

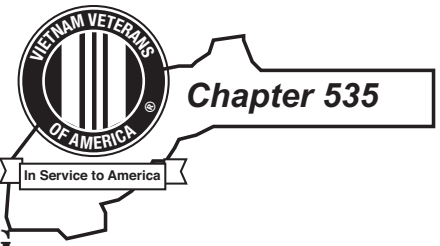


INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535

ANNUAL NEVADA COUNTY FAIR EDITION OF INCOMING

Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org



"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 23 Issue 9

In Service To America and the Gold Country

September 2013

President's Message

Chapter Meeting - September 5th - Speaker George Grayeb Retired Army Colonel George Grayeb will be our guest speaker on September 5th. After graduating from West Point in 1952, Col. Grayeb served in Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and elsewhere. He will speak to us primarily about his experiences in Cambodia.

Constitution Day Parade - September 8

On September 8 Nevada City will host the 47th Constitution Day Parade. As we did last year, the parade will be organized by period of service; World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition to local veterans groups, the Marine Corps League detachment from Susanville, the American Legion post from Woodland and Submarine Vets will be joining us. We will have the trailer with the pews for those preferring to ride. We will also have at least one deuce and a half. We are in the process of building a bamboo POW "tiger" cage. More details on this at our chapter meeting on September 5th.

Presidents Message Continued on page 5

A Clear View by a Vietnamese Immigrant

On Saturday, July 24th, 2010 the town of Prescott Valley, AZ, hosted a Freedom Rally. Quang Nguyen was asked to speak on his experience of coming to America and what it means. He spoke the following in dedication to all Vietnam Veterans. Thought you might enjoy hearing what he had to say:

35 years ago, if you were to tell me that I am going to stand up here speaking to a couple thousand patriots, in English, I'd laugh at you. Man, every morning I wake up thanking God for putting me and my family in the greatest country on earth.

I just want you all to know that the American dream does exist and I am living the American dream. I was asked to speak to you about my experience as a first generation Vietnamese-American, but I'd rather speak to you as an American.

If you hadn't noticed, I am not white and I feel pretty comfortable with my people.

I am a proud US citizen and here is my proof. It took me 8 years to get it, waiting in endless lines, but I got it, and I am very proud of it.

I still remember the images of the Tet offensive in 1968, I was six years old. Now you might want to question how a 6-year-old boy could remember anything. Trust me, those images can never be erased. I can't even imagine what it was like for young American soldiers, 10,000 miles away from home, fighting on my behalf.

35 years ago, I left South Vietnam for political asylum. The war had ended. At the age of 13, I left with the understanding that I may or may not ever get to see my siblings

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Vietnamese Immigrant from page 1

or parents again. I was one of the first lucky 100,000 Vietnamese allowed to come to the US. Somehow, my family and I were reunited 5 months later, amazingly, in California . It was a miracle from God.

If you haven't heard lately that this is the greatest country on earth, I am telling you that right now. It was the freedom and the opportunities presented to me that put me here with all of you tonight. I also remember the barriers that I had to overcome every step of the way. My high school counselor told me that I cannot make it to college due to my poor communication skills. I proved him wrong. I finished college. You see, all you have to do is to give this little boy an opportunity and encourage him to take and run with it. Well, I took the opportunity and here I am.

This person standing tonight in front of you could not exist under a socialist/communist environment. By the way, if you think socialism is the way to go, I am sure many people here will chip in to get you a one-way ticket out of here. And if you didn't know, the only difference between socialism and communism is an AK-47 aimed at your head. That was my experience.

In 1982, I stood with a thousand new immigrants, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and listening to the National Anthem for the first time as an American. To this day, I can't remember anything sweeter and more patriotic than that moment in my life.

Fast forwarding, somehow I finished high school, finished college, and like any other goofball 21 year old kid, I was having a great time with my life. I had a nice job and a nice apartment in Southern California . In some way and somehow, I had forgotten how I got here and why I was here.

One day I was at a gas station, I saw a veteran pumping gas on the other side of the island. I don't know what made me do it, but I walked over and asked if he had served in Vietnam . He smiled and said yes. I shook and held his hand. The grown man began to well up. I walked away as fast as I could and at that very moment, I was emotionally rocked. This was a profound moment in my life. I knew something had to change in my life. It was time for me to learn how to be a good citizen. It was time for me to give back.

You see, America is not just a place on the map, it isn't just a physical location. It is an ideal, a concept. And if you are an American, you must understand the concept, you must accept this concept, and most importantly, you have to

fight and defend this concept. This is about Freedom and not free stuff. And that is why I am standing up here.

Brothers and sisters, to be a real American, the very least you must do is to learn English and understand it well. In my humble opinion, you cannot be a faithful patriotic citizen if you can't speak the language of the country you live in. Take this document of 46 pages - last I looked on the Internet, there wasn't a Vietnamese translation of the US Constitution. It took me a long time to get to the point of being able to converse and until this day, I still struggle to come up with the right words. It's not easy, but if it's too easy, it's not worth doing.

Before I knew this 46-page document, I learned of the 500,000 Americans who fought for this little boy. I learned of the 58,000 names scribed on the black wall at the Vietnam Memorial. You are my heroes. You are my founders.

At this time, I would like to ask all the Vietnam veterans to please stand. I thank you for my life. I thank you for your sacrifices, and I thank you for giving me the freedom and liberty I have today. I now ask all veterans, firefighters, and police officers, to please stand. On behalf of all first generation immigrants, I thank you for your services and may God bless you all.

Quang Nguyen
Creative Director/Founder
Caddis Advertising, LLC

"God Bless America "

"One Flag, One Language, One Nation Under God"

For those who understand, no explanation is needed.

For those who do not understand, no explanation is possible.

GOD BLESS AMERICA!



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

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 Parade and Honor GuardPete Burrelle
 Membership Affairs Margie Buhler
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 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	28
Life members	38
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	69



August Birthdays

9	1	Ric Sheridan
9	2	Ronald Luchini
9	3	Joe Alietti
9	10	Glenn Frazier
9	12	Thomas Reeves
9	16	Dave Johnson
9	25	Jim Reber
9	29	Kent Hawley

Upcoming Dates and Events

September 5 Chapter Meeting 6 pm
 September 8 Constitution Parade

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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With Congress in Recess, Veterans Keep Pressure on White House

On April 15, Concerned Veterans for America (CVA) launched a White House petition calling on the President to fix the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) disability claims backlog, relieve VA Secretary Shinseki, and reform the way VA does business. On August 20th—125 days after the launch and with more than 26,000 signatures—CVA will hand deliver this petition directly to the White House.

Delivering this petition 125 days after the launch of this effort is intentional; that's how long it takes for a VA claim to be considered "backlogged." There are still 500,000 veterans waiting in the disability claims backlog, and this is unacceptable. CVA is keeping the heat on and will ensure the voices of veterans are heard.

President Obama and VA Secretary Shinseki both vowed to fix the VA disability claims backlog. Instead, despite some

minor recent improvements, it has increased nearly 2,000% under this administration. It is time for the White House and the VA to stop making excuse, hold people accountable, and start delivering immediate results.

For more information or to interview Pete Hegseth, CEO of CVA, please contact Kate Pomeroy at 703-638-3927 or via e-mail at kpomeroy@concernedveteransforamerica.org

Concerned Veterans for America is a non-partisan, non-profit, 501(c)(4) organization that advocates for policies that will preserve the freedom and liberty we and our families so proudly fought and sacrificed to defend.

SOURCE Concerned Veterans for America

The cage will look something like this.



Nevada County Fair Booth

Thanks to all who helped make our booth at the fair a success. In particular, Pete Burelle, Dick Corn, Eve Mangold and Nick de Zaparkanszky, Al Hernandez, Dave Johnson, Dave Chaix, Leeroy Hubbard, Bart Rudd, Harold Graves, Chris Lopiccolo, Richard Stahlman, Ralph Remmick, Dale Epps, Joe Sanders, Armando Garza, Joyce Yaksick, Kent Hawley and Margie Buhler. For those of you who didn't make it to the fair, here is what the booth looked like.



There were two points of focus. The first was about the chapter's local activities; our color guard, support for Friends of Nevada County Military and our support for Friends of Vin Sohn Orphanage. The second point of focus was the VVA's legislative agenda including Agent Orange, full accounting for MIA's and fix the Veterans Administration. The board's sense is it worked out well. With a couple of adjustments to improve identification of who we are, we are planning to do it again next year. If you have some thoughts you would like to share about the booth, give me a call (265-4878).

Plaque honoring Thomas W. Cranford

Most of the bridges in the Nevada City/Grass Valley area have plaques honoring service men from our county killed in Vietnam or Iraq. On Dorsey Bridge is a plaque honoring PFC Thomas W. Cranford, who was killed 09 May 1968 while serving with C Company, 2nd Battalion, 47th Infantry Regiment in Binh Long, South Vietnam. Several months ago



the city of Grass Valley asked us what we thought should be done with this plaque while the bridge is being widened as part of the Dorsey Drive Interchange Project. We suggested that at the appropriate time, we would come to the bridge to watch the plaque being removed and take the plaque to the Remembrance Room for safekeeping. That was done on August 21. It took about three hours to remove the plaque. Tedious work.



Dick Corn, Dan Davis, Harold Graves, Peter Burelle and Margie Buhler attended, along with members of Blue Star Mothers. Harold, Pete and Margie received the plaque on behalf of our chapter.

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Once the Dorsey project is finished, the plaque will be placed back on the bridge. Kudos to the City of Grass Valley and Greg Zeiss from HDR Construction Control Corporation as well as the team from McGuire Hester for the respect shown to the veteran's community.

Chapter Bar-B-Que

A huge thanks to Harold and Patricia Graves for hosting the bar-b-que. Harold reported more than twenty members and spouses were in attendance. Thanks to Jose for his culinary efforts. Margie and I were sorry we missed the bar-b-que. We were in Fresno attending the VVA's California State Council.

Hmong Anecdote

There are a large number of Hmong people living in the Fresno area. They immigrated there following cessation of hostilities in Vietnam. During the VVA's California State Council meeting last weekend, one of the vets approached an elderly Hmong woman in the hotel lobby and thanked her for the support the Hmong had provided to our troops during the war. With her eyes welling up, she replied that no one had ever thanked her before. It was quite an emotional moment.

You will recall that General Vang Pao led a guerilla army in Laos allied with U.S. forces against the North Vietnamese Army and the Pathet Lao. General Pao died a couple of years ago in Fresno. His wife, May Song Pao, who was also a leader in the Hmong community, died early August. More than 20,000 attended her three day funeral at the Fresno Fairgrounds.

Rich Stahlman recently recommended "The Ravens," a book about U.S. activities in Laos in the 1960's-70's. It is a fascinating read if you would like to learn more about Laos and our Hmong allies.

California Vietnam Veterans Memorial 25th Anniversary November 22-23

November 22-23 Vietnam veterans will celebrate the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the California Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Sacramento. On November 22, there will be a no host social from 5:30-7:30PM. Location to be decided. On November 23, at 9:00 AM there will be a POW/MIA ceremony with balloon release. At noon there will be a motorcycle ride to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in the State Capitol Park. The 25th anniversary memorial ceremony will be held at 1:00PM. There will be a pre-banquet social from 6:00PM to 7:00PM followed by the 25th Anniversary Memorial Banquet. The location for the social and banquet will be announced shortly.

Operation Attleboro

On 5 November 1966, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry, was heavily engaged with the enemy during Operation Attleboro. Company A was ordered to assist a sister Company that had sustained heavy casualties. Harold Graves was a platoon leader in Company A. Following the engagement, Harold wrote two recommendations for Congressional Medals of Honor. Both were approved. One was for Sergeant (then PFC) John F. Baker, Jr. A copy of Sergeant Baker's citation is currently in our office at the Veterans Building. The second citation was for Company A's commanding officer, Captain Robert Foley. Harold Graves was awarded the Silver Star for his action in this battle.

FOLEY, ROBERT F.

- Rank and Organization: Captain, U.S. Army, Company A, 2d Battalion, 27th Infantry, 25th Infantry Division
- Place and date: Near Quan Dau Tieng, Republic of Vietnam, 5 November 1966
- Date of Issue: 05/01/1968

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. Capt. Foley's company was ordered to extricate another company of the battalion. Moving through the dense jungle to aid the besieged unit, Company A encountered a strong enemy force occupying well concealed, defensive positions, and the company's leading element quickly sustained several casualties. Capt. Foley immediately ran forward to the scene of the most intense action to direct the company's efforts. Deploying 1 platoon on the flank, he led the other 2 platoons in an attack on the enemy in the face of intense fire. During this action both radio operators accompanying him were wounded. At grave risk to himself he defied the enemy's murderous fire, and helped the wounded operators to a position where they could receive medical care. As he moved forward again 1 of his machine gun crews was wounded. Seizing the weapon, he charged forward firing the machine gun, shouting orders and rallying his men, thus maintaining the momentum of the attack. Under increasingly heavy enemy fire he ordered his assistant to take cover and, alone, Capt. Foley continued to advance firing the machine gun until the wounded had been evacuated and the attack in this area could be resumed. When movement on the other flank was halted by the enemy's fanatical defense, Capt. Foley moved



to personally direct this critical phase of the battle. Leading the renewed effort he was blown off his feet and wounded by an enemy grenade. Despite his painful wounds he refused medical aid and persevered in the forefront of the attack on the enemy redoubt. He led the assault on several enemy gun emplacements and, single-handedly, destroyed 3 such positions. His outstanding personal leadership under intense enemy fire during the fierce battle which lasted for several hours, inspired his men to heroic efforts and was instrumental in the ultimate success of the operation. Capt. Foley's magnificent courage, selfless concern for his men and professional skill reflect the utmost credit upon himself and the U.S. Army.

Nevada County Veterans Stand Down

The Veterans Stand Down name has changed to the Health & Resource Event and will be held on October 5th from 9 am to 4 pm. at the Veteran's building 255 S. Auburn St., Grass Valley. Services provided are:

- Flu Shots
- Haircuts
- Continental Breakfast
- Full Lunch Provided
- Other Health & Veterans Resources



Military Lingo/Jargon/Slang

USA Academy: Crab | Squid | Middie - One who attends the Naval Academy.

USA Acronyms: BOG - Boots On the Ground. Number of soldiers available.

USA Equipment: Fast-Mover - A jet aircraft, especially one equipped to make bombing and/or strafing runs.

USA Field Slang: Fort Beginning - Fort Benning. Trainees call it this because of the long wait to begin infantry school. Also called "Fort Bend Me Over."

USA Misc: Dirty Bird - used to describe soldiers with personal hygiene issues; i.e., soldiers that don't shower after PT, soldiers that don't wash their clothes, soldiers with messy or dirty barracks rooms.

USA Rank: Light Colonel - Lieutenant Colonel; contrast with Bird Colonel.

USA Soldiers: Brown Hat - Drill Sergeant.

USA Unit Nicknames: BDO - 1st Infantry Division, from the abbreviation of its nickname, "The Big Dead One".

USAF: Boards out: Speed brakes extended.

USMC: Boondoggle - Project or trip on government time and/or expense which serves no purpose other than to entertain the person making it.

USN: Cut of His Jib - In the days of sailing ships, nationality and rigs could often be distinguished by their jibs. A Spanish ship, for example, had a small jib or none at all. Large French ships often had two jibs and English ships normally had only one. From ships, the phrase was extended to apply to men. The nose, like the jib of a ship arriving in harbor, is the first part of the person to arrive at a designated place. Figuratively, it implies the first impression one makes on another person.



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, \$25/mo Until paid in full
- Select Age Group** Ages 56-60 \$200 Ages 61-65 \$175
 Ages 66 and over \$150 Ages 72+ \$100

- ◆ **Payment Method:** Check Money Order Visa MasterCard
(select one)

◆ **Card Number** _____ Exp. Date _____
Signature _____

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Address Correction Requested

