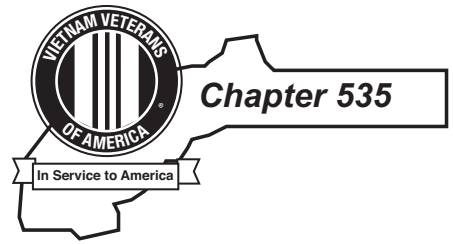




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



CHAPTER 535

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 22 Issue 6

In Service To America and the Gold Country

June 2012

President's Message

Chaired by Dan Davis, our shredding event on May 19 was a success. Thanks to Dan, Al, Pete, Dick, Margie and Jose for your hard work. The event contributed over \$300 to our treasury. Well done!

We are close to selling our entire second batch of tickets for the wood raffle. We hope to hit our target of 75 tickets and hold our second drawing shortly. Thanks to everyone who has sold tickets. If you still have tickets to sell, let's see if we can get them sold before the end of May. If you need more tickets, call Harold - 470-8507.

As mentioned in our last newsletter we have decided to not have a booth at the Fair. A lot of volunteer hours go into setting up and staffing the booth. The return for our efforts has historically been very thin. Instead of the booth at the fair, we are planning to have a series of smaller fund raisers that we believe will generate a better return. Our thought is a combination of singles and doubles will in the long run be more profitable for the Chapter. As an example, between the shredding event and our first wood raffle we have already raised more funds than we normally generate from our booth at the fair. Jose is looking into selling snow cones at the Rough n' Ready Succession Day celebration on Sunday, June 24. We'll need volunteers to work the booth. Stays tuned for more information and pray for a warm day!

At our May chapter meeting one of our members asked if we could arrange for a speaker to talk to us about mortgage problems and take questions. There seemed to be a lot of interest among the group in this topic. We have arranged for Sue Callentine, a fifteen year veteran in the banking business, to join us at our next chapter meeting on June 7. Sue is a Vice President with Bank of America - Merrill Lynch. As with all of our events, wives are welcome. I hope you will join us on July 4th for the Independence Day Parade in Nevada City. As is our custom, we will sell American flags and hats along the parade route before the parade. The parade starts at 2PM.

Ralph Remick has started working on our new website. You can follow his progress at www.vva535.org. Although only the first page is up, this will give you an idea what the website will eventually look like when it is finished. Ralph hopes to have the site finished in July.

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878

All Veterans Picnic -cancelled

The Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council decided to cancel the All Veterans Picnic they were planning to hold on June 3. With just three weeks to go before the event, there were too many unresolved issues. They have indicated an interest in holding a picnic at a later date.

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E-Waste Spring Clean Up

REMINDER JUNE 9, 2012

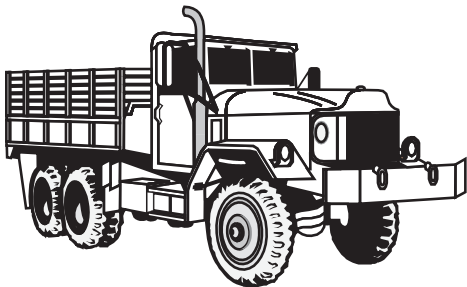
The NC Consolidated Veterans Council is having a free E-Waste Collection on Saturday, June 9, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building parking lot. Please bring any electronic/electrical items that you no longer want to the GVVMB and we'll unload it for you. If you're unable to drop off your items on Saturday or to find out what can be accepted, give Margie a call for information at 265-4878 or e-mail at <mailto:margie95959@earthlink.net>margie95959@earthlink.net. We are close to meeting our goal for the Remembrance Room improvements.

Curtains have been hung on the windows, a screen for showing movie, etc. has been installed and a projector will be installed shortly. Plans to restripe the parking lot are in the works, among other projects.



The Veterans Council meets the first Thursday of the month from September to June in the GVVMB Dining Room at 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Special meetings may be called by the Chair. The meetings are open to all veterans. The next meeting is June 7, 2012.

Margie Buhler, VVA Delegate to NCCVC



Upcoming Dates and Events

- June 7 Chapter 535 General Meeting - guest speaker Sue Callentine - Mortgages - 6PM
- June 9 E-waste fund raiser - NCCVC - GV Vets Building 9AM to 1PM
- June 21 Chapter 535 Board Meeting 6PM
- June 30 VVA Color Guard - Nevada County Republican Women Federated Alta Sierra Country Club - 6PM
- July 4 Independence Day Parade - Nevada City - 2PM



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
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Chapter 535 Web Page
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The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site
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

Men Who Have Been To War

from *Jose Gonzales*

I now know why men who have been to war yearn to reunite. Not to tell stories or look at old pictures. Not to laugh or weep. Comrades gather because they long to be with the men who once acted at their best; men who suffered and sacrificed together, who were stripped of their humanity. I did not pick these men. They were delivered by fate and the military. But I know them in a way I know no other men.

I have never given anyone such trust. They were willing to guard something more precious than my life. They would have carried my reputation, the memory of me. It was part of the bargain we all made, the reason we were so willing to die for one another. As long as I have memory, I will think of them all, every day. I am sure that when I leave this world, my last thought will be of my family and my comrades... Such good men."

Author Unknown-

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
Total	71



This Item Was In My Charlie Company Newsletter

Jose Gonzales

A Thank You to all Vietnam Vets from a Marine in Iraq

A guy gets time to think over here and I was thinking about all the support we get from home. Sometimes it's overwhelming. We get care packages at times faster than we can use them. There are boxes and boxes of toiletries and snacks lining the center of every tent; the generosity has been amazing. So, I was pondering the question: "Why do we have so much support?"

In my opinion, it all came down to one thing: Vietnam Veterans. I think we learned a lesson, as a nation, that no matter what, you have to support the troops who are on the line, who are risking everything. We treated them so poorly back then. When they returned was even worse. The stories are nightmarish of what our returning warriors were subjected to. It is a national scar a blemish on our country, an embarrassment to all of us. After Vietnam, it had time to sink in. The guilt in our collective consciousness grew. It shamed us. However, we learned from our mistake. Somewhere during the late 1970's and on into the 80's, we realized that we can't treat our warriors that way. So.... Starting during the Gulf War, when the first real opportunity arose to stand up and support the troops, we did. We did it to support our friends and family going off to war. But we also did to right the wrongs from the Vietnam era. We treat our troops of today like the heroes they were, and are, acknowledge and celebrate their sacrifice, and rejoice at their homecoming ... Instead of spitting on them.

Everyone who has gone before is a hero. They are celebrated in my heart. I think admiralty of all those who have gone before me. From those who fought to establish this country in the 1770's to those I serve with here in Iraq. They have all sacrificed to ensure our freedom. But when I get back home, I'm going to make it a personal mission to specifically thank every Vietnam Vet I encounter for THEIR sacrifice. Because if nothing else good came from that terrible war, one did. It was the lesson learned on how we treat our warriors. We as a country learned from our mistake and now we treat our warriors as heroes, as we should have all along. I am the beneficiary of their sacrifice. Not only for the freedom they, like veterans from others wars, ensured, but for how well our country now treats my fellow Marines and I. We are the beneficiaries of their sacrificed.

Major Brain I. Bresnahan

Military History Anniversaries:

May 16 1940 - WWII: Germany occupies Brussels, Belgium and begins the invasion of France.

May 17 1987 - An Iraqi missile hits the American frigate USS Stark in the Persian Gulf. 37 sailors die

May 18 1863 - Civil War: The Battle of Vicksburg begins.

May 18 1917 - WWI: The Selective Service Act of 1917 is passed, giving the President of the United States the power of conscription.

May 18 1944 - WWII: Battle of Monte Cassino - Conclusion after seven days of the fourth battle as German paratroopers evacuate.

May 19 1848 - U.S Mexican War: Mexico gives Texas to U.S., ending the war

May 19 1967 - Vietnam: U.S. planes bomb Hanoi for the first time.

May 20 1864 - Civil War: Battle of Ware Bottom Church - in the Virginia Bermuda Hundred Campaign, 10,000 troops fight in this Confederate victory.

May 20 1902 - Latin America Interventions: U.S. military occupation of Cuba (since Jan 1, 1899) ends

May 20 1969 - Vietnam: US troop capture Hill 937/Hamburger Hill

May 20 1951 - Korea: U.S. Air Force Captain James Jabara becomes the first jet air ace in history.

May 21 1941 - 1st U.S. ship sunk by a U-boat (SS Robin Moore)

May 21 1951 - Korea: The U.S. Eighth Army counterattacks to drive the Communist Chinese and North Koreans out of South Korea.

May 23 1900 - Civil War hero Sgt. William H. Carney becomes the first African American to receive the Medal of Honor, 37 years after the Battle of Fort Wagner.

May 23 1939 - USS Squalus (SS-192) foundered off Portsmouth, New Hampshire. 26 died.

May 25 1915 - WWI: 2nd Battle of Ypres ends with 105,000 casualties

VA Health Care Enrollment

A lawmaker's proposal that war veterans should be automatically enrolled in the Veterans Affairs Department health system has divided veterans groups over concerns that the legislation would strain an already burdened system and estrange those who did not serve in combat. Rep. Bill Owens (D-NY) said he sponsored H.R. 1460 to ease the transition of injured personnel to the VA health system and reduce the paperwork associated with processing out of the military. Some advocacy groups, including the American Legion and Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, strongly favor the bill. But others, including the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), oppose it. Some comments were:

"It could prove polarizing and send the message to non-deployed veterans that they do not qualify for VA health care," said Shane Barker, VFW senior legislative associate.

"Automatic enrollment of only combat theater veterans will likely be perceived as a negative decision by noncombat veterans, causing them to view it as a form of health care rationing and the government's attempt to diminish their contributions of service to their country," said retired Navy Cmdr. Rene Campos of MOAA.

Adrian Atizado, assistant national legislative director for Disabled American Veterans (DAV), said automatic enrollment could "squeeze out" an older generation of veterans who have yet to enroll but will need care later in life. And it could cause a logjam for obtaining services after enrollment, he added. "We are keenly aware of delays in timely access once enrolled, generally because of insufficient VA resources, capacity or geographic barriers," he said. At a hearing on the proposed legislation and other veteran-related bills, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee's health panel gave little indication of how they will handle the proposed bill. The subcommittee would have to approve the bill for it to advance in the legislative process. Other proposed bills under consideration by the panel include:

H.R.3016, a bill to direct the Defense Department and VA to jointly manage the Federal Recovery Coordination Program, an initiative that assigns a nurse manager or social worker to wounded warriors to guide them through their recovery and rehabilitation process.

H.R.3279, proposing to amend a law allowing VA to provide monetary assistance and services for caregivers to include those helping seriously ill veterans. Veterans groups unanimously support the latter and generally said they favor the former, emphasizing that the entire Federal Recovery Coordination Program needs better oversight by VA, DoD and Congress. Robert Jesse, VA's principal

deputy undersecretary for health, said his department has not yet formed an opinion on Owens' bill. But VA opposes the effort to direct joint operation of the FRCP, saying the proposed legislation duplicates existing requirements for the two departments to work together. He added that VA supports expanding comprehensive assistance for family caregivers to include those helping the seriously ill, but VA would need to define the term "serious illness" to determine who would be eligible. According to VA, the legislation would result in an estimated 870 veterans and service members qualifying for the caregiver stipend and benefits, at a total cost of \$45 million the first year and \$263.5 million over five years. Source: NavyTimes

Military History From Page 5

May 25 1953 - The first atomic cannon is fired in Nevada.

May 26 1940 - WWII: Battle of Dunkirk - In France, Allied forces begin a massive evacuation from Dunkirk, France.

May 26 1945 - WWII: U.S. drop fire bombs on Tokyo

May 26 2004 - The U.S. Army veteran Terry Nichols is found guilty of 161 state murder charges for helping carry out the Oklahoma City bombing.

May 27 1813 - War of 1812: In Canada, American forces capture Fort George

May 27 1944 - WWII: American General MacArthur lands on Biak Island in New Guinea.

May 27 1965 - Vietnam: American warships begin the first bombardment of National Liberation Front targets within South Vietnam.

May 27 1968 - USS Scorpion (SSN-589). Loss not ascertainable; most probable inadvertent activation of battery of torpedo resulting in a possible "hot run" torpedo detonation off Azores. 99 died.

May 29 1916 - U.S. forces invade the Dominican Republic, stay until 1924.

May 29 1945 - WWII: U.S. 1st Marine division conquers Shuri-castle Okinawa

May 29 2004 - The World War II Memorial is dedicated in Washington, D.C.

May 30 1868 - Memorial Day begins when two women place flowers on both Confederate and Union graves.

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

