



INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



CHAPTER 535

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

In Service To America and the Gold Country

Volume 22 Issue 1

January 2012

President's Message

Wishing all Vets a Happy New Year.

Harold Graves is out of the hospital and at home. Looks like his recovery is coming along slowly. We are looking ahead for good things to happen for him.

Our Annual Christmas dinner at the V.A. building turned out to be a success due to all the help from our members, wives and friends. Lots of good food!

We did not participate in the Victorian Christmas this year. It seems that they hired an outside source and never got the application on time. Well better luck next year.

Once again, thank you all

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

Victorian Christmas

by Jose Gonzales

WHAT happen? The Nevada City Chamber of Commerce selected an out side, management group to coordinate booths locations. This group method of control was via the E-mail system. While we waited for an application by mail, same as last year, our time expired, and our regular booth positions was given to another group, placing us on a waiting list. After making personal contact with Nevada City C of C, the discovery was too late.

We were offered a position across the street of the food court area, which placed us were kids hung out, if you think of a square then we would be at the bottom right hand corner of the Victorian Christmas design area. Certainly, not the best fundraising position. We are assured by the C of C, that next year we will have a location, The question is are we to get the same old spot?

After great consideration, the Board voted to cancel our participation this year.

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California Vet Home

The new Redding and Fresno homes nearing completion are the state's first with all private rooms. The 150 rooms, bigger and nicer than in many hotels, boast flat-screen TVs and roll-in bathrooms. Instead of a name tag next to each door, there's a memory box where residents can display medals, photos and other mementos.



The 160,000-square-foot collection of low-slung beige buildings sits on 26 acres in south Redding, across the road from a public golf course and near the local airport. There are five interconnected "neighborhoods" of 30 residents each. Two of the neighborhoods will provide skilled nursing care, including one for those with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia. The other three will be for those who can mostly care for themselves. Each neighborhood will have its own living room with a cool-to-the-touch electric fireplace. Each will have a courtyard with trees, gazebos and nice views, including of Mount Lassen.

In the main entrance hall, there will be a post office, grocery, bank, barbershop and a hall of heroes. Nearby, there will be a chapel with stained glass windows and a dining hall with table service. Out back, there's an outdoor recreation area with bocce ball, shuffleboard and a playground for the grandkids.



DD-214's are NOW On-line

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's

on-line: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

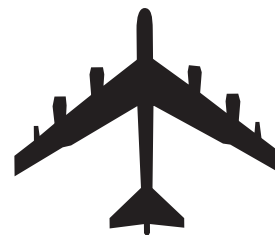
This may be particularly helpful when a veteran needs a copy of his DD-214 for employment purposes. NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use a new online military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the on-line web site. Because the requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request, delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized. The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center mail room and processing time.



Chapter 535 Christmas Dinner.



Chapter 535 Information Center

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

Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers-Phone

President

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Gary Tanaka 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, 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.....



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Chapter 535 Web Page

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

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The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

www.friendsofvso.org

Veterans Directory

Congress

Senate - Veterans Affairs Committee202-224-9126
 House - Veterans Affairs Committee.....202-225-3527

Department of Veterans Affairs

Board of Veterans Appeals202-233-3001
 Central Office202-233-4000
 Freedom of Information/Privacy Act202-233-3616
 Personnel Locator.....202-233-4000
 Public Information202-233-3056
 Veterans Health Administration202-535-7010
 VA Telephone Care Program800-733-0502
 Cemetery, Burial, & Headstone Info.....800-697-6947

Agencies

Department of Defense703-545-6700
 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
 Affairs202-205-6773

Locator & Reunion Services

Army Worldwide Locator.....317-542-4211
 Navy Times Locator Services703-750-8636
 Service Reunions703-998-7035
 Vietnam Veterans Locator.....319-388-9023
 Veteran's Locator Service 800-449-VETS

Miscellaneous

Vietnam Women's Memorial Project202-328-7253
 Sons & Daughters In Touch CA805-872-4035
 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 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 member to become more active in the Chapter. Anyone interested should contact: Pete Burrelle (howling_wolf28@yahoo.com) 274-3787.
 Chapter Secretary..... Vacant

Chairs
 Constitution/Bylaws Vacant
 Nominations Vacant
 Public Relations Vacant

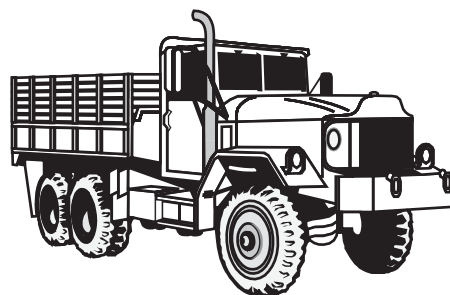
Membership Facts Chapter 535

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



Upcoming Dates and Events

January 5 Chapter Meeting 6 pm
 February 2 Chapter Meeting 6 pm



Military History Anniversaries: Significant December events in U.S. Military History are:

Dec 01 1918 - WWI: An American army of occupation enters Germany

Dec 01 1964 - Vietnam: U.S. President Lyndon B. Johnson and his top-ranking advisers meet to discuss plans to bomb North Vietnam.

Dec 01 1969 - Vietnam: America's first draft lottery since 1942 is held.

Dec 02 1944 - WWII: General George S. Patton's troops enter the Saar Valley and break through the Siegfried line.

Dec 03 1775 - The USS Alfred became the first vessel to fly the Grand Union Flag (the precursor to the Stars and Stripes); the flag is hoisted by John Paul Jones.

Dec 03 1950 - Korea: The Chinese close in on Pyongyang, Korea, and UN forces withdraw southward. Pyongyang falls 2 days later.

Dec 03 1942 - WWII: U.S. planes make the first raids on Naples, Italy.

Dec 06 1941 - WWII: President Franklin D. Roosevelt issues a personal appeal to Emperor Hirohito to use his influence to avoid war.

Dec 07 1917 - WWI: The United States declares war on Austria-Hungary with only one dissenting vote in Congress.

Dec 07 1941 - WWII: Japanese attack Pearl Harbor without a declaration of war and land forces in Northern Borneo.

Dec 07 1942 - WWII: The U.S. Navy launches USS New Jersey, the largest battleship ever built.

Dec 08 1861 - Civil War: CSS Sumter captures the whaler Eben Dodge in the Atlantic. The American Civil War is now affecting the Northern whaling industry.

Dec 08 1941 - WWII: Roosevelt declares war on Japan noting the previous day's events mark it as a date that will live in infamy.

Dec 08 1943 - WWII: U.S. carrier-based planes sink two cruisers and down 72 planes in the Marshall Islands.

Dec 08 1944 - WWII: The United States conducts the longest, most effective air raid on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima.

Dec 09 1950 - Cold War: Harry Gold gets 30 years imprisonment for passing atomic bomb secrets to the Soviet Union during World War II.

Dec 09 1992 - Operation Restore Hope: U.S. Marines land in Somalia to ensure food and medicine reaches the deprived areas of that country.

Dec 10 1898 - Spanish American War: The U.S. and Spain sign the Treaty of Paris, ending the war and ceding Spanish possessions, including the Philippines, to the United States.

Dec 10 1941 - WWII: Japanese troops invade the Philippine island of Luzon.

Dec 11 1862 - Civil War: Union General Ambrose Burnside occupies Fredericksburg and prepares to attack the Confederates under Robert E. Lee. The battle ends two days later with the bloody slaughter of onrushing Union troops at Marye's Heights.

Dec 11 1941 - WWII: Germany and fascist Italy declare war on America. The U.S. reciprocates.

Dec 12 1863 - Civil War: Orders are given in Richmond, Virginia, that no more supplies from the Union should be received by Federal prisoners

Dec 13 1775 - The Continental Congress authorizes the building of 13 frigates.

Dec 13 1774 - Mass militiamen successfully attacked arsenal of Ft. William and Mary



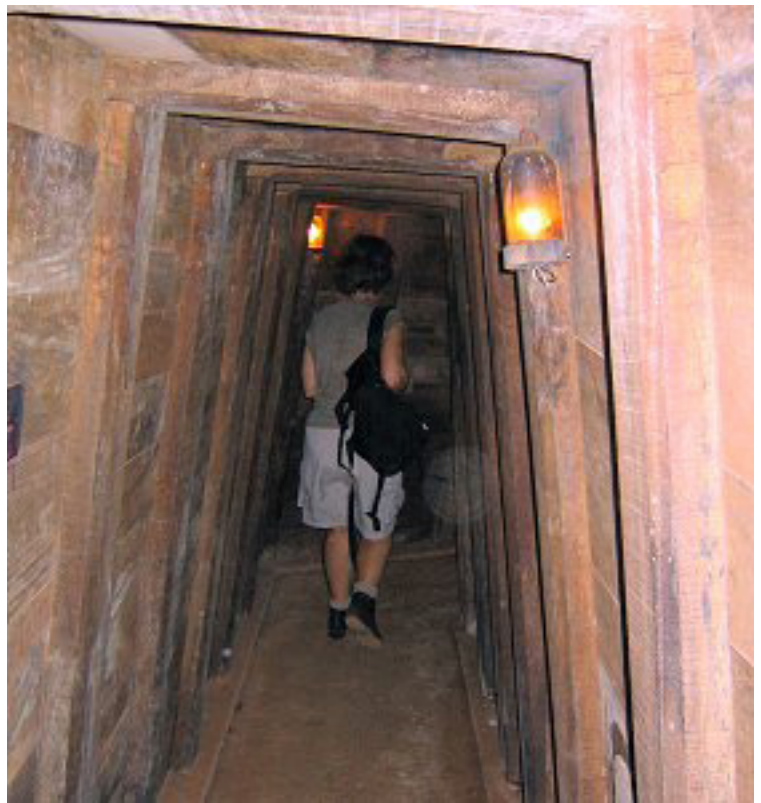
Chapter 535 Christmas Dinner.

The Tunnels of Cu Chi

The tunnels of Cu Chi are an immense network of connecting underground tunnels located in the Cu Chi district of Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), Vietnam, and are part of a much larger network of tunnels that underlie much of the country. The Cu Chi tunnels were the location of several military campaigns during the Vietnam War, and were the Viet Cong's base of operations for the Tet Offensive in 1968. The tunnels were used by Viet Cong guerrillas as hiding spots during combat, as well as serving as communication and supply routes, hospitals, food and weapon caches and living quarters for numerous guerrilla fighters.

The tunnel systems were of great importance to the Viet Cong in their resistance to American forces, through which they secured American withdrawal from Vietnam and ultimate military success. American soldiers used the term "Black echo" to describe the conditions within the tunnels. For the Viet Cong, life in the tunnels was difficult. Air, food and water were scarce and the tunnels were infested with ants, poisonous centipedes, scorpions, spiders and vermin. Most of the time, guerrillas would spend the day in the tunnels working or resting and come out only at night to scavenge for supplies, tend their crops or engage the enemy in battle.

Sometimes, during periods of heavy bombing or American troop movement, they would be forced to remain underground for many days at a time. Sickness was rampant among the people living in the tunnels, especially malaria, which was the second largest cause of death next to battle wounds. A captured Viet Cong report suggests that at any given time half of a People's Liberation Army Force (PLAF) unit had malaria and that "one-hundred percent had intestinal parasites of significance".



Chapter 535 Christmas Dinner.



Chapter 535 Christmas Dinner.

January - 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Dale Hubka		General Membership Meeting 6:00 pm		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Dave Fleuti						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	William Snyder			Andrew Hill		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	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

