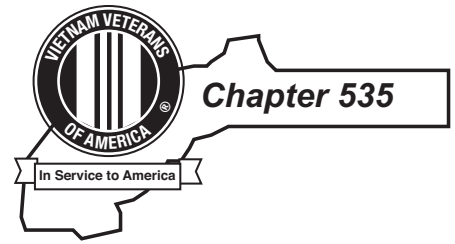




# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
**CHAPTER 535**  
 Chapter 535 Web Page  
[www.vva535.org](http://www.vva535.org)



*"It Feels Good to Get Involved"*

Volume 23 Issue 6

*In Service To America and the Gold Country*

June 2013

## President's Message

### June Speaker – Dave Chaix

During our meeting on June 6 Dave Chaix will brief us on his trip to Vietnam earlier this year. Born in Sacramento, Dave was working for Pacific Telephone when he was drafted in July 1966. He served with the 4th Infantry Division in Vietnam. Following his service, he returned to Northern California and went back to work with PacBell SBC. In March 2001 Dave returned to Vietnam for the first time since the war with a tour organized by the 4th Infantry and 25th Infantry Division Associations. Many veterans who served in the Central Highlands have good memories of the tribal people called Montagnards – a French word meaning mountain people. When the war ended, many Montagnards along with many South Vietnamese came to the United States. Those who remained in Vietnam have continued to struggle to survive for a variety of reasons.

The tour leader took members of the group to an old wooden church. Behind the church Dave and others spotted an orphanage. It was in terrible condition. All the guys dug deep and made a contribution on the spot. The group then started discussing how they might help this group of Montagnard children. Dave and his friends formed The Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage (FVSO), a 501 (c) 3 non-profit with supporters from the United States, Netherlands and Australia. Over the past twelve years FVSO has grown, and now supports seven orphanages with 830 children.

The orphanage is administered by The Sisters of the Miraculous Medal who, with assistance from FVSO, provide:

1. Primary and secondary education as directed by the Vietnamese Government
2. Life skills to ensure the children become self sufficient
3. A safe environment
4. Food, clothing, shelter and medical care.

Organizations supporting FVSO include Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 535, 189th Assault Helicopter Company, 4th Infantry Division Association (NY & NJ Chapters)

and the 14th Combat Engineer Battalion Association. It is worth noting that all of the funds raised by the group are used to help the children. Administrative and other overhead costs are absorbed by the board members. Dave will brief us on his experiences during his visit to the orphanages earlier this year. If your wife, other family members or friends are interested in listening to Dave and learning more about the FVSO, they are welcome to join us on June 6.

### 2013 Memorial Day Walk

Thanks to everyone who supported the annual Memorial Day Plaque Walk. We had a good turnout. As you know there are fourteen Vietnam Veterans from our county who didn't make it home. Their memory is honored with plaques on fourteen overpasses. In March three more plaques were placed on the Brighton Street Bridge, recently renamed the Gold Star Memorial Bridge, honoring three Marines killed in Iraq. Sponsored by Friends of Nevada County Military, this annual event is important for reminding our neighbors about the sacrifices made by our fellow vets.

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### **July 4th Parade**

The parade this year will be held in Grass Valley, beginning at 10AM. More details to come.

### **July Meeting**

Since our July meeting falls on July 4th, we won't hold a chapter meeting in July. Happy Independence Day!

### **Nevada County Fair Booth**

Chapter 535 is returning to the County Fair! The dates of the Fair are August 7-11. We have discontinued selling hats, pins and shirts. Our booth will be used for recruiting new members and providing information on veterans' issues. More information about the booth as we get closer to August.

### **Annual Bar-B-Q**

Chapter 535's annual Bar-B-Q will be held on August 24th at 3:00PM, at Harold and Patricia Graves home. Thanks to Harold and Patricia for offering to host this event. Details forthcoming. Mark your calendar.

### **VVA's Legislative Agenda**

In his remarks before the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on March 6, John Rowan, National President and CEO of Vietnam Veterans of America outlined the VVA's legislative agenda and policy initiatives. Given the many challenges faced by veterans today with a growing population of veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan, the role played by the VVA and other veterans organizations is as important today as in anytime during our history. While recognizing the progress made with the post-9/11 G.I. Bill and the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act of 2010, Rowan stated, "Vietnam veterans still have unmet needs. And we refuse to be passed by and dismissed or forgotten."

Important issues that need to be addressed include the legacy of toxic exposures to dioxin (Agent Orange), mustard gas, sarin, VX and BX and other substances. We now know there are long term, multi-generational effects caused by exposure to these substances. The VVA is proposing the Veterans' Family Preservation, Health Maintenance, and Research Act of 2013, which includes the following main elements.

- A veteran's military medical/health history as part of the electronic patient medical treatment system;
- A database registry within the Veterans Health Administration for veterans exposed to Agent Orange and other toxic materials;

- A national Center for the Treatment and Research of Health Conditions suffered by the Progeny of Veterans Exposed to Toxic Substances during their military service;
- An Advisory Committee to oversee the work done at the Center and advise the Secretaries of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs on the research, care, and treatment provided to veterans and their progeny
- An Office of Extramural Research to focus on environmental studies of toxic exposures by our troops;
- A national outreach and education campaign about toxic exposures and consequent health conditions.

In addition to the Veterans' Family Preservation, Health Maintenance, and Research Act of 2013, Rowan asked Congress and the President to declassify all documents from the Vietnam War years dealing with Agent Orange, and make them public. He said the VVA will continue to seek justice for naval personnel who served aboard ships plying the waters of Yankee and Dixie Stations in the South China Sea and the Gulf of Tonkin by getting the VA to recognize they are deserving of the same health and other benefits as in-country "boots-on-the-ground" veterans. The VVA will also continue to advocate on behalf of veterans of the crews who flew C-123 transports carrying Agent Orange. And the VVA will ask Congress to investigate why the VA has ceased providing custodial care and/or non-medical case management service for Agent Orange children afflicted with spina bifida and join the VVA in pushing the VA to provide these vitally needed services to these now adult children - innocent victims of a parent's military service. Another critical issue Rowan addressed is fixing the Veterans Administration. The unacceptably large backlog of claims must be reduced. The impact of IT projects and competency-based testing of service representatives and VA adjudicators is encouraging. However, VA "challenge training" for new raters needs to be deployed to all staff to ensure they are up to date on the current rules and initiatives. Rowan emphasized, "Management audits and assessments must be a component of annual performance reviews that are clear, specific, and success-oriented. There must also be focused and hard-hitting oversight by the Veterans' Affairs Committees in both the House and Senate, as well as in the Appropriations and Budget Committees." Given space limitations, I have covered only a portion of John Rowan's remarks. He comments on a number of other important topics. I encourage you to read his full testimony. You can find a copy of his testimony on our website, [www.vva535.org](http://www.vva535.org).

**Fred Buhler, President 265-4878**

# Chapter 535 Information Center

## Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

### Officers-Phone

**President**  
 Fred Buhler ..... 265-4878

**Vice-President**  
 Dick Corn ..... 277-8856

**Secretary**  
 Dave Johnson ..... 885-1230

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

**Past President**  
 Fred Buhler ..... 265-4878

### Directors

Ric Sheridan rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net ..... 274-1413  
 Dan Davis ..... 272-4110  
 Pete Burelle howling\_wolf28@yahoo.com..... 274-3787  
 Bill Holman bholman@succeed.nett ..... 265-8387  
 Kent Hawley..... 432-3551  
 Ralph Remick..... 272-5922

### CA State Council Delegates

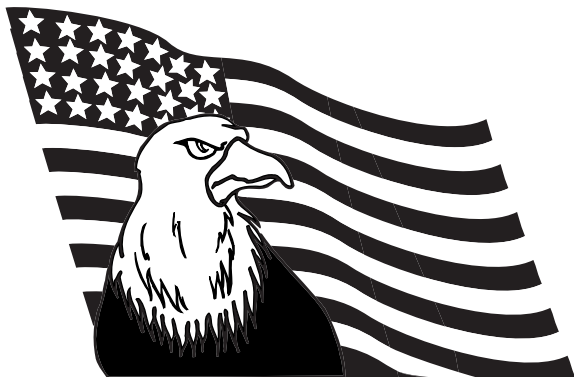
Pete Burelle, Fred Buhler (alternate) 265-4878

## Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

Finance .....Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson  
 Parade and Honor Guard .....Pete Burelle  
 Membership Affairs ..... Margie Buhler  
 Newsletter ... bholman@succeed.net, 265-8387 Bill Holman  
 Nominations ..... Dick Corn  
 Christmas Year Round ..... Harold Graves  
 Shredding Program .....Dan Davis  
 NCCVC ..... Margie Buhler  
 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](http://www.friendsofvso.org)



### Membership Facts Chapter 535

<b>VVA</b>	
Individual members	29
Life members	37
<b>AVVA</b>	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>69</b>



### Upcoming Dates and Events

June 6 Chapter Meeting 6 pm  
 July No Chapter Meeting in July



## 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

## 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](mailto: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.

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## Veterans E-Waste

Free Ewaste Drop-off June 8 2013 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building, 255 S. Auburn St by NC Vets Council and CEAR to continue renovations in and preservation of GV Vets Hall. Windows for replacement will include the window in the VVA Office. The 1930 Art Deco building is used for Community meetings, sports, shows, etc. Drop-off of unusable/unwanted electronics keeps items out of landfill and keeps Nevada County green. You drive up, we unload. Monitors, laptops, printers, computers, tvs, cables, phones, cameras, small appliances, DVDs, CDs, and cassettes are accepted. Unable to drop off or questions, call Gary 477-1533 or Margie 265-4878. Cannot accept large appliances, furniture, hazardous waste; no tires, batteries, pesticides, water heaters, fluorescent lights, etc.

CEAR, a state approved electronic waste collector and recycler ([www.cearinc.com](http://www.cearinc.com)) or call 916-388-1777 for recycle information. Hard drives are shredded at the secured facility, monitored 24/7.

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## Veteran Service Organizations

Source: *Veteran Issues Col Dan message 26 Apr 2013*

Overall, these organizations offer great service to many veterans. They provide free help with disability claims. They provide advocacy in Washington, D.C. They also assist in the health care delivery process with the Department of Veterans Affairs. Each has an executive board to manage the accomplishment of their organization's goals and the thousands of volunteers which support them. For most this comes at a cost. VA Secretary Eric Shinseki is paid \$200 K a year for his services. He also gets a limo, a driver and the rest of the medical/dental package. This compares to what is paid to the chief executive of the following top three vet organizations:

- DAV-Arthur Wilson 2011 wages \$353,519.00
- VFW- Lawrence Maher 2011 wages \$238,513.00
- AmLeg- Daniel Wheeler 2011 wages \$232,177.00

The IRS Form 990 is a public document that nonprofits are required to file with the IRS every year. These documents disclose the executive compensation and relevant expenditures as well as money from memberships, total assets, etc. To compare the top three which manage hundreds of millions \$\$ in assets refer to:

- <http://www.guidestar.org/FinDocuments/2011/310/263/2011-310263158-089a69ed-90.pdf> DAV
- <http://www.guidestar.org/>



### Vietnam Veteran Buckle

Sculptured by Chapter Member Bill Hald  
\$25

Call Margie if you would like one  
(265-4878)

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FinDocuments/2011/440/474/2011-440474290-080b13e2-90.pdf VFW

■ <http://www.guidestar.org/>

FinDocuments/2011/350/144/2011-350144250-088cb9b6-90.pdf AM Legion

To check out the financial position of any charitable organization go to <http://www.guidestar.org> and enter the organizations name in the search engine. For a different perspective of the VA, and Veteran Service Orgs check out: <http://asknod.wordpress.com/2012/08/24/vsos-a-major-conflict-of-interest/>.

## Vet Gun Control Update

Source: The Hill Post | Kevin Freking | 8 May 2013

A House panel has approved legislation that would greatly curtail when veterans deemed mentally incompetent are reported to the FBI's background check system. The move to winnow what records get placed into the database comes even as both sides of the gun-control debate have called for strengthening the background-check system. Currently, the Department of Veterans Affairs automatically submits the names of those veterans who are deemed unable to handle their own financial affairs and have a fiduciary appointed to administer their benefits. But the House Committee on Veterans Affairs approved legislation requiring a judge's order before a veteran's name is submitted to the database. Lawmakers said veterans who are not a threat to harm themselves or others should not be denied a constitutional right to buy and possess guns.



## VA Non-Service-Related Care

Source: *The Hill* | Julian Hattem | 19 Apr 2013

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) wants to change the way it calculates how much veterans are able to pay for extended care. In a proposal to be unveiled on 22 APR, the VA will announce its desire to use a different calculation method to determine whether veterans are able to cover their copayments. For non-service-related disabilities, veterans can pay up to \$97 per day for extended care. However, the copayments only apply “to the extent the veteran and the veteran’s spouse have available resources,” according to the law. The VA wants to change the definition of what it considers available resources. Currently, the agency only takes into account a veteran’s and their spouse’s assets above \$89,280 and exempts the amount below that threshold from its calculation once a veteran has been receiving care for 180 days. That dollar amount is derived from a provision calculating Medicaid allowances, but while the Medicaid limit increased with inflation since the copayment rule was published in 2004, the VA’s never did.

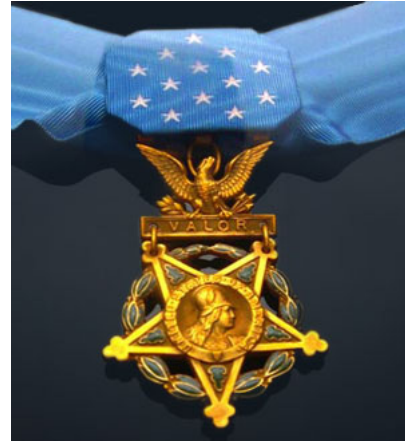
The agency says it now needs to raise that threshold, called the spousal resource protection amount, to \$115,920, the current maximum standard under the Medicaid provision. The VA also wants to tie its threshold to Medicaid’s, so that it would grow in future years. “This would ensure that the spousal resource protection amount accounts for inflation and is consistent with the comparable protections for spouses of Medicaid recipients,” the proposal states.

The agency claims that the change will ensure the family of a veteran receiving care will have more money to pay for expenses aside from the treatment. “We completely support the VA’s efforts to try to modernize their view with regard to the liquid assets threshold,” said Louis Celli, the legislative director of the American Legion. “We’re very pleased to see the Department of Veterans Affairs has taken the time to review some of their more dated material to make sure that it’s in line with current economic standards,” he added. The proposed change “will provide a greater deal of protection to the veteran and the non-institutionalized spouse during a change in circumstances that can place financial strains on the family,” the proposal claims. The department’s proposal will be printed in the Federal Register on Monday, and the VA will accept comments on the proposal for 60 days after that.



## Medal of Honor Citations

Source: <http://www.history.army.mil/html/moh/wwII-a-f.html>



The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

CORPORAL CHARLES J. BERRY  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

For service as set forth in the following CITATION:  
For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty as a member of a Machine-gun Crew, serving with the First Battalion, Twenty-Sixth Marines, Fifth Marine Division, in action enemy Japanese forces during the seizure of Iwo Jima in the Volcano Islands, on 3 March 1945. Stationed in the front lines, Corporal Berry manned his weapon with alert readiness as he maintained a constant vigil with other members of his gun crew during the hazardous night hours. When infiltrating Japanese soldiers launched a surprise attack shortly after midnight in an attempt to overrun his position, he engaged in a pitched hand grenade duel, returning the dangerous weapons with prompt and deadly accuracy until an enemy grenade landed in the foxhole. Determined to save his comrades, he unhesitatingly chose to sacrifice himself and immediately dived on the deadly missile, absorbing the shattering violence of the exploding charge in his own body and protecting the others from serious injury. Stouth-hearted [sic] and indomitable, Corporal Berry fearlessly yielded his own life that his fellow Marines might carry on the relentless battle against a ruthless enemy and his superb valor and unfaltering devotion to duty in the face of certain death reflect the highest credit upon himself and upon the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

HARRY S TRUMAN

## ***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 47 day Siege of Vicksburg begins. Casualties and losses: US 4,835 - CSA 32,697.

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 1776 - American Revolution: A Continental Army garrison surrenders in the Battle of The Cedars.

May 19 1848 - Mexican-American War: Mexico ratifies the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo thus ending the war and ceding California, Nevada, Utah and parts of four other modern-day U.S. states to the United States for US\$15 million.

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

May 19 1864 - Civil War: the Battle of Spotsylvania Court House ends.

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 1863 - Civil War: The Union Army succeeds in closing off the last escape route from Port Hudson, Louisiana, in preparation for the coming siege.

May 21 1941 - First U.S. ship sunk by a U-boat. SS Robin Moore crew and passengers allowed to man lifeboats by U-69 Commander before he torpedoed and shelled the ship. Event happened before U.S. entered into war with Germany.

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

May 22 1863 - Civil War: Siege of Port Hudson - Union forces begin to lay siege to the Confederate-controlled Port Hudson, Louisiana.

May 22 1864 - Civil War: After ten weeks, the Union Army's Red River Campaign ends with the Union unable to achieve any of its objectives.

May 22 1871 - The U.S. Army issued an order for abandonment of Fort Kearny in Nebraska.

May 22 1944 - WWII: Anzio Beachhead, Italy — Allied forces, including elements of three National Guard divisions—the 34th (IA, MN, ND), 36th (TX) and 45th (AZ, CO, OK)—begin their final push to break out of the besieged positions just south of Rome for four months. The original intent was to land behind the German Gustav Line, running across Italy about 100 miles south of Rome and rush to capture Rome before the Germans could react. But poor leadership slowed the advance and the enemy sealed the Allied forces on the beachhead. They shelled it constantly with heavy rail guns and bombed it from the air. Finally, after four months in which thousands were killed or wounded, the Allies make some headway. The breakout would be completed on May 31, with the Allies entering Rome on June 5.

May 22 1947 - Cold War: in an effort to fight the spread of Communism, U.S. President Harry S. Truman signs an act into law that will later be called the Truman Doctrine. The act grants \$400 million in military and economic aid to Turkey and Greece, each battling an internal Communist movement.

May 22 1968 - Last radio message received from USS Scorpion (SSN-589). Declared lost 6 JUN. Cause not ascertainable; most probable inadvertent activation of battery of torpedo resulting in a possible "hot run" torpedo detonation off Azores. 99 died.

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### ***June Birthdays***

6	7	Marty Martinez
6	7	Kurt Chismark
6	10	Roy Stangeby
6	10	Larie Hubbard
6	11	Joseph Sanders
6	11	Michael Gregson
6	17	Dick Corn
6	18	Logan Downing
6	24	Dave Hudson
6	24	Charles Shea

**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

