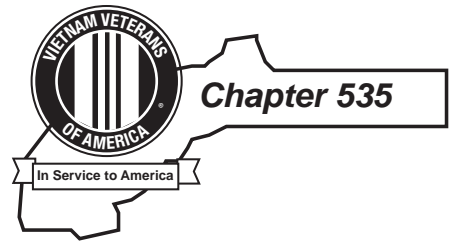




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535



"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 22 Issue 8

In Service To America and the Gold Country

August 2012

President's Message

The chapter agreed to cancel both our chapter meeting and the board meeting in July and take the month off. I trust everyone has taken advantage of this great weather.

August Speaker

At our next meeting on August 2 Ralph Remick will present our new website. Ralph has done an outstanding job designing and building our new site. The site will continue to grow as we add more material, including photos. We have a number of interesting speakers for the balance of the year; in September there will be a presentation on estate planning and in October financial planning. In November David Ray, Chief of Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, will talk about fire safety and his experiences fighting fires in California over the past two or three decades. In December Pete Conaty, VVA's lobbyist in Sacramento, and Dean Gotham, VVA's Vice President for the Northern District, will join us to give us an update on veteran's legislative issues in California.

Fund Raising

Chapter members continue looking for new ways to raise funds to support our various activities. We've sold the second batch of oak firewood raffle tickets. We'll hold the drawing at our next meeting on August 2. With two firewood raffles behind us, we've raised \$750, to refill our coffers. This exceeds what we typically net from our booth at the fair. One more batch of 75 tickets to go. Thanks to everyone who has helped sell tickets.

Total net proceeds from the sale of hats and flags at the 4th of July parade was \$189. Dave Chaix and Harold Graves were both out on the parade route with their "hat" mobiles. Others walked the parade route selling hats and flags. Thanks to everyone for their help.

In late June we sold snow cones at the Rough n Ready Secession Day Celebration. This was a new venture for us. Led by Jose Gonzales, Margie Buhler, Ralph Remick, Dales Epps, Harold and Patricia Graves (and Buddy) worked the

booth. To make the snow cones we used a hand powered mechanical marvel that Jose inherited from his father. We learned a lot about the snow cone business and no doubt will give it another shot when the opportunity arises.

Fire Safety

The combination of a very dry winter with a late spring rain that helped grasses to grow has created a forest with an abundance of dry fuel ready to burn. So far this year, the number of fires in California is well above average. A reoccurrence of a significant lightning event like we experienced a few days ago will significantly increase fire potential. Stay safe this summer.

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878

July 4th Color Guard

Chapter 535's Color Guard proudly led the July 4th parade down Broad Street in Nevada City. Pete Burelle, Chris LoPiccolo, Jose Gonzales, Jerry Molloy, David Chaix and Dick Corn participated. Believe it or not, they were all in step...well most of the parade anyway. Well done guys, you looked very sharp!

Continued on page 3

Contents	Page
Message from the President	1
July 4th Color Guard.....	1
Non-VA Facility Care.....	2
Vet Gun Control	2
Chapter Information	3
An Honorable Illusion: A Memoir.....	4
Membership Facts.....	4
Upcoming Dates & Events.....	5
Army by The Numbers.....	5
Constitution Day Parade: NC to Honor Veterans..	6
Calendar	7

Non-VA Facility Care

The Department of Veterans Affairs recently announced a change in regulations regarding payments for emergency care provided to eligible veterans in non-VA facilities. More than 100,000 Veterans are estimated to be affected by the new rules, at a cost of about \$44 million annually “This provision helps ensure eligible Veterans continue to get the emergency care they need when VA facilities are not available,” said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. The new regulation extends VA’s authority to pay for emergency care provided to eligible Veterans at non-VA facilities until the Veterans can be safely transferred to a VA medical facility. Non-VA Care is medical care provided to eligible Veterans outside of VA when VA facilities are not available. All VA medical centers can use this program when needed. The use of the Non-VA Care program is governed by federal laws containing eligibility criteria and other policies specifying when and why it can be used. A pre-authorization for treatment in the community is required for Non-VA Care – unless the medical event is an emergency. Emergency events may be reimbursed on behalf of the Veteran in certain cases. Refer to the Emergency Non-VA Care brochure at http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/brochures/Fee_Veteran_Brochure.pdf for further elaboration. There are five categories of Non-VA Care Programs. Information on each is available at:

- Pre-authorized Outpatient Care <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/preauthout.asp>
- Pre-authorized Inpatient Care <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/preauthinpt.asp>
- Emergency Care of Service-Connected Conditions <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/unauth.asp>
- Emergency Care of Non-Service-Connected Conditions <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/ecnsc.asp>
- State Home Per Diem Program <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov/state-homes.asp>

Non-VA Care is used when VA medical facilities are not “feasibly available.” The local VA medical facility has criteria to determine whether Non-VA Care may be used. If a Veteran is eligible for certain medical care, the VA hospital or clinic should provide it as the first option. If they can’t – due to a lack of available specialists, long wait times, or extraordinary distances from the Veteran’s home – the VA may consider Non-VA Care in the Veteran’s community. Non-VA Care is not an entitlement program or a permanent treatment option. VA operates 121 emergency departments across the country, which provide resuscitative therapy and stabilization in life-threatening situations. They operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week. VA also has 46 urgent care units, which provide care for patients without scheduled appointments who need immediate medical or

psychiatric attention. For more information about emergency care in non-VA facilities refer to <http://www.nonvacare.va.gov>. To locate the nearest VA medical center or clinic refer to <http://www2.va.gov/directory/guide/home>.

Vet Gun Control

Key Senate lawmakers are once again pushing legislation to stop veterans judged unable to handle their own finances from being barred from owning firearms. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) and Sen. Jim Webb (D-VA) would require that veterans first be found to be a danger to themselves or others before losing their Second Amendment rights. Today, a veteran deemed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to be incapable of handling his own finances is included on the FBI’s National Instant Criminal Background Check System, or NICS – which means he cannot own a firearm, nor can anyone else in the household, Burr said. “There are veterans, spouses, family members who are deprived of their Second Amendment rights ... based on an arbitrary decision by somebody at VA because they can’t handle their own personal finances,” Burr said 27 JUN at a committee hearing. “These people are labeled as dangerous when it may be a physical disability that may not allow them to handle their personal finances.” VA estimates that about 127,000 veterans have been put on the list because the department determined they couldn’t handle their personal finances. A similar bill has already passed the House of Representatives.

In the Senate, the “Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act” has been filed at least three times before, going as far back as 2007. The version filed in 2009 was opposed by the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, which argued that it could cause guns to wind up in the hands of unsafe people. The Brady Campaign had criticized Burr’s legislation “in light of the Fort Hood shootings.” Attorneys for the accused attacker, Army Maj. Nidal Hasan, claim he is mentally ill. Burr’s bill died in committee. Burr, Webb and others backing the bill say no veteran should lose his or her gun rights without an order by a judge, magistrate or other judicial authority competent to make the call on whether the person is dangerous. At the 27 JUN hearing, VA officials said that is not a determination made by department officials who assess a veteran’s ability to look after his finances. Tom Murphy, director of the Veterans Benefits Administration’s compensation service, said those who make the call on veterans are trained only to assess how well they’re able to handle finances. Richard Hipolit, assistant general counsel for the VA, said, “Our determination is just whether [someone] can handle financial affairs, and that automatically triggers the requirement to refer -2- their names” to the NICS list. [Source: Military.com]

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
------------	----------------

The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

www.friendsofvso.org



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.vva535.org

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

4th of July from page 1

Harold Graves and Bob Trout followed on Harold's three wheeler, with other chapter members riding a deuce and a half provided by Grant Rubino. Thanks to Craig Johnson for arranging for the truck.

As usual, the VVA and other Veterans units received a warm welcome from the crowd lining Broad Street. Thanks to everyone who participated.

This year we had six marching with the color guard. I think the largest color guard we have had since I joined the chapter in 1999 is ten. If we can get eleven marchers, in addition to the U.S. Flag, the California State Flag, the MIA/POW flag and the VVA flag, we can carry the five service flags. There were several on the truck who were interested in marching but we used the service flags to adorn the truck. Next time we'll have them available for the color guard.

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

An Honorable Illusion: A Memoir

Chapter 535 member Kurt Chismark has published his first book, "An Honorable Illusion: A Memoir" about his one-year journey into manhood as a U.S. Army officer serving in Vietnam in 1970. Kurt was the product of a middle class, conservative, Catholic family from Syracuse, New York - patriotic, religious, hardworking, and idealistic. After graduating from an Ivy League school when the Vietnam War was at its peak, he enlisted in the Army and earned his commission as a 2nd Lieutenant. After Airborne and Special Forces training, he was assigned to the 173rd Airborne Brigade to be a platoon leader, replacing one who had just been killed. His accounts of his experience in Vietnam are as intriguing, thought provoking, and relevant today as they were in the 1970's. Relive his journey that changed him forever - a journey of ambiguity, confusion, guilt, and sorrow; as well as one of courage, faith, love, and honor. You can find Kurt's book through Amazon at <http://www.amazon.com/An-Honorable-Illusion-A-Memoir/dp/1477213651> or by doing a search on the Amazon.com page for "An Honorable Illusion: A Memoir."

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.

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



Chapter 535 Snow Cone Booth at Rough n Ready Secession Day Celebration.

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	27
Applications waiting for (DD214)	
Life members	38
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	68



Army by the Numbers: As of Feb 2012

- 152 Retired Soldiers Over Age 100
- 995 Surviving Spouses Over Age 100
- 18,559 Largest Group of Retired Warrant Officers in One Pay Grade (CW4)
- 77,516 Largest Group of Retired Officers in One Pay Grade (O-5)
- 213,731 Largest Group of Retired Enlisted Soldiers in One Pay Grade (E-7)
- 236,486 Surviving Spouses
- 860,134 Retired Soldiers
- 17,175,803,014 Dollars Paid to Retired Soldiers and Survivors in Fiscal Year 2011



4th of July Chapter 535 Color Guard in Nevada City.



Upcoming Dates and Events

August 2 Chapter Meeting 6 pm

Please help us keep these beautiful children smiling



Just \$12 can sustain one child at the Vinh Son Montagnard orphanages in Vietnam for one month.

There are 730 Montagnard children living at 6 orphanages in the Kontum area and 1 orphanage in Pleiku. These facilities are operated by Roman Catholic nuns and are completely dependent on outside assistance for clothing, food, medicine, drinking water, education, and much more. *In Vietnam, these children are the poorest of the poor.*

Founded by a small group of Vietnam veterans and concerned individuals, **Friends of Vinh Son Orphanages (FVSO)** was formed in 2005 as a non-profit organization whose sole mission is to meet the needs of these very special children.

FVSO spends 100% of all donations on the children and their care givers. Your support is greatly appreciated.



Please become a member of the Vinh Son family today by sending your tax-deductible donation to: **FVSO, PO Box 9322-B, Auburn, CA 95604-9322**

Visit us on the web: friendsofvs.org or contact us at: info@friendsofvs.org

Constitution Day Parade: Nevada City to Honor Veterans

Nevada City continues moving forward with plans to honor active duty military as well as veterans and their family and friends during the Constitution Day Parade on September 9th at 2PM. Chapter 535 member Chuck Shea and Friends of Nevada County Military director John Fuller are working with military bases in Northern California and Nevada to invite active duty families to join in the parade. Fred Buhler is working with veterans organizations in northern California. Following is a poster that will be used in our community to advertise the event.

**Calling all Active Duty
Military, Veterans,
Family & Friends**



**Nevada City Honors
Your Service**

Constitution Day Parade

“Defenders of the Constitution”

**Join Us Marching Down
Broad Street**

Sunday - Sept 9, 2012 at 2PM

**Historic 1850's California Gold Rush Town - Civil War
Battles - Signing of the Constitution - Marching Presidents
Live Music - Great Food - Duck Races**



© Fred Buhler

August - 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				General Membership Meeting 6 pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Dave Chaix		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Howard Hamer		Gary Simpson				
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

