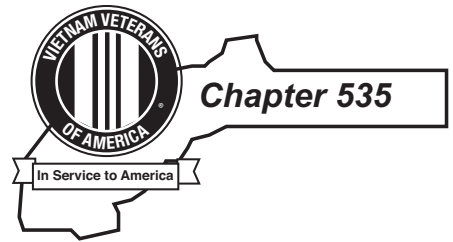




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA



CHAPTER 535

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 22 Issue 10

In Service To America and the Gold Country

October 2012

President's Message

October Speaker - David Thomas

The past four years have been challenging in terms of thinking about personal financial planning. Your house has probably lost more than 25% of its value since 2008. Gold is up more than 400% over the past ten years. During the same period the S&P 500 is up 74%. Interest paid on savings and other interest bearing accounts are at an all time low. China is set to overtake the U.S. as the world's largest economy one day and is struggling the next. European countries can't quite figure out if they want to continue with the Euro zone or let it collapse. Japan continues suffering from a financial malaise that has lasted almost twenty years. The U.S. borrowed so much money the rating agencies have lowered our debt rating, expressing concerns that we have the political will to do what is necessary to put our house in order. Many state and local governments are facing serious financial problems. We are starting to see some municipalities file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9. And if Congress fails to act responsibly before the end of the year, we are told the U.S. will go over a financial cliff!

There is no question we are in uncharted waters. At least in our lifetime we've never experienced problems like those now faced by the U.S. economy.

How should we, as investors, think about all of this? How can we protect our savings in this environment?

At our meeting on October 4th Merrill Lynch Vice President David Thomas will share his thoughts with us on these and other questions impacting financial planning in this very difficult environment. He will provide his perspective as to how investors large and small can protect their savings.

A graduate of U.C. Davis with a degree in economics, David has worked as a financial planner for 14 years. Based in Rocklin, David has customers in 19 states.

Continued on page 4

Veterans Dinner

BBQ Tri Tip and Fixings

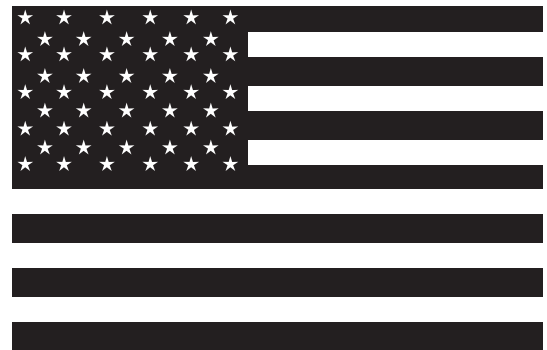
Grass Valley Elks Lodge

Sunday November 12th

Bar at 5 pm Dinner 6 pm

Veterans FREE • Non Vets \$10.00

RSVP Elks Lodge 273-9228



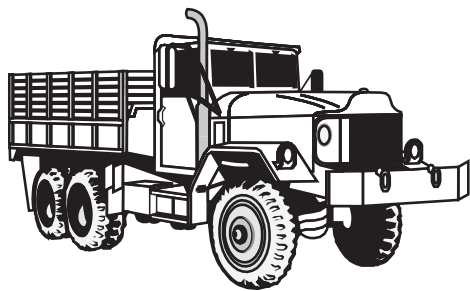
Contents	Page
Message from the President	1
Veterans Dinner	1
E-Waste Event	2
Constitution Day Parade	2
Grass Valley Memorial Park Cleanup.....	2
Chapter Information	3
Membership Facts.....	4
Constitution Day Parade Pictures	5
Stand Down.....	6
Calendar	7
VVA Application Form.....	8

Veterans Council E-Waste Event

The Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council in conjunction with CEAR is planning a Free E-waste Drop-off Event on October 13, 2012 in the parking lot at the Rood Center (Nevada County Government Center), from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., located at 950 Maidu Avenue, Nevada City, CA 95959. Our primary concerns are renovations in the Veterans Remembrance Room, the preservation of and the use of the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building. This 1930's Art Deco building is popular for Community Events such as dinner parties, conferences, weddings, sports leagues, shows, dances and other social functions held at the Building. This may include use of the Auditorium, Kitchen, Dining Room, Remembrance Room and Parking Lot.

The Veterans Council is sponsoring the E-Waste collection to raise funds for renovations of leaded windows. We request any donation of your unusable and unwanted electrical, electronic and related items which, as an added bonus, keeps those items out of the landfill and keeps Nevada County green. We will unload for you; just drive up and let us do the work.

Electronic equipment, monitors, laptops, printers, computers, televisions, cables, phones, cameras, etc. and small household appliances, even vacuum cleaners without the bag are acceptable; we're also accepting DVDs, CDs, video and audio cassettes. If unable to drop off your items or if you have questions about acceptable items, call one of the contacts below. We cannot accept large household appliances, furniture, hazardous waste of any type; no tires, batteries, pesticides, water heaters, fluorescent lights, etc. CEAR is a state approved electronic waste collector and recycler at (<<http://www.earinc.com/>>www.earinc.com) or call 916-388-1777 for recycle information. All hard drives are shredded at the secured facility which is monitored 24/7. Local contacts for the E-Waste event are Gary at 477-1533 and Margie at 265-4878.



Constitution Day Parade

The "All Vets" entry in the Constitution Day Parade was a success. The "All Vets" group came home with the Mayor's Choice award.

With "Defenders of the Constitution" as the theme of this year's parade, Nevada City honored veterans from all wars. Veterans marched with one of the following groups; World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf and Iraq & Afghanistan. We had color guards from the Marine Corps League, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars and Vietnam Veterans of America. Also joining the "All Vets" group were Friends of Nevada County Military, Blue Star Mothers of America, Boozefighters Motor Cycle Club and a strong contingent from the Patriot Guard.

To provide transportation for those who preferred to ride, we had two duce and a halves, four Model A Fords and a 1950 Chrysler driven by new VVA member Phil Condict. When WWII and Korean War vets were offered a ride, they turned us down and proudly marched the entire route! In response to publicity on the parade, there were a large number of World War II and Korean vets along the route, wearing their veterans hats.

Several photos from the parade are posted in this newsletter. More photos can be found at <http://fbuhler.smugmug.com/FNCM/Parades>. Clicking on the photo will open up a gallery of thirty five photos. See some photos on page 5.

Grass Valley Memorial Park Cleanup

by Margie Buhler

A tentative date for the Memorial Park Clean Up is October 2, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. and thereafter, the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. It should take no more than two hours.

A limited amount of cleaning equipment is available at the park's shed. If you have your favorite tool or power washer, bring them and your rubber gloves. Although park maintenance takes of the lawns and buildings, the cleaning of the memorials and the removal of graffiti that is often left on the walls needs continual attention. Cameras have been installed which has helped to reduce the amount of disrespect that the Wall and other areas suffer and the vandalism continues to be a problem.

Contact Gary Miller, MCL, 477-1533, who is coordinating the cleanup, if you can volunteer your time and efforts. The Wall area is an important part of our Nevada County military history. Changes to the proposed project will be

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

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 Dan Davis 272-4110
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 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

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 dick@dickcorn.com
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Chapter 535 Web Page
www.vva535.org

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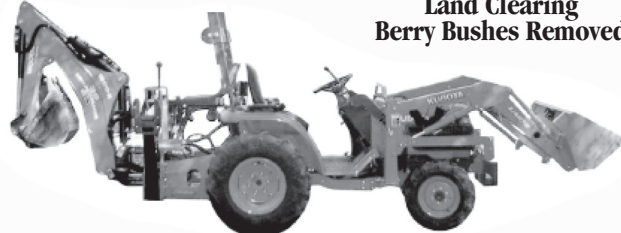


Dan Davis
 (530) 272-4110 eves.

P.O. Box 651
 Grass Valley, CA 95945

TRACTOR WORK

Bill Holman 265-8387



Not licensed by the contractors state license board

**Backhoe
 Rototilling
 Roads Graded
 Land Clearing
 Berry Bushes Removed**



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

Presidents Message Continued

Veterans Claims

At our September meeting many of our members commented they have experienced excessive delays in receiving responses from the Veterans Administration on their claims. The claims processing center in Oakland reportedly has the worst record in the system. We've initiated discussions with Supervisor Nate Beason in an effort to better understand the delays from a local perspective. We expect to meet in the coming weeks with Beason and Pam Davidson, who has responsibility for our local Veterans Service Office, to review a few cases to better understand the nature of the problem to see if anything can be done locally. In addition, we will initiate conversations with our Congressman to review the problem from a federal perspective. We'll keep you posted on our discussions.

Stand Down

Stand down will be held October 5-6, at the Nevada County Fairgrounds. Our chapter has signed up for cooking and serving breakfast Friday morning, beginning at 8:30. Jose has asked that everyone helping be at the fairgrounds by 7:15. If you would like to help, give Jose a call.

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.

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	30
Applications waiting for (DD214)	
Life members	37
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	70



We will also have an information booth, staffed by Pete Burelle. Pete can also use some help. Give Pete a call if you would like to help him with the booth.

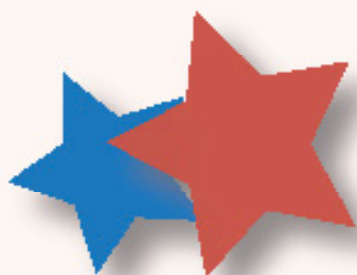


Pictures From the Constitution Parade



Nevada County All Veterans

STAND DOWN **2012**



**Nevada County
Fairgrounds**

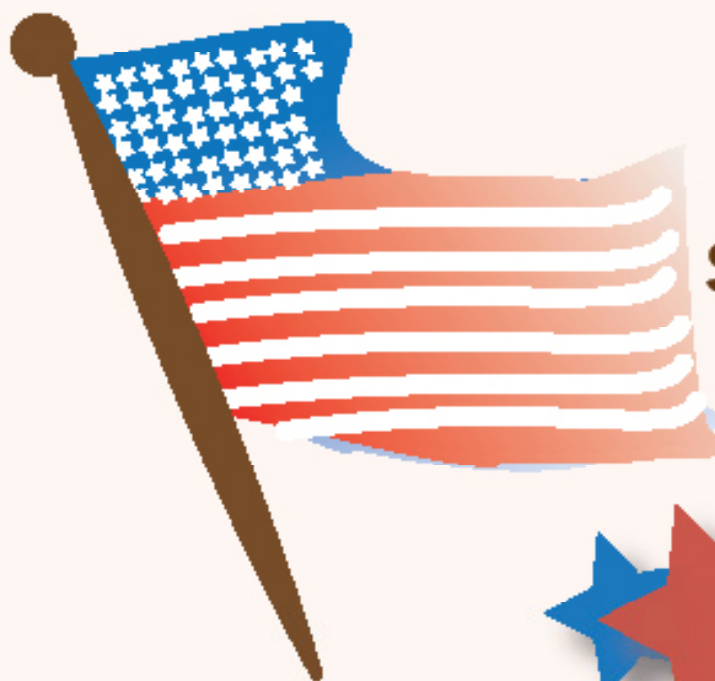
Sugar Pine Lodge Area

October 5th & 6th

Friday 8:30 to 4:00

Friday 4:30 BBQ & Movie
for Veterans & families

Saturday 8:30 to 1:00



**Veterans
Resources
Available**

October - 2012



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				General Membership Meeting 6 pm		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	 Columbus Day	9	10	Ronald Lavelle	12	13
	8					
	 Patrick Ward	16	17		19	20
14	15					
	 Wayne Reddekopp	23	24	25	26	27
	22					
21	28		 Halloween			
	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

