



INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535
 Chapter 535 Web Page
www.vva535.org



"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 23 Issue 2

In Service To America and the Gold Country

February 2013

President's Message

Board of Directors: Annual elections are held in April. Several long serving board members have indicated their intention to not run for re-election. We are indebted to them. All have served us well. The board sets chapter policy, provides direction and approves business items that come up from time to time. As with any organization, it is important to get new board members who bring with them new ideas. Otherwise we get stale. If you would like to know more about the board or would consider serving on the board, give me a call. Fred - 265-4878.

February Guest Speaker – Nate Beason

Retired Navy Captain Nate Beason is our guest speaker on February 7th. Nate will speak about Operation Restore Hope - International naval activities off the Horn of Africa in 1993. Nate's comments should be particularly interesting in light of so many hot spots in North Africa today. Nate Beason was born in Long Beach, California and grew up in the San Joaquin Valley in a blue-collar household in a blue-collar town. He was a naval officer for 30 years, rising to the rank of captain. He served in eight ships, serving as commanding officer in three of them in addition to commanding two shore activities. In 1993, he commanded a seven-ship international naval task force involved in Operation Restore Hope in Somalia. He is a veteran of Viet Nam and made three deployments to the Middle East in command of warships. After retiring from the Navy, Nate was a project manager for a 400-user computer software installation and implementation project, and he taught leadership and management skills to company executives for five years. He has a BA and an MA from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and a Master's Degree from Stanford. In 1989, he was the Arthur S. Moreau Fellow in International Relations and Diplomacy at Stanford. He was adjunct professor at U.C. Berkeley from 1995 to 1998. Nate is a life member of the Disabled American Veterans and the Uni-

versity of California Alumni Association. Nate was elected for a four-year term as District 1 Supervisor, 2005-2008 and was selected Chairman for 2006 and 2010. In 2008 he was elected to a second term for 2009-2012 after running unopposed, and was re-elected in 2012 to a third term. Nate serves on a number of advisory boards and commissions, including the Nevada County Transportation Commission and Transit Services Commission; the Area 4 Agency on Aging Governing Board, the Yuba Watershed Council, the Traffic Safety Committee, and the Transit Services Commission. In addition, Nate serves as Nevada County's representative on the Regional Council of Rural Counties, and serves as its 1st Vice Chair for 2013. Nate has been married for 46 years to the former Betty Hopkins. They have two children and two grandchildren. In addition to his grandchildren, Nate enjoys fly-fishing, reading and gardening.

Oak Fire Wood Raffle

We've finally sold all the raffle tickets for our third raffle. Harold will hold the drawing at our chapter meeting on February 7. Thanks to everyone for your help in selling tickets. As a result of your efforts we've added \$750 to our coffers.

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Chapter Pot Luck Dinners

During our Christmas Pot Luck we discussed increasing the number of pot luck dinners to four, one each quarter. When we revisited this at our January meeting, the consensus was we should reinstitute the summer BBQ, and for the time being keep the number of pot luck dinners per year to two; the Christmas Pot Luck and the Summer BBQ. Let me know if you have any suggestions as to where we should hold our Summer BBQ this year.

State of the Chapter

You will recall we started this past year with a meager balance in our bank account. We tightened up expenses and worked on fund raising. As reported above, we netted \$750 from the wood raffle and \$1944 from Victorian Christmas even though the last day was rained out.

We are exploring other ways of raising funds. One source of revenue we have is selling our inventory of pins, hats, shirts and other veteran memorabilia, valued at cost of \$4,000. If we price it right, we should be able to move this inventory.

Agent Orange

In 1990 Admiral Zumwalt presented a report to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs on the Association between adverse health effects and exposure to Agent Orange. This once classified document reveals "the federal government's effort to deny any causal relationship between the exposure to Agent Orange with veteran illnesses, disabilities, and tragically the impact on the progeny of Vietnam Veterans.

Quoting from Admiral Zumwalt's report, "I conclude that there is adequate evidence for the Secretary to reasonably conclude that it is at least as likely as not that there is a relationship between exposure to Agent Orange and the following health problems: non—Hodgkin's lymphoma, chloracne and other skin disorders, lip cancer, bone cancer, soft tissue sarcoma, birth defects, skin cancer, porphyria cutanea tarda and other liver disorders, Hodgkin's disease, hematopoietic diseases, multiple myeloma, neurological defects, auto—immune diseases and disorders, leukemia, lung cancer, kidney cancer, malignant melanoma, pancreatic cancer, stomach cancer, colon cancer, nasal/pharyngeal/esophageal cancers, prostate cancer, testicular cancer, liver cancer, brain cancer, psychosocial effects and gastrointestinal diseases.

I further conclude that the Veterans' Advisory Committee on Environmental Hazards has not acted with impartiality in its review and assessment of the scientific evidence related to the association of adverse health effects and exposure to Agent Orange."

The report was distributed to all chapters by the VVA National Chairman of the Government Affairs Committee. I forwarded a copy to all chapter members on the chapter email list. If you are not on the email list but would like a copy of this report (33 pages) give me a call and I will arrange to get a copy to you.

Vets Helping Vets - Project Dale Thomas

Our work on Dale's house and property continues apace. Our fund raiser at the Northridge in Nevada City raised \$700. John Bynes has almost completed rebuilding Dale's bathroom and has replaced over half the floors. Outside the house we've removed over two large truck loads of material that has accumulated over the years. One more truck load to go. Thanks to Junk-King who has provided the truck. Next we'll work on clearing brush to make his property fire safe.

You will recall that Dale, a veteran of both the Navy and the Marine Corps, contracted Multiple Sclerosis fifteen years ago. As a result of his illness, he is an incomplete quadriplegic with limited use of his arms. He is wheel chair bound. He hasn't been able to maintain his house for several years. A group of veterans including members of the VVA, the Marine Corps League and Friends of Nevada County Military are combining their efforts to make much needed repairs to Dale's house so that he can continue to live there.

If you are interested in helping with this project, send me an email (ddinmont2@earthlink.net) or give me a call. We can use extra hands.

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878



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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Harold Graves haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net.....	470-8507
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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
Dick Corn.....	272-5922

CA State Council Delegates

Pete Burelle, Fred Buhler (alternate)	265-4878
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Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

Finance	Ric Sheridan
Parade and Honor Guard.....	Pete Burelle
Product Sales	Pete Burelle
Food Sales.....	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	Vacant
Shredding Program.....	Dan Davis
NCCVC	Margie Buhler, Pete Burelle
Web Master.....	Ralph Remick

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

Eric	(530) 273-3396
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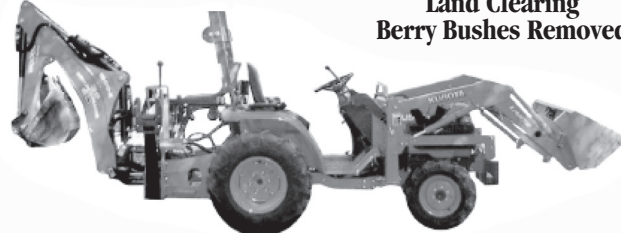
Dan Davis
(530) 272-4110 eves.

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

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	25
Life members	37
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	65





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



Veterans E-Waste Event

The Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council in conjunction with CEAR is planning a Free E-waste Drop-off Event on Saturday, February 16, 2013 in the parking lot at the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., located at 255 S.Auburn St. The NCCVC's primary focus is needed renovations, combined with the preservation and the use of the 1930's Art Deco building for Community Events such as parties, conferences, weddings, sports leagues, shows, dances and other social functions. This may include use of the Auditorium, Kitchen, Dining Room, Remembrance Room and Parking Lot. The E-Waste event is a fundraiser principally for renovations of leaded windows in the Remembrance Room. Donation of your unusable and unwanted electrical, electronic and related items keeps those items out of the landfill and keeps Nevada County green. Just drive up and let us do the unloading.

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 shred 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.

Vietnam Memorial Wall

The Sacramento Blue Star Moms in partnership with the Dignity Memorial Vietnam Wall will sponsor a display of a replica of the Vietnam Wall Memorial with panels bearing the names of 58,227 U. S. military personnel who lost their life in the Vietnam War. The travelling Vietnam Memorial will arrive at Mount Vernon Memorial Park on Tuesday, May 21, 2013. This wall is a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The faux-granite replica is 240 feet long and eight feet high. Schools and group tours will be conducted on Thursday, May 23rd and Friday, May 24th. The memorial will be open to the public for viewing on Saturday, May 25th and Sunday, May 26th.

If you are interested in volunteering at the wall, please contact Vivienne Yamamoto (bluestarmomsvp@hotmail.com or (916) 316-8602).

Mount Vernon Memorial Park is on Greenback Lane, off I-80, Fair Oaks, Ca.

At our next chapter meeting we will discuss whether we would like to organize a group for Thursday or Friday.

The Story of Air Force Sergeant with the 37th Security Police Squadron

It has been more than four decades since Earl Mansberry was nearly blown up during a fierce firefight in Vietnam, but for the Fayette County man, it might as well have been yesterday. "It's lived with me to this day," said an emotional Mansberry as he recalled the March 1, 1970, explosion that tossed him into the air as he and his fellow airmen defended Phu Cat Air Base near the coast. "Just talking about it, I can still feel my body rising off the ground and spinning around 180 degrees." The blast "felt as if someone had punched me in the back," said Mansberry, 63, a retired coal miner from Uniontown who on Thursday was presented a long-overdue Purple Heart for having been wounded in action 42 years ago in Vietnam.

A young Air Force sergeant with the 37th Security Police Squadron in 1970, Mansberry said he quickly recovered from the blast and resumed firing. It wasn't until the enemy fled and the gunfire stopped that he realized he had been hit in the back by shrapnel. "My (noncommissioned officer in charge) asked me if I needed an ambulance, but I said I would drive myself to the dispensary," Mansberry said. "I drove in, they checked me out, took some X-rays and the doctor told me I have shrapnel in my back, but it wasn't around any vital organs, so they weren't going to take it out." Mansberry said he immedi-



Earl Mansberry



Continued on Page 6

By 1970, the US course in Vietnam had been set toward disengagement and turning the war over to the South Vietnamese. President Richard M. Nixon, nevertheless, was determined to extract the country from Southeast Asia with dignity. In this regard, one of the few issues which resonated with the American public was the plight of US prisoners of war (POW) held in North Vietnam. At this time over 350 American servicemen were in captivity in the north, most of them aircrew. Nixon had been looking for an opportunity to rescue POWs, both for its intrinsic value and to “make a statement” to the North Vietnamese. Brig Gen Donald Blackburn, special assistant for counter-insurgency and special activities in Washington and an old army hand at special warfare, championed the idea for a raid at the Son Tay POW camp. When he briefed his idea to Gen Earle Wheeler, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, it was well received and he was given the go-ahead for a feasibility study.

Although there had been many previous attempts to free captives within South Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia, this would be the first attempt in North Vietnam itself. After a favorable outcome by the feasibility study, meticulous planning began with the blessing of the president. Between May and August of 1970, Operation Ivory Coast plan was finalized for the rescue of American POWs held at Son Tay, North Vietnam located about 23 miles from Hanoi. During the conduct of the mission (Operation Kingpin), Colonel Simons’s helicopter landed at the wrong compound. The remaining force recognized the problem and executed plan green and proceeded to the objective. The raid was not successful in bringing home any American prisoners because they had been moved when the Son Tay River flooded. This forced the prisoners to be moved to a new camp 13 kilometers away.

Many people in the US, particularly congress, criticized it for being another failure. But it wasn’t a failure, it saved hundreds of lives. It caused the consolidation of all POWs in Hanoi, permitting them to organize, communicate, and care for one another. Prior to the raid, the prisoners were scattered throughout North Vietnam in these little prisons, kept in isolation, deprived of food, and tortured. Almost immediately following the raid, they were collected into two main prison camps, they were allowed to commingle because hundreds of people in two places can’t be separated. They were given food and the torture basically stopped, and the rate of prisoners dying, which was sometimes as often as several a week, stopped. The estimate is that hundreds of lives were saved.

ately went back to work as a canine handler with his unit, finished his tour of duty, returned home and left the service. Back then, Mansberry said, Vietnam veterans were called “baby killers and spit on,” so he rarely spoke of his service or his injuries, which include post-traumatic stress syndrome, or PTSD. “It was rough back then, so you put it out of your mind,” Mansberry said, noting that although the BB-sized piece of shrapnel is still lodged in his back, he withheld for years details of his service from family and friends.

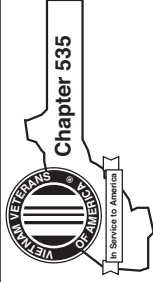
In 2009, when he retired from coal mining, Mansberry said he felt it was time to seek help for his PTSD. He joined an outreach group for veterans that meets weekly at the Hopwood Amvets. It was there, he said, amid the camaraderie of other veterans, that he felt comfortable enough to finally talk about his service in Vietnam. He credits the group’s counselor, Joel Smith of the Veterans Outreach Center in Morgantown, for “opening my eyes and understanding myself, (that) it’s OK to talk about stuff and not feel ashamed, which is what we all felt when we first came back. “I’m understanding my moods and my anxiety,” Mansberry said. “I’m not saying it stops, but you understand why it’s happening.”



Upcoming Dates and Events

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| February 7 | Chapter Meeting 6 pm |
| February 16 | E-Waste Event |
| April 4 | Chapter Meeting 6 pm |

February - 2013



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				General Membership Meeting 6 pm		
				John Spencer		Dennis Sanders
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
				Valentines Day		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Presidents Day					Patrick Kelly
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
	Alfred Meyers			Pete Burelle		
24	25	26	27	28		

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

