



INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



CHAPTER 535

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 21 Issue 2

In Service To America and the Gold Country

February 2011

President's Message

Hello to all members. I would like to make my apologies for missing last months meeting; I had a medical problem that required attention. My news releases to the editor of our state newspaper were claimed not to have been received, due to this I will personally deliver them to the editor this January 29th at the quarterly state council meeting in Fresno. This meeting should be quite lively due to recent V.A. cutback proposals by our new governor. I will update you on all the proposed actions by the state council at this meeting. I look forward to seeing all of you on Feb. 3rd.

Pete Burrelle, President

274-3787 howling_wolf28@yahoo.com

Services To Vets in NC May Be Reduced

from The Union

Services offered to Nevada County's 11,500 military veterans and their families are under fire in Gov. Jerry Brown's proposed state budget. The proposal would chop \$12.5 million in state spending if approved and could cut about a quarter of the funding for Nevada County's Veterans Services Office, said Pam Davinson, who manages the program.

"We're hoping the cuts are less than are being proposed," Davinson said. "These programs are a good way of honoring the people who served our country." Two full-time employees at Nevada County's Veterans Services Office help vets and their dependents apply for federal programs and physical and mental health services; they also provide transportation to and from doctor visits.

Brown's budget proposal calls for a \$10 million reduction to VSOs, and in Nevada County would slice about \$45,000, or close to 25 percent, of the program's \$180,783 annual budget. The remainder of the program's budget comes from the county's general fund. County officials predict a \$5.5 million reduction in the general fund next year due to dropping property tax revenues.

People in some quarters are determined to fight the reduction. "We're going to do everything in our power to convince Gov. Brown that these services are a revenue generator for the counties," said Pete Conaty, a Sacramento lobbyist who works on the behalf of veterans service offices. Veterans account for more than 11 percent of the county's population, a number that jumps significantly if spouses and dependents are added into the equation, Davinson said.

Davinson will be meeting with county officials, including Alison Lehman, who heads up the county's social services, to determine how the budget cuts will be handled if approved in their current form. "As usual, we really want to do everything we can to avoid personnel layoffs," Davinson said. In addition to the two full-time employees, the office also has a part-time administrative assistant.

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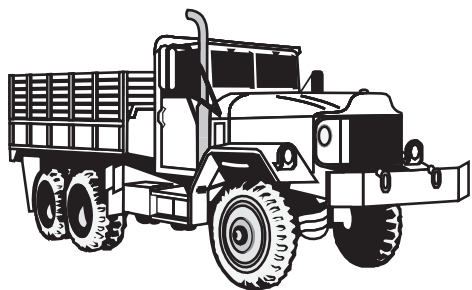
CA Vet Services

Gov. Jerry Brown's plan to slash \$12.5 billion from California's budget could slam the door on the state's fledgling Operation Welcome Home program for troops returning from Afghanistan and Iraq, and drastically reduce the services provided by county veterans offices. The governor's proposed budget, unveiled 10 JAN, would trim nearly \$10 million from the California Department of Veterans Affairs by eliminating general fund support specifically for the two programs. The department operates veterans homes, and provides medical care and a variety of other services under its current annual budget of about \$420 million. About \$229 million of that money comes from the state's general fund.

"I absolutely know we can find \$10 million in this budget to support those efforts, said state Sen. Mark Wyland, R-Carlsbad. Wyland, a member of the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee, said closing programs that help veterans during wartime is wrong. "Because of what veterans have given to this country and the importance of them knowing what services are available, it is nearly unconscionable to cut that budget," he said.

Assemblyman Paul Cook, R-Yucca Valley called the proposal a "short-sighted move that serves neither state finances nor our veterans well." Cook, who heads the Assembly's Veterans Affairs Committee, said studies have shown that county veterans services offices actually produce more money for the state than they cost to operate. They do so because veterans wind up obtaining an array of services from the federal government they might not otherwise get. "Each year, with minimal funding, these officers help thousands of veterans gain \$250 million in new federal aid for California, money that goes into the state's economy," he said. "They bring in over \$100 in federal funding for every \$1 that is budgeted to them."

California has nearly 2 million veterans, according to a September report from the Department of Veterans Affairs. About 234,000 live in San Diego County, which has the largest concentration of active duty and retired military personnel in the country. Riverside County is home to about 130,000 veterans. Bill Earl, who runs the Riverside County Veterans Services office, said he may be forced to close satellite offices in Hemet and Indio and eliminate walk-in services. "It would be devastating," Earl said of the proposed funding cuts. "We figure we would lose about \$350,000, and our hope would be that maybe the county would give us some of that money back, but it's broke, too."



Marty Martines Grandson

I talked to Marty Martines one of the founding members of Chapter 535 on Jan 3, 2011 and he told me his 10 year old grandson Taylor has leukemia. Taylor is the son of Marty's daughter Jessica. Taylor was in UC Davis Med Center when I talked to Marty, but should be out by the time this message gets into the newsletter.

Some of the newer Chapter members may not know Marty, but he has been one of the more active members of the Chapter years ago, hold many different official positions in Chapter 535.

Below is an article that appeared in the Union about Marty's Grandson:

Fundraiser set for NSJ student with leukemia

by Liz Kellar staff writer,

The North San Juan community is rallying to help the family of a Grizzly Hill student recently diagnosed with acute leukemia. Ten-year-old Taylor Martines seemed fine, if a little bit mopey, right before the Christmas break, said Willow DeFranco, who was Taylor's teacher last year and is spearheading a fundraiser set for next Friday January 28th.

"He started getting extremely pale," said Taylor's mother, Jessica Martines. "He had no appetite, and he was extremely tired." Martines took her son to the pediatrician on Dec. 27; and he was admitted to UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento two days later. "He has acute lymphoblastic leukemia," Martines said, adding that Taylor already has had seven chemotherapy treatments.

Taylor is back home and is facing chemotherapy for at least three more years, his mother said. "So far, he's doing OK," Jessica said. "His biggest issue is he can't be around his friends or even family. He has no immune system left after the chemotherapy treatments." DeFranco is working with Taylor's classmates and parents to help alleviate some of the expenses that Martines has incurred in recent weeks. They are planning a silent auction and pizza movie night for 6 p.m. Friday, Jan. 28, at Grizzly Hill School, 16661 Old Mill Road — off Tyler Foote Crossing Road on the San Juan Ridge. All of the proceeds raised will be deposited into Taylor's benefit account. "The community and the kids at the school really want him to pull through," DeFranco said. A website has been set up at www.TaylorSwiftRecovery.com to keep track of Taylor's recovery or donate. Donations also can be made to Taylor Martines' benefit account at Citizens Bank of Northern California, 305 Railroad Ave., Nevada City, CA 95959; or call the bank at (530) 478-6000 for transfer information. To donate an auction item, call DeFranco at (530) 265-9052.

Chapter 535 Information Center

Web Page www.nccn.net/~vvanc/welcome.htm

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Kent Hawley kent-h@saber.net 432-3551

CA State Council Delegates

Pete Burelle, alternate Wayne Simonson

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Constitution/Bylaws..... Vacant

Finance Review Bill Holman (chair) and
Nick deZaparkanszky

4th of July/Constitution Day Dick Corn

Product Sales..... Pete Burelle

Victorian Christmas Jose Gonzales

Membership Affairs..... Joe Sanders

Newsletter .. bholman@succeed.net, 265-8387 Bill Holman

Nominations Vacant

Public Relations Vacant

Nevada County Fair Harold Graves, Jerry Molloy

Christmas Year Round..... Harold Graves

Single Point of Contact (SPOC)..... Bill Holman

Entertainment..... Jose Gonzales

Veterans Benefits Refer to VSO Officer

NCCVC Pete Burelle

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

Eric (530)

273-3396

The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

www.friendsofvso.org



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Chapter 535 Web Page

www.nccn.net/~vvanc/welcome.htm

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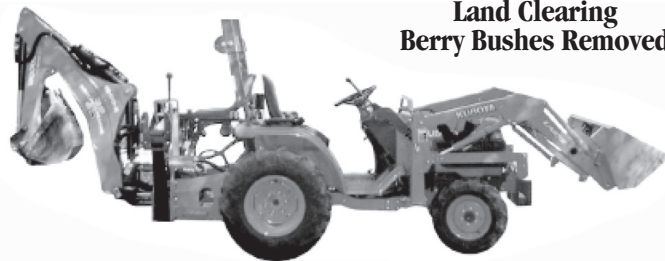
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Veterans Directory

Congress

Senate - Veterans Affairs Committee..... 202-224-9126
 House - Veterans Affairs Committee..... 202-225-3527

Department of Veterans Affairs

Board of Veterans Appeals 202-233-3001
 Central Office 202-233-4000
 Freedom of Information/Privacy Act 202-233-3616
 Personnel Locator..... 202-233-4000
 Public Information..... 202-233-3056
 Veterans Health Administration 202-535-7010
 VA Telephone Care Program 800-733-0502
 Cemetery, Burial, & Headstone Info 800-697-6947

Agencies

Department of Defense 703-545-6700
 DEERS Information (California) 800-334-4162
 CHAMPUS (California) 800-741-5048
 Office of Management and Budget Veterans Affairs..... 202-395-4500
 Small Business Administration Office of Veterans
 Affairs 202-205-6773

Locator & Reunion Services

Army Worldwide Locator..... 317-542-4211
 Navy Times Locator Services 703-750-8636
 Service Reunions 703-998-7035
 Vietnam Veterans Locator 319-388-9023
 Veteran's Locator Service 800-449-VETS

Miscellaneous

Vietnam Women's Memorial Project 202-328-7253
 Sons & Daughters In Touch CA..... 805-872-4035
 Retired Pay - Cleveland DFAS..... 800-321-1080
 Navy Lodging..... 800-NAVY INN
 Army Lodging..... 800-GO ARMY

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA

Individual members 32

Applications waiting
 for (DD214)

Life members 34

AVVA

Individual members 2

Life member 1

Total 69



Upcoming Dates and Events

Feb. 3 Chapter 535 Meeting 6 pm
 Mar. 3 Chapter 535 Meeting 6 pm
 Mar 6 Mardi Gra Parade 2 pm

Newsletter Submissions

Please ensure that submissions for the newsletter reach us no-later-than the 15th of the month before the meeting. They may be mailed to:

VVA Chapter 535

Attn: Newsletter Editor

18455 Augustine Rd, Nevada City, CA 95959

e-mail to bholman@succeed.net or

call Bill Holman at (530) 265-8387

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of Vietnam Veterans of America National, State Council, or Chapter 535 or the newsletter editor, but those of the author of the comments.

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Has Your Address Changed?

Please let us know before the Post office quits forwarding your newsletters. If you find your not receiving your newsletter's or hearing from us, please contact Bill Holman at 265-8387.

Vacant Committee Chairs

There are four vacant committee chairs that need to be filled and the position of secretary for the Chapter. This is a good opportunity for a memeber to become more active in the Chapter. Anyone interested should contact:
 Pete Burelle (howling_wolf28@yahoo.com) 274-3787.

Chapter Secretary Vacant

Chairs

Constitution/Bylaws..... Vacant

Nominations Vacant

Public Relations Vacant



Military Trivia

A **“Deuce-an’-Half”** is a transport truck with a 2.5 ton capacity. The deuce-an-half was the workhorse of the logistics division. The 6.5 ton 23 ft long truck had a maximum speed of 55mph with a maximum range of 450 miles.

“NBC” refers to nuclear, biological and chemical weaponry. There are five established nuclear weapon states (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States). India and Pakistan declared their nuclear weapons capability with nuclear tests in 1998, as did North Korea in 2006. Israel is also widely believed to have a nuclear weapon arsenal. About a dozen countries have offensive biological weapons (BW) programs, and the same number have chemical weapons (CW) programs.

A **Thumper** was a M-79 grenade launcher or its operator (grenadier). It is a single-shot, shoulder-fired, break-action grenade launcher that fires a 40x46mm grenade which used what the US Army called the High-Low Propulsion System to keep recoil forces low. Because of its distinctive report, it also earned the nicknames of, “Thump-Gun”, “Bloop Tube” and “Bloop” among American soldiers; Australian units referred to it as the “Wombat Gun”. The M79 can fire a wide variety of 40 mm rounds, including explosive, anti-personnel, smoke, buckshot, flechette, and illumination.

A **Bouncing Betty** was a mine which launches itself to waist-height before exploding. The explosive, when set off, shoots up in the air and then explodes. There is a lag when the unfortunate victims realize they were dead, although they hadn’t actually died yet, since technically, the mine hadn’t exploded. The term originally gained widespread use as the Allied soldier’s nickname for the S-mine, an especially lethal German bounding mine used in World War II.

A **Grunt** was An Army or Marine infantryman. Being called a grunt is a high honor.

Tropical Lightning was The 25th Infantry. The symbol for the 25th is a pineapple with a lightning bolt in the center. The 25th Infantry Division was activated at Schofield Barracks, Territory of Hawaii, October 1, 1941. During the war in Vietnam, 22 Medals of Honor were awarded to Tropic Lightning soldiers; the most number of Medals of Honor received by any other single unit in the war. The Tropic Lightning Museum is located in Building #361, Waianae Avenue, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii 96857.

The Cobra

The Viet-Cong and the North Vietnamese Army were most aware of the “Cobra” which was a helicopter that carried TOW missiles and machine guns. The Bell AH-1 Cobra, also referred to as the HueyCobra or Snake, is a two-bladed, single engine attack helicopter manufactured by Bell Helicopter. The U.S. Army has since replaced the Cobra with the Apache but the AH-1

twin engine versions remain in service today with United States Marine Corps as the service’s primary attack helicopter. The optically-tracked, wire-guided (TOW) missile is a crewportable, vehicle-mounted, heavy antiarmor weapon system designed to defeat armored vehicles and other targets such as field fortifications from ranges up to 3,750 meters.

Every US serviceperson lost in the Vietnam war is listed on the granite Vietnam War Memorial in Washington D.C..

The Huey was the UH-1 helicopter. Hueys were used as medivacs, troop transports and gunships. They required a crew of one with room for 11 troops or passengers. They could lift 5000 lb and travel for 2.8 hours at speeds up to 115 knots.

Gunny . . . A Dog in Dong Ha

from Vietnam War Stories

Dong Ha, 3rd Marine Division, 1967

Dong Ha, 1967 - I served with the 3rd Marine Division, mostly with 3rd Shore Party Bn. in the Northern I Corps from 12/1967 to 7/1969. We at 3rd Shore Party Bn. had befriended a skinny, tan, stray dog . . . or rather, she befriended us, winning even the hardest hearts. She loved us and was always in the rear waiting for us with the happiest of greetings. We named her Gunny. Our task this day was as embark team to move the 3rd Shore Party Bn, 3rd Force Recon Co., the 9th Marines, and 11th Engineers out of the Vietnam. Activity was hectic to say the least, loading everything possible and making sure nothing was left for the enemy. Gunny darted yelping and romping about trying to get someone to play with her, but there wasn’t time to even throw a stick to fetch. More than once I noticed her setting quietly watching the commotion, shouting, and excitement in keen interest.

To my knowledge, unless there were clandestine teams behind, I was the last one to board the mike boat to Da Nang and Okinawa. This time, I knew, was different--we would leave Dong Ha forever, and North Vietnamese troops would take over as we departed. Gunny - 2

I picked up a small rock from near the shore at Dong Ha, as a souvenir from a still-free Dong Ha, and was ready to board the last mike boat. A last glance from the shore, making sure everything was loaded; and then I realized Gunny was still setting quietly waiting for an okay to play. There she sat staring at me with a sad look on her face. As I picked up the souvenir rock she was positive I would throw it and stood alert, tail pointed and ears at attention. I didn’t board, and I didn’t throw the rock, so Gunny must have thought I wanted to play lick-the-marine, so she trotted toward me gleefully. She then suddenly paused,

Continued on Page 6

CDVA Budget for Veterans Services / Situation looking better

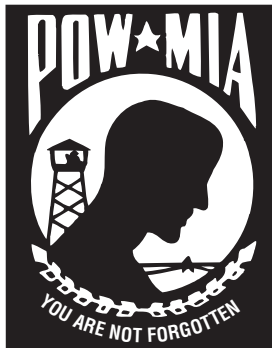
January 24, 2011 from VVA State

As most of you are aware, the proposed state budget for the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) eliminated \$10 million for local assistance funding for Operation Welcome Home which was to have funded County Veterans Services Offices and Veteran Service Organizations which was just put into the budget last year after a hard fought battle.

Recently, I and CVSO representatives met with the governor's office to explain the Local Assistance Program (sometime referred to as subvention) and believe that we were able to make the case to the Governor's office that the \$10 million funding should be restored. CDVA has also been working on this issue and according to Acting CDVA Secretary Rocky Chavez, „CDVA's mission is advocating for veterans. This mission and commitment by CDVA is a mission accepted with humility and executed with élan. I am confident that we can make this adjustment. As many of us know, budget decisions are about priorities and I can assure you that the need of returning veterans is a top priority to this administration%.

California's recent budget submittal reduced General Fund expenditure for outreach to the recently returning Veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan. However, this proposal is just a starting point in a long budget building process. CDVA is committed to supporting these returning heroes and feels confident that the reductions of funds for this outreach can be absorbed by the CDVA budget. At the time of this writing, CDVA is working closely with the Governor's staff to present a plan to meet the savings required to address the budget deficit while supporting our returning heroes.

Also, because the Governor has declared a „fiscal emergency% for the state, he wants a new budget done in 45 days. Therefore it is possible that this funding issue will resolved very soon. We will keep you posted as events unfold. I will be drafting a very respectful letter for your organization to send to the governor asking that he restore this funding.



Gunny From Page 5

perhaps noticing the shore and area was too quiet, too empty, and something was somehow wrong. The rapid tail-wagging ceased, as if she understood that this time we were really leaving, and for good.

Gunny quizzically rolled her head, ears flopping, and added a quiet yelping sound as if asking for me to explain what was happening, and if we would be back for her as we always were. Gunny - 3 I thought of how Gunny had always loyally awaited our return from the big ST, and never failed to make us feel welcome home, and as if there were something worthwhile to look forward to at Dong Ha. And there was. But now, the truth---we

I suddenly worried about how I could have forgotten Gunny in all the plans to pull out. I worried about what was going to happen to her. Then it dawned on me---the Navy might be persuaded to take Gunny as a mascot! Maybe the men could hide her from the brass and keep her, somehow, somewhere, on one of the giant ships---after all, she was tiny compared to scout dogs.

I asked the Sailors (and I capitalize the S) on the mike boat if they would adopt Gunny, and guess what---they took her aboard with us right on the spot! What a relief I felt---Gunny would be free and have new American friends!

The Sailors told me Gunny would be placed on one of the ships in the Pacific Fleet, as their mascot. I boarded the U.S.S. Colonial at Da Nang and headed for Okinawa. The coast of Vietnam faded, shadowed, and misted silently into the sea.

I never did get to say good-bye to Gunny, and that hurts to this day. I just Gunny - 4. Dong Ha, Hill. hope she didn't feel we just deserted her. I never found out what ship became her new home, but I have faith that she found a home and won her way easily into the hearts of new friends, as she had a bunch of combat hardened Marines. Gunny, such a happy dog, helped keep a little sanity going for us. She gave unconditional love, and no matter how hard-but we wanted to act, we couldn't help but love that scruffy little pooch named Gunny.



February - 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				General Membership Meeting 6 pm		
	John Spencer		Dennis Sanders			
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
James Brown	Valentines Day					
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	Presidents Day		Patrick Kelly			Alfred Meyers
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	Pete Burrelle					
27	28					

Application For Membership
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC., CHAPTER 535
P.O. Box 37, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Individual membership is open to all Vietnam-era veterans who served on active duty for other than training purposes between August 5, 1964 – May 7, 1975 and In-Country Veterans: February 28, 1961 – May 7, 1975.

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Address _____ Apt. _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____ Email _____
Marital Status _____ Spouse's Name _____
Chapter No. 535 Sponsor _____ ID No. _____

- ◆ Membership Type: Individual – 1 year @ \$20 annual Individual – 3 years @ \$50
(select one) Life Member Payment Plan \$50 down, 8 monthly payments of \$25
Select Age Group Ages 49 and under \$250 Ages 50-55 \$225
 Ages 56-60 \$200 Ages 61-65 \$175 Ages 66 and over \$150
- ◆ Payment Method: Check Money Order Visa MasterCard
(select one)

◆ Card Number _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

Individual members *must* submit a copy of their DD-214 along with this application and dues payment. Associate participation is open to family, friends, all veterans, and other interested persons.

In Service To America

Address Correction Requested

