



# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



## CHAPTER 535

*"It Feels Good to Get Involved"*

*In Service To America and the Gold Country*

Volume 21 Issue 5

May 2011

### **President's Message**

Well here we are 2011 and guess who is the V.V.A. President? Yes it is me. I would like to take this time for all the members that voted for me on April 6th. A thank you very much. I hope that the coming year will bring excitement to the organization as it has in the past.

Looking forward to barbeques, log splitting, booth selling, etc.

Hope to see new members come to our meeting in the future months ahead. We hold them the 1st. Wednesday of every month. We will be rolling out the red carpet create different events that may appeal to a wider vva group.

Once again, thank you all

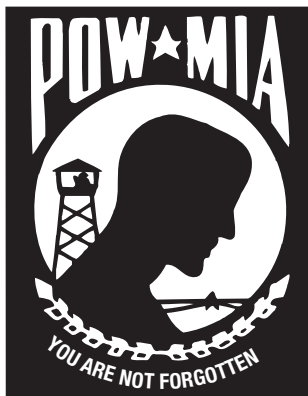
**Gary Tanaka, President**  
garytanaka@att.net 272-2317

### **VVA President Warns: Don't Balance the Budget on Veterans, But Do Focus on How the VA Spends the Funding It Gets**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), told a congressional hearing, "Just because veterans, and our families, have sacrificed, this does not mean that we are willing to sacrifice in this way again.

"While we understand the need to address the deficit," Rowan said, "We stand 100 percent behind this statement by Congressman Tim Walz: 'Attempting to balance the budget on the backs of veterans who have risked life and limb in service of our country is unacceptable.'"

At the same time, Rowan said at a joint hearing of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees, "A very bright light ought to be shined on the operations of the Department of Veterans Affairs to probe for redundant or duplicative services, poor acquisition management, and staffing inefficiencies. This synchs with one of VVA's overarching priorities: accountability."



Contents	Page
Message from the President .....	1
Whats The Noise Downstairs .....	2
Veterans Recognition Luncheon .....	2
Chapter Information.....	3
Upcoming Dates & Events.....	4
Vacant Committee Chairs.....	4
Membership Facts .....	4
VA Categories 7 & 8 Veterans .....	5
Military Trivia.....	6
Calendar .....	7
VVA Application Form .....	8

## **Whats all That Noise Downstairs When We are Having Our Meetings?**

The American Legion's Veterans Memorial Building on South Auburn Street in Grass Valley has a well-maintained four-lane bowling alley that is a trip back in time. Built in the mid-1950s, the bowling alley is named after its biggest proponent, the late Frank Gallino, an avid bowler and Nevada County Undersheriff. The building was constructed in 1932 and the bowling alley was added approximately 20 years later, with Gallino spearheading the construction.

"It was all dug by hand and I think in 1957 was when they did the dedication and officially opened the bowling alley," said longtime VFW member and self-described "jack-of-all-trades" Frank Stanovich.

"At that time the bowling alley was A-number-one. Now they have all the modern equipment in bowling alleys, but back then it was the No. 1 bowling alley in Grass Valley and all brand-new." According to Stanovich, the grand opening was a huge event attended by more than 1,000 locals. "In those days, everybody used to come down to the Veterans Building," Stanovich said. "World War II veterans used to have dances here. We still have our social events here, but they are not as big as they used to be, because a lot of our vets have to work and they can't get down here."

What makes the VFW bowling alley a dinosaur is that nothing is automated. There is no computerized scorekeeping. Each team tallies its own score, with the results projected overhead. There is no automated pin-setting equipment and the pins must be set manually. Behind the bowlers are two rows of theater-style seating. A vintage sign proclaims that "all bowlers must have regulation bowling shoes." The only concession to the present is a flat-screen TV perched near the ceiling.

The alley is open to league bowling on Wednesday and Thursday nights. Up to eight teams participate and their season is approximately six months long. The atmosphere is very relaxed; the alley itself is next to an open bar and most of the bowlers enjoy a few adult libations while rolling for strikes.

Pin setting is typically done by high school students interested in a part-time job. Every gutter ball that is thrown requires a \$1 fine be deposited in a tip jar for the pin setters, with the biggest hazard being staying out of the way of flying pins. Usually there is a steady stream of back-and-forth banter between bowlers and setters.

Nevada Union High School student Jason Gordon says it's perfect part-time work. "I like the job," Gordon said. "At first



it was really hard, but I got the hang of it after awhile." Bernie Bachli is only the second female Legion commander in the history of the facility. She tends the bar on Wednesdays and says the bowlers seem to be "having a ball." "Sometimes if you stick around long enough, you'll hear them yelling and screaming when they are getting close to whatever score they are trying to get," Bachli said. "If they make a strike, then boy, they tear the house down."

The Legion's bowling facility is available for private parties and events; Bachli can be reached at 272-2160.

---

## **Fourth Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon**

California State Assembly  
June 14, 2011

Assembly members Paul Cook and Richard Pan, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Assembly Veterans Committee are pleased to announce the Fourth Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon.

The luncheon this year will be held on June 14 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Each Legislator participating will be presenting a veteran from their district with a certificate of recognition. This part of the ceremony will be held in the Assembly chamber from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The luncheon portion will be held at the Sacramento Convention center from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The co-hosts for the luncheon this year are the California State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America, and AMVETS, Department of California.

If you have any questions concerning sponsorship levels or to RSVP for the lunch please contact Pete Conaty 916-492-0550 or Mary Grundman 916-747-5994 or fax 916-492-

# Chapter 535 Information Center

Web Page [www.nccn.net/~vvanc/welcome.htm](http://www.nccn.net/~vvanc/welcome.htm)

## Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

### Officers-Phone

#### President

Gary Tanaka [garytanaka@att.net](mailto:garytanaka@att.net) ..... 272-2317

#### Vice-President

Bill Hald ..... 274-8487

#### Secretary

Pete Burelle [howling\\_wolf28@yahoo.com](mailto:howling_wolf28@yahoo.com)..... 274-3787

#### Treasurer

Harold Graves [haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net](mailto:haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net)..... 470-8507

#### Past President

Pete Burelle [howling\\_wolf28@yahoo.com](mailto:howling_wolf28@yahoo.com)..... 274-3787

### Directors

Harold Graves [haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net](mailto:haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net)..... 470-8507

Ric Sheridan [rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net) ..... 274-1413

Dan Davis ..... 272-4110

Pete Burelle [howling\\_wolf28@yahoo.com](mailto:howling_wolf28@yahoo.com)..... 274-3787

Jerry Molloy [petem1947@sbcglobal.net](mailto:petem1947@sbcglobal.net) ..... 273-4804

Gary Tanaka [garytanaka@att.net](mailto:garytanaka@att.net) ..... 272-2317

Bill Hald ..... 274-8487

### CA State Council Delegates

Pete Burelle, alternate Wayne Simonson

## Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

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](mailto: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.....



**Network Real Estate**  
167 S. Auburn Street  
Grass Valley, CA 95945



**Dick Corn**  
Broker Associate  
CA Lic. # 13235009  
Certified Residential Specialist

---

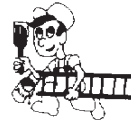
(530) 271-3858 Office  
(530) 272-8703 Fax  
(800) 421-5130 Toll Free  
[dick@dickcorn.com](mailto:dick@dickcorn.com)  
[www.dickcorn.com](http://www.dickcorn.com)



**Chapter 535 Web Page**  
[www.nccn.net/~vvanc/welcome.htm](http://www.nccn.net/~vvanc/welcome.htm)

## DAN'S PAINTING

RESIDENTIAL  
COMMERCIAL  
CABINETS  
WATER BLAST  
FAUX FINISHES  
S.C.L. #394008



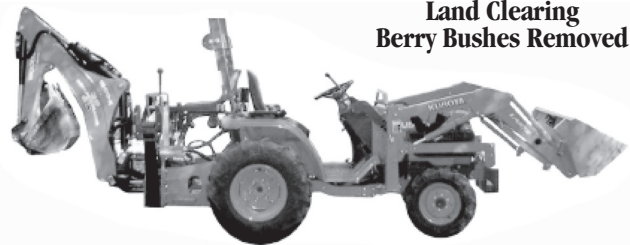
**Dan Davis**  
(530) 272-4110 eves.

P.O. Box 651  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

## TRACTOR WORK

**Bill Holman 265-8387**

Backhoe  
Rototilling  
Roads Graded  
Land Clearing  
Berry Bushes Removed



Not licensed by the contractors state license board

**Your Ad Could Be Here**  
**\$25 for One Year**

**The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site**

[www.friendsofvso.org](http://www.friendsofvso.org)

## 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

<b>VVA</b>	
Individual members	34
Applications waiting for ( DD214)	
Life members	34
<b>AVVA</b>	
Individual members	2
Life member	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>



### Upcoming Dates and Events

May 5 Chapter 535 Meeting 6 pm  
 June 2 Chapter 535 Meeting 6 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](mailto: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.

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapters are hereby given permission to reproduce any locally produced articles published in this newsletter. Permission to reprint anything else must come from the original source.

### Has Your Address Changed?

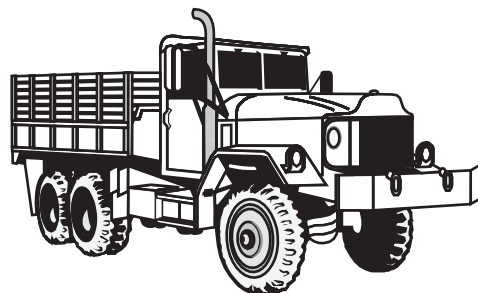
Please let us know before the Post office quits forwarding your newsletters. If you find your not receiving your newsletter's or hearing from us, please contact Bill Holman at 265-8387.

### 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 member to become more active in the Chapter. Anyone interested should contact: Pete Burelle ([howling\\_wolf28@yahoo.com](mailto:howling_wolf28@yahoo.com)) 274-3787.

Chapter Secretary..... Vacant

Chairs  
 Constitution/Bylaws ..... Vacant  
 Nominations ..... Vacant  
 Public Relations ..... Vacant



## **VA Categories Priority 7 and 8 Veterans**

The House Budget Committee, chaired by Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI.), has told a veterans' group it is studying a plan to save \$6 billion annually in VA health care costs by canceling enrollment of any veteran who doesn't have a service-related medical condition and is not poor. Committee Republicans, searching for ways to curb federal deficits and rein in galloping VA costs, are targeting 1.3 million veterans who claim priority group 7 or 8 status and have access to VA care. Priority group 8 veterans have no service-connected disabilities and annual incomes, or net worth, that exceed VA means-test thresholds and VA "geographic income" thresholds, which are set by family size. Priority Group 7 veterans also have no service-connected disabilities and their incomes are above the means-test thresholds. But their incomes or net worth fall below the geographic index. In other words, because of where they live, in high cost areas, they likely struggle financially.

Joseph Violante, national legislative director for Disabled American Veterans, said he first learned of the committee's interest in possibly narrowing access to VA clinics and hospitals from a DAV member from Wisconsin, chairman Ryan's home state. Violante and other DAV officials arranged their own meeting with a staff member for the committee. He confirmed growing interest in a cost-saving initiative to push priority 7 and 8 veterans out of VA health care. As this budget committee staffer reminded Violante, proponents for opening VA health care to all veterans had argued it would be cost neutral to VA. That's because VA would charge these vets modest co-payments for their care. Also VA would bill these veterans' private health insurance plans for the cost of their VA care. That argument from 1996 turned out to be wrong. Co-payments collected from low-priority veterans and private insurance plan billings today cover only 18% of the cost of care for group 7 and 8 veterans. By 2009, the annual net cost to VA to treat these veterans totaled \$4.4 billion or 11% of VA's annual medical appropriation.

The figures come from the Congressional Budget Office's annual report to Congress, "Reducing the Deficit: Spending and Revenue Options." Among options it presented this year to the new Congress for reducing VA spending is one to close enrollment in VA care for all veterans in groups 7 and 8 and to cancel the enrollment of veterans currently in two low priority groups. CBO said this would save VA \$62 billion in the first 10 years, from 2012 to 2021. But the net savings to the government over the same period, CBO said, would be about half that amount. That's because many of the veterans bumped from VA are old enough or poor enough to use Medicare or Medicaid, which would drive up the cost of those programs. Until the mid-1990s,

VA had denied health care to priority 7 and 8 veterans. Congress changed that during the Clinton administration, enacting the Veterans' Health Care Eligibility Act of 1996. The law directed VA to build many more clinics across the country. To ensure enough patients to fill these clinics, the VA secretary was given authority to expand care eligibility. The ban on group 7 and 8 veterans was ended by 1999. Over the next three years their enrollment climbed to 30% of total enrollees. By 2003, then-VA Secretary Anthony Principi stopped allowing any more group 8 enrollments, saying their numbers strained the system for higher priority veterans, including wounded returning from Afghanistan and Iraq.

It's possible that, in sharing what the budget committee eyed to lower VA health costs, the professional staffer assumed DAV would embrace cancellation of 7 and 8 enrollments because few DAV members would be impacted. But Violante said DAV is concerned, for two reasons. One, some DAV members separated from service with disabilities rated at 0% do have access to VA health care as group 7 or 8 veterans. A bigger concern for his members, Violante said, is that tossing 1.3 million veterans from VA care would leave the system without the "critical mass" of patients needed to provide "a full continuum of care." DAV officials worried that an initiative to narrow VA enrollment would be included in the House Republican budget plan unveiled this week. Ryan titled it "Path to Prosperity" and the full committee endorsed it on a straight party line vote 6 APR. The budget package, however, doesn't mention any change to enrollment eligibility nor call for significant cuts to VA budgets. Violante said DAV wants to talk House committees out of taking any action to reduce VA enrollment.

CBO presented pros and cons for cancelling 7 and 8 enrollments. An advantage is VA could refocus services on "its traditional group of patients - those with the greatest needs or fewest financial resources." It noted 90% of group 7 and 8 enrollees had other health care coverage, either Medicare or private insurance. So the "vast majority" cut loose would have ready access to other coverage. Those who don't could be eligible for health insurance exchanges to be set up in the future said CBO. One disadvantage is that many veterans who have come to rely on VA for at least part of their medical care would see that care interrupted. The Obama administration and Congress actually had been moving in the opposite direction, to expand VA enrollment, until Republicans won the House. As Obama took office in 2009, VA announced that up to 266,000 veterans with no service-connected health conditions would be allowed to enroll in VA health care. Rep. Chet Edwards (D-Texas) had fought successfully to add \$350 million to the 2009 VA budget so income thresholds controlling priority 8 enrollments could be raised 10%. Edwards lost his reelection bid last year. And new priority

8 enrollees haven't rushed to join the system as VA officials had expected.

Group 8 and 7 veterans using VA care pay \$15 per outpatient visit and a little more for specialty care. Inpatient fees also are modest. The most popular benefit for many enrollees is discounted prescription drugs. The co-pay usually is \$8 for a 30-day supply. Tim Tetz with American Legion said his organization and many veterans groups would strongly oppose tossing out group 7 and 8 veterans. He credits their enrollment since 1999 as helping to improve VA care. "If as great of a health care system as we have, shouldn't we let all of our veterans have access to it, in some manner," Tetz asked. While deficit hawks weigh this issue, VA still is enrolling new group 8 veterans who fall below its income thresholds. Those without dependents and living outside

---

## Military Trivia

(1) When the Continental Navy was formed the Gadsen Flag was adopted as its official flag. It was a yellow flag with a black snake above the words "Don't tread on me". The purpose of the Navy at this time was to harass British shipping and capture its cargo. The fleet consisted of former merchant vessels converted into warships.

(2) The first person to hold the title of Admiral of the United States Navy was David Farragut. The United States Navy did not have any Admirals until 1862 when Congress approved nine Rear Admirals. Two years later Farragut, one of the Rear Admirals, was appointed Vice Admiral and in 1866 he was appointed by the President of the United States to the rank of Admiral. John Paul Jones had argued for more senior officer rankings above Captain but Congress would not listen.

(3) The first three ships of the Continental Navy were Hannah, Hancock, and Franklin. The Continental Congress urged the colonies to arm and equip ships for the revolution but Rhode Island asked for a single Continental Navy. General George Washington had already bought one ship, "The Hannah", and shortly after that the "Hancock" and "Franklin" set sail under Congressional orders. The Hannah first set sail in September of 1775 and the other two in October. There were about fifty ships used during the revolution.

(4) After the American Revolution, under the Articles of Confederation, the United States could not afford to maintain a single warship economically, so the fleet was disbanded in 1785. It was reestablished in 1793 under the Constitution and called the United States Navy.

(5) In the period between 1798 and 1800, the United States was involved in an undeclared war with France, called the Quasi War. After Napoleon seized control in France, the new French Government viewed Jay's treaty as a violation of earlier treaties between the United States and France. As a result the French began sending warships to attack American merchant vessels doing business with the British and broke off diplomatic relations with the United States. This war led to the "XYZ Affair" but was quickly resolved in 1800.

(6) The first three ships commissioned into the United States Navy were the United States, Constitution, and Constellation. Congress officially ordered six frigates be built in 1794. The first to come out of production was the "United States", then came the "Constellation" and finally the "Constitution". The other three that were built were the "Chesapeake", "President", and "America".










(7) The United States frigate Philadelphia ran aground off the shore of Tripoli in 1803 and was taken captive by the Barbary Pirates. Her officers were made prisoners of war and her crew sold into slavery. The pirates could have repaired her and put her back to sea. Stephen Decatur then made a daring raid and burned the ship.

(8) The H.M.S. Confiance and U.S.S. Saratoga faced each other and took the brunt of the fighting in the Battle of Lake Champlain. The Confiance was a 37 gun fifth rate 1200 ton frigate with a crew of 325. warship launched in 1814 on Lake Champlain. The Saratoga was a 26 gun 734 ton corvette with a crew of 212. The Confiance struck the first blow taking out the starboard battery of the Saratoga. The Saratoga then positioned herself with the port battery facing the Confiance a



# May - 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
				 General Membership Meeting 6 pm Cinco De Mayo	 Donna BaBao				
1	2	3	 Lee Roy Hubbard	4	5	6			
 Mother's Day	8	9	10	11	 Bart Ruud	12	13	14	 Nick de Zaparkansky
15	16	17	18	19	 Fred Buhler	20	21	 Richard Sciaroni	
22	23	 Bob Cuevas	24	25	26	27	28		
29	MEMORIAL DAY *****	30	31						

**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.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Sex \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_  
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

