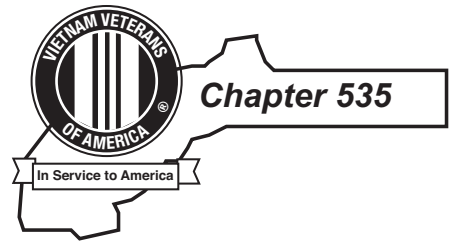




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 23 Issue 11

In Service To America and the Gold Country

November 2013

President's Message

November Speaker – Chief Tim Fike

Born in Porterville, California, Tim Fike was raised in the Sequoia National Forest where his father worked for the U.S. Forestry Service. Following in his father's footsteps, Tim joined the Forestry Service in 1981 and was selected to join the El Dorado Hot Shot Crew. He was a seasonal firefighter with the Forestry Service until 1989, including two years as a hand crew supervisor leading a crew of students from Sierra College working fires all over the western United States. From 1989 to 1997, Tim was a Type III strike team leader, in charge of five 300 gallon fire engines fighting wildfires throughout the west. In 1997 Tim joined NorCal II, a Type II Federal Incident Management Team. Incident Management Teams are multidisciplinary teams with members drawn from local, state and federal agencies to manage major wild land fires and other emergencies. During a major fire it isn't unusual to put together a force of several hundred fire fighters in twenty four to forty eight hours, all requiring food, housing, medical support and equipment. The fire fighters are routinely spread out over large areas working in difficult terrain, presenting major challenges to coordinate their efforts and ensure their safety. In addition to the firefighters working on the ground, aggressive use is made of air assets to attack the fire from the air as well as provide intelligence on how the fire is developing. To pull this off requires a well-coordinated and skilled team effort led by an Incident Management Team. Over the past sixteen years as a member of NorCal II Tim has worked his way through various leadership positions and in 2008 qualified to serve as an Incident Commander. As a member of NorCal II, Tim has worked major fires all over the western United States. The team was also assigned to Louisiana following hurricane Katrina.

Given the seasonal nature of wild land firefighting, Tim's career followed a parallel track serving with local firefighting agencies in Nevada County. In 1981 Tim signed on as a volunteer firefighter with Watt Park. He was named volunteer Chief in 1987 and converted to a full time (career) Chief in 1989. Tim led Watt Park through consolidations

with Alta Oaks and 49'er Fire Districts to create Nevada County Consolidated Fire District, today the largest fire district in our County.

Tim has been married to his wife Debra for 32 years. They have three sons, one of whom is serving with the Truckee Hot Shots, Tahoe National Forest. Following his retirement from Nevada County Consolidated Fire District last year, Tim and Debra moved to Lake Tahoe. Tim continues to serve with NorCal II and, when he isn't fighting fires, can often be found backpacking in the high sierra. Tim will speak about his experiences fighting wild land fires as a member of Norcal II.

Veteran's Day Events – Grass Valley

All veterans, their family and friends are invited to the Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11. The ceremony will start at 9:45 AM in the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building in Grass Valley. Complimentary coffee and donuts will be served prior to the ceremony. Veterans are invited to a free Bloody Mary in the Lounge starting at 11:15 a.m.

Presidents Message Continued on page 2

Contents	Page
Message from the President	1
Veterans Dinner	2
Chapter Information	3
Membership Facts.....	3
Upcoming Dates and Events	3
Chapter Birthdays	3
Vietnam Veteran Buckle.....	3
VA Veterans Canteen.....	4
Congressional Medal of Honor.....	5
Why Reinstate the Draft.....	5
Calif. Vietnam Vet Memorial 25th Anniversary	6
Who is A Veteran	7
Military Lingo	7
VVA Application Form.....	8

Presidents message from page 1

At 4:00 p.m., also in the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building, Music in the Mountains will present a special concert celebrating the 150th anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address featuring the Camerata California Chamber Choir and the VITA Chamber Orchestra, directed by Peter Nowlen. Tickets \$12.50 - \$25, are available through Music in the Mountains <http://musicinthemountains.org/event/let-freedom-ring/> . Uniformed Active Military and Youth under 18 are free.

Veteran's Day Parade – Auburn

The chapter will not officially participate in this year's parade in Auburn. Both Dick and I are helping out with the Veteran's Day celebration in Grass Valley. As we were not able to find someone to lead our group in Auburn this year, the chapter will not have an entry.

Victorian Christmas

You will recall that our booth at Victorian Christmas in Nevada City continues to be our number one fund raiser, by a substantial margin. As we learned two years ago, without this event we would be in dire straits! Victorian Christmas will be held Wednesday evenings on December 4, 11 & 18 and Sunday afternoons December 15 & 22. At our meeting on November 7 we will start signing up volunteers to either help cook the cider at the Veterans Hall or staff the booth. We need your help to make this a success.

Harold has been running this booth for several years. We need someone to join Harold this year as co-chair, to give him a hand.

Succession Planning

Our chapter board has been talking about succession planning for the past couple of months. Harold, in addition to running the Victorian Christmas booth for several years, has also served as our Treasurer for a number of years. It's time to give Harold a break. We also have a number of other slots to fill. We'll be talking about this at our next chapter meeting.

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878



Margie and I spent several days at the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque in October. This POW MIA balloon is one of three operated by Freedom Flight, Inc, a 501 (c) 3 organization committed to promoting awareness and honoring those who were/are held captive as a prisoner of war in a foreign country or missing in action. There are still 1,643 personnel listed by the Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office as missing and unaccounted-for from the Vietnam War. In Afghanistan, Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl has been captive since June 30, 2009. The group is sponsored by the VVA, VFW, AMVETS, DVA, American EX-POW's, the American Legion and others. The balloon landed just behind our fifth wheel on the last morning of the fiesta.

Veterans Dinner

When Monday Nov. 11th 6 pm

Where Grass Valley Elks Club

Veterans are free, all others are \$12.00. Stuffed pork chops with fixings. No host bar.

RSVP required by November 6th. Call 273-9228.

Late RSVP and walkins will be on standby and non vets \$15.00.

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

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 Burrelle howling_wolf28@yahoo.com	274-3787
Bill Holman bholman@succeed.nett	265-8387
Kent Hawley.....	432-3551
Ralph Remick.....	559-7716

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 ...	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

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	31
Life members	38
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	72



November Birthdays

11	19	Baird, Bill
11	29	Buckley, Willam

Upcoming Dates and Events

November	7	Chapter Meeting 6 pm
November	11	Veterans Day

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

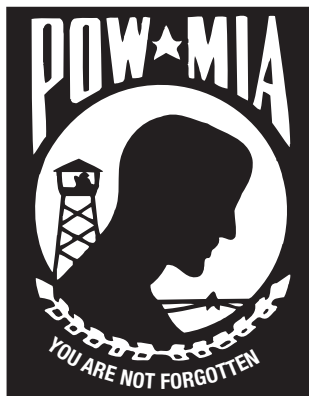
Department of Defense	703-545-6700
DEERS Information (California).....	800-334-4162
CHAMPUS (California).....	800-741-5048
Office of Management and Budget Veterans Affairs.....	202-395-4500
Small Business Administration Office of Veterans Affairs	202-205-6773

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 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 newsletter's or hearing from us, please contact Bill Holman at 265-8387.

VA Veterans Canteen Service Part Of Your Benefits

Established in 1946, Veterans Canteen Service (VCS) which includes a Retail Exchange Store was created to provide articles of merchandise and services at reasonable prices to Veterans enrolled in VA healthcare system, caregivers, and visitors. Since its conception, the mission continues as VCS provides retail, food, vending and other services, at great value, in VA hospitals and out-patients clinics across the country. Also, if you're enrolled in the VA healthcare system you are eligible to shop VCS PatriotStoreDirect 1-800 Special Order program offering over 40 name brand vendors including tires, Craftsman tools, brand name large appliances and mattresses. Call 1-800-664-8258 M-F 7:00am - 5:00pm to shop VCS special order. For enrolled Veterans who prefer to shop online, the All Services Exchange Online Store offers thousands of items at an excellent value. Shop online at www.vacanteen.va.gov/OnlineCatalog.php or call 1-800-745-9707. VCS is proud to give back to the VA community by supporting the VA's Rehabilitation Games, Fisher House, Poly-Trauma Centers for OIF/OEF/OND Veterans, disaster relief efforts and VA's Homeless Veterans Program. For more information, visit VCS online at <http://www.vacanteen.va.gov>. [Source: VA Secy Vet Group Liason Officer Kevin Secor 26 Sep 2013 ++]

Congressional Medal of Honor – Vietnam

MARM, WALTER JOSEPH, JR.

- Rank and Organization: First Lieutenant (then 2d Lt.), U.S. Army, Company A, 1st Battalion, 7th Cavalry, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile)
- Place and Date: Vicinity of Ia Drang Valley, Republic of Vietnam, 14 November 1965
- Date of Issue: 12/19/1966

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty. As a platoon leader in the 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile), 1st Lt. Marm demonstrated indomitable courage during a combat operation. His company was moving through the valley to relieve a friendly unit surrounded by an enemy force of estimated regimental size. 1st Lt. Marm led his platoon through withering fire until they were finally forced to take cover. Realizing that his platoon could not hold very long, and seeing four enemy soldiers moving into his position, he moved quickly under heavy fire and annihilated all 4. Then, seeing that his platoon was receiving intense fire from a concealed machine gun, he deliberately exposed himself to draw its fire. Thus locating its position, he attempted to destroy it with an antitank weapon. Although he inflicted casualties, the weapon did not silence the enemy fire. Quickly, disregarding the intense fire directed on him and his platoon, he charged 30 meters across open ground, and hurled grenades into the enemy position, killing some of the 8 insurgents manning it. Although severely wounded, when his grenades were expended, armed with only a rifle, he continued the momentum of his assault on the position and killed the remainder of the enemy. 1st Lt. Marm's selfless actions reduced the fire on his platoon, broke the enemy assault, and rallied his unit to continue toward the accomplishment of this mission. 1st Lt. Marm's gallantry on the battlefield and his extraordinary intrepidity at the risk of his life are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

Charles C. McPeck, Sr. Reveals Why Reinstating the Draft May Be Just What Today's Youth Need

by Donnie La Curan in Veteran News

Charles C. McPeck, Sr. was born on April 3, 1929 in the small town of Rogersville, Tennessee. His childhood was cut short and quickly progressed to an adult lifestyle. At the age of 13, Charles left home to work in the highly illegal field of moonshine whiskey.

When he turned 16, Charles talked his boss into teaching him to drive a special built 1940 Ford designed to haul 12 gallons of moonshine without the extra weight being noticed. "By the time I turned 18," Charles explains, "I was delivering fresh brewed moonshine whiskey to retailers throughout the Southern States, including Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Kentucky, Alabama and both the Carolinas."

When he turned 19, every law enforcement agency in the Deep South was intent on hunting him down. "The heat was on, so I left Tennessee and joined The United States Army," says Charles.

After 36 weeks of basic training, five weeks of Jump School and three weeks of hand-to-hand combat training, Charles found himself with the 8th Ranger Company in Korea. "I soon found that the death and destruction I had to face only added to the traumatic lifestyle I had chosen," he recalls. "By now I'm a hopeless alcoholic hooked on any mind changing drug available to me!"

Follow Charles through The Long Dark Journey of life as he struggles to overcome the obstacles of any man's worst nightmare.

His book "The Long Dark Journey" is now available for purchase. For the first 500 books sold, \$4.00 of each book will be donated to McPeeks Helping Hand, a community service/charitable organization designed to curb/prevent substance abuse among today's youth by providing alternative activity such as: Talent Shows, Talent Contest, Swim Clubs, etc. "One ounce of prevention is equal to one pound of cure!" Charles exclaims.

"Our youth are our future leaders. We have a strong military, but not strong enough!" says Charles. "If I were The President, I would work with the United States Congress and the American people to enact legislation calling for a Back-Up draft of all able bodied youth between the ages of 18 and 26 years old to spend two years in military service. All draftees, however, would be exempt from combat duty except through the present volunteer system. The military training would make better men out of boys, and better women out of girls."

While in Korea 1951 - 1952, Charles was made acting 2nd Lieutenant and later recommended for the C.M.H. He holds the permanent rank of Corporal. "After Korea I hit Skid-row. I got sober and ran for United States Congress House of Representatives, Maryland and ran again in 1970 and once more in 2000.



25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEDICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

COMMEMORATION AND CEREMONIES

NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 2013

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL, STATE CAPITOL PARK, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



November 22, 2013

5:30-7:30 p.m. - R & R – No Host Social. (Holiday Inn Capitol Plaza)

November 23, 2013

9:00 a.m. – POW/MIA Ceremony at the Memorial

Thunder Run, Motorcycle Ride to the Vietnam Memorial (Registration at Raley Field)

7:00 am – Pre-registration

10:00 am – Kick stands up, run begins

1:00 p.m. – 25th Anniversary Memorial Ceremony

6:00-7:00 p.m. – Pre- Banquet Social

7:00-9:00 p.m. – 25th Anniversary Memorial Banquet (Sheraton Grand Hotel)



THIS EVENT IS FOR ALL VETERANS AND THE PUBLIC TO HONOR THOSE CALIFORNIANS WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM

“ALL GAVE SOME, SOME GAVE ALL”

<https://www.facebook.com/events/357901990982757/>

For more information, contact:

Ken Holybee
President, California Veterans Benefit Fund
holybee@comcast.net
(707) 887-8891

For sponsorship opportunities, contact:

Pete Conaty
Executive Director, Anniversary Committee
pconaty@sbcglobal.net
(916) 492-0550

For more information, contact:

Don Harper, govia@comcast.net (916) 489-5669

John Reece, jhnreece@hughes.net (916) 764-0316

Thunder Run Motorcycle Rally

For more Information, contact:

VVA-500

vietnamveterans@sacvva500.org

(916)-481-6020

Vendors Welcome

Veteran Title Prerequisites Who is a Veteran?

Many veterans still do not know they are veterans. If you are a former or retired member of the United States Armed Forces, you may qualify for benefits from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs defines “veteran” in Title 38, United States Code, Section 101, as “a person who served in the active military, naval, or air service, and who was discharged or released there from under conditions other than dishonorable.” Being a veteran does not mean being male, or having served in combat, or even having served in wartime. Former and retired members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Commissioned Corps, as well as some other groups with World War II Service, qualify for benefits from the VA. Some examples of those with World War II service are the Women Airforce Service Pilots or “WASPS”, Merchant Mariners, and Filipino veterans who served with U.S. forces.

The definition of “active military, naval, or air service” is not as clear as one would think. Guard and Reserve members may still qualify for veteran status if disabled by injury or disease during active duty for training or inactive duty for training. Former and retired members of the Guard and Reserve still qualify for some benefits including educational benefits and home loan guaranty from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs even if not labeled a veteran under Title 38. Some benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs require a certain amount of time on active duty, a discharge under “other than dishonorable conditions”, or wartime service. Most State Departments of Veterans Affairs also offer benefits to veterans, and may have different definitions of a veteran for benefits eligibility. If you are unsure of your veteran status, check with a Veterans Service Organization or Military Service Organization. Gather any documentation you have of your service. Every veteran has a different experience of his or her time in service to America. But they all share a common characteristic: a veteran is someone who, at one point, wrote a blank check made payable to The United States of America for an amount of ‘up to and including their life.’ [Source: MOAA Claims Assistance Blog | Lauren Kologe |



Military Lingo/Jargon/Slang

USA Academy Goat

A cadet in the lower sections; a cadet near the bottom of the class.

USA Acronyms WOPA

Warrant Officer Protection Agency. An informal tongue-in-cheek reference to the fraternal tendencies of the Warrant Officer Corps.

USA Field Slang: The Suck

A situation that places a soldier in a ridiculous position of misery or in harms way. Used as Jarhead's tagline.

USA Misc: Combat

Used in lieu of a soldier's name to get their attention; i.e., "Hey Combat, get over here."

USA Rank: Mosquito Wings

E-2 rank insignia (one chevron, looks like a ^).

USA Soldiers: Dirt Dart

USAF term for a paratrooper.

USAF: File 13

An aircraft's garbage can.

USMC: Barracks rat

Marine who rarely leaves base housing unless ordered to.

USN: Flying-Fish Sailor

Old Navy slang to differentiate between a seaman on duty in Asiatic waters, and one in a Mediterranean squadron.



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

