peers.

Our divorce rate is double. Our unemployment rate is twice as high. And one in four Vietnam veterans earns under \$7,000 a year.

Drug abuse and alcoholism are serious and widespread.

About 70,000 Vietnam veterans are in jail. Another 200,000+ are out on bail, parole, or probation.

A three-year study of combat veterans found that 40 percent of them were unemployed. And one out of three had "readjustment problems serious enough to impair their functioning."

An estimated 700,000 of us suffer from "delayed stress syndrome" which causes periodic depressions, insomnia, marital difficulties, and irrational rage—often directed toward our families and friends.

Untold thousands of us who served in combat were exposed to Agent Orange, a defoliant that is suspected of causing cancer and other disorders.

The Vietnam Veterans of America is gathering information about the condition of Vietnam veterans not to scare or depress people.

We want to inform the rest of America why the Vietnam veterans deserve special attention.

The VVA. We need veterans to help veterans.

If you're a Vietnam veteran, you probably know somebody who didn't come home right.

But the truth is a lot of veterans still aren't right. And they're not going to get the help they need and deserve until veterans join together and demand changes.

Right now, there's only one group in the country that's bringing Vietnam veterans together. And demanding changes.

The Vietnam Veterans of America.

You've read what we've already done without your help. And you know there's a lot more that needs to be done.

But the only way we're going to succeed is to grow into a strong, unified organization. With millions of people to back us up.

That won't happen overnight. But an important beginning is for you to become a member of VVA. Today.

Our dues are only \$9.00 a year. That's less than 75 cents a month.

But we need more than your money.

We need your time, your commitment.

We intend to set up regional VVA offices in every corner of the country. To press local officials, local VA offices, local employment offices to help Vietnam veterans.

It's the only way to make sure we get what we deserve: Dignity, respect, and pride.

We survived Vietnam by helping each other.

Let's help each other again.

Help Us To Help Each Other.

The VVA is a non-profit veterans organization and is in need of the funds required to effectively continue its efforts. If you are not yet a member or supporter, please join us now and help us put action into the issues and bring about solutions to our problems. Fill out this form and send with your tax deductible contribution to:

Vietnam Veterans of America
329 Eighth Street NE • Washington, DC 20002

Please make checks payable to the Vietnam Veterans of America.
(202) 546-3700

- ☐ Vietnam-era Veteran Membership @ \$9.00
- ☐ Basic Contributor @ \$20.00
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**NEWSPAPER INSERTS
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WASHINGTON — Unless something unexpected happens, ground will soon be broken for the Vietnam veterans' memorial on the Mall here in Washington. Although I have long awaited this moment, as it now approaches I feel only pain.

I believe that the design selected for the memorial in an open competition is pointedly insulting to the sacrifices made for their country by all Vietnam veterans. By this will we be remembered: a black gash of shame and sorrow, hacked into the national visage that is the Mall.

When I arrived in Washington, in March 1980, I eagerly joined the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund as a volunteer. I had earned two Purple Hearts as an infantry platoon leader in Vietnam, and I was proud not only of my own service but also of all those who served with me. I was especially proud of those who gave their lives, and I saw this as the opportunity for our nation to finally render honor that was due. Congress agreed, and authorized the Fund to build a memorial on the Mall to "recognize and honor" all those who served in Vietnam. An open competition was held to decide the memorial design and 1,421 entries were received.

The winning design was chosen by a jury made up entirely of civilians — in other words, people who had seen no

Insulting Vietnam Vets

By Tom Carhart

military service in Vietnam. While this may seem unimportant, we should reflect on it for a moment.

There were really two wars in that era: The first was a military war fought in Vietnam where 57,000 Americans died and whose veterans the Fund is authorized by Congress to "recognize and honor"; the second was a political war waged here at home.

The jurors know nothing of the real war in Vietnam — the television portrayal was far from adequate. But the political war cut so deeply through society that everyone had to take sides. The net result is that the design the jury chose as the winner was necessarily a function of their perception of the war they lived through in America. It may be that black walls sunk into a trench would be an appropriate statement of the political war in this country. But that is not the war whose veterans the Fund has been authorized to memorialize.

If this design is built, there will be a black wall 400 feet long, sunk 10 feet into the ground in the form of a V. The

legs of this V will be directed toward, and form a triangle on the Mall with, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. These others are well-known edifices of white marble rising in massive splendor to honor great American heroes.

The proposed design is defended on artistic grounds, but the issue is not one of art: If Americans allow that black trench to be dug, future generations will understand clearly what America thought of its Vietnam veterans.

There are three other memorials in Washington that are at least partly black: the Sea Bee Memorial, the 101st Airborne Division memorial, and the Marine Corps' Iwo Jima memorial. But these show heroic figures rising in triumph on top of black pedestals, while the proposed Vietnam memorial is anti-heroic — a black hole, the reward we get, and the place we have been given in our national garden of history, for faithful service in a confused and misunderstood war. Black walls, the universal color of sorrow and dishonor. Hidden in a hole, as if in

shame. Is this really how America would memorialize our offering?

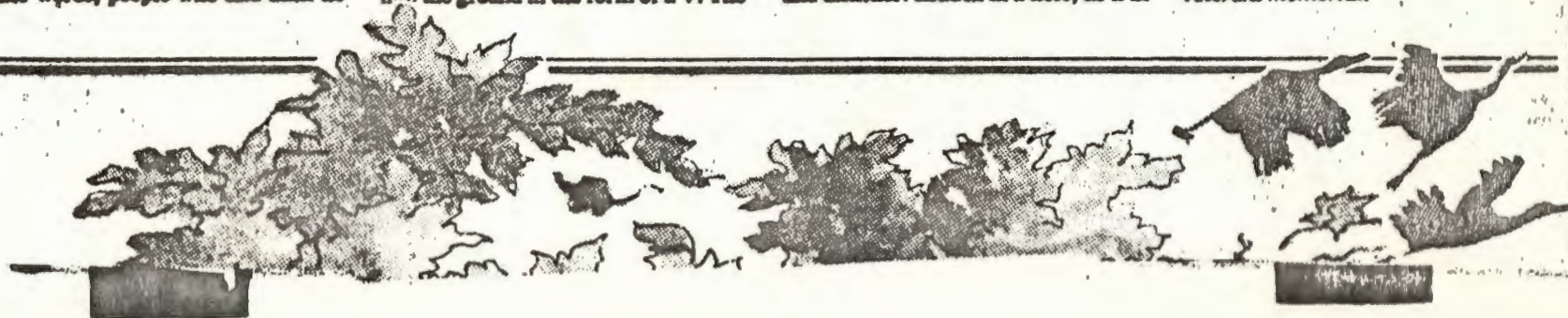
It may be that, in the future, all memorials to American heroes will be black and underground. I doubt it, but even if that's true, why should we Vietnam veterans have to be the first?

The only underground memorial I know of is a tomb. Yes, we lost 57,000, but what of the millions of us who rendered honorable service and came home? Why can't we have something white and traditional and above ground?

I favor the marketplace approach to decisions of this importance to the whole nation. I believe — and I speak only for myself — that the Vietnam veterans memorial design should get the full and fair and open hearing it deserves and has not yet had.

President Reagan has called the nation's Vietnam experience a "noble cause." I hope that he and the rest of America do not want us to be remembered by posterity in this way.

Tom Carhart, who is a civilian lawyer at the Pentagon, was graduated from West Point in 1966. This article is adapted from his recent testimony before the United States Fine Arts Commission. Afterward, the commission reaffirmed its decision to proceed with the proposed design for this Vietnam veterans memorial.



LEAGUE WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FOR PRESENT DESIGN OF VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

A decision by the League's National Legislative Committee to withdraw Marine Corps League support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—in its present design—has been approved by National Commandant Joseph Mammone. In reaching its decision, the committee reported, "The design that has been selected is inappropriate. It represents an insult to the memory of those it is intended to memorialize. The Vietnam veterans deserve better. The Marine Corps League hereby withdraws its support to the memorial in the design that is now proposed." Previously, the committee had gone on record as supporting the concept of a suitable memorial, including the federal grant of property for such a memorial in the Nation's Capital. Congress approved a land grant and a design competition was held; however, the design selected—a long black "v"-shaped wall bearing the names of the U.S. war-dead from Vietnam—has been the subject of criticism by many Vietnam veterans, including some who have called it "a tribute to Jane Fonda."

8 □ PROUD TRADITION OCT/NOV 1981



PROUD Tradition



Globe Edition

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NEWS

OCT/NOV 1981

\$1.50

test of Korea, and the divisive conflict in Southeast Asia, our Stars and Stripes remained as the symbol of freedom and democracy throughout the world. It remained unblemished and untarnished as we witnessed a change in presidents as a result of Watergate.

The symbol of American will, flies onward through the far reaches of space and carries with it the technological and pioneering spirit of the greatest nation on earth, with its roots in the educational system we have all shared. It carries the lifeblood of our forebears who have fought for it, who have died for it, and who have achieved under it.

So, in revering the Flag on this special day, it is not in what it is, but in what it represents; not only in a historical perspective, but as a symbol of our faith in our America in the years ahead.

On this Flag Day, the 14th of June, 1979, I salute this national symbol; and I salute you, for our contributions made together in keeping our Stars and Stripes as the hope of the world—"Of a great plan of life worked out by a great people."

4th AMTRAC REUNION

The 4th Marine Amtrac Battalion is having a reunion in Helena, Montana in August. For particulars write to Tom Veltkamp, Route 1, Box 49, Manattan, Montana, or call (406) 282-7952.

PRESIDENT HONORS VIETNAM VETERANS



The White House—President Carter said that this nation has not done enough "to recognize and to reward the special heroism" of our American soldiers who served in Vietnam as he spoke at a special reception honoring Vietnam veterans at the White House. The reception was one of a series of events commemorating Vietnam Veterans Week, observed throughout the nation. At the ceremony, the President and Deputy Postmaster General James V. P.

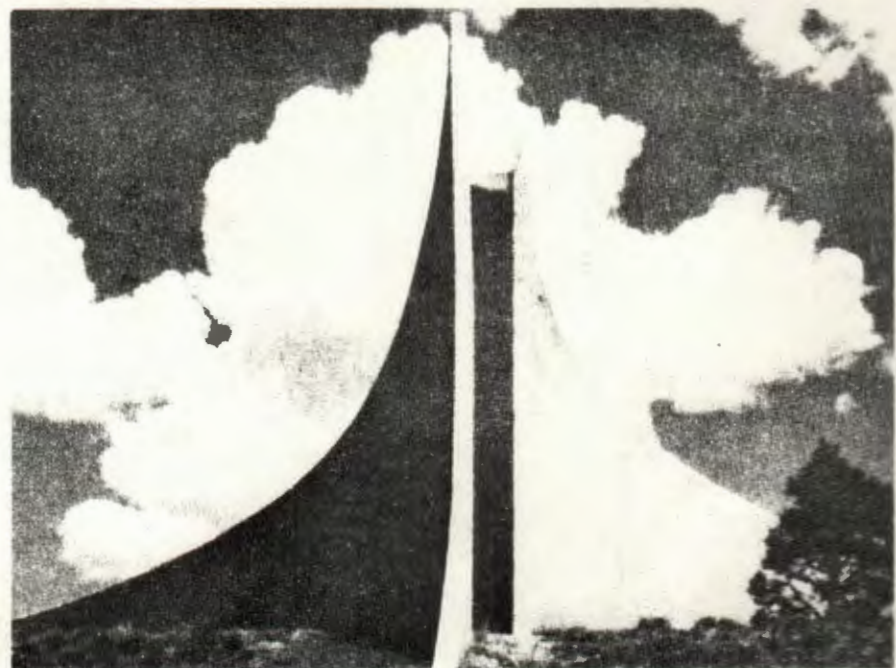
Conway jointly unveiled the design of a new U.S. postage stamp paying tribute to Vietnam veterans. To the President's right are the First Lady and Max Cleland, Administrator of the Veterans Administration.

Herb Harmon, National Legal Counsel of the Marine Corps League, represented National Commandant Jim Frost and all members of the Marine Corps League at the White House function on the afternoon of June 6, 1979.

GROUP FORMS TO BUILD VIETNAM VETERAN MEMORIAL

In August of 1968 Marine Corps Lieutenant David Westphall died alongside twelve other young American marines when they were ambushed in Vietnam. Dr. Victor Westphall, a historian and author, was the father of the Marine officer. A few months later, this grieving parent alone began construction on what some call one of the most beautiful buildings in North America - the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel in

(Continued on page 10)



(Continued from page 8)

Eagle Nest, New Mexico. For over a decade Dr. Westphall invested tens of thousands of dollars and has put one-quarter million miles on his cars in order to build a visible reminder of the most tragic consequence of war - the loss of loved ones.

The vast wing-like structure rises to a height of nearly fifty feet. Inside, there is a display of pictures of American servicemen who made the ultimate sacrifice in our nation's most controversial war. About half of the photographs have been delivered by parents who have driven from all over the United

States. Senator Pete V. Domenici of New Mexico introduced a bill to have this historical monument made into part of the National Park System. Much to his dismay, the National Park System Advisory board rejected Dr. Westphall's contribution.

On 27 April 1979 the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., a non-profit and non partisan organization, was incorporated in Washington, D.C. Their three purposes are: to create, through private contributions, a memorial in the nation's capitol to those who died and who served in Vietnam; to provide

funds to complete the Vietnam Veterans Peace and Brotherhood Chapel; and to contribute to other memorials to Vietnam War casualties and veterans in other locations. The Memorial Fund will dissolve at such time as a memorial to American Vietnam War casualties and returnees is built in Washington, D.C. through private contributions.

Contributions may be sent to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., P.O. Box 50096, Washington, D.C. 20004. Contributions are tax deductible by the donor.

THE CANDIDATES

FOR NATIONAL COMMANDANT

NATIONAL SENIOR VICE COMMANDANT, PAUL F. HASTINGS, BIDS FOR TOP SLOT

(Submitted by the Committee to
elect Paul Hastings)



Paul F. Hastings

Marine Paul F. Hastings has formally announced his candidacy for the number one post of the Marine Corps League.

As background information on the candidate, Hastings enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve at age 17 while attending high school in 1950. Upon graduation he was ordered to active duty with the organized

Marine Corps Reserve unit of Harrisburg, PA. Ordered with the unit to Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC he was reassigned to Marine Corps Schools, Quantico, VA for duty with the 22d Marines; later designated as Schools Troops. Following 18 months of active duty, he was released from active duty.

Returning to Harrisburg, PA and as a member of the local Reserve unit, he was selected for assignment to the officers training course at Quantico under the meritorious noncommissioned officers program, and which subsequently led to his commissioning as a second lieutenant of Marines. Active duty assignments included postings at Camp Pendleton; with the 3d Marine Division in Japan; the Marine Corps Supply School, Camp Lejeune; the 1st Marine Division; the 3rd Marine Division on Okinawa; the Marine Corps Supply Activity in Philadelphia; MCAS, Beaufort; the Force Logistics Command, Danang, Republic of Vietnam; and the Headquarters of FMFPac in Hawaii. In 1971 Hastings was reassigned to Philadelphia for processing in connection with a medical disability, and was placed on the retired list of Marine officers.

Hastings served in enlisted grades of private through technical sergeant, and as an officer, second lieutenant through major; his present grade on the retired list. For his service while serving in Vietnam, Hastings was awarded the Navy Commendation Medal with Combat "V", and later the Meritorious Service Medal for his service on the staff of Headquarters, FMFPac. He is also authorized to wear the Korean

Service Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal, with four stars; the good Conduct Medal with two stars; the Meritorious Unit Commendation Ribbon and the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon. In addition, he holds the Marine Corps Silver Distinguished Rifle Marksmanship Badge.

Within the League, Hastings has served two tours of duty as a Detachment Commandant, one year as Assistant Central Division Vice Commandant, and one year as Division Vice Commandant for the Department of Pennsylvania. Within the Department of Pennsylvania, he served over two years as Senior Vice Commandant and currently serves as the Department Commandant in addition to his duties as National Senior Vice Commandant. He is the Past Chairman of the National Budget and Finance Committee, and concurrent with his election as National Senior Vice Commandant, National Commandant Frost tasked him as Chairman of the Long Range Financial Planning Committee.

In recognition of his past service to the League, the National Commandant awarded him the Distinguished Citizen Medal, Gold and two awards of the Distinguished Service Award. At the Division and the Department levels, he was awarded the Distinguished Citizens Medal, Silver and Bronze respectively. In 1977 Hastings was singularly recognized within his Department for exceptional service through award of their highest honor by being named the Department of Pennsylvania Marine of the Year.

Hastings is a life member of the Marine Corps League, the Disabled

A Better Way to Honor Viet Vets

By Tom Carhart

WHAT IS THE MEANING of the current controversy over the design of the proposed Vietnam memorial to be built on the Mall? Is this just another case of self-pitying Vietnam veterans whining and whimpering and wallowing in *Weltschmerz*? Will we never be satisfied by anything?

Several years ago, a group of Vietnam veterans coalesced into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, with the stated purpose of building a memorial to Vietnam veterans. I worked with the memorial fund as a volunteer. We received the support of all 100 senators and an overwhelming majority of the House. The bill they passed, signed into law by President Carter, authorized a memorial in West Potomac Park "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war."

That is the license from the U.S. government for the fund to build this memorial. It says nothing about any special treatment for the dead, such as a listing of their names. It says nothing about the need to "authentically capture the national feeling about Vietnam" or "make a statement about our collective memory," to quote William Greider's Outlook column last Sunday. It says nothing about "providing deserved tribute to those who did not survive," or a requirement to "offer only the names of the dead . . . theirs was the ultimate sacrifice — it is to them that honor is due," as James J. Kilpatrick wrote in his Veterans Day column in The Washington Post.

Yes, honor is due to the 57,000 who gave their lives in Vietnam — but this memorial is also intended, by law, to honor the 2.5 million of us who rendered faithful service in Vietnam and came home. What of us — are we really to feel honored by a black ditch?

How did this happen? What went wrong?

In order to choose the design for the memorial, the fund held an open competition and received 1,421 entries. The jury which selected the winner was made up of architects and artists, but none of them was a Vietnam veteran. It is accepted practice in

competitions of this sort to include members of the subject class — here, Vietnam veterans — on the jury that chooses the winner.

The failure to do so only emphasized the dual nature of that war. The jurors could know nothing of the military war in Vietnam, but they were obviously caught up, as everyone was, in the political war that raged through this country. This means that any winner they chose would necessarily reflect their perceptions of the political war they lived through at home in America. While it may be that a black ditch on the Mall is an appropriate statement of that war, that is *not* the war whose veterans Congress authorized the memorial fund to honor and recognize.

The formal failing of this design is that it violates one of the critical criteria of the design competition — that it must make no political statement. Even if this black-gash is not a statement of dishonor and shame, it is clearly at least a statement of sorrow — "of sorrow," as Kilpatrick put it in his column, "not of glory, not of victory, not of defeat" — and that, of course, is a forbidden

political statement. I am a combat Vietnam veteran with two Purple Hearts and I feel no sorrow. I regret the deaths of brothers in arms, but they died noble, principled deaths, and I salute them and honor them. I am proud of our service to America, not sorry for it. Should this jury, made up of men who never served in Vietnam, tell Vietnam veterans and the nation how to feel and how we will be remembered in history?

□ □

What can be done? This looks like a misuse of a congressional license, which would call for congressional oversight. But that step might result in the destruction of what has been achieved to date through the efforts of those at the memorial fund.

A few cosmetic alterations to the design have already been agreed to, and I think that's really all that's called for here. If the color were changed from black to white, the symbol of faithful national service and honor, and the walls were brought above ground, and an American flag were installed at the juncture of the walls, then all the problems would disappear.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial would then be in beautiful harmony, rather than stark contrast, with the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. There would be no question of abuse of congressional license, since the memorial would clearly "honor and recognize" all Vietnam veterans.

There would be no question of free and easy access for the handicapped — those Vietnam veterans, for instance, who are condemned to spend the rest of their days in a wheelchair. There would be no constant danger of someone falling in. There would be no need for pumps continually operating to drain the lower half of the memorial fan, which as now proposed would be well below the water table in the location.

At present, the memorial fund is preparing to purchase black granite in Sweden or India, since it is not found in this country. But white marble is. Since we fought a war for America, shouldn't the materials used to build a memorial in our honor be exclusively American?

The central presence of the flag is just that final touch asked for by all veterans. We are that same cohort of young Americans out of every generation who have always been willing, when called upon, to literally offer our lives for America; we would be so remembered.

Tom Carhart was an infantry platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam in 1967-68. He is now a civilian lawyer at the Pentagon.

December 7, 1981

THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL

INTRODUCTION

With the enactment July 1, 1980, of Senate Joint Resolution 119, authorizing the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Fund to establish a memorial "...in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam," it appeared that at long last the U.S. would pay tribute to the 2.7 million Americans who fought in Southeast Asia. The broad support for building such a monument was demonstrated by the fact that 196 Members of the House and all 100 Senators co-sponsored the law. In short order, the VVMF assembled an impressive list of project sponsors ranging from Bob Hope, the perennial champion of GI's, to George McGovern, one of the Vietnam War's harshest critics.

For the Vietnam veteran, authorization of a memorial was of special importance. In contrast to his World War II and Korean War predecessors, the Vietnam veteran came home to no triumphal welcome. In too many instances, he was received with hostility and ostracism. At worst, his contemporaries viewed him as some sort of wanton destroyer who supported a corrupt and repressive regime. At best, he was simply ignored. No one thanked him.

The media also made reintegration of the Vietnam veterans difficult by constantly portraying them as drug-crazed walking time bombs. This characterization has been used so frequently that it has now become a Hollywood cliché -- despite the fact that the overwhelming majority of Vietnam veterans have proved themselves responsible, productive members of their communities. Negative characterizations simply have reinforced the subtle prejudices which militate against the complete assimilation of the Vietnam veteran into the American mainstream. Is it thus any wonder that many Vietnam veterans monitored the progress of the VVMF with anxious anticipation of the day when their sacrifice

would receive the same tribute and recognition as that of veterans of prior conflicts?

Recognition is well-deserved. The average combat veteran of a year in Southeast Asia saw more actual fighting than the World War II G.I. who fought in every major campaign in Europe. U.S. troops in Vietnam had one of the lowest desertion rates in American military history and fought in one of the roughest climates ever experienced by Americans.

THE DESIGN OF THE MONUMENT

The most traditional means of designing a national monument has been to choose a noted architect or sculptor to execute it. The design of the Vietnam veteran's memorial, however, was selected by a national competition. Designs were judged by a blue-ribbon panel, with the winner receiving a \$20,000 prize. Money was raised from the public and few problems arose until the design selection was announced.

The selection panel chose the proposal of Maya Ying Lin, a Yale undergraduate. Her design consists of two 200-foot long horizontal walls of black granite, forming a "V." The top of the walls are level with the ground, and the inside of the "V" is at the bottom of a five degree incline so that only that portion is exposed. Those killed or missing in Vietnam are to be listed on the ten-foot high exposed portion in chronological order of their death or disappearance.

Almost as soon as the design was announced, controversy erupted. The Washington Post characterized the design as "a black rift in the earth." Tom Carhart, a decorated combat veteran, called it a "black gash of shame and sorrow." Other veterans expressed similar dismay at "the black trench." Contributors to the memorial fund were also taken aback. The VVMF was to be supported solely through private contributions solicited through direct mail. All solicitation letters were of a general nature, stressing patriotic themes and the need to pay some sort of tribute to the Vietnam veteran. By and large, contributors expected that a conventional design would be selected and that the design would honor the living as well as the dead. Many who learned of the stark nature of the proposed monument thus feel that they have been misled.

Those involved in the design's selection quickly rallied to its support. An official of the Fine Arts Commission, one of the agencies which approved the design, called it "a suitable, dignified, and understated type of memorial." In a letter to the Marine Corps League, Robert W. Doubek, Executive Director of the VVMF, stated that the memorial "...makes a powerful statement that this society pays tribute to Vietnam Veterans."

A MEMORIAL FOR WHOM?

Many veterans, however, seriously question how the memorial is supposed to pay them tribute. Not only does the memorial lack the traditional symbols normally found on monuments erected to veterans, but nowhere on the Vietnam veteran's memorial is there any indication that the nation is grateful or appreciative to those who fought. The prologue inscribed before the list of honor states simply:

In honor of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in Vietnam. The names of those who gave their lives, and of those who remain missing, are inscribed in the order they were taken from us.

This inscription fails even to include the minimal language of the law authorizing the memorial to be in "honor and recognition." The epilogue following the names uses the same minimalist tone:

Our nation remembers the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of its Vietnam veterans.

These inscriptions contrast sharply with other memorials. To many veterans of the Vietnam conflict, the language of the memorial seems but one more manifestation of the fact that they are an uncomfortable reminder for many Americans of a conflict which they would like to forget.

C. L. Kammeier, Executive Director of the Marine Corps League, wrote to the VVMF: "...there appears to be a general consensus that nothing in the design represents the purpose of the commitment of those who served and survived the Vietnam experience. The [sic] particular common sense criticism is based on the fact that none volunteered to serve their country in Vietnam for the express purpose of dying or to ultimately have their name engraved on a tombstone; as represented by the current design of the memorial. Most readily agreed, however, that duty, honor, and country were the main motivating factors toward their service...."

The notion that the Vietnam veteran memorial, as currently designed, is a monument only to the dead particularly offends veterans. The congressional mandate is quite clear in calling for a memorial for those "who served in Vietnam." According to VVMF guidelines for those submitting designs, however,

the purpose of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is to recognize and honor those who served and died. It will provide a symbol of acknowledgement of the courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty of those who were among the nation's finest youth. Whether they served because of their belief in war policy, their belief in their obligation to answer the call of their country, or

their simple acquiescence in a course of events beyond their control, their service was no less honorable than that rendered by Americans in any previous war. Those who served and died embodied values and ideals prized by this nation since its inception. The failure of the nation to honor them only extends the national tragedy of our involvement in Vietnam.

While the phrase "served and died" might have been unintentional, other evidence also points to an intention to honor only the dead. In a article published in the Washington Post on May 25, 1977, VVMF President Jan Scruggs stated: "No effort can provide compensation, of course, to the Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice in Viet Nam. For them, perhaps, a national monument is in order to remind an ungrateful nation of what it has done to its sons."

Other aspects of the design also are being criticized. A principal complaint, for example, is the choice of black granite as the material for the memorial. Black normally is associated with death and dishonor. While a number of other war memorials use some black stone, it generally is for heroic figures, rising from the earth. The Vietnam veteran's memorial, however, is not just black, but also descends into the ground, further reinforcing the image of a "tomb."

Another complaint is that the memorial will be relatively inaccessible to wheelchair-bound veterans; some 75,000 Vietnam veterans are permanently disabled. When queried about this by the Army Times, Jan Scruggs stated: "I hadn't even thought of that." According to Robert Doubek, Executive Director of the VVMF, artificial turf may be installed to make wheelchair access somewhat easier and at least would meet Park Service minimum requirements for access by the disabled.

Listing of the names of the dead and missing in chronological order also is being criticized. Although this may be of some symbolic value, it will make it extremely difficult for family members to locate the name of a relative. Present plans call for a directory of names in a closed pavilion near the memorial's entrance. The directory is to be in the form of a rotating card file. This means that when large numbers of visitors come to the monument, which is very likely during the summer months, there will be a great deal of inconvenience. Any mechanical breakdown in the file's mechanism, moreover, could make it impossible to look up a name. It would seem preferable to list the names alphabetically.

Other criticisms of the design include that it readily lends itself to graffiti. It also has been suggested that the memorial may present a hazard at night since visitors unfamiliar with the park might inadvertently fall off the upper level.

The most telling complaint is that nowhere at the memorial site will there be the Stars and Stripes, the flag under which the Vietnam veteran fought. It is on this issue more than any other that the veterans seeking changes seem to agree. As C. L. Kammeier stated in his letter to the VVMF:

for the sake of the many non-artists who have served their country under the standard American symbol of duty, honor, and country, in every war since our nation was founded, as represented by our flag; I suggest that your committee make every effort to include the flag in a suggested modification to the current design, or even scrap the current design altogether and reopen the bidding for a selection by a committee comprised of at least several members who have actually served in Vietnam.

The extent and vehemence of the opposition to the design selected raises questions about the process of the selection. One brochure used by the VVMF to solicit entries for the design competition states: "It was the longest war in our nation's history, and the most unpopular. Not since the Civil War has any issue so divided Americans. Although many of our present problems such as inflation and lack of confidence in our institutions have been attributed to the war, the average citizen has eliminated it from his consciousness. Any discussions of Vietnam tend to recall the bitter and seemingly unresolvable debate over whether the U.S. should have become involved militarily in Southeast Asia and subsequently how the war was conducted."

The brochure goes on to describe the experiences of the Vietnam veteran as "horror, bitterness, boredom, heat, exhaustion, and death" and states "because of inequities in the draft system, the brunt of dangerous service fell upon the young, often the socially and economically disadvantaged." It is not until the fourth paragraph that the brochure discusses the memorial. And there the emphasis is on the negative aspects of the Vietnam conflict, ending with what is surely, at best, an extremely questionable statement: "The failure of the nation to honor them only extends the national tragedy of our involvement in Vietnam."

Ironically, after thus restating most of the anti-war charges, and describing the conflict as a national tragedy, the brochure adds that "The memorial will make no political statement regarding the war or its conduct." Many veterans, however, regard the lack of any statement about the role of the American serviceman in defending the freedom of the Vietnamese people as a political statement of the strongest kind: a statement that their war was a meaningless sacrifice. It is this, perhaps which triggers the most strong feelings about the memorial. Given the rhetoric of the brochure, it is understandable why the designs entered conveyed a negative feeling about the Vietnam conflict.

Throughout the materials for those submitting designs and on which the jury was to make its selection, an anti-heroic theme was stressed. Is it surprising that an anti-heroic design was selected? To make matters worse, not a single Vietnam veteran sat on the selection jury. Indeed the jury contained at least one anti-war activist, and several members were strongly opposed to the war.

Had there been a broader participation by Vietnam veterans, the anti-heroic nature of the design might have been modified, or even rejected. Perhaps the most unfortunate aspect of the selection is that rather than fulfilling the goal that "the memorial will begin a healing process, a reconciliation of the grievous divisions wrought by the war," it has added yet another element of controversy to one of the most controversial episodes in our history.

Milton R. Copulos
Policy Analyst

Milton R. Copulos is a disabled veteran of two tours of duty in Vietnam where he served with elements of the 25th Infantry Division. He holds the Bronze Star Medal among other decorations.

...S. Actually, and provide an attractive and balances.

The report goes far beyond organizational structuring. Among other things, it proposes a franchising process that would be kept under public scrutiny. Chicago would be divided into at least five areas for the purpose of franchise bidding, and the CCTC seems to have thought of every-

fault all had a hand in. Cabmanances have not been. The CCTC has pointed the way to bright, classy, and socially conscious making process Chicago deserves—and sh demand.

To Martin Blackwell - 1541 - Mont Allen 1/11/82 Chi Trib

A monumental insult to veterans

Unless something is done to stop it quickly, the mall in Washington, D.C., will be scarred indelibly with a Vietnam Veterans Memorial that, as designed, insults those it should honor.

It is a rude and ugly thing, two black walls meeting in a wide V, the names of American dead in Vietnam cut into it. As originally planned, the memorial would not even have included the word Vietnam. Now there is to be some mention of the cause in which these soldiers fell, but only as an afterthought. The memorial was designed to suggest the utter futility of these veterans' deaths. They are to be cast into darkness. And to veterans who survived, this would embody in stone the wrong this country did to the men it called upon to fight in Indochina.

One does not have to be a Vietnam revisionist to find the memorial design distasteful. One does not have to feel that the war was right or good or noble in order to recognize that the men and women who fought there deserve better than a memorial that, as The Tribune's architecture critic Paul Gapp wrote, resembles "an erosion control project."

Defenders of the design like to say it reflects the ambiguity of our national feelings about the war, that it is a silent, grim reminder of a time that offers up no images of heroism.

But for too long the veterans of that miserable conflict have borne the burden of the national

ambivalence about the war. It was not decision to fight it. It was the nation's. It was their failures that led to the war's ignominious end. American soldiers fought bravely in Vietnam. They died honorably. And to bury them in a black stone sarcophagus, sunk into a hole in the earth below eye level, is like spitting on their graves.

The Vietnam veterans who object to the memorial do not want to replace it with some grandiose statue glorifying what they saw. They more than anyone know how empty images are. But they do want to be treated with dignity. They do want to be able to go to the memorial and find some legitimacy to their feelings. If they weep, it should not be the final wrong done them.

Rep. Henry Hyde is trying to get enough colleagues' signatures on a letter to President Reagan to get him to urge Interior Secretary Watt not to authorize construction of this insensitivity. He had better succeed. We etch our names in our monuments. We tell the future of ourselves by our pompous excesses in stone. To allow this memorial to be erected, we are acknowledging to the ages that in this country we forgot the difference between individual error, the difference between individual and national error, the difference between dishonor. Glory belongs to causes. Honor to

Who will take this missile in?

...ile has become like a castoff child
door to unwelcome door.

the new year

PRESENTATION COPY

2/1/82

Send to

(VUMF)

Danny Boggs +
Marty Anderson
Ken Cribb

w/ Kathy's
memo to Morton
re: compromise

THE WHITE HOUSE
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Foreign Press Center

National Press Building
Room 202
Washington, D.C. 20045



To: *Norton Blackwell*
The White House

*Thought you might find
this of interest - also might
pass along to Danny Bogg &
Nath Anderson.
Keep the faith -*

Nort Allin

International Communication Agency, United States of America

THE CRYPT ON THE MALL

By Patrick J. Buchanan

WASHINGTON -- At Christmastime, a column appeared in this space protesting, as a permanent affront to the memory of the veterans of Vietnam, the black memorial crypt that is to be gouged out of the Washington Mall.

Reaction to that column, supportive and hostile, convinces me of two things. First, if enough voices rise in protest, this parting insult to the memory of the war veterans can be averted. Second, at least some of those anxious to get on with the "memorial" are after other game than honoring the veterans. They want (ital) their (end ital) statement on the Vietnam War to be America's final statement in granite.

The hopeful signs are several. Early in the new year, the campaign to review the memorial was bolstered by the enlistment of the formidable energies and leadership talent of Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois who, as of last week, had 38 colleagues signed on. The Chicago Tribune has now spoken out editorially against this "monumental insult" to the veterans, describing it as a "black stone sarcophagus, sunk into a hollow in the earth below eye level." Senior White House aides are said to want a long, second look at the design.

But back to the beginning.

The winning design for the veterans memorial -- which was authorized by the Congress -- was submitted by Maya Lin, a young architecture student at Yale. In essence, her design consisted of two enormous black walls, each almost a football field in length, that begin far apart at ground level and converge at an angle of 135 degrees: 10 feet below the ground. In the original, the design consisted of nothing more -- save the names of the 57,000 war dead chiseled into the black granite face of the memorial, in the order of their dying.

Former Marine Capt. James Webb described the message such a memorial would send as a "nihilistic statement." Indeed, as one gradually descends into the open crypt, surveying the thousands of names of war dead on those massive black walls, what sentiments are supposed to be evoked, other than grief, guilt, shame and a sense of enormous and tragic waste?

In the intent of the Congress, this memorial was to "honor and recognize the men and women ... who served in the Vietnam War." The chosen design, however, bears an utterly different, if unwritten, message. It says: "These thousands died for nothing -- and we are all responsible."

Such interpretations are angrily rejected by supporters of the memorial design, especially Grady Clay, who chaired the panel of judges. As he angrily wrote this writer, "Who says -- as you so blithely assume to be a fact -- that

this is a memorial exclusively to the dead? Nothing of the sort."

But who can deny it? In the official statement accompanying her winning design, Maya Lin wrote: "Death is in the end a personal and private matter and the area contained is a quiet place, meant for reflection and private reckoning." Even though there is now a belated insistence that all veterans are recognized by these black walls bearing only the names of the war dead, Lin repeatedly stated last spring that it was a "memorial to the men and women who died during the war."

Indeed, she came upon the design while studying "funerary architecture" at Yale. In a laudatory piece this month, the Washington Post described her as "fascinated -- at times almost obsessed -- by death." Her operative quote runs thus:

"These (American troops in Vietnam) died. You have to accept that fact before you can truly recognize them and remember them. I just wanted to be honest with people. I didn't want to make something that would say, 'They've gone away for a while! I wanted something that would just simply say, 'They can never come back. They should be remembered.'"

But Congress did not authorize a memorial on the mall to tell us, "They can never come back." Congress authorized a memorial to honor the sacrifices of the war veterans, living and dead. It wanted a stone paean of praise to their patriotism, their heroism, their sacrifice, not this hymn to death.

Early on in her course in funerary architecture, writes Phil McComb of the Post, Lin "designed a memorial to World War III -- a tomb that was a 'study in frustration' because visitors would have difficulty getting inside and, once there, would be trapped in a cleverly arranged ditch." That "tomb," that "study in frustration," that "cleverly arranged ditch" is what is being buried in the mall!

Perhaps, Mr. Clay writes, "you and a few others are getting off some overdue resentment at the outcome of the war ... "

Well, you tell me, Mr. Clay. How can one not (ital) resent (end ital) the holocaust in Southeast Asia these Americans fought to prevent? And if you don't resent the defeat of the cause in which millions served and tens of thousands died, what the devil are you doing passing on memorials in their honor?

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Friday, March 12, 1982

Watt Okays a Memorial Plan

Site of Statue, Flagpole Still to Be Decided

By Jean White

Interior Secretary James G. Watt yesterday gave the approval that clears the way for groundbreaking and construction of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Constitution Gardens.

In a carefully phrased letter to Jan C. Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial fund, Watt approved a plan that will add a statue and flagpole to Maya Lin's abstract, V-shaped design chosen in a competitive search. These changes were part of a compromise worked out between proponents and critics of Lin's original design. Critics of the Lin design want a more traditional, heroic monument and have said the initial design represents a statement of shame and dishonor.

Still to be resolved is the controversial question of where the statue and flagpole will be placed in the memorial design. Watt wrote that his approval came with the "understanding" that changes also will be made in the inscription for the memorial. This inscription, he wrote, should "add better and proper language bringing honor to all the 2.7 million who served in Vietnam."

Groundbreaking at the memorial site at Constitution Gardens originally had been scheduled for March 1 with dedication of the memorial on Veterans Day in November. Watt had postponed construction while waiting for approval of the design compromise by the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) and the Fine Arts Commission.

Both review bodies have approved the concept but left unresolved the key question of where the new elements will be placed.

The NCPC approval placed the statue "within the area before the apex of the memorial." Earlier this week J. Carter Brown, chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, suggested in a letter to Watt that the statue and flagpole serve as an "entry point" for the memorial in the area that would contain a directory to help visitors locate the names of 57,000 Americans killed and missing in Vietnam. The names on the memorial will be listed in the order in which they died.

See MEMORIAL, C6, Col. 1

Watt Approves Memorial Plan With Changes

MEMORIAL, From C1

An Interior Department spokesman said Watt in his letter indicates that decision on the size, type, and siting of the statue will have to be recycled through the review process for approval by the NCPC and Fine Arts Commission before the dedication of the memorial.

Yesterday, representatives of veterans groups met in a closed session to take the first step toward reaching agreement on the design modifications.

Sen. John Warner (R-Va.), who was instrumental in working out the design compromise in January, invited some 60 representatives from the Vietnam War Memorial Fund and veterans groups that have been critical of Lin's original abstract design.

The group was shown slides from the original design entries that incorporated a sculptural element.

Robert Doubek, project director for the Vietnam War Memorial Fund, returned to his office from the meeting to find Watt's letter waiting. He said the group will have an announcement on the memorial construction tomorrow.

PRESERVATION COPY

File

Small was hired away from CBS
See SMALL, C5, Col. 1

Memorial Delayed

Vietnam Monument To Be Reviewed

By Benjamin Forgey

Groundbreaking for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, scheduled to take place next week, has been postponed by Interior Secretary James G. Watt pending approval of changes in the design by both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission.

Watt announced his decision to delay construction in letters mailed on Thursday to the chairman of each agency. "I am not prepared to act... without assurances that the design improvements meet with the approval of the commission," Watt wrote in his letter to J. Carter Brown, chairman of the Fine Arts Commission.

Although the commission has agreed to place the matter on the agenda for its March 9 meeting, the delay could be lengthy because of the nature of the changes in the design agreed to by both critics and supporters of architect Maya Ying Lin's original concept.

See MEMORIAL, C3, Col. 1

Memorial

MEMORIAL, From C1

Lin's design, which won a juried design competition that attracted more than 1,400 entries and which received the unanimous approval of both commissions, calls for two long walls of black granite engraved with the names of America's Vietnam war dead and set at an angle into the sloping earth of Constitution Gardens near the Lincoln Memorial. Admired by many for its noble simplicity, this design also attracted strong opposition from some veterans and a group of Republican congressmen, who attacked it as "a political statement of shame and dishonor" in a letter last month to President Reagan.

Responding to these critics, rep-

resentatives of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, which sponsored the design competition and currently is raising some \$6 million for construction, agreed to a compromise early this month which provides that a flagpole and a larger-than-life statue of an American soldier be added to the memorial.

Supporters of the memorial had hoped to have it completed in time to be dedicated on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, but that now seems unlikely. Whether members of the reviewing agencies, whose approval is required by the legislation authorizing the memorial, will regard these changes as "design improvements" is questionable. In its initial letter of approval last July, the Commission of Fine Arts stressed that care should be taken not to alter the basic simplicity of Lin's design.

March 1981

File

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL FUND FACT SHEET



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*Served in Vietnam

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HISTORY AND ORGANIZATION

- Incorporated April 1979
- Non-profit corporation; all gifts tax deductible
- Non-paid board of directors
- Six full-time employees, supported by consultants and volunteers
- Not a membership organization; VVMF will dissolve when job is done

STAFF

Jan Craig Scruggs*
President
Col. Donald E. Schaet, USMC, Ret.*
Executive Vice President
Robert W. Doubek, Esq.*
Project Director/Secretary
Sandie Fauriol
Campaign Director

PURPOSE

- To honor the Americans who served in Vietnam, especially those who died
- To establish a national memorial to Vietnam veterans in Washington, D.C. as a gift from the people of America

PROGRAM

- Obtain a prestigious site in Washington, D.C.
- Conduct a design competition open to all Americans over 18 years of age
- Raise all funding through private contributions
- Dedicate memorial on Veterans Day 1982

PROGRESS

- Bill allocating 2 acres of land next to Lincoln Memorial signed July 1, 1980
- Over 2,500 entrants competing for design. Winner to be announced May 6, 1981
- Fund raising campaign gaining momentum--raised almost 1 million of 7 million dollars needed

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

- All contributions go to bank lock box
- Appropriate staff members bonded
- Annual independent audit
- Audit committee reviews fund raising management practices

AFFILIATION

- VVMF does not endorse or sanction other organizations
- No affiliation with any other Vietnam veterans group

OUTSIDE SUPPORT

- VVMF welcomes and encourages fund raising on its behalf
- All such activities must be approved by VVMF
- Point of contact: Don Schaet or Sandie Fauriol

ADDRESSES

- Contributions to VVMF, P.O. Box 37240, Washington, D.C. 20013
- All other correspondence to address below

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc.

1110 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Suite 308, Washington, D.C. 20005 (202) 659-2490

Vietnam Memorial

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EDITORIALS

Vietnam: In memoriam

Nothing about the Vietnam War will ever be easy, or so it seems. Even the nation's memorial to the 57,692 men and women who died, soon to be constructed on a small meadow near the Lincoln Memorial, is not exempt.

The monument is one of two things. Some say it is an elegant, moving wing of black stone, sweeping in simple beauty from the grasslands and returning to them. Others say it is an ugly "black gash of shame and sorrow" that, by its very existence, will humiliate those who fought and died for their country.

We could argue aesthetics forever. Beauty speaks softly, into each individual ear. If you don't hear, then you don't, and that which may exist for others is lost to you.

To judge this monument, chosen in nationwide competition over more than 1,400 others, the criteria must be intent and result.

The intent can only be to honor the dead, who gave their country the ultimate gift, without unduly glorifying the conflict about which many Americans still have such painfully conflicting emotions. There is no dark, hidden mo-

tive, no conspiracy to humiliate. We simply cannot believe that the veterans who pressed so rightly for a memorial, the thousands of citizens who donated \$6 million to build it and the panel of architects, sculptors and experts who chose the winning design had anything but the purest of intentions.

And what will result when this memorial is built? Some will see great beauty in its design, and will visit it for that reason. Some will see the names of the war dead, a sad list of some of our nation's finest young souls, and will visit it for that reason. Some families will visit to cry, and remember. And some may read the horror of the war into the color and shape of its monument. We dare say someone, somewhere, would find horror in any memorial, whatever size or shape.

Would a gray granite cube, with the names of the war dead chiseled into it alphabetically, row after row, better serve either the Vietnam veterans or the rest of America? Must a war monument be like every other war monument to speak its message of respect and honor?

No.

evity

you can imagine that, by the second quarter of the next century, the elderly—whose numbers will have doubled—will be able to vote themselves still more generous public benefits to be financed through the efforts of a dwindling number of workers. Or you might envision a situation in which the working population rises up against the increasing claims of their elders and abruptly cuts back their supports.

Presumably something will intervene between now and then to forestall so sharp a conflict. The choices, however, are limited. Nothing can be done about the large bulge in the population that will be retiring in the next century. But one important factor could be reversed—the trend toward ever-earlier retirement. Many factors—age discrimination, pension policies and high unemployment—have promoted early retirement. Personal preference, however, has played a large part. While the elderly support changes that would allow older workers to keep their jobs if they want to, the idea of postponing pension benefits has been strongly resisted.

When you're talking about something as important as planning for old age, it is important that any change be introduced gradually. For that reason, it's not too early to start considering whether future generations of people in their 60s—with their expectation of longer, healthier lives—might not find it quite acceptable to work a few years longer to ensure themselves of a financially secure retirement.

ver, Atlanta

town for its "culture," and, if so, how do you define that? Is it the sound of Mozart in a concert hall (New York wins for symphony-lovers) or the sound of a bowling ball rolling down an alley (go to Billings, Mont., where there is a building full of lanes for every 7,478 people)?

Should climate include hot air and, if so, why doesn't the almanac include Congress? Is one person's clincher the number of dog tracks in an area, neighborhood bars (Washington is No. 7 in the 10 worst metro areas for access to neighborhood bars; whatever that means) or the distance in kilohertz between classical music radio stations?

Weapons Week (Jan. 3) intended to demean people who flew the cobra gunships in combat or to obscure the real issues of our painful readjustment to normal life, but he has.

The assertion that "delayed stress syndrome" can be used as a defense to vitiate liability for criminal conduct is false, and serves to discredit those who survived the uniquely terrible duty that fell upon helicopter gunship crews.

The nature of that duty—the wholesale destruction of human life—raises the real issue of readjustment, which is a moral one. Please don't try to reduce this question to understandable terms by using glib expediency. Vietnam was no Atari game, and the compound whose heat of decay troubles us so deeply is not adrenalin, but a more elusive and lethal substance called realization.

You see, we all have our nightmares; we are all custodians of a horror we never bargained for. We are not exemplars. Nor are we criminals—and there's the sticking point—for in our memories there is and will always be an element of culpability.

Self-serving declarations of the sort advanced by Peter Krutschewski in defense of his crimes do little to deal with the issues of liability for acts that yielded victims aplenty.

RICHARD S. STARNES

McLean

The writer flew Cobra gunships in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969. His awards and decorations include the Silver Star, 41 awards of the Air Medal and the Cross of Gallantry.

I, too, was a gunship pilot in Vietnam. I spent two tours there and he-

most, like Phil McCombs, would sympathize with Mr. Krutschewski's Vietnam experience—but not with the sad tale that followed.

Does The Post have any idea how many times that story's been told? The subject is always an innocent "clean-cut kid" before going to combat. If Mr. Krutschewski thinks he was special because he was scared when he arrived in Vietnam, he must have been one lonesome trooper. Oh, yes, he was the solid one who went by the book while everyone else was doing all those evil things. Come on!

The American people sent us to that damned war. Most of us who went are

turned. There's a persistently inaccurate picture being painted of the Vietnam veteran, and cases like Mr. Krutschewski's don't help the vets one bit. A vast majority are solid citizens. And they are no longer "kids."

The issue here is the fact that Mr. Krutschewski is a confessed drug smuggler who is using his Vietnam service as an alibi. He didn't get his start in Vietnam. Don't confuse him with the men and women who are really hurting from Vietnam's effects. Listen to them. Help them.

JAMES D. CANFIELD

Carlisle, Pa.

11/9/82
POST

... And the Memorial

It's sort of typical: a very controversial war in Vietnam takes place; a very controversial end of the war in Vietnam takes place; a very controversial return of Vietnam veterans takes place; a controversial investigation of the effects of Agent Orange takes place; now, a controversial monument to Vietnam veterans, designed by the "restless" architect Maya Lin, is to be built.

This country has not gotten over its dissension about the Vietnam War. This is quite evident since Maya Lin's (whose name means "Illusion Forest") inverted-V design was picked to be placed on the mall. The Post (Style, Jan. 3) carried a long article on the enigmatic architect. But wouldn't it have been better if The Post had given more space to veterans' opinions on the whole affair?

Here's a memorial that they fought hard to get, and it's designed by someone who "doesn't read the papers," "ignores the world," "is morbid," "doesn't know much about China" and "less about Vietnam."

It doesn't take much to understand why Vietnam veterans are calling the memento a "nihilistic statement," a "black ditch," an "outrage." Unfair is what it is—to satisfy the fine arts commissioners, not the veterans.

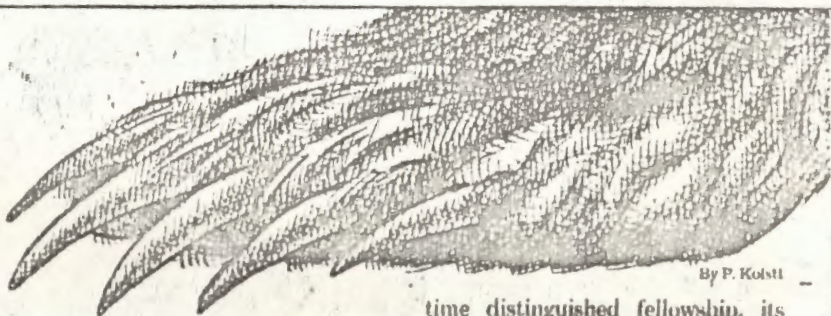
In this city of elaborate monuments, it seems odd that we would build a glorified tombstone on the Mall. If it's a gravestone the commissioners want, let them move it to Arlington Cemetery.

KEN MCGHEE

Silver Spring

Breaching The Wall of Silence

Soviet activists and dissidents, "on whose behalf there is constant pressure from the West, may be helped," states The Post's editorial "Meanwhile, Back in the U.S.S.R."



By P. Kolst

time distinguished fellowship, its highest honor.

A Better Way to Honor Viet Vets

By Tom Carhart

WHAT IS THE MEANING of the current controversy over the design of the proposed Vietnam memorial to be built on the Mall? Is this just another case of self-pitying Vietnam veterans whining and whimpering and wallowing in *Weltschmerz*? Will we never be satisfied by anything?

Several years ago, a group of Vietnam veterans coalesced into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, with the stated purpose of building a memorial to Vietnam veterans. I worked with the memorial fund as a volunteer. We received the support of all 100 senators and an overwhelming majority of the House. The bill they passed, signed into law by President Carter, authorized a memorial in West Potomac Park "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war."

That is the license from the U.S. government for the fund to build this memorial. It says nothing about any special treatment for the dead, such as a listing of their names. It says nothing about the need to "authentically capture the national feeling about Vietnam" or "make a statement about our collective memory," to quote William Greider's Outlook column last Sunday. It says nothing about "providing deserved tribute to those who did not survive," or a requirement to "offer only the names of the dead . . . theirs was the ultimate sacrifice — it is to them that honor is due," as James J. Kilpatrick wrote in his Veterans Day column in The Washington Post.

Yes, honor is due to the 57,000 who gave their lives in Vietnam — but this memorial is also intended, by law, to honor the 2.5 million of us who rendered faithful service in Vietnam and came home. What of us — are we really to feel honored by a black ditch?

How did this happen? What went wrong?

In order to choose the design for the memorial, the fund held an open competition and received 1,421 entries. The jury which selected the winner was made up of architects and artists, but none of them was a Vietnam veteran. It is accepted practice in

competitions of this sort to include members of the subject class — here, Vietnam veterans — on the jury that chooses the winner.

The failure to do so only emphasized the dual nature of that war. The jurors could know nothing of the military war in Vietnam, but they were obviously caught up, as everyone was, in the political war that raged through this country. This means that any winner they chose would necessarily reflect their perceptions of the political war they lived through at home in America. While it may be that a black ditch on the Mall is an appropriate statement of *that* war, that is *not* the war whose veterans Congress authorized the memorial fund to honor and recognize.

The formal failing of this design is that it violates one of the critical criteria of the design competition — that it must make no political statement. Even if this black gash is not a statement of dishonor and shame, it is clearly at least a statement of sorrow — "of sorrow," as Kilpatrick put it in his column, "not of glory, not of victory, not of defeat" — and that, of course, is a forbidden

political statement. I am a combat Vietnam veteran with two Purple Hearts and I feel no sorrow. I regret the deaths of brothers in arms, but they died noble, principled deaths, and I salute them and honor them. I am *proud* of our service to America, not sorry for it. Should this jury, made up of men who never served in Vietnam, tell Vietnam veterans and the nation how to feel and how we will be remembered in history?

□ □

What can be done? This looks like a misuse of a congressional license, which would call for congressional oversight. But that step might result in the destruction of what has been achieved to date through the efforts of those at the memorial fund.

A few cosmetic alterations to the design have already been agreed to, and I think that's really all that's called for here. If the color were changed from black to white, the symbol of faithful national service and honor, and the walls were brought above ground, and an American flag were installed at the juncture of the walls, then all the problems would disappear.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial would then be in beautiful harmony, rather than stark contrast, with the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. There would be no question of abuse of congressional license, since the memorial would clearly "honor and recognize" all Vietnam veterans.

There would be no question of free and easy access for the handicapped — those Vietnam veterans, for instance, who are condemned to spend the rest of their days in a wheelchair. There would be no constant danger of someone falling in. There would be no need for pumps continually operating to drain the lower half of the memorial fan, which as now proposed would be well below the water table in the location.

At present, the memorial fund is preparing to purchase black granite in Sweden or India, since it is not found in this country. But white marble is. Since we fought a war for America, shouldn't the materials used to build a memorial in our honor be exclusively American?

The central presence of the flag is just that final touch asked for by all veterans. We are that same cohort of young Americans out of every generation who have always been willing, when called upon, to literally offer our lives for America; we would be so remembered.

Tom Carhart was an infantry platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam in 1967-68. He is now a civilian lawyer at the Pentagon.

Taking the heat

file memorial
* CLEVELAND



BY

JIM PARKER

THE PLAIN DEALER

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1982

PAGE 1-B

This is one I tried to get out of. For a long time, a shamefully long time, it was ignored. When it couldn't be ignored, then it was avoided, not because there wasn't anything there, not because it wasn't worth writing about, but because it requires letting it all hang out.

Time and events have a way of trapping individuals, silhouetting them for what they are. Something happens. You look at the newspaper, or turn on the TV, buy a magazine. And there it is, jumping out, threatening a neat little existence, a cozy little niche. For a while it's uncomfortable, maybe even humiliating, but you can put it away and concentrate on something safe — football, baseball, hockey, crime in America, whatever.

Then it happens again. It starts to cut into your thoughts, and you wonder what it is you're afraid of. Is it the subject, a subject that became part of our history 10 years ago, or is it what goes on not so deep beneath the surface? The thoughts and feelings that are part of your private self, the emotions, and yes, the hatred — nasty word — that remains, hatred that scares you because you would rather it went away.

Maybe it's the dark side that sometimes comes in your sleep, sometimes when you're drunk — It's a known fact that many of us drink too much, take dope and beat or kill our wives — and you try telling someone. If he is a friend, he worries about getting you home before you can do any damage or maybe before anyone else notices. You never really get it out. The next day you're embarrassed.

Thomas Carhart's name came off The Plain Dealer's Oct. 14 Page One like a runaway freight train. It can't be him, but it is. And as you read the story, you know it is.

Headlined "Viet vet blasts memorial

as black gash of shame," the Associated Press account described Carhart as a West Point graduate who led an infantry platoon of the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. He is waging a disorganized campaign to stop a Vietnam war memorial, designed by Ohioan Maya Ying Lin and approved by U.S. Fine Arts Commission.

Carhart wanted to be with a combat unit, not because he was bloodthirsty... he simply preferred the company.

The memorial, designed as two 200-foot arms of black granite intersecting at a 130-degree angle below the surface of the ground, has become a real controversy between Vietnam veterans, Lin and the commission.

Many vets, looking first at the color, then the configuration and the sub-

ground level, attack the proposed monument as commemorating something dark and shameful in American history. Lin's design, they say, is a deliberate attempt to relegate the war and its veterans to some shadowy, best-not-bothered place in history.

Lin, an architecture student at Yale, disagrees. If I understand her correctly, she insists the design is deliberately vague, expressing some abstract idea that perhaps she can see.

Carhart, who makes his living these days as a Pentagon lawyer, took it upon himself to appear last year before the commission to fight the memorial with the same energy and unconventional tactics that sometimes made even his peers uncomfortable in Vietnam.

What the story didn't say was that the infantry platoon Carhart, then a captain, commanded was actually a recon platoon, called Tiger Force, a unit that often operated in small teams out in the middle of nowhere.

Carhart had replaced a South Carolina captain named Magaha, who had been killed near the Cambodia border, about five kilometers from a dusty little place called Song Be, a town few ever heard of. Carhart lasted about three months before suffering a serious wound himself.

After his hospital stay, Carhart was returned to the unit. As was often done with officers who had either been wounded or completed six months line

time, he was assigned as an assistant adjutant, a brief detour, to say the least.

Reporting to his desk each day, Carhart, a jagged scar decorating his cheek, would sit and read porn books all day long, secure behind a Claymore mine that he had wired to a tent pole in front of his desk. When the unwary or unwise would approach with a question, he would roll the detonator in his right hand. Rumors had it the mine had been disarmed, or that it was live. Carhart never said. Several weeks of that and he was back in the boonies, where he wanted to be.

Carhart wanted to be with a combat unit, not because he was bloodthirsty or crazy but because he simply preferred the company. That's where he thought an infantry captain should be.

It's the company he kept that pits him against this nebulous piece of Lin's mind. Carhart believes they were too good to be memorialized by something that will in effect be a grave, with the names of the 57,692 American dead and missing engraved on it.

Carhart was once a friend. Because he is now involved in something that brings back a lot of memories for a lot of people, he is taking some heat. He's not alone. William L. Clemons, 1127 E. 77th St., a former Navy Seal, agrees wholeheartedly, as do many veterans.

You're right, Carhart. It just took a little time for the rest of us to step back out where they can shoot at us.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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Webb

Wall St. Journal

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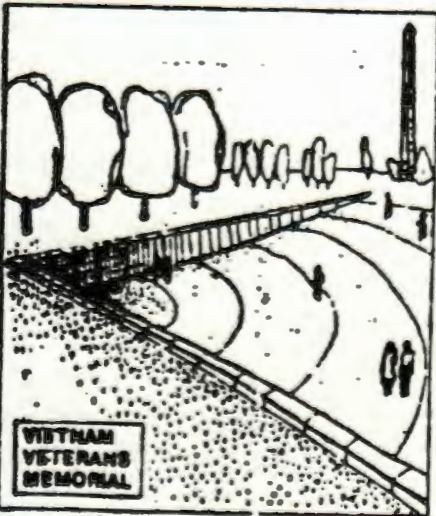
Reassessing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial

By JAMES H. WISE JR.

I, like many Vietnam veterans I have spoken to, face a Hobson's choice with respect to the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Having served on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's National Sponsoring Committee, and having also worked on Capitol Hill to help gain passage of the authorizing resolution, I want very much to see a memorial on the Mall. On the other hand, I believe the memorial chosen through the recent design competition is, as other detractors have maintained, a nihilistic statement that does not render honor to those who served.

In 1980 the Congress authorized the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) to erect with private funds a memorial that would "honor and recognize the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war." The fund, which was the brainchild of a small group of Washington-based Vietnam veterans, held a nationwide design competition, with jurors selected on the basis of their eminence in the artistic and architectural community.

The winning design, which the fund proposes to build in Constitution Gardens just off the mall in time for Veterans Day 1982,



consists of two black walls, joining at a 135-degree angle; with one wall pointing toward the Lincoln Memorial and one toward the Washington Monument. The top of the memorial will remain at ground level, while the base will recede into the earth to a depth of 10 feet where the two walls join. On the walls will be the names of those who perished in the war, listed chronologically, supposedly in the order they fell. There will be no flag, no images indicative of war. The original design did not carry the word "Vietnam," though now a short inscription is apparently planned where the walls meet. It will be, as writer and Vietnam veteran Al Santoli mentioned to me, "a place to go and be depressed."

What is one to do? Is any memorial better than no memorial? At what point does a piece of architecture cease being a memorial to service and instead become a mockery of that service, a walling wall for future anti-draft and anti-nuclear demonstrators? And most importantly, how did this travesty, this unwinnable paradox, come about?

It is important to make one clarification. The dissatisfaction with the proposed design is not the product of the far right, which has been panned in some recent articles as wanting to see a Vietnam era update of the two Jima memorial, nor is it the product of a few disgruntled contestants in the design competition. The issue is whether this design meets the congressional mandate to "honor and recognize the men and women . . . who served in the Vietnam war." All this talk of a memorial "suitably capturing the national feeling about Vietnam," whatever that is and whatever else it might be 10 or 100 years from now, is secondary to that mandated purpose. If it does, fine. But it must first honor and recognize those who served.

The present design does neither. First, it is a memorial only to the dead. Maya Lin, its designer, has been very clear on this point, stating that "this memorial is not meant as a memorial to the individual, but rather as a memorial to the men and women who died during the war, as a whole."

The New Republic magazine took umbrage at this conception of the memorial. "Its purpose," the magazine said, "is to impress upon the visitor the sheer human waste, the utter meaninglessness of it all. It is an unfortunate choice of memorial To treat the Vietnam dead like the victims of some monstrous traffic accident is more than a disservice to history; it is a disservice to the memory of the 57,000 It is surely an excess of revisionist zeal."

A memorial devoid of embellishment, which will take up almost 200 yards of the Capitol Mall to list the names of the dead on a long black wall, violates the congressional mandate, and also violates the repeated assurances given early supporters by the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund. In addition to me, Admiral James B. Stockdale, Medal of Honor winner and the dean of the American prisoners of war, has resigned from the National Sponsoring Committee of the Fund for so long as this design prevails.

Businessman Ross Perot, who provided nearly all of the funding for the memorial project from its inception in 1979 until the design for this memorial was chosen, including the funds for the design competition itself, quietly withdrew upon seeing the winning design. Mr. Perot, a Naval Academy graduate who has been widely active in projects that recognize the positive achievements of servicemen and veterans, had been repeatedly assured by the Fund's directors that the monument would not glorify war, but would honor the dead while giving primary emphasis to recognizing the heroic service of those who fought and returned. Manifestly, it does not.

Those who support the design argue, on being confronted with such dissent, that sour grapes are inevitable, that the design competition was the most extensive in history, and that the design itself is "neutral," allowing each observer to make his own conclusion about the war and those who died. But this design should not be neutral. We are invading for all time the privacy of those who perished in the war by publishing their names on the memorial, and this should not be done except in the most affirmative sense of honor and recognition.

Architectural understatement is hardly called for when we are dealing with the heroic and honorable loss of life. If citizens and international visitors wish to reach a conclusion regarding the American involvement in Vietnam while studying the memorial, it should begin with that premise. Thus, if there were to be sour grapes, the cries should have been that there was too much honor. If that is possible, rather than not enough.

One of the most unfortunate and moving testimonies to this point came from the widow of a fellow Marine, a man whom I deeply respected and fondly remember. No supporter of the war herself, she likened the blackness, the lack of ornateness, the very emptiness of this design to the reaction she had upon seeing the ovens at Dachau. No honor there, but rather a rubbing of the world's face into the grisly shame of the deaths. "It would be better to not have a memorial at all," she concluded.

How could such a design have prevailed? It is true that there were more entries in this competition than any other in history. But through what filter did they pass? Who decided on the winner? When the winner was announced, I called the memorial fund office and asked whether a Vietnam veteran had been on the judging panel. I was told, astoundingly, that no Vietnam veterans were considered qualified, though it is traditional in such competitions for a layperson directly concerned with the project to sit as a judge, to provide a balance. Later, the VVMF officially stated that "a factor militating against a Vietnam veteran being on the jury was that because of the other jury members' empathy for such a person, they might be swayed too greatly by that person's opinion."

A Desire to Avoid Any Symbol

There have been charges and countercharges regarding the antiwar activities of several members of the jury. At a minimum, it is clear that there were members who had been bitterly opposed to the war, and the winning design seems to reflect a desire to avoid any symbol or statement that would put the war or those who fought it in an affirmative light. It should be re-

"Vietnam" on it, nor did it say anything whatsoever about those who had served. From the results of the competition, the judges undoubtedly agreed with William Greider's recent perception in the Washington Post, supporting the proposed design, that "our shared memories of that war do not include any suitably heroic images which a sculptor could convert to stone or bronze."

Most Vietnam veterans who watched the daily sacrifices of their peers in combat would quickly disagree with such a view of the "honor and recognition" that is their due, and the lack of this affirmative viewpoint is demonstrable in the winning design. As the descendant of any man who fought for the Confederacy can assure you, it is not necessary for a nation to have won a war in order for its soldiers to have fought heroically. The Vietnam veteran deserves a memorial that can make this same distinction.

In the interest of compromise, those who oppose the present design have asked that it be made white, above ground, and have a flag at the juncture of the two walls. The VVMF has the power to make such changes, with very little damage to the process by which they arrived at the design itself. Should they not, perhaps the public should reject the design by refusing to pay for it. Since this memorial is to be built with private funds, it should thus reflect the judgment of those who make its construction possible. One hopes that contributors would not hasten in their good intentions to honor those who served, and in the end bankroll a subtle but real denigration.

Mr. Webb was a Marine rifle platoon commander in Vietnam and is the author of two novels, "Fields of Fire" and "A Sense of Honor." Until recently he was minority counsel to the House Veterans Affairs Committee.



OCT/NOV 1981

MARINE CORPS LEAGUE NEWS

\$1.50



LEAGUE WITHDRAWS SUPPORT FOR PRESENT DESIGN OF VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

A decision by the League's National Legislative Committee to withdraw Marine Corps League support for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial—in its present design—has been approved by National Commandant Joseph Mammone. In reaching its decision, the committee reported, "The design that has been selected is inappropriate. It represents an insult to the memory of those it is intended to memorialize. The Vietnam veterans deserve better. The Marine Corps League hereby withdraws its support to the memorial in the design that is now proposed." Previously, the committee had gone on record as supporting the concept of a suitable memorial, including the federal grant of property for such a memorial in the Nation's Capital. Congress approved a land grant and a design competition was held; however, the design selected—a long black "v"-shaped wall bearing the names of the U.S. war-dead from Vietnam—has been the subject of criticism by many Vietnam veterans, including some who have called it "a tribute to Jane Fonda."

WASHINGTON — Unless something unexpected happens, ground will soon be broken for the Vietnam veterans' memorial on the Mall here in Washington. Although I have long awaited this moment, as it now approaches I feel only pain.

I believe that the design selected for the memorial in an open competition is pointedly insulting to the sacrifices made for their country by all Vietnam veterans. By this will we be remembered: a black gash of shame and sorrow, hacked into the national visage that is the Mall.

When I arrived in Washington, in March 1980, I eagerly joined the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund as a volunteer. I had earned two Purple Hearts as an infantry platoon leader in Vietnam, and I was proud not only of my own service but also of all those who served with me. I was especially proud of those who gave their lives, and I saw this as the opportunity for our nation to finally render honor that was due. Congress agreed, and authorized the Fund to build a memorial on the Mall to "recognize and honor" all those who served in Vietnam. An open competition was held to decide the memorial design and 1,421 entries were received.

The winning design was chosen by a jury made up entirely of civilians — in other words, people who had seen no military service in Vietnam. While this may seem unimportant, we should reflect on it for a moment.

There were really two wars in that era: The first was a military war fought in Vietnam where 57,000 Americans died and whose veterans the Fund is authorized by Congress to "recognize and honor"; the second was a political war waged here at home.

The jurors know nothing of the real war in Vietnam — the television portrayal was far from adequate. But the political war cut so deeply through society that everyone had to take sides. The net result is that the design

Insulting Vietnam Vets

By Tom Carhart

the jury chose as the winner was necessarily a function of their perception of the war they lived through in America. It may be that black walls sunk into a trench would be an appropriate statement of the political war in this country. But that is not the war whose veterans the Fund has been authorized to memorialize.

If this design is built, there will be a black wall 400 feet long, sunk 10 feet into the ground in the form of a V. The

legs of this V will be directed toward, and form a triangle on the Mall with, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. These others are well-known edifices of white marble rising in massive splendor to honor great American heroes.

The proposed design is defended on artistic grounds, but the issue is not one of art: If Americans allow that black trench to be dug, future generations will understand clearly what America thought of its Vietnam veterans.

There are three other memorials in Washington that are at least partly black: the Sea Bee Memorial, the 101st Airborne Division memorial, and the Marine Corps' Iwo Jima memorial. But these show heroic figures rising in triumph on top of black pedestals, while the proposed Vietnam memorial is anti-heroic — a black hole, the reward we get, and the place we have been given in our national garden of history, for faithful service in a confused and misunderstood war. Black walls, the universal color of sorrow and dishonor. Hidden in a hole, as if in

shame. Is this really how America would memorialize our offering?

It may be that, in the future, all memorials to American heroes will be black and underground. I doubt it, but even if that's true, why should we Vietnam veterans have to be the first?

The only underground memorial I know of is a tomb. Yes, we lost 57,000, but what of the millions of us who rendered honorable service and came home? Why can't we have something white and traditional and above ground?

I favor the marketplace approach to decisions of this importance to the whole nation. I believe — and I speak only for myself — that the Vietnam veterans memorial design should get the full and fair and open hearing it deserves and has not yet had.

President Reagan has called the nation's Vietnam experience a "noble cause." I hope that he and the rest of America do not want us to be remembered by posterity in this way.

Tom Carhart, who is a civilian lawyer at the Pentagon, was graduated from West Point in 1966. This article is adapted from his recent testimony before the United States Fine Arts Commission. Afterward, the commission reaffirmed its decision to proceed with the proposed design for the Vietnam veterans memorial.

Vet Protests Memorial Design — in Vain

By LAURIE PARKER

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — A Vietnam veteran has protested the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, calling it "a black gash of shame and sorrow." However, the protest failed to sway the federal panel that had approved the design.

Thomas Carhart, a 1966 West Point graduate who served with the 101st Abn Div in Vietnam, told members of the U.S. Fine Arts Commission here that the stark design selected for the memorial was "the wrong memorial, chosen by the wrong jury, for the wrong reasons, for the wrong war."

"It's a memorial to Jane Fonda, not to those of us who served in Vietnam," he told *Army Times*.

An official with the commission said later that the panel would not reevaluate the memorial's design because it had no authority to do so and because members considered the design to be "a suitable, dignified and understated type of memorial."

The design selected for the memorial consists of two long black granite walls that meet to shape an open "V." The back side of the memorial will be level with the ground, while the front side will slope down gradually to a depth of 10 feet where the walls meet.

The names of the 57,002 American men and women killed in the war will be engraved on the walls in the chronological order of their deaths. Other than those names, the monument will have no reference to the war.

It will be constructed on the Mall in Washington, between the Lincoln Memorial



This is a model of the Vietnam veterans memorial that is to be constructed on the Mall in Washington, D.C., between the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument.

and the Washington Monument.

The design was created by Yale architecture student Maya Ying Lin and was selected from among 1421 competitors by a jury of noted architects, sculptors and landscape architects.

Carhart told the arts commission that Vietnam had been two wars — the military one fought in the rice paddies and jungles of Southeast Asia, and the political one fought at home in America.

The jury that selected Lin's design was made up of professional artists with no Vietnam or other military experience, Carhart said.

"Can there be any doubt that the jury chose a design that reflects only their interpretation of the war they saw here at

home?" he asked the commission.

The design may be the artist's perception of how the political war should be remembered, Carhart told *Army Times*, but the memorial was supposed to remember the military war.

"Are we to honor our dead and our sacrifices to America with a black hole?" he asked.

"One needs no artistic education to see this design for what it is, a black trench that scars the Mall," he said. "Black walls, the universal color of shame and sorrow and degradation. Hidden in a hole in the ground, with no means of access for those Vietnam veterans who are condemned to spend the rest of their days in a wheelchair."

Jan Scruggs, president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the group behind the push for a Vietnam memorial, had been asked about accessibility to the memorial for wheelchair-bound visitors shortly after the design was chosen.

"I hadn't even thought of that," he told *Army Times* at the time the design was announced. Then he recalled that Max Cleland, while heading the Veterans Administration, had been over the site and had had difficulty manipulating his wheelchair on the grass.

But putting a cement walkway in to make the slope easier for handicapped visitors would spoil the artistic effect of the memorial, he said.

There are three other dark-colored monuments in the Washington area — the Seabee Memorial, the 101st Abn Div Memorial and the Marine Corps Iwo Jima Memorial — "but these are heroic figures rising in triumph," Carhart said.

"The Vietnam memorial is antiheroic, a black hole we are given for faithful service in a misunderstood war."

Years in the future, he said, people will see the design as reflecting "some ugly, dirty experience of which we were all ashamed."

One panel member reportedly was defending the design, saying it conveyed "an extraordinary sense of dignity" and needed no "corny specific references" to the war and no "bits of whipped cream on pedestals."

Asked about Carhart's protest over the design, Scruggs said that there was "still a lot of anger about the war" and "some people need a target to take it out on."

Stop That Monument

Okay, we lost the Vietnam War. Okay, the thing was mismanaged from start to finish. But the American soldiers who died in Vietnam fought for their country and for the freedom of others, and they deserve better than the outrage that has been approved as their memorial in the nation's capital, to be placed between the magnificent Washington and Lincoln Memorials.

It was designed by Maya Ying Lin, a Yale undergraduate who in retrospect opposes U.S. involvement in that war. Her design calls for two black granite walls wedged into the earth in a large V shape, rather like low-lying retaining walls. This peculiar monument, moreover, is to be surrounded by contoured mounds of earth so that the visitor does not see it until he "stumbles upon it," the designer said. It is to seem, she went on, an unexpected, black "rift in the earth."

Keep calm, please. There is more to come.

On these black granite walls, the names of the 57,692 men who died in the war will be carved. Their names will not appear in alphabetical order, but according to the chronological sequence in which they died. The name of the war in which they died is not to be mentioned on this monument.

Our objection to this Orwellian glop does not issue from any philistine objection to new conceptions in art. It is based upon the clear political message of this design. The design says that the Vietnam War should be memorialized in black, not in the white marble of Washington. The mode of listing the names makes them individual deaths, not deaths in a cause: they

might as well have been traffic accidents. The invisibility of the monument at ground level symbolizes the "unmentionability" of the war—which war, as we say, is not in fact mentioned on the monument itself. Finally, the V-shaped plan of the black retaining wall immortalizes the antiwar signal, the V protest made with the fingers.

Under the aegis of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, a jury composed of two architects, two landscape architects, three sculptors, and one design critic chose this design from some 14,000 entries. If it is constructed it will be a perpetual disgrace to the country and an insult to the courage and the memory of the men who died in Vietnam.

The Reagan Administration should throw the switch on this project, whether through executive action or a bill in Congress. If the current model has to be built, stick it off in some tidal flat, and let it memorialize Jane Fonda's contribution to ensuring that our soldiers died in vain. And let us memorialize with suitable sculpture—as if they had died at Gettysburg or the Ardennes—the Americans who gave their lives to their country and to history in Vietnam.

A Better Way to Honor Viet Vets

By Tom Carhart

WHAT IS THE MEANING of the current controversy over the design of the proposed Vietnam memorial to be built in the Mall? Is this just another case of self-pitying Vietnam veterans whining and whimpering and wallowing in *Weltschmerz*? Will we never be satisfied by anything?

Several years ago, a group of Vietnam veterans coalesced into the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, with the stated purpose of building a memorial to Vietnam veterans. I worked with the memorial fund as a volunteer. We received the support of all 100 senators and an overwhelming majority of the House. The bill they passed, signed into law by President Carter, authorized a memorial in West Potomac Park "in honor and recognition of the men and women of the armed forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam war."

That is the license from the U.S. government for the fund to build this memorial. It says nothing about any special treatment for the dead, such as a listing of their names. It says nothing about the need to "authentically capture the national feeling about Vietnam" or "make a statement about our collective memory," to quote William Greider's Outlook column last Sunday. It says nothing about "providing deserved tribute to those who did not survive," or a requirement to "offer only the names of the dead . . . theirs was the ultimate sacrifice — it is to them that honor is due," as James J. Kilpatrick wrote in his Veterans Day column in *The Washington Post*.

Yes, honor is due to the 57,000 who gave their lives in Vietnam — but this memorial is also intended, by law, to honor the 2.5 million of us who rendered faithful service in Vietnam and came home. What of us — are we really to feel honored by a black ditch?

How did this happen? What went wrong?

In order to choose the design for the memorial, the fund held an open competition and received 1,421 entries. The jury which selected the winner was made up of architects and artists, but none of them was a Vietnam veteran. It is accepted practice in

competitions of this sort to include members of the subject class — here, Vietnam veterans — on the jury that chooses the winner.

The failure to do so only emphasized the dual nature of that war. The jurors could know nothing of the military war in Vietnam, but they were obviously caught up, as everyone was, in the political war that raged through this country. This means that any winner they chose would necessarily reflect their perceptions of the political war they lived through at home in America. While it may be that a black ditch on the Mall is an appropriate statement of *that* war, that is *not* the war whose veterans Congress authorized the memorial fund to honor and recognize.

The formal failing of this design is that it violates one of the critical criteria of the design competition — that it must make no political statement. Even if this black gash is not a statement of dishonor and shame, it is clearly at least a statement of sorrow — "of sorrow," as Kilpatrick put it in his column, "not of glory, not of victory, not of defeat" — and that, of course, is a forbidden

political statement. I am a combat Vietnam veteran with two Purple Hearts and I feel no sorrow. I regret the deaths of brothers in arms, but they died noble, principled deaths, and I salute them and honor them. I am proud of our service to America, not sorry for it. Should this jury, made up of men who never served in Vietnam, tell Vietnam veterans and the nation how to feel and how we will be remembered in history?

□ □

What can be done? This looks like a misuse of a congressional license, which would call for congressional oversight. But that step might result in the destruction of what has been achieved to date through the efforts of those at the memorial fund.

A few cosmetic alterations to the design have already been agreed to, and I think that's really all that's called for here. If the color were changed from black to white, the symbol of faithful national service and honor, and the walls were brought above ground, and an American flag were installed at the juncture of the walls, then all the problems would disappear.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial would then be in beautiful harmony, rather than stark contrast, with the Lincoln Memorial and the Washington Monument. There would be no question of abuse of congressional license, since the memorial would clearly "honor and recognize" all Vietnam veterans.

There would be no question of free and easy access for the handicapped — those Vietnam veterans, for instance, who are condemned to spend the rest of their days in a wheelchair. There would be no constant danger of someone falling in. There would be no need for pumps continually operating to drain the lower half of the memorial fan, which as now proposed would be well below the water table in the location.

At present, the memorial fund is preparing to purchase black granite in Sweden or India, since it is not found in this country. But white marble is. Since we fought a war for America, shouldn't the materials used to build a memorial in our honor be exclusively American?

The central presence of the flag is just that final touch asked for by all veterans. We are that same cohort of young Americans out of every generation who have always been willing, when called upon, to literally offer our lives for America; we would be so remembered.

Tom Carhart was an infantry platoon leader with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam in 1967-68. He is now a civilian lawyer at the Pentagon.

Viet Vet Memorial Design

— The Cruellest Joke Yet

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — In a short editorial, *Army Times* recently endorsed the current design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial after running an article about one veteran who disagreed with the design selected. Neither in the editorial nor in the article about the memorial was it noted that the objecting veteran, Tom Carhart, was not only an early member of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund but that it was he who arranged for an unsecured loan of \$45,000 so that the VVMF could finance its first campaign mailing.

Carhart is just one of many Vietnam vets who realizes that we are again being used. This time, our own movement has been co-opted and the money raised by veterans to build a monument to those who served and those who died will be used to build a monument to those who did neither.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial design, chosen by an independent panel of artists and architects, is the cruelest joke yet. According to the last line in the jury's selection report, "The designer has created an eloquent place where the simple meeting of earth, sky and remembered names contain messages for all who will know this place." Indeed. "This place" is the Mall, scene of pot clouds and nude romps by those who had two bumper-sticker-simple and selfish messages: "Make love, not war" and "Hell, no, we won't go."

In fact, the design selected represents a monument to the anti-war movement and a rallying place for another era's protestors. The design of the memorial represents the perfect set for street theater. The symbolism is already there: the V-shaped walls, reminiscent of the old peace sign; the black granite from Sweden, refuge for draft-dodgers; and the names of the undefended dead, eternally useful foils.

The entire design, a black, ten-foot-high wall whose top is level with the ground, is nothing if not symbolic of the great wound slashing through the very heart of America by its longest war. The essence of this design is a great, unhealed wound carved in the earth of the Mall.

Unlike Tom Carhart, I would prefer no memorial to what is proposed. Millions of Americans served in Vietnam, but not one served on the jury selecting this design, while former war protestors did. I protest that.

I would urge every American who served in Vietnam, every mother and father of every son and daughter who served or died in Vietnam, to write to the White House, the Senate, the House and to Interior Secretary James Watt begging that this memorial not be built as proposed.

The design selected for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial does not do what the law intended. It does not honor the men and women who served in Vietnam. It mocks them.

BERNARD F. HALLORAN

Veterans Fault Vietnam War Memorial Plans

United Press International

A group of veterans yesterday criticized plans for a monument honoring Americans who fought in the Vietnam war.

The veterans called a news conference to criticize the design chosen for the memorial, selected from 1,421 entries in a national competition.

"It's an insult to those it is intended to memorialize," said Cy Kammeier, executive director of the Marine Corps League.

The winning design for the memorial, to be located on the Mall that runs from the Lincoln Memorial to the Capitol, involves a V-shaped stone wall, the top of which would be just at ground level.

The veterans said the design has three major faults: the marble wall is to be black rather than white, it will be below ground and the American flag will not fly over it.

The present design "is a black ditch that does not recognize or honor those who served," said Tom Carhart, a Vietnam veteran who is now a civilian lawyer for the Defense Department.

Viet Vet Memorial Design

Remains at Issue

By LAURIE PARKER

Times Staff Writer

WASHINGTON — Despite recent approval by the National Capital Planning Commission, the proposed design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial still is creating controversy among veterans

and military groups.

The memorial, as created last spring by then-Yale architecture student Maya Ying Lin, is to consist of two long, intersecting, black granite walls that descend 10 feet into the ground of the Mall in Washington. The names of the 57,692 Americans killed or missing in the conflict are inscribed on the walls. Lin's design was chosen

from more than 1400 entries in a design contest.

Former POW and retired Navy Vice Adm. J. B. Stockdale and James Webb, a Vietnam veteran and author of *Fields of Fire*, both recently withdrew their support for the memorial in disputes over the design.

The Marine Corps League also has withdrawn its support for the

memorial in its present design and the Non Commissioned Officers Association has called for congressional hearings to determine if the design meets the mandate set by Congress for honoring all Vietnam veterans, not just those killed in the war.

A group of Vietnam veterans recently held a news conference here to discuss their objections to

the memorial.

The controversy thus far apparently is not slowing down the plans of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the organization formed to build the privately funded memorial. The group still plans to have the memorial ready for dedication on Nov. 11, 1982.

Dispute over the design of the memorial is not new. Texas entrepreneur H. Ross Perot, who bankrolled the design contest on the condition that the design chosen would not glorify death and would honor all those who served in Vietnam, quietly withdrew his support for the memorial after he saw the winning design.

"I had cautioned them all along to choose something that the men who had fought and served in Vietnam could relate to," Perot told *Army Times*. Though he played no part in the selection process, he had told the VVMF that he "didn't want to fund a tombstone," he said.

Since his withdrawal, Perot said, he has received numerous calls from veterans and the families of those who were killed, objecting to the memorial.

Webb said he withdrew after trying to negotiate with the VVMF for five months over the design.

C. L. Kammeier, executive director of the Marine Corps League, said at the news conference that the league's decision to withdraw its support for the memorial was "a responsible judgment based on numerous telephone calls and complaints of those who had seen the design proposed by the Memorial Fund."

"The design that has been selected is inappropriate and represents an insult to the memories of those it is intended to memorialize," he added.

Kammeier called for more modification of the design: "Bring it above ground and run up a flag so we can all see it."

Retired Army Brig. Gen. Albion Knight said that the design failed for four reasons — because it was placed below ground, it was dark in color, the American flag was not included and the dead were not identified by service.

"When you take all of these things in combination, you have a very, very negative memorial which is more of a tombstone than anything else," said Milton R. Copulos, a policy analyst with the Heritage Foundation.

Tom Carhart, a West Point graduate and Pentagon lawyer, said that all they were asking for was further cosmetic changes.

"Keep the V shape, but bring it above ground," he said. "Use white marble instead of black granite. And this is crucial — put the American flag at the junction of those two walls."

Jan C. Scruggs, founder and president of the VVMF, told *Army Times* all that remained before groundbreaking was a building permit.

Scruggs said he was not surprised about the controversy surrounding the memorial, considering the controversial nature of the war itself.

Viet memorial opens new wounds

16 DEC 1981

By Rick Atkinson
National Correspondent
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WASHINGTON — Only three months before groundbreaking on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, a rift has developed between the memorial committee and its largest financial backer, Texas millionaire H. Ross Perot.

In a telephone interview Tuesday from Dallas, Mr. Perot confirmed that he considers the proposed design to carry "totally negative connotations" and wants a national veterans'

Benefactor wants referendum on design

referendum on whether to proceed with the project.

"If this is what the vets want, then I'm all for it. If it's not what they want, then we've got to rethink it," he said. "As far as I'm concerned, even if we already had the thing built and it was the wrong memorial, then we should take it down and build the right one. This sounds like the war repeated. We made some mistakes and rath-

er than correct them, we've compounded it and compounded it."

The names of 57,002 American dead from the Vietnam War are kept on computer printouts in three loose-leaf notebooks, awaiting a day next spring when stonemasons are scheduled to begin carving them on the memorial's black granite walls. For the fallen, their war is over; but the battle for their place in history grinds on.

In another schism over the project, memorial officials confirmed Tuesday that two prominent veterans serving on the "national sponsoring committee" have resigned in protest over the design: retired Rear Adm. J.B. Stockdale, a Vietnam prisoner of war, and James Webb, a highly decorated Marine Corps veteran and author of the best-selling novel *Fields of Fire*.

With granite already ordered from India for the memorial, veterans running the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund are cool to the idea of a nation-

See MEMORIAL, Page A-4, Col. 1

wide survey. They also are reluctant to pick a fight with Mr. Perot, a computer magnate who is renowned for his involvement with veterans and for the daring rescue of two of his employees from an Iranian prison three years ago.

In one of his most publicized efforts on behalf of American prisoners of war in Vietnam, Mr. Perot attempted to deliver a jet load of turkey dinners, medicine and family gift parcels to POWs in December 1969, but was turned back by the communists. He later tried, unsuccessfully, to negotiate a prisoner release and offered to ransom captured pilots himself.

"I don't know what to say about it except to say that he's a guy who bent over backward to help us and I sure wish he liked (the design)," said Jan C. Scruggs, fund president. "Who in the world would want to take on H. Ross Perot, much less a little group of veterans?"

Whether the disaffection will stall the project is unclear but Mr. Perot hinted that further fund-raising could be "very difficult" without a united front. The committee is less than halfway to its \$7 million goal.

Controversy has swirled around the design since a blue-ribbon jury last spring selected entry No. 1,026 of 1,421 submitted in a national contest. Offered by 21-year-old Maya Ying Lin, a Yale architecture student, the design calls for two long walls of black granite sloping gently upward until they meet in a 120-degree angle. The names of the American dead and missing would be carved in half-inch-high letters in chronological order of their deaths.

Located a stone's throw from the Lincoln Memorial, Miss Lin's concept has been applauded as "eminently right," "perfect" and "eloquently dignified."

But detractors have lambasted it as "something resembling an erosion control project," "Orwellian glop," "a black gash of shame and sorrow" and "a dark trench."

Mr. Perot acknowledged that he also was irate over a plan to import the black granite from Sweden, a nation openly hostile to the United States during the war.



The Associated Press

Maya Ying Lin, a Yale architecture student, is pictured with her winning entry for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington. The design calls for two long walls of black granite sloping gently upward until they meet in a 120-degree angle. The names of 57,692 American dead and missing would be carved in half-inch-high letters in chronological order of their deaths.

Consequently, the stone is coming from India and is scheduled to be cut into sections in February in Barre, Vt. The names are being double-checked for accuracy and probably will be computerized, cut out in photographic stencils and sand-blasted into the granite. Dedication for the memorial is set for Nov. 11, 1982, Veterans Day. Mr. Perot's involvement dates almost to the beginning of the project. After the memorial fund was established in May 1979, the money only trickled in. Roger Mudd closed the NBC evening news on July 4, 1979, with the wry notation that the kitty to build a Vietnam memorial had a balance of \$144.50.

After a small notice of the project appeared in *Parade* magazine that November, "We naively printed up 5,000 thank-you letters, expecting contributions to come pouring in," said Robert W. Doubek, project director. "That's when we learned about the realities of fund-raising. We got maybe 25 letters, 1 percent of what we expected. At the end of 1979, we had \$9,000 (of a goal of \$7 million)." Mr.

that at the time of the design competition last spring, the committee members "called me one day in a panic."

"They'd announced that they'd awarded a design winner but didn't have any money," he said. "They needed \$167,000 and they had raised \$7,000. So I gave them \$100,000."

"I said, 'Now, fellows, I want you to promise me one thing: that you pick a design that the fellows who fought (in Vietnam) could relate to, that you pick a design that won't be a tombstone.'"

Mr. Scruggs and Mr. Doubek, however, contend that when Mr. Perot offered his \$100,000 check last April, the memorial fund was up to \$1.7 million. (It is currently \$3 million.) The money helped underwrite the contest but was not absolutely essential, they say.

"This is a tremendous misunderstanding," Mr. Doubek said.

But Mr. Perot maintains that the misunderstanding lies in the design and its failure to honor the war dead in a way that allows "the guy who fought the war to walk away from the memorial feeling 10 feet tall."

memorial will be contemplative and apolitical; black stone has been used in other war memorials, they add, including the Iwo Jima sculpture.

"We thought the most important thing for the memorial was a prominent site because the Vietnam veterans had been shoved aside for so long," Mr. Doubek said. "And we thought that putting it in the shadow of the Lincoln Memorial was significant because of the divisiveness of the Civil War and the divisiveness of the Vietnam War."

But Thomas M. Carhart, a West Point graduate who works as a civilian lawyer in the Pentagon, retorts, "It's black, not white; it goes down, not up. It's a major anti-war poster that we're going to have to live with forever . . . I've never heard of any memorial in the history of the world that's below ground except a tomb."

Regardless of what the thing looks like, it is supposed to carry this inscription: "Our nation remembers the courage, sacrifice and devotion to duty and country of its Vietnam veterans. This memorial was built through

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December 2, 1981

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Washington, D.C. 20515

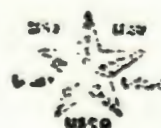
Dear Mr. Chairman:

In February of next year construction will begin on a memorial "... in honor and recognition of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who served in the Vietnam War." The memorial, authorized by public law 96-297 (approved July 1, 1980) will be located on a two acre site in Constitution Gardens between the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial. This truly remarkable project is being funded through private donations to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., (VVMF) a private nonprofit corporation established by a group of Vietnam veterans interested in recognizing those who served. The Non Commissioned Officers Association is honored to be among the sponsoring organizations of the Fund.

We are, however, quite concerned about many recent news reports, letters and articles suggesting an undercurrent of dissatisfaction among veterans over the design of the memorial. Certainly any project of this type will have its detractors but there is something unique about the critics of this project. They are respected members of the veterans community, organizations that represent veterans, and veterans who served during the Vietnam period.

Detractors of the memorial have alleged that the design does not fulfill the congressional mandate because it honors only those who died in Vietnam. Others object to other characteristics of the design such as its being subterranean, the selection of black marble instead of white, the lack of a flag, the chronological listing of names versus alphabetical listing, etc. More serious allegations have been lodged by others who insist that there has been impropriety in the selection and approval of the design. One consistency in all the criticism is that it is directed toward the selected design and not the concept or location of the memorial.

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Hon. Udall
Dec. 2, 1981
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NCOA strongly supports the construction of a Vietnam veterans memorial but as a sponsoring organization we believe it is our responsibility to "clear the air." The best way to do this is to provide all parties the opportunity to express their concerns to an impartial body capable of determining whether the memorial satisfies the congressional mandate and whether the VVMF acted responsibly in selecting the design. Without such a forum, the problem can only fester.

Therefore, we ask you as chairman of the committee with oversight authority on the legislation to conduct a public hearing at your earliest convenience.

Looking forward to your positive response to our request, I am,

Sincerely,



Richard W. Johnson
National Legislative Director

cc: Jan Scruggs, VVMF
- Morton Blackwell, The White House
Hon. Alan Simpson
Hon. G.V. Montgomery

pagel

2309 North Glebe Road
Arlington, Virginia 22207
12 October, 1981

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. FINE ARTS COMMISSION:

Upon the recommendation of both Mr. Charles Atherton of the Fine Arts Commission, and Mr. Jack Wheeler of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Foundation, I am forwarding this letter to you, with a request that it be made part of the official record in the matter of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial under consideration by your Commission.

I am a Marine Corps combat veteran of Vietnam, and have worked on veterans issues for several years, both as a counsel for the Veterans Affairs Committee in the U.S. House of Representatives and as a novelist. I have been privileged to serve on the National Sponsoring Committee for the VVMF, and it was my honor that my novel FIELDS OF FIRE was recommended reading for the judging panel in this competition. Because of these activities and their connection with the war, I am often contacted by veterans, both individually and through their organizations. Since the winner of design competition for the proposed Memorial was announced earlier this year, I have discussed the design with numerous Vietnam veterans from across the country, and their reaction has been almost unanimously negative.

This negative reaction has centered on a precise collection of disappointments, roughly summarized as follows:

1. Although the monument was not to be a "political statement," but rather a healing device, the choice of a black hole in the ground, a cave if you would, listing the names of those who died, is itself a very strong nihilistic statement regarding the war. Vietnam veterans themselves do not share this nihilism. In the most comprehensive survey to date, the Harris Survey of July, 1980 commissioned by the VA, 91 percent of Vietnam theater veterans stated that they were glad they had served their country. Other, equally graphic data is available.

2. In a monument dedicated to those who fought a war, nowhere do we see, in any context, the implements of war. One doesn't

need cannon and bayonets to be reminded that the memorial is dedicated to those who served in a war, but certainly, some part of the monument should relate to a patriotic offering of one's life on the altar of his culture. Some elements of this country may be embarrassed that this war in fact occurred, but this sort of artistic denial of that reality, when so many carry around its scars, is one of the purest forms of denigration imaginable. The nation that called on these men to bleed should not permit a monument that implies they should be ashamed of their scars.

3. The judging panel had no Vietnam veterans on it, and as such lacked the acute sensitivity needed to place the emotions of the issue in their proper context. The counterargument to this is that a Vietnam veteran would be guided by his singular view of the war, and that the judging panel would have deferred too heavily to such a biased perspective. The VVMF has stated on this point that, "because of the other jury members' empathy for such a person, they might be swayed too greatly by that person's opinion ... and the memorial might then become an expression of the experience of one man or a small group." This argument, while sincere, is interpreted by many to be condescending, the inference being that a Vietnam veteran with artistic skill and broadly based sensitivities would be unable to overcome his parochialism regarding his own experience. Unfortunately, our society is only now beginning to assimilate Vietnam in a context that breathes dignity into the acts of those who served, and the judging panel demonstrably could have used the insight of a veteran, since the veterans are ahead of the artists in this regard. This monument will last into the eons, and if it is not modified, it will reflect the incomplete assimilation process of the judges at one point in time, rather than making the definitive healing statement we all had so hoped for.

In a perfect world, my petition to this Commission would be that the monument be rejected and the competition be re-opened, with a Vietnam veteran as a member of the judging panel. However, I believe this would be injurious to the objective process by which the design was selected (however flawed in the judging panel's makeup), and would probably injure the efforts of the VVMF to build any monument whatsoever. Neither I nor the majority of the veterans I have spoken to desire to "destroy the monument in order to save it." The VVMF has done a salutary job, and it is my desire to continue to help them. However, for the sake of the "message" that this monument will communicate to generations of our countrymen regarding the principles for which so many