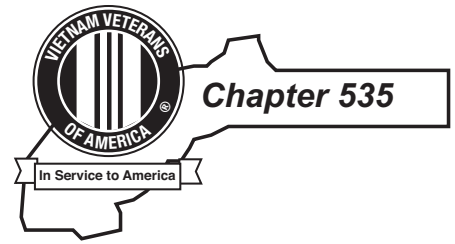




# INCOMING

## 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 10

*In Service To America and the Gold Country*

October 2013

### **President's Message**

**Chapter Meeting – Oct 3 – Speaker Dr. Ric Sheridan**  
 Born in Mason City, Iowa, the home of "The Music Man", Ric joined the Marines in 1964. After serving two tours in Vietnam he attended the University of Iowa, earning a BA in Psychology and Sociology, a Masters in Rehabilitation Counseling and a Doctorate in Rehabilitation Counselor Education. While at the University he worked as a correctional officer and mental health officer at the Iowa Men's Reformatory in Anamosa, Iowa. After earning his Master's degree in rehabilitation counseling, Ric worked as a rehabilitation counselor with the California State Department of Rehabilitation in Chico. In 1974, he returned to the University of Iowa to pursue a doctoral degree, which he received in 1978. After completing his doctorate he went into private practice as a vocational rehabilitation counselor in Walnut Creek and later in Grass Valley. In 1993 he was hired by the U.S. Department of Labor in San Francisco as a Rehabilitation Specialist. In 1997 he moved to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Sacramento, working as a Counseling Psychologist in the Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Division, working with disabled veterans. Concurrently, he served as a consultant to Vet Center professional staff in Sacramento. Dr. Ric will speak about the recently released DSM-5 (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders - Fifth Edition) released earlier this year. First published in 1952, the DSM provides a common language and standard criteria for the classification of mental disorders. In his remarks, Ric will focus on how DSM addresses PTSD.

#### **Welcome to New Members**

Let's give a hearty welcome to Bill Boling, Jim Brower and Dennis Roe who joined our chapter last month. And good luck to Tom Eberlein, who transferred to a chapter in Michigan where the winters are very cold. Stay warm, Tom.

#### **January E-Waste Collection**

The Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council (NC-CVC) will hold an E-Waste on January 4, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the parking lot of the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building. Funds raised through the

E-Waste collection will be used to help with the cost of replacing windows in the building. The list of acceptable electronic/electrical items is available from Margie at [margie95959@earthlink.net](mailto:margie95959@earthlink.net) or 530-265-4878. The non-acceptable items include NO hazardous materials or tools, lamps of any kind, fluorescent and light bulbs, large appliances, batteries, tires, furniture, CDs, tapes or DVDs, etc. We do have space for early storage of donated items if pre-arranged.

#### **Veterans Health & Resource Event – October 5th**

On October 5th from 9AM to 4PM the Nevada County Veteran's Stand Down will hold a Veterans Health & Resource Event at the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building. Veterans will be offered a continental breakfast and full lunch, flu shots, haircuts, job seeking assistance and other health and veteran's resources.

**Fred Buhler, President 265-4878**

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# Constitution Day Parade

You will recall we decided to build a bamboo P.O.W. cage for the Constitution Day Parade. When we started the project our concern was whether we could find enough bamboo in Nevada County. Finding supplies of bamboo turned out to be easy. Friends Ray Shine and George Harper gave us access to their bamboo groves. Ray's grove is so high it reminded me of "Jack in the Beanstalk." We quickly had more than enough bamboo. Now, how to build the cage? With help and wise counsel from Jose Gonzalez and assistance from Dan Davis and Margie, we worked on the cage for a week and a half, finishing it the day before the parade.



*Dave Chaix led the Vietnam Veterans contingent, with a POW flag.*



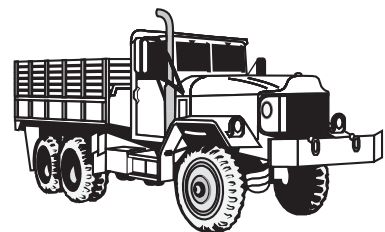
*We mounted the cage on a small trailer pulled by our friend George Rebane. Pete Burrelle, Dick Corn, Dave Johnson and Ric Sheridan escorted the cage..*



*Local actor Alvis Legate portrayed a POW in the cage.*

As we get ready to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the war in Vietnam, many in our community know little or nothing about the war. Presenting this cage is one more way to help educate the folks in Nevada County about the war.

We've stored the cage for the winter. We are planning to use it next year for the July 4th parade and perhaps include it in our booth at the county fair.



# Chapter 535 Information Center

## VVA Belt Buckles For Sale:

Eagle with Flag and Vietnam Service Ribbon: \$25 Or, MAKE YOUR OWN! Buy an "Eagle only" buckle and add your choice of insignia. They glue on fairly easily. Price for the "Eagle only" buckle - \$12.



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

## Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

### Officers-Phone

<b>President</b>	
Fred Buhler .....	265-4878
<b>Vice-President</b>	
Dick Corn .....	277-8856
<b>Secretary</b>	
Dave Johnson .....	885-1230
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Harold Graves <a href="mailto:haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net">haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net</a> .....	470-8507
<b>Past President</b>	
Fred Buhler .....	265-4878

### Directors

Ric Sheridan <a href="mailto:rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net">rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net</a> .....	274-1413
Dan Davis .....	272-4110
Pete Burrelle <a href="mailto:howling_wolf28@yahoo.com">howling_wolf28@yahoo.com</a> .....	274-3787
Bill Holman <a href="mailto:bholman@succeed.nett">bholman@succeed.nett</a> .....	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

Finance .....	Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson
Parade and Honor Guard .....	Pete Burrelle
Membership Affairs .....	Margie Buhler
Newsletter ...	<a href="mailto:bholman@succeed.net">bholman@succeed.net</a> , 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	30
Life members	38
<b>AVVA</b>	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>71</b>



## October Birthdays

10	6	Daniel Davis
10	11	Lavelle, Ronald
10	15	Ward, Patrick
10	21	Chris Kreider
10	22	Reddekopp, Wayne

## Upcoming Dates and Events

October 3	Chapter Meeting 6 pm
October 5	Stand Down, Grass Valley Vets Building

## 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

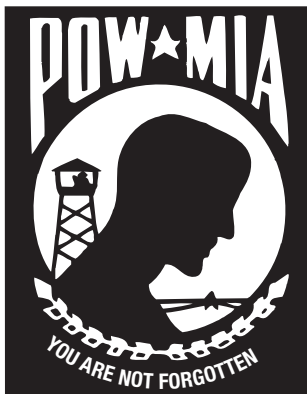
Army Worldwide Locator.....	317-542-4211
Navy Times Locator Services .....	703-750-8636
Service Reunions .....	703-998-7035
Vietnam Veterans Locator.....	319-388-9023
Veteran's Locator Service .....	800-449-VETS

### 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

## Disabled Vet Property Tax Exemption

A disabled veteran in California may receive a property tax exemption of up to the first \$100,000 of the assessed value of his/her primary residence if the veteran is blind in both eyes, lost the use of two or more limbs or is 100 percent disabled as a result of service.



## 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

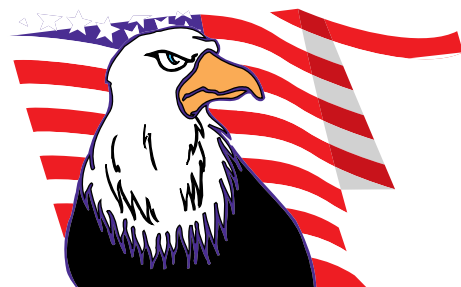
call Bill Holman at (530) 265-8387

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.

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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.



## Colonel George 'Bud' Day, R.I.P.

July 29, 2013 By Peter Collier 22 Comments



America is a poorer place whose reservoir of valor and determination has been depleted, because George "Bud" Day passed away over the weekend at the age of 88. He was a synecdoche for heroism, a military man's military man. At Medal of Honor get-togethers, his fellow recipients, all of whom had accomplished legendary feats of bravery of their own, would pay special attention when Bud Day appeared.

Bud was at war on behalf of America most of his life and never called a truce even as age and infirmity slowed him down. He was a 17-year-old high school junior in Sioux City, Iowa when he dropped out to join the Marines in 1942. He spent nearly three years in the Pacific as a member of a 130 mm gun battery, then came home to get his diploma, attend college and get a law degree. He passed the bar in 1949, but felt that the weak, piping time of peace would be a brief interlude. He joined the Iowa Air National Guard and after pilot training was called to active duty during the Korean War as a fighter jock. After two tours, he decided to become a "lifer" in the Air Force. In the spring of 1967, Day, by then just a year away from retirement, decided to volunteer for a tour in Vietnam. In June, he became commander of an all-volunteer fighter wing operating out of the Phu Cat Air Base. He and his men were flying F-100 Super Sabres as part of a top secret program to act as Forward Air Controllers for U.S. fighter bombers operating over North Vietnam, selecting targets and calling in air strikes on them.

On August 26, Day, who now had 65 missions, was directing a flight of F-105s striking an enemy surface-to-air missile site near the DMZ in North Vietnam. His plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire, destroying its hydraulics and sending it into a death spiral. As he ejected, he smashed into the fuselage, breaking his arm in three places and injuring his back. North Vietnamese militiamen below watched his parachute bloom and were waiting for him when he landed. They marched him to a camouflaged underground shelter and began a violent interrogation. When Day refused to answer their questions, his captors staged a mock execution, then hung him from a rafter by his feet. After several hours, the North Vietnamese, believing him to be so badly hurt that he wouldn't try to escape, let Day down and tied him up with a loosely knotted rope.

Four days later, as a pair of distracted teenaged soldiers stood guard, Day managed to untie himself and escape. He headed south at the beginning of one of the most remarkable episodes of resistance and survival of the Vietnam war. On his second night on the run, Day, feverish from his wounds, was dozing in thick undergrowth when a renegade bomb or rocket landed nearby. The concussion left him bleeding from his ears and sinuses and lanced one leg with shrapnel. Day collected himself and continued to hobble south, eating berries and frogs he trapped while successfully evading the enemy patrols on his trail. Sometime between the twelfth and fifteenth day after his escape — by then Day had lost track of time — he heard helicopters and stumbled toward the sound. It was U.S. choppers evacuating a Marine unit and he limped toward the landing zone. But the helicopters left before he got close enough to get their attention. The next morning, still heading south, the delirious Day was spotted by an enemy patrol. He tried to hide in the jungle, but was shot in the hand and leg. He was recaptured within a mile or so of the U.S. Marine firebase at Con Thien.

Taken back to the camp from which he had escaped, he was subjected to starvation, staged execution and torture; his right arm was rebroken. He was held in an archipelago of camps as he was moved north, finally reaching the "Hanoi Hilton."

When he arrived at the prison, his untreated wounds were infected, and he was suffering from malnutrition and unable to perform even the most rudimentary task for himself. The fingers on both hands had curled into fists; he regained some motion by peeling them back, flattening them against the wall of his cell and leaning into them with all his weight. His cellmate was John McCain, who himself had recently been nursed through his own physical nightmare. McCain, who would routinely refer to Day as "the bravest man I ever knew," put together a homemade split to help heal Day's damaged arm.

Over the next five years, Day earned his reputation as one of the Hanoi Hilton's hard men by offering maximum resistance 24 hours a day for all the days of his imprisonment. Subjected to unremitting torture, he gave his captors only false information. He provided leadership to the other POWs by his example and by his words, helping create the patriotic clan that would see them through their captivity and immunize them against anti-American despair when they came home. On one well-remembered occasion in 1971, when rifle wielding guards burst into the cell where some of the prisoners were holding a forbidden religious service, Day moved closer to stare into the muzzles of the guns and began to sing The Star Spangled Banner. The other men, including James Stockdale, ranking U.S. officer in the prison, joined him. They always credited him with sharpening their own will to resist and to survive.

Bud Day was released on March 14, 1973. Three years later President Gerald Ford presented him with the Medal of Honor. By then he was one of America's most highly decorated servicemen.

His service to his country and its military men never stopped. Working as an attorney after his retirement from the Air Force, he filed a class action suit against the U.S. in 1996 on behalf of retired servicemen who were stripped of medical benefits at age 65 and instructed to apply for Medicare. It was a fight he ultimately won.

In 2004 Bud Day returned more explicitly to the battle when he joined others in Swift Vets and POWs for Truth in attacking John Kerry's slander of the military in his unrelenting campaign for public office after Vietnam and for his dishonesty in characterizing the war. And in the years that followed, Day continued to warn about Islamic extremism and against the efforts to disarm the U.S. in the fight against the jihad whose sole objective, he said, was to "make America kneel."

A warrior and a patriot, Bud Day has now joined John Stockdale, his comrade in defiance at the Hanoi Hilton, and Alvin York, Jimmy Doolittle, Audie Murphy, and all the others, fallen now, who also wore the Medal of Honor and for whom, as Admiral Chester Nimitz said, uncommon valor was a common virtue.

Among Peter Collier's works is Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty (Workman Publishers) where he writes about Bud Day and other Medal recipients.

## **Military History Anniversaries**

Significant September events in U.S. Military History are:

- Sep 00 2013 - Third Friday - National POW/MIA day to pay tribute to the lives and contributions of the more than 83,000 Americans who are still listed as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action
- Sep 16 1942 - WW2: The Japanese base at Kiska in the Aleutian Islands is raided by American bombers
- Sep 16 1950 - Korea: The U.S. 8th Army breaks out of the Pusan Perimeter in South Korea and begins heading north to meet MacArthur's troops heading south from Inchon.
- Sep 16 1967 - Vietnam: Siege of Con Thien Began.
- Sep 16 1972 - Vietnam: South Vietnamese troops recapture Quang Tri province in South Vietnam from the North Vietnamese Army.
- Sep 17 1775 - Revolutionary War: The Invasion of Canada begins with the Siege of Fort St. Jean.
- Sep 17 1778 - The Treaty of Fort Pitt is signed. It is the first formal treaty between the United States and a Native American tribe (the Lenape or Delaware Indians).
- Sep 17 1862 - Civil War: The Allegheny Arsenal explosion results in the single largest civilian disaster during the war.
- Sep 17 1862 - Civil War: The Battle of Antietam, the bloodiest day in U.S. history, commences. Fighting in the corn field, Bloody Lane and Burnside's Bridge rages all day as the Union and Confederate armies suffer a combined 26,293 casualties
- Sep 17 1900 - Philippine American War: Filipinos under Juan Cailles defeat Americans under Colonel Benjamin F. Cheatham at Mabitac, Laguna.
- Sep 17 1902 - Latin America Interventions: U.S. troops are sent to Panama to keep train lines open over the isthmus as Panamanian nationals struggle for independence from Colombia.
- Sep 17 1944 - WW2: Allied Airborne troops parachute into the Netherlands as the "Market" half of Operation Market Garden.
- Sep 18 1945 - WW2: General Douglas MacArthur moves his command headquarters to Tokyo.
- Sep 18 1947 - The United States Air Force becomes an independent service.
- Sep 18 1964 - Vietnam: North Vietnamese Army begins infiltration of South Vietnam.
- Sep 18 1964 - Vietnam: U.S. destroyers' fire on hostile targets.
- Sep 19 1777 - American Revolution: British forces win a tactically expensive victory over the Continental Army in the First Battle of Saratoga.
- Sep 19 1862 - Civil War: Battle of Iuka - Union troops under General William Rosecrans defeat a Confederate force the most significant Union defeat in the Western Theater of the American Civil War.

**All Nevada County**

**Health &**

**Resource**

**Veterans**

**Event**

**Veteran's Building  
255 S. Auburn St.  
Grass Valley**

**October 5th  
9am-4pm**

- ★ **Flu Shots**
- ★ **Haircuts**
- ★ **Continental Breakfast**
- ★ **Full Lunch Provided**
- ★ **Other Health and  
Veteran's Resources**

Presented by

*Nevada County*

**VETERAN'S  
STAND DOWN**

**Sponsored by  
American Legion Post #130**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

*In Service To America*

Address Correction Requested

