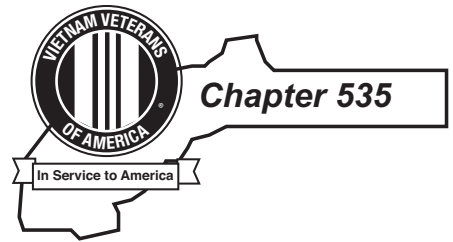




# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



## CHAPTER 535

*"It Feels Good to Get Involved"*

Volume 21 Issue 10

*In Service To America and the Gold Country*

October 2011

### **President's Message**

I would like to take this time for all of you that participated in the Constitution Day Parade. It came off with no hitches and it seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves. As we all know at the last meeting we have Kent as our new V.P. I am sure that he will be an added welcome to the V.V.A. It looks like the stand-down is around the corner and Jose will need a lot of extra arms. Just give him a call to get more details on what we can do to help. Hope to see all of you at the next meeting.

Once again, thank you all

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

### **All Veterans Stand-Down set for Oct. 7-8**

The Nevada County All Veterans Stand-Down volunteer organizers will honor all veterans of all wars at the All Veterans Stand-Down 2011 Oct. 7-8 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

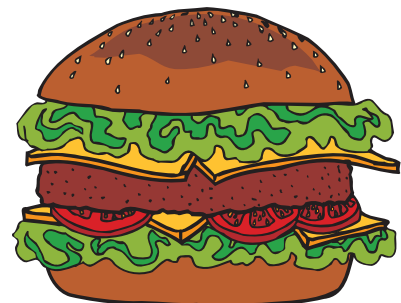
Many free services will be provided to veterans residing in Nevada, Placer and Sierra counties, such as receiving assistance with employment, medical screening, counseling, county social services, legal aid, county veteran services and other helpful information.

Free food and clothing are also available for veterans who wish to take advantage of this two-day opportunity. Services will be offered 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 7 and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 8.

Participating volunteers are happy to return support and appreciation to the veterans who served our country when called. This event is made possible by the generous donations from the community.

If you would like to support the Stand Down efforts by volunteering or sending monetary donations, please write to Nevada County Stand-Down, P.O. Box 564, Grass Valley, CA 95945.

Contents	Page
Message from the President .....	1
All Veterans Stand-Down.....	1
Presumptive Diseases Update.....	2
Chapter Information .....	3
Upcoming Dates & Events.....	4
Vacant Committee Chairs .....	4
Membership Facts.....	4
Message from John Rowan VVA President.....	5
The Joker .....	6
Calendar .....	7
VVA Application Form.....	8



## **VA Presumptive VN Vet Diseases Update**

More than 84,000 Vietnam veterans afflicted with heart disease, Parkinson's disease or B-cell leukemia are drawing disability compensation today thanks to a decision by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki to expand the list of ailments presumed caused by exposure to herbicides, including Agent Orange, used during that war. Another 74,000 veterans have claims pending, and will only need to show VA that they set foot in Vietnam and have one of the diseases added last year to the list of Agent Orange presumptive conditions. Though these payments comfort veterans and their families, they have upset some Republican senators who argue they are unfair to fellow veterans and taxpayers, and drive up VA compensation claims at a time when budgets are tightening and needs are expanding for new veterans. These senators argue the Agent Orange Act of 1991 is flawed, providing too much authority to the VA secretary and allowing compensation awards based on a mere association between a disease and herbicide exposure rather than evidence that exposure caused the ailments.

We are transferring a half million dollars to veterans under this decision by Secretary Shinseki for people who weigh 350 pounds, smoke three packs of cigarettes a day, and have hypercholesterolemia because they will not take their medicine, Sen. Tom Coburn (R-OK) complained to colleagues during floor debate on his recent amendment to tighten the law. We are saying the reason they have heart disease is because at some point in time they were in Vietnam and their disease meets the law's criteria of being associated with herbicide exposure. Coburn in late July sought to change the law to block more conditions from being added to VA's list of presumptive diseases for exposure to Agent Orange unless medical science can show a causal effect and veterans can prove they were exposed to the herbicide. Coburn's amendment to the Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Act of 2012 was tabled on a motion from Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.). The vote was 69-to-30 with 29 Republicans supporting Coburn. Though he lost this vote, Coburn will continue to try to narrow the Agent Orange law and trim back authority of the VA secretary for expanding the list of presumptive diseases, said his press aide, Becky Bernhardt. Coburn's amendment would not have impacted the current list of presumptive diseases, including conditions added last year. That wasn't clear from his rhetoric during floor debate. Coburn noted that in 2006 the Institute of Medicine (IOM) found no positive association between exposure to Agent Orange and heart disease. By 2008 it had found a positive association but absolutely no causation. There is a big difference... On that basis, the secretary committed this country to make payments to people

for disabilities not associated with their service. With a limited budget going forward, if we are paying for disabilities that are not associated with service, that means we are going to have less money available for those veterans who do have a disability. Arizona Sen. John McCain, ranking Republican on the armed services committee, endorsed Coburn's amendment. McCain had co-sponsored the Agent Orange Act of 1991 believing the herbicide had harmed the health of many thousands of veterans. But the VA secretary has now expanded the eligibility to the point where it is beyond any scientific evidence that compensation would be required, McCain said. He noted that heart disease is the leading cause of death in America today and has been so for decades. Yet any Vietnam vet with the disease now can be awarded compensation at a potential cost to VA of up to \$42 billion by 2020 without what appears to be a direct connection to Agent Orange. There are too many legitimate needs for veterans of wars to come to allow this open-ended expenditure of taxpayers' dollars. Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA), a Vietnam veteran like McCain, voted with fellow Democrats to table the amendment. But Webb, who serves on the veterans' affairs committee, later released a statement saying he agreed with Coburn that the 1991 law's associative link between illnesses and exposure to Agent Orange is too vague and the law gives too much discretion to the secretary of veterans affairs.

This discretionary power has been increasingly widened over time, impacting hundreds of thousands of veterans and tens billions of taxpayer dollars, Webb said. Legislation enacted 20 years ago under the assumption that it would be applied to a very narrow set of illnesses now allows presumptive service-connection for such age-related maladies as Type II diabetes and chronic heart disease. He asked VA Committee Chairman Murray to hold a hearing to consider legislation to reform the 1991 law. Murray expressed no support for such a hearing in her motion to kill the amendment, arguing that Coburn made a compelling case for saving money but gave no evidence Agent Orange did not cause the conditions faced by these veterans... They have been dying for 40 years or more. We should not ask them to wait longer.

Veterans' groups vigorously attacked the amendment. Congress, in part, settled on this mechanism because it was nearly impossible for Vietnam veterans to prove that their exposure to Agent Orange caused their health conditions, said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America. Coburn's change would essentially mean that benefits due to Agent Orange exposure would be out of reach on additional diseases. Tim Tetz, legislative director for the American Legion, said the law remains fair and non-political. We think that's the model for environmental exposures as we go forward... We applauded it then and we continue to applaud it today for creating an objective, scientific-based standard which recognizes very poor record-keeping on herbicide exposure during the war.

# 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

Kent Hawley ..... 432-3551

#### 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

#### 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



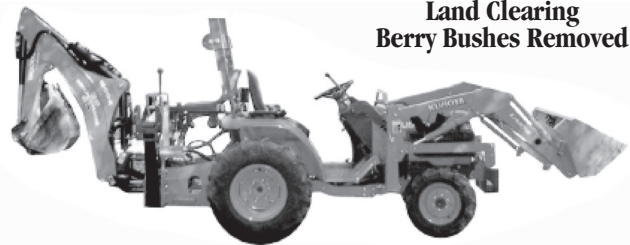
**Dan Davis**  
(530) 272-4110 eves.

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

## 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 Burrelle ([howling\\_wolf28@yahoo.com](mailto:howling_wolf28@yahoo.com)) 274-3787.  
 Chapter Secretary..... Vacant

### Chairs

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

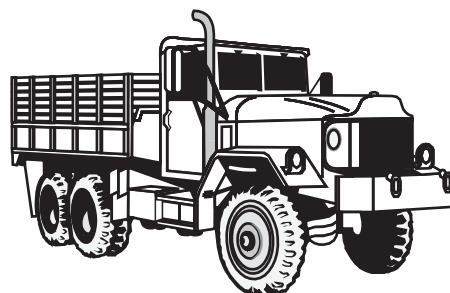
### Membership Facts Chapter 535

<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

September 1 Chapter 535 Meeting 6 pm





## **Message from VVA National President John Rowan**

Regarding Today's Senate Hearing on  
Post-9/11 GI Bill and For-profit Educational Institutions

Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA), along with dozens of other veterans and military service organizations, worked diligently to pass the Post-9/11 GI Bill. We believe those who serve in uniform, who give of themselves at great personal cost, deserve more than lip service about "the brave young men and women" in our Armed Forces who place themselves in harm's way and undergo severe hardships on behalf of our nation. Despite the inevitable start-up bumps, this educational benefit administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as the Tuition Assistance Program run by the Department of Defense, has enabled tens of thousands of veterans and active-duty troops - and their eligible spouses or children - to obtain the higher education, or vocational training, they need to pursue their American Dream.

Just as the Post-9/11 GI Bill has been a boon to those who have served in the military, it has also been a gold mine to predatory "for-profit" institutions of "higher learning" that have taken advantage of the law (the 90/10 rule) and have done, and continue to do, a reprehensible disservice to honorable young (and not-so-young) men and women who have served in the war against terrorism. While there are many legitimate for-profit schools that provide value, predatory for-profit institutions have sprung up like mushrooms in a field of clover. They are not accredited by any recognized collegiate accrediting agency. They offer cut-rate degrees at gold-plated prices that can be obtained online, degrees that are essentially worthless, and are dismissed by most employers seeking qualified, educated workers. They undermine accredited colleges and universities, and their bank accounts bulge with federal dollars paid out via unsuspecting veterans, who are, all too often, left with little but personal debt.

This is a scandal of major proportions, a swindle that has gone on for far too long. It demands a swift and sure response from the federal government. VVA calls on the federal government, through an act of Congress or executive action, to seek to recoup the hundreds of millions of dollars that have, in effect, been stolen from the taxpayer, the active-duty warrior, and the veteran by these for-profit institutions whose concept of truth in advertising is akin to the promotion of magic "elixirs" by snake-oil salesmen of old.

VVA calls for a case-by-case review, with the goal of restoring the educational benefits for any warrior or veteran who feels s/he has been ripped off by promises from these institutions that are made but not kept. VVA also calls

on Congress to enact legislation that will strengthen the authority of the State Approving Agencies by empowering them to approve the courses or training programs taken by troops and veterans before any dispersal of funds by DoD or the VA is made.

And last, but not least, VVA calls on the Department of Justice to initiate an investigation into those individuals and their corporate shells that have undermined the true intent of the Post-9/11 GI Bill. VVA applauds Senator Thomas Carper and Senator Tom Harkin for their efforts to shed light on this scandal. It is now time for Congress and the administration to do something about it.



Chapter 535 Color Guard at the 2011 Constitution Day parade Nevada City.

# The Joker

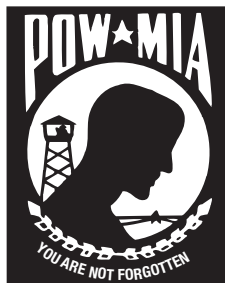
*from Vietnam War Stories*

In July 1966, I found myself in a place called Tuy Hoa on a wonderful white sand beach waiting for soldiers from my newly assigned unit to return from the field. All the months of training to qualify as a US Army paratrooper lead to my arrival with the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam. I was proud to be among the best soldiers in the world but uncertain about what the future held.

To add to my anxiety a rumor started going around about a helicopter pilot ending his tour and was returning to “The World”. A pilot called “The Joker” was so effective that the soldiers felt more at risk after his departure. As time past, I too survived my tour of duty and returned home to college and back to working for the military. It is the only place I could feel comfortable.

During hunting season one year, I spent a lot of time in the woods with no luck at harvesting a deer. The husband of one of the employees I worked with invited me to hunt on his ranch. Here in Texas the ranchers charge money to hunt on their land and I didn't know if I could afford it. I was told that I could expect a good price (turned out to be free). As we sat in the deer stand he asked about my military experience and I told him the unit I was with in Vietnam. To my surprise, he said he had been in the 101st too. He flew Cobra helicopters. His call sign was “The Joker”.

I found myself sitting next to one of the brave-special people who go about their normal lives without anyone knowing who they are. It's hard to appreciate a person who has been shot down five times in the same day, and just gets another helicopter. I asked why there was such a stink when he left. His commander wanted him to fly one more mission. That mission was the night before he had to be on a flight home. The only way they could get him to his flight on time was to fly him to the air base in an F4 Phantom Jet fighter.





# October - 2011



Chapter 535

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
				General Membership Meeting 6 pm Gary Tanaka Dan Davis	 <i>"Proud To Have Served            All Have Served, Some Have Died,            Many Are Being Served"</i>	George Gentry  <i>"Proud To Have Served            All Have Served, Some Have Died,            Many Are Being Served"</i>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
		Ronald Lavelle				Patrick Ward
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
					Christopher Kreider	Wayne Reddekopp
23	24					
	 Halloween					
30	31	25	26	27	28	29

**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

