



INCOMING

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



"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 23 Issue 7

In Service To America and the Gold Country

July 2013

President's Message

July 4th – Independence Day Parade

Chapter 535 will participate in the July 4th parade. This year the parade is in Grass Valley.

Before the parade we will sell U.S. flags...the real flag made in the USA! We will also sell hats. We need help in selling flags and hats along the parade route. Meet in the parking lot behind the Veterans building at 8:30 AM. For the parade, in addition to the color guard we expect to have a deuce and a half truck for those who prefer to ride. We'll meet near the corner of South Auburn and Main Street at 9:15am. Dick Corn confirmed that we may park in the Network Real Estate parking lot on South Auburn and Neal Street.

The Independence Day Parade is always a great event. I hope you can join us.

Nevada County Fair Booth

Planning for our booth at the Fair is moving forward. The VVA is an advocacy organization, not only for Vietnam Veterans but all vets. Our founding principle is Never Again will one generation of veterans abandon another. Our top three legislative priorities are Gaining the Fullest Possible Accounting of the missing and killed in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, Addressing the Legacy of Toxic Exposures, and Fixing the VA.

Of course, without a strong membership our success at lobbying on these issues will be limited. Following the principle "the squeaky wheel gets the grease" we need to be proactive in getting our message out not only to legislators but also to the public in general.

There are far too many vets out there who have little or no knowledge as to the benefits they are entitled to receive due to their military service. And younger vets who served in Iraq and Afghanistan are just starting the journey that many of you started so many years ago. Who better to

share this message than you? Sharing our priorities with other Veterans is a great way to attract new members. Our focus at the fair this year is to provide a booth where veterans (and their families) can come in, sit down, and talk about veteran's issues and benefits. We will have information handouts available on a number of issues including PTSD, exposure to toxic materials including Agent Orange and veteran's benefits in general.

Elsewhere in this issue of "Incoming" are sign-up instructions for the booth. I hope you will consider helping to staff our booth during the fair.

August Bar-B-Q

Our summer Bar-B-Q will be held on August 24, from 3PM to 6PM, at Harold and Patricia Graves. The chapter will provide hot dogs and hamburgers. We will include sign-up information in the August newsletter. Note the date in your calendar and plan on joining us August 24!

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Change of Board Meeting Date

The Chapter Board Meeting has in the past met on the third Thursday of each month. Because of several conflicts that are coming up, I have asked the County if we may reserve the Remembrance Room for the third Wednesday instead of Thursday, for our board meeting. I expect to hear back from the County early next week but, based on my review of the calendar for the Veterans Building I don't expect any problem. Also, earlier this year we switched from a monthly meeting to meeting every other month. After trying this for a few months we find we have too much going on and have decided to go back to our monthly meeting schedule. Accordingly, our next board meeting will be on July 17th at 6:00PM. Of course anyone from the Chapter who has an issue they would like to raise with the board or is interested in what goes on at a board meeting is welcome to attend. Our board meetings are open to all chapter members.

VVA Region 8 & 9 Meeting

I attended the Region 8 & 9 meeting on June 8th in Reno. Dick Southern did an excellent job of organizing the meeting. Region 8 includes Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Oregon. Region 9 includes Arizona, California, Nevada, Colorado, Utah, Philippines, Guam and Hawaii.

The purpose of the meeting was to review and discuss the resolutions that will be presented in August at the National Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Copies of the proposed resolutions can be found at [http://www.vva.org/Committees/Resolutions/2013%20Convention%20Resolutions%20Package3\(1\).pdf](http://www.vva.org/Committees/Resolutions/2013%20Convention%20Resolutions%20Package3(1).pdf)

Also discussed were proposed changes to the VVA's constitution. Copies of proposed changes can be found at <http://www.vva.org/Committees/Constitution/2013%20National%20Constitution%20Committee%20Preliminary%20Report.pdf>

A number of candidates for national office were present. They discussed their views on where we are and where we should be going. This led to a number of interesting discussions on veteran's issues.

Always on target, Dick Southern commented, "I can't repeat this often enough: Veterans health care remains a big issue. We all need to do more outreach to veterans and educate them about presumptive service-connected diseases and afflictions. We need to encourage them to visit a service officer to file a claim with the VA and get into the health care system. Service officers are the best people to navigate the VA paperwork. If you haven't familiarized

yourself with the Veterans Health Council, go to www.veteranshealth.org."

It would be useful if we had our own service officer. Several chapters have found that having their own service officer is very helpful. There is a thirty hour training program available on line if anyone is interested. Give me a call if you are interested in finding out more about this program.

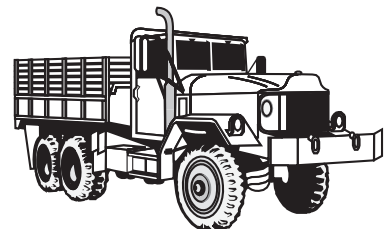
Here is something to think about. For anyone who qualifies for VA care, with all the uncertainties concerning health care going forward, if private sector health care deteriorates or becomes prohibitively expensive, as many are forecasting will happen, VA healthcare might provide a useful fallback position. This is just one more reason to get signed up.

Enjoy your summer!

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878

NCCVC E-waste Event – June 8

Thank you all who donated items to the E-waste collection events. Our 6th E-Waste Event on June 8, 2013 surpassed our expectations with an almost full bin. With the temperature hovering over 99 degrees on the asphalt in the Veterans Building parking lot, we were pleased with the response. The coffee and donuts were outstanding, but the cold water and Gatorade were the beverages of choice and greatly appreciated. Volunteer workers represented our five veterans groups and the county, all of whom continue in their efforts to give back to the community. By assisting in the fundraising for updates to this example of 1930's Art Deco architecture in Nevada County, we can accomplish a lot. The NCCVC is off for the summer and will resume meetings in September. The chapter members will be notified when a new E-waste is scheduled. Until then, please save items and donate them to the NCCVC E-Waste Events to help in refurbishing areas in OUR building. Please note that we can no longer accept CD's, DVDs, VHS, Beta, Cassettes, DAT tapes & floppy discs, no light bulbs nor fluorescent light bulbs, no Christmas tree lights, no wood. Call Margie if you have questions at 265-4878 or email at margie95959@earthlink.net.



Chapter 535 Information Center

VVA Belt Buckles For Sale:

Eagle with Flag and Vietnam Service Ribbon: \$25
 Weight: 5.5 ounces Measurement: 2 3/8" x 3 3/4"
 Eagle only (add your own pins) \$12
 Weight: 5 ounces Measurement: Same



Call Margie (530-265-4878) or e-mail at margie95959@earthlink.net

Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers-Phone

President
 Fred Buhler 265-4878
Vice-President
 Dick Corn 277-8856
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Treasurer
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 Pete Burrelle 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 Burrelle, Fred Buhler (alternate) 265-4878

Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

FinanceRalph Remick & Dave Johnson
 Parade and Honor GuardPete Burrelle
 Membership Affairs Margie Buhler
 Newsletter ... bholman@succeed.net, 265-8387 Bill Holman
 Nominations Dick Corn
 Christmas Year Round Harold Graves
 Shredding ProgramDan 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

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	29
Life members	37
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	69



July Birthdays

7	3	Armando Garza
7	4	Craig Johnson
7	8	Ken Farmer
7	8	Bill Holman
7	8	Richard Stalman
7	21	Dan Smith
7	28	Wayne Simonson

Upcoming Dates and Events

July 4	July 4th parade Grass Valley
July	No Chapter Meeting in July
August 2	Chapter Meeting 6 pm
August 7-11	Chapter Fair Booth
August 24	Chapter Picnic 3-6 PM

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

Military Lingo/Jargon/Slang:

Source: Various 14 Jun 2013

USA Academy: Cow - A member of the second class; a junior

USA Acronyms: LPCs - Leather Personnel Carriers, or combat boots. Generally used when describing a mode of travel (i.e., "We'll be taking our LPCs over to the range.")

USA Equipment: Class-As - class-A dress uniform Class-A Uniform - the dress uniform (jacket and tie) sometimes worn in office-type work, always when wearing a uniform on leave

USA Field Slang: The Sand Box - Iraq, particularly the southern part; also National Training Center.

USA Misc: Boogie Dark- Expression used in Afghanistan to quantify the complete darkness found at night there. A blackness that seems to swallow light. Used widely in Bagram AFB.

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.

USA Rank: E-Fuzzy - With the introduction of the ACU, used to describe an E-1 Private. There is no rank insignia for an E-1, and as the ACU's rank patch is velcro and goes on the chest, E-1s have the fuzzy velcro exposed.

USA Soldiers: Fast Tracker - Term used for soldiers who ascend rank/pay grades unusually quick. Can be a negative term used to denote inexperience related to leadership roles of noncommissioned officers.

USA Unit Nicknames - The Big Red One - 1st Infantry Division, from the shoulder patch.

USAF: Whiskey Charlie (Idiom): Code for "Who Cares?".

USMC: Ant farm or Ant hill - Combat outpost with a large number of radio antennae visible.

Vets: D&P - Dog and Pony show; your Compensation and Pension examination; a VA procedure where the outcome has already been decided in advance; For the benefit of the cameras.

Vietnam: Medal of Honor Recipient

ADAMS, WILLIAM E.

- Rank and Organization: Major, U.S. Army, A/227th Assault Helicopter Company, 52d Aviation Battalion, 1st Aviation Brigade
- Place and Date: Kontum Province, Republic of Vietnam, 25 May 1971

Citation: Maj. Adams distinguished himself on 25 May 1971 while serving as a helicopter pilot in Kontum Province in the Republic of Vietnam. On that date, Maj. Adams volunteered to fly a lightly armed helicopter in an attempt to evacuate 3 seriously wounded soldiers from a small fire



base which was under attack by a large enemy force. He made the decision with full knowledge that numerous anti-aircraft weapons were positioned around the base and that the clear weather would afford the enemy gunners unobstructed view of all routes into the base. As he approached the base, the enemy gunners opened fire with heavy machine guns, rocket-propelled grenades and small arms. Undaunted by the fusillade, he continued his approach determined to accomplish the mission. Displaying tremendous courage under fire, he calmly directed the attacks of supporting gunships while maintaining absolute control of the helicopter he was flying. He landed the aircraft at the fire base despite the ever-increasing enemy fire and calmly waited until the wounded soldiers were placed on board. As his aircraft departed from the fire base, it was struck and seriously damaged by enemy anti-aircraft fire and began descending. Flying with exceptional skill, he immediately regained control of the crippled aircraft and attempted a controlled landing. Despite his valiant efforts, the helicopter exploded, overturned, and plummeted to earth amid the hail of enemy fire. Maj. Adams' conspicuous gallantry, intrepidity, and humanitarian regard for his fellow man were in keeping with the most cherished traditions of the military service and reflected utmost credit on him and the U.S. Army.

VA Hires Over 1600 Mental Health Professionals

Posted on June 3, 2013 by Donnie La Curan in Veteran News

Today, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that it has met the goal to hire 1,600 new mental health professionals outlined in President Obama's Aug. 31, 2012, Executive Order to Improve Access to Mental Health Services for Veterans, Service Members, and Military Families.

"Meeting this hiring milestone significantly enhances our ability to improve access to care for those Veterans seeking mental health services and demonstrates our continued commitment to the health and well-being of the men and women who have served the Nation," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric K. Shinseki. "Meeting this goal is an important achievement, but we recognize that we must continue to increase access to the quality mental health care Veterans have earned and deserve."

As of May 31, 2013, VA has hired a total of 1,607 mental health clinical providers to meet the goal of 1,600 new mental health professionals outlined in the Executive Order. Additionally, VA has hired 2,005 mental health clinical providers to fill existing vacancies. VA has also hired 318 new peer specialists towards the specific goal of 800 peer specialists by Dec. 31, 2013 as outlined in the Executive Order. VA expects to meet that goal as well.

VA also recognizes that meeting the needs of Veterans and their families requires collaboration and partnership between VA, other federal agencies, and local communities. "Locally-driven summits provide a well-established method to strengthen our community partnerships, and they have been successful in support of VA's goal to end homelessness among Veterans," said Veterans Health Administration, Undersecretary for Health, Dr. Robert Petzel. "The President is directing all VA health care systems nationwide to conduct locally-driven Mental Health Summits to further engage with local community partners and nurture community engagement to address the broad mental health needs of Veterans and their families."

Each VA health care system will reach out to relevant Veteran Service Organizations, community based organizations, health care providers, and local governments to develop and conduct the Summits.

VA provides a full range of comprehensive mental health services across the country. In Fiscal Year 2012, more than 1.3 million Veterans received specialized mental health care from the VA. This number has risen each year from

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927,052 in Fiscal Year 2006. In addition to hiring more mental health professionals, VA is expanding the use of innovative technology to serve Veterans in rural or underserved areas. VA expects to double the number of Veterans receiving care from tele-mental health services to over 800,000 in fiscal year 2013, and has increased the number of Vet Centers, which provide readjustment counseling and referral services from 233 in 2008 to 300 in 2012.

In November 2011, VA launched an award-winning, national public awareness campaign called Make the Connection, which is aimed at reducing the stigma associated with seeking mental health care and informing Veterans, their families, friends, and members of their communities about VA resources. More information on Make the Connection can be found at www.maketheconnection.net.

Mental health professionals interested in seeking employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs can obtain information at www.vacareers.va.gov. Veterans and their families interested in learning more about the mental health services provided by VA can go to www.mental-health.va.gov.

VA Budget 2014 Update

Bloomberg News, Timothy R. Homan, 4 Jun 2013

The U.S. House voted to give the Veterans Affairs Department, which was exempted from this year's budget cuts and furloughs, the money to hire more staff in fiscal 2014. The Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (H.R.2216) spending bill, which advanced on a vote of 421-4, would allow the department to hire 94 new employees to help handle a backlog of disability claims that has drawn the ire of lawmakers. The department has 56 regional benefits offices serving more than 20 million veterans. "I will not accept any further excuses; the VA must make progress," Representative Nita Lowey, the top Democrat on the panel that wrote the appropriations bill, said. Average wait times for first-time disability claims range between 316 days and 327 days, according to a May 28 bipartisan letter signed by 165 House lawmakers.

The legislation was the first of its 12 annual spending bills to reach the House floor. It would increase resources for military veterans and reduce funding for Pentagon construction projects. The bill's \$157.8 billion total is almost \$13 billion more than current funding levels. The Veterans

Affairs Department would be given 3.5 percent more in fiscal 2014, in part to help reduce its backlog of disability claims, while funding for Defense Department construction spending would decline by about 7 percent. "Clearly this is an austere budget year, to put it mildly," Kentucky Republican Hal Rogers, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said. "Virtually all areas of the government will face cuts."

The bill would place restrictions on some funds in order to require the Pentagon and VA to develop a single system for housing medical records. The Pentagon said last month that it plans to buy a new electronic health records system, instead of building a single system to handle current and former troops' health records with the VA. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel promised to work closely with VA Secretary Eric Shinseki to develop a "seamless system," according to a Pentagon statement on 22 MAY. The measure "does not mandate the adoption of a particular system, only that it be a single system," said Sanford Bishop of Georgia, the top Democrat on the Appropriations Military Construction, Veterans Affairs and Related Agencies Subcommittee, said. "I don't think that we should get into the business of picking software." Companies including Palo Alto, California-based Hewlett-Packard Co. (HPQ), Armonk, New York-based International Business Machines Corp. (IBM) and McLean, Virginia-based SAIC Inc. (SAI) have won contracts for work on the Pentagon's existing system for maintaining medical records.

The bill would prohibit using funds for new construction or renovations to facilities in the U.S. to house individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay, creating a potential roadblock for President Barack Obama, who on May 23 said he is directing the Defense Department to designate a U.S. site where trials by military commissions can be held. Obama said that he'll ask Congress to lift restrictions on transferring Guantanamo detainees to other countries and lift a moratorium on transfers to Yemen. Obama pledged in 2009 to close the prison at Guantanamo. Lawmakers didn't include the \$185 million requested by the Obama administration to cover a 1 percent civilian pay raise. That omission is one of the reasons that the White House objected to the way the bill was written. Other objections included the prohibition on funding to house Guantanamo Bay detainees in the U.S.; and incremental funding for a military construction project at Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland, which "runs counter to sound budgeting principles and fiscal discipline."



Nevada County Fair August 7th Thru August 11th, 2013

DUTY ROSTER - Write Name and Phone Number

We need two volunteers per shift

If you would like to sign up please call Fred at 265-4878

Time:	10:00 to 2:00	2:00 to 6:00	6:00 to 10PM
8/7 Wednesday	Pete Burelle 274-3787 _____	_____	Al Hernadez _____
	Dick Corn 271-3858 _____	_____	_____
8/8 Thursday	Dave Johnson _____	Al Hernadez _____	Harold Graves 470-8507 _____
	Dave Chaix 269-1431 _____	_____	Chris Lopiccolo _____
8/9 Friday	Pete Burelle 274-3787 _____	Al Hernadez _____	Dale Epps _____
	_____	_____	Fred Buhler 432-2681 _____
8/10 Saturday	_____	_____	Al Hernadez _____
	_____	_____	_____
8/11 Sunday	_____	_____	Al Hernadez _____
	_____	_____	_____

Booth Set-Up / Tuesday 8/6 @ 9:00am GV Vets Bldg: _____

Booth Take-Down / Monday 8/12 9:00 am @ Fairgrounds: _____

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

