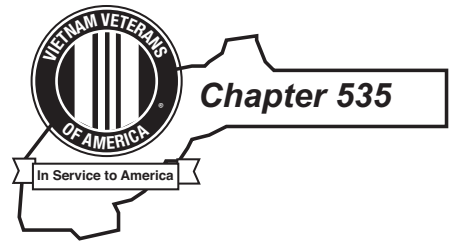




# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



## CHAPTER 535

*"It Feels Good to Get Involved"*

Volume 22 Issue

*In Service To America and the Gold Country*

May 2012

### **President's Message**

The newly elected board held our first meeting on April 19th to discuss plans for the next twelve months. I will give you a full report on those discussions at our chapter meeting on May 3, including a financial report and budget for the next year.

At our March meeting the board decided to not participate in the County Fair this year. After factoring in the cost of inventory, fees paid to the fair and sales tax, we net about \$600. It was the board's view this was not a reasonable return for all the effort and volunteer hours involved. We currently have about \$4,000 in inventory left over from the fair. We will be looking for opportunities to sell it and will price it aggressively to recover as much of our cost as possible.

You will recall that we did not sell cider and brownies at Victorian Christmas in Nevada City in December. In the past that has been our principal money earner. We are already working on arrangements to participate in Victorian Christmas this year.

In addition to our booth at Victorian Christmas, Dan Davis has been leading the charge in organizing a "shredding day" on May 19 from 9AM to 3PM, in the Veterans Building parking lot. You can help Dan by telling all your friends about the shredding project and plan to bring your own confidential records you need to destroy. In this day and age of identity theft, just tossing personal files in the trash isn't a good idea. Dan also has flyers if you can help pass them out.

We have sold 75 tickets for our first firewood raffle and are starting to sell tickets for the second raffle. At \$5 per ticket with a limit of 75 tickets per raffle, it's a good deal.

The combined earnings from the shredding project and firewood raffle are expected to generate more than twice the amount we normally earn from product sales at the fair.

*Continued on page 4*

### **All Veterans Picnic**

The Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council and the five veterans organizations are combining forces to hold an All Veterans Picnic on June 3 at the Nevada County Fairgrounds from 11 AM to 2 PM. The picnic will be held near Lions Lake. Enter through Gate 4. We are still working on the menu. However, the VVA's own master chef Jose Gonzales has volunteered to barbecue spare ribs. Hot dogs and hamburgers will also be available. Following the picnic we will hold a flag retirement ceremony.

We plan to set up a booth to sell our military memorabilia at the picnic. We have a substantial inventory left over from the County Fair that we would like to sell. We plan to price it aggressively to recover our cost.

We'll have more details on the picnic at our chapter meeting on May 3. Questions? Call Fred at 265-4878.

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## E-Waste Spring Clean Up

This is a reminder, but also to let you know that in the February 18, 2012 E-Waste collection the total pounds came to 14,740 which resulted in adding \$1,110.45 to the Remembrance Room Fund. With both collections and donations, the Fund is now \$2,077.

As you clean out your attic and garage and toss out those old, unwanted and unsellable electronic and electrical items that have been taking up space and collecting dust, consider donating them to our E-Waste Collection on June 9, 2012. Getting the word out early, we hope will you support the Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council in conjunction with CEAR by donating the items listed below. A Free E-waste Drop-off Event is scheduled for June 9, 2012

in the parking lot at the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building, 255 South Auburn Street, Grass Valley, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The Veterans Council continues in its efforts to raise funds for the replacement of the Veterans Remembrance

Room windows primarily through E-Waste Collections. We're almost there. The Chapter uses the Remembrance Room for our monthly general membership meetings and board meetings and the Dining Room for our Christmas Dinner as well as the Kitchen when needed. In addition the Chapter has an office and storage space for our equipment and supplies.

We greatly appreciate your support by bringing any E-waste you may have to the Veterans Building parking lot on June 9, 2012. If you have difficulty in attending the e-waste event on June 6, contact either Jim 263-0702 or Margie 265-4878 to arrange pickup.

We will accept: monitors, televisions, PCs, computer peripherals, circuit boards, VCRs, stereo equipment, speakers, keyboards, mice, PDAs, digital cameras, zip drives, telephones, cell phones, printers, copiers, laser and multifunction scanners and fax machines, small household appli-

ances such as toasters, mixers & blenders, microwaves, & vacuum cleaners with the dust bag removed, cables, video games, and "Techno Trash" such as CD's/ DVDs, floppy discs, Video Cassettes/Beta/DAT Tapes.

We cannot accept: Large Household Appliances (i.e. refrigerators, washers, dryers, etc.) Furniture, Hazardous Household Waste including batteries, car batteries, paint, pesticides, used oil, cleaning supplies, fluorescent light bulbs, tires, water heaters etc.

Questions regarding this event? Contact, event coordinator Jim at 530-263-0702 or Margie 530-265-4878

CEAR is a CA State approved Collector & Recycler of Electronic waste. CEAR completely shred all hard drives at their securely monitored facility. Providing fundraiser and community outreach is part of what makes CEAR a unique E-waste Recycler. CEAR is a proud signer of the Basel Action Network's pledge of true e-stewards responsible E-Waste Recycling practices.

For your security, all hard drives are completely shred at the CEAR facility



### Upcoming Dates and Events

May 3 VVA chapter meeting - 6:00PM. Our guest-speakers will be Eric & Suzette Clothier from the Veterans Service Office. Suzette will bring us up to date on the VSO and will take your questions.

May 19 Shred your private and important papers in the Veterans parking lot from 9AM to 3 PM (see separate article).

May 28 Memorial Day Ceremony at 9:00AM at Pioneer Park in Nevada City and 11:00 AM at Memorial Park in Grass Valley.

May 28 Following the Memorial Day ceremony at Memorial Park, the local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers will hold a Gold Star Memorial Bridge Walk, visiting each of the plaques in Grass Valley and Nevada City honoring Vietnam Veterans who were killed in action. (See separate article).

June 3 All Veterans Picnic at the County Fairgrounds from 11AM to 1PM, followed by a flag retirement ceremony. Our own master chef Jose Gonzales has offered to barbecue spareribs.

June 9 E-waste collection in support of NCCVC 9 AM to 1 PM.

# Chapter 535 Information Center

## Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

### Officers-Phone

#### President

Fred Buhler ..... 265-4878

#### Vice-President

Pete Burelle ..... 274-3787

#### Secretary

Dave Johnson ..... 885-1230

#### Treasurer

Harold Graves haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net..... 470-8507

#### Past President

Kent Hawley ..... 432-3551

#### Directors

Harold Graves haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net..... 470-8507

Ric Sheridan rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net ..... 274-1413

Dan Davis ..... 272-4110

Pete Burelle howling\_wolf28@yahoo.com..... 274-3787

Jerry Molloy petem1947@sbcglobal.net ..... 273-4804

Bill Holman bholman@succeed.nett ..... 265-8387

Fred Buhler ..... 265-4878

Kent Hawley ..... 432-3551

Dave Johnson ..... 885-1230

Jose Gonzales.....274-3559

#### CA State Council Delegates

Pete Burelle, Fred Buhler (alternate) 265-4878

## Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

Finance ..... Jose Gonzales (Chair) Ric Sheridan

Parade and Honor Guard ..... Pete Burelle

Product Sales ..... Pete Burelle

Food Sales..... Jose Gonzales (Chair), Jerry Molloy, Dan Davis

Membership Affairs ..... Margie Buhler

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

Nominations ..... Dick Corn

Christmas Year Round ..... Harold Graves

Chapter Events ..... Jose Gonzales

Shredding Program ..... Dan Davis

NCCVC ..... Margie Buhler, Pete Burelle

Web Master ..... Ralph Remick

#### 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

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



Swearing In of Chapter 535 Officers.

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

### Presidents Message from Page 1

Of course we continue to look for new ways to earn money, and will be talking more about that as we go forward.

We are planning to make a few changes in how we do business and how meetings are conducted. The bulk of our business discussions will take place at our monthly board meeting. All chapter board meetings are open to all chapter members. If you have a project to propose or a matter to discuss, give me a call and I will make sure you are on the agenda. At our chapter meetings we will have a brief summary and discussion of items from the board meeting, have a speaker who we think has something of interest to say to the group, and social time. The speakers for our May meeting are Eric Gamblin & Suzette Clothier from the Veterans Service Office.

As we go forward, I hope you will share with me and other board members your observations, ideas and expectations for the chapter. It is important that whatever we do going forward reflects the interests of all the chapter members. Thanks for your help.

**Fred Buhler, President 265-4878**

## 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

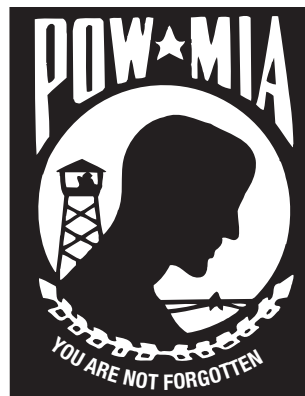
**Attn: Newsletter Editor**  
**18455 Augustine Rd, Nevada City, CA 95959**  
**e-mail to bholman@succeed.net or**  
**call Bill Holman at (530) 265-8387**

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 newsletters or hearing from us, please contact Bill Holman at 265-8387.



### Membership Facts Chapter 535

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



## **A Dog Named Reggie**

They told me the big black Lab's name was Reggie, as I looked at him lying in his pen. The shelter was clean, no-kill, and the people really friendly.

I'd only been in the area for six months, but everywhere I went in the small college town, people were welcoming and open. Everyone waves when you pass them on the street.

But something was still missing as I attempted to settle in to my new life here, and I thought a dog couldn't hurt. Give me someone to talk to. And I had just seen Reggie's advertisement on the local news. The shelter said they had received numerous calls right after, but they said the people who had come down to see him just didn't look like "Lab people," whatever that meant. They must've thought I did.

But at first, I thought the shelter had misjudged me in giving me Reggie and his things, which consisted of a dog pad, bag of toys almost all of which were brand new tennis balls, his dishes and a sealed letter from his previous owner.

See, Reggie and I didn't really hit it off when we got home. We struggled for two weeks (which is how long the shelter told me to give him to adjust to his new home). Maybe it was the fact that I was trying to adjust, too. Maybe we were too much alike.

I saw the sealed envelope. I had completely forgotten about that. "Okay, Reggie," I said out loud, "let's see if your previous owner has any advice."

To Whomever Gets My Dog:

Well, I can't say that I'm happy you're reading this, a letter I told the shelter could only be opened by Reggie's new owner. I'm not even happy writing it. He knew something was different.

So let me tell you about my Lab in the hopes that it will help you bond with him and he with you.

First, he loves tennis balls. The more the merrier. Sometimes I think he's part squirrel, the way he hoards them. He usually always has two in his mouth, and he tries to get a third in there. He hasn't done it yet. Doesn't matter where you throw them, he'll bound after them, so be careful. Don't do it by any roads.

Next, the commands he's learned. Reggie knows the obvious ones ---"sit," "stay," "come," and "heel."

He knows hand signals, too: He knows "ball" and "food" and "bone" and "treat" like nobody's business.

Feeding schedule: twice a day, regular store-bought stuff; the shelter has the brand.

He's up on his shots. Be forewarned: Reggie hates the vet. Good luck getting him in the car. I don't know how he knows when it's time to go to the vet, but he knows.

Finally, give him some time. It's only been Reggie and me for his whole life.

He's gone everywhere with me, so please include him on your daily car rides if you can. He sits well in the backseat, and he doesn't bark or complain. He just loves to be around people, and me most especially.

And that's why I need to share one more bit of info with you...His name's not Reggie. He's a smart dog, he'll get used to it and will respond to it, of that I have no doubt. But I just couldn't bear to give them his real name. But if someone is reading this ... well it means that his new owner should know his real name. His real name is "Tank." Because, that is what I drive.

I told the shelter that they couldn't make "Reggie" available for adoption until they received word from my company commander. You see, my parents are gone, I have no siblings, no one I could've left Tank with ... and it was my only real request of the Army upon my deployment to Iraq, that they make one phone call to the shelter ... in the "event" ... to tell them that Tank could be put up for adoption. Luckily, my CO is a dog-guy, too, and he knew where my platoon was headed. He said he'd do it personally. And if you're reading this, then he made good on his word.

Tank has been my family for the last six years, almost as long as the Army has been my family. And now I hope and pray that you make him part of your family, too, and that he will adjust and come to love you the same way he loved me.

If I have to give up Tank to keep those terrible people from coming to the US I am glad to have done so. He is my example of service and of love. I hope I honored him by my service to my country and comrades.

All right, that's enough. I deploy this evening and have to drop this letter off at the shelter. Maybe I'll peek in on him and see if he finally got that third tennis ball in his mouth.

Good luck with Tank. Give him a good home, and give him an extra kiss goodnight - every night - from me.

Thank you, Paul Mallory

I folded the letter and slipped it back in the envelope. Sure, I had heard of Paul Mallory, everyone in town knew him, even new people like me. Local kid, killed in Iraq a few months ago and posthumously earning the Silver Star when he gave his life to save three buddies. Flags had been at half-mast all summer.

I leaned forward in my chair and rested my elbows on my knees, staring at the dog.

"Hey, Tank," I said quietly.

The dog's head whipped up, his ears cocked and his eyes bright.

"C'mere boy."

He was instantly on his feet, his nails clicking on the hardwood floor. He sat in front of me, his head tilted; searching for the name he hadn't heard in months. "Tank," I whispered.

His tail swished.

### *A Dog Named Reggie From Page 5*

I kept whispering his name, over and over, and each time, his ears lowered, his eyes softened, and his posture relaxed as a wave of contentment just seemed to flood him. I stroked his ears, rubbed his shoulders, buried my face into his scruff and hugged him.

“It’s me now, Tank, just you and me. Your old pal gave you to me.” Tank reached up and licked my cheek.

“So whatdaya say we play some ball?” His ears perked up again.

“Yeah? Ball? You like that? Ball?”

Tank tore from my hands and disappeared into the next room. And when he came back, he had three tennis balls in his mouth.



Kent presents Gavel to Fred.



## **Gold Star Memorial Bridge Walks**

The Sierra Nevada Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America will hold a Gold Star Memorial Bridge Walk on May 28 following the Memorial Day Ceremonies at Pioneer Park in Nevada City and Memorial Park in Grass Valley. The purpose of the Gold Star Memorial Walks is to bring community awareness to those soldiers from Nevada County who died while serving in Vietnam.

There are currently fourteen plaques on thirteen bridges crossing the Golden Center Freeway. Three additional plaques honoring three soldiers from our County who died while serving in Iraq will soon be placed on the Brighton Street Bridge over Highway 20.

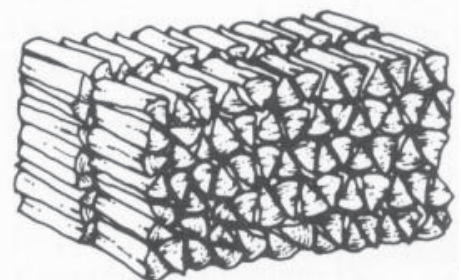
The walk to the seven plaques in the Nevada City and Brunswick Basin area, including the Dorsey Drive overcrossing, will start from Pioneer Park following completion of the Memorial Day Ceremony, at approximately 10 AM and will end at 12 noon. The walk to the seven plaques in the Grass Valley area will start from Memorial Park following completion of the Memorial Day Ceremony at approximately 1:00 PM and is expected to end by 3PM. Those not wishing to join in the walk may drive to specific plaques. The Blue Star Mothers have provided a map showing location of each plaque, the route of the walk, and parking available near the plaques. A copy of the map will be emailed to everyone on our email list. Copies of the map will also be available at our Chapter meeting on May 3.

The Blue Star Mothers have invited members of the VVA Chapter 535 to provide one or more veterans as honor guards at each of the plaques. The honor guards will be on duty between 10AM and 12 Noon for the plaques in Nevada City and in the Brunswick Basin area and between 1PM and 3PM for the plaques in Grass Valley.

We will have a sign-up sheet for the honor guards at our May 3rd chapter meeting. If you are not able to attend the chapter meeting but would like to participate, call Fred at 265-4878.

## **First Firewood Raffle Drawing**

Last year we split three cords of oak and some pine to be raffled off. We are selling the tickets for \$5 each, and agreed to limit the number of tickets sold to 75 tickets for each raffle. We completed the sale of our first 75 tickets on April 21 and held our first drawing the following day. The winning ticket was purchased by Hugh Gordon, from Friends of Nevada County Military. Congratulations Hugh! Let’s see if we can sell the next batch of 75 tickets by the end of May.



# May - 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				General Membership Meeting 6 pm		Cinco De Mayo
Donna BaBao					LeeRoy Hubbard	
Harold Graves						Bart Ruud
Mother's Day			Robert LeeRoy Roberts			
	Nick de Zaparkansky				Steven MacDonald	
	Richard Sciaroni			Bob Cuevas		
Fred Buhler	<b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> ★ ★ ★ ★					

**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

