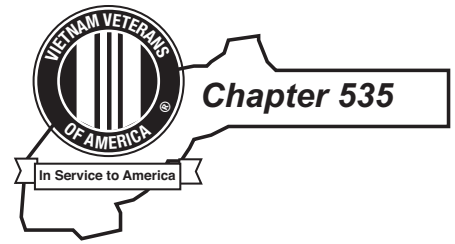




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 23 Issue 12

In Service To America and the Gold Country

December 2013

President's Message

Christmas Pot Luck Dinner – December 5

Our Chapter's annual Christmas Pot Luck Dinner will be held on December 5th beginning at 6:00 PM in the dining room at the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building. Make a reservation by calling Ric Sheridan at 274-1413.

I hope you can join us.

Fund Raiser – Victorian Christmas Booth

Each December we have a booth at the Victorian Christmas to raise funds for our chapter. Although we are seeking new ways to raise funds, Victorian Christmas continues to be our main fund raiser. Without Victorian Christmas, we quickly run out of funds. Victorian Christmas will be held this year on Wednesday evenings, December 4, 11 & 18 and Sunday afternoons, December 15 & 22.

Harold Graves has been running this booth for several years. We need someone to join Harold this year as co-chair, to give him a hand. We also need volunteers to help cook the cider at the Veterans Hall before the event as well as volunteers to staff the booth.



Many hands make light work!

If you are interested in helping out, please call Harold at 470-8507.

Future Fund Raising and Other Strategic Questions

From time to time questions are raised about fund raising. What ideas can we come up with to improve our fund raising efforts, perhaps replacing Victorian Christmas with other projects to fund our chapter? We are also trying to

figure out how to do a better job of increasing membership. Over the past couple of years we've added eight new members and have increased participation in our meetings. You will recall we changed the format for our meetings. We've also changed the focus of our booth at the fair, replacing sales of memorabilia with an information booth. What else should we be doing? At our board meeting on January 15th Al Sickle, VVA Director-at-Large for California, will join us for a strategic discussion on these issues. Our board meetings are open to all members.

I hope you will consider joining this discussion about the future direction of the chapter.

World War II Memorial

A few days ago Margie and I attended the First Congressional District Veterans Council in Chico. A WWII submarine vet briefed the group on his recent trip to Washington DC on an Honor Flight to visit the World War II Memorial. The WWII vets on his flight had heard the Memorial might be closed. They were fired up and ready to retake the memo-

Presidents Message Continued on page 2

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rial! Given their experiences in WWII, this was a piece of cake. When their bus arrived, the memorial was closed. Standing in front of the barrier with wire clippers in hand was Congressman Doug LaMalfa, ready to join the vets. With Doug's help they breached the barrier and took over the Memorial! Later that afternoon our submarine vet friend visited the Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue. Waiting for them at that memorial was Senator Ted Cruz. At least these two patriots have their priorities right.

First Congressional District Veterans Council Meeting

The principle focus of the Council continues to be problems with the Veterans Administration. The good news is this is a bi-partisan issue. Representatives from both sides of the isle are joining together to put pressure on the VA to address a multitude of problems. On December 12th Congressman LaMalfa and other Northern California Representatives will meet with VA Undersecretary Allison Hickey to discuss the backlog of claims at Oakland and other concerns.

This was the second meeting of the Council, formed by LaMalfa earlier this year. In addition to providing advice to Congressman LaMalfa on veteran's issues, the group also provides a forum for veterans to share information with each other on both problems and solutions to challenges faced by veterans residing in the district.

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878



Veterans E-Waste Event

January 4, 2014



The Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council partnering with CEAR is planning a Free E-waste Drop-off fundraiser on Saturday, January 4, 2014 in the parking lot at the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at 255 S. Auburn St. The NCCVC's primary focus is to continue cost-saving renovations, the preservation and the use of this 1930's Art Deco building. The building is available for Community social functions such as parties, conferences, weddings, sports leagues, shows, dances and other events. This includes use of the Auditorium, Kitchen, Dining Room, Remembrance Room and Parking Lot as needed.

Donations of your unusable and unwanted electrical, electronic and related items keep those items out of the landfill and keep Nevada County green. Just drive up and let us do the unloading.

Electronic equipment, monitors, laptops, printers, computers, televisions, cables, phones, cameras, etc. and small household appliances, even vacuum cleaners without the bag are acceptable. If unable to drop off your items or if you have questions about acceptable items, call one of the contacts below. We cannot accept large household appliances, furniture, hazardous waste of any type; no tires, batteries, pesticides, water heaters, fluorescent lights, etc.

CEAR is a state approved electronic waste collector and recycler at (www.cearinc.com) or call 916-388-1777 for recycle information. All hard drives are shred at the secured facility which is monitored 24/7. Local contacts for the E-Waste event are Gary at 477-1533 and Margie at 265-4878.



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



December Birthdays

12	21	Cilurso, Al
12	27	Hess, Gary

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



Upcoming Dates and Events

December	4	Victorian Cider Booth
December	5	Chapter Christmas Dinner 6 pm
December	11	Victorian Cider Booth
December	15	Victorian Cider Booth
December	18	Victorian Cider Booth
December	22	Victorian Cider Booth

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

Pledge Of Allegiance

A Little History

The Pledge of Allegiance of the United States is an expression of loyalty to the federal flag and the republic of the United States of America, originally composed by Francis Bellamy, who was a Baptist minister and Christian socialist, in August 1892. The original "Pledge of Allegiance" was published in the 8 SEP issue of the popular children's magazine *The Youth's Companion* as part of the National Public

School Celebration of Columbus Day, a celebration of the 400th anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the Americas. The event was conceived and promoted by James B. Upham, a marketer for the magazine, as a campaign to instill the idea of American nationalism by selling flags to public schools and magazines to students. According to author Margarette S. Miller this was in line with Upham's vision which he "would often say to his wife: 'Mary, if I can instill into the minds of our American youth a love for their country and the principles on which it was founded, and create in them an ambition to carry on with

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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the ideals which the early founders wrote into The Constitution, I shall not have lived in vain."

The Pledge was supposed to be quick and to the point. Bellamy designed it to be recited in 15 seconds. As a socialist, he had initially also considered using the words equality and fraternity but decided against it knowing that the state superintendents of education on his committee were against equality for women and African Americans. In Bellamy's recollection of the creation of the Pledge, he recalled "At the beginning of the nineties patriotism and national feeling was at a low ebb. The patriotic ardor of the Civil War was an old story...The time was ripe for a reawakening of simple Americanism and the leaders in the new movement rightly felt that patriotic education should begin in the public schools." James Upham "felt that a flag should be on every schoolhouse", so the publication "fostered a plan of selling flags to schools through the children themselves at cost, which was so successful that 25,000 schools acquired flags in one year.

The Pledge was formally adopted by Congress as the pledge in 1942. Congressional sessions open with the recital of the Pledge, as do many government meetings at local levels, and meetings held by many private organizations.

Vietnam Facts vs Fiction

Nick Bacon

First Sargent, US Army, Ret Medal of Honor Recipient

For over 30 years I... like many Vietnam veterans....seldom spoke of Vietnam, except with other veterans, when training soldiers, and in public speeches. These past five years I have joined the hundreds of thousands who believe it is high time the truth be told about the Vietnam War and the people who served there. It's time the American people learn that the United States military did not lose the War, and that a surprisingly high number of people who claim to have served there, in fact, DID NOT. As Americans support the men and women involved in the War on Terrorism, the mainstream media are once again working tirelessly to undermine their efforts and force a psychological loss or stalemate for the United States. We cannot stand by and let the media do to today's warriors what they did to us 35 years ago. Below are some assembled facts most readers will find interesting. It isn't a long read, but it will....I guarantee....teach you some things you did not know about the Vietnam War and those who served, fought, or died there. Please share it with those with whom you communicate.

Vietnam War Facts, Statistics, Fake Warrior Numbers, and Myths Dispelled:

9,087,000 military personnel served on active duty during the official Vietnam era from August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975

- 2,709,918 Americans served in uniform in Vietnam.
- Vietnam Veterans represented 9.7% of their generation.
- 240 men were awarded the Medal of Honor during the Vietnam War.
- The first man to die in Vietnam was James Davis, in 1958. He was with the 509th Radio Research Station. Davis Station in Saigon was named for him.
- 58,148 were killed in Vietnam.
- 75,000 were severely disabled.
- 23,214 were 100% disabled.
- 5,283 lost limbs.
- 1,081 sustained multiple amputations.
- Of those killed, 61% were younger than 21.

- 11,465 of those killed were younger than 20 years old.
- Of those killed, 17,539 were married.
- Average age of men killed: 23.1 years.
- Five men killed in Vietnam were only 16 years old.
- The oldest man killed was 62 years old.
- As of January 15, 2004, there are 1,875 Americans still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.
- 97% of Vietnam Veterans were honorably discharged.
- 91% of Vietnam Veterans say they are glad they served.
- 74% say they would serve again, even knowing the outcome.
- Vietnam veterans have a lower unemployment rate than the same non-vet age groups.
- Vietnam veteran's personal income exceeds that of our non-veteran age group by more than 18 percent.
- 87% of Americans hold Vietnam Veterans in high esteem.
- There is no difference in drug usage between Vietnam Veterans and non-Vietnam Veterans of the same age group (Source: Veterans Administration Study).
- Vietnam Veterans are less likely to be in prison - only one-half of one percent of Vietnam Veterans have been jailed for crimes.
- 85% of Vietnam Veterans made successful transitions to civilian life.

Interesting Census Stats and Been There Wannabes: 1,713,823 of those who served in Vietnam were still alive as of August, 1995 (census figures). During that same census count, the number of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country was: 9,492,958. As of the current Census taken during August, 2000, the surviving U.S. Vietnam Veteran population estimate is: 1,002,511. This is hard to believe, losing nearly 711,000 between 95 and 00. That's 390 per day. During this Census count, the number

of Americans falsely claiming to have served in-country is: 13,853,027. By this census, FOUR OUT OF FIVE WHO CLAIM TO BE VIETNAM VETS ARE NOT. The Department of Defense Vietnam War Service Index officially provided by The War Library originally reported with errors that 2,709,918 U.S. military personnel as having served in-country. Corrections and confirmations to this errored index resulted in the addition of 358 U.S. military personnel confirmed to have served in Vietnam but not originally listed by the Department of Defense. (All names are currently on file and accessible 24/7/365).

Isolated atrocities committed by American Soldiers produced torrents of outrage from anti-war critics and the news media while Communist atrocities were so common that they received hardly any media mention at all. The United States sought to minimize and prevent attacks on civilians while North Vietnam made attacks on civilians a centerpiece of its strategy. Americans who deliberately killed civilians received prison sentences while Communists who did so received commendations. From 1957 to 1973, the National Liberation Front assassinated 36,725 Vietnamese and abducted another 58,499. The death squads focused on leaders at the village level and on anyone who improved the lives of the peasants such as medical personnel, social workers, and school teachers. - Nixon Presidential Papers

Myth: Common Belief is that most Vietnam veterans were drafted. Fact: 2/3 of the men who served in Vietnam were volunteers. 2/3 of the men who served in World War II were drafted. Approximately 70% of those killed in Vietnam were volunteers.

Myth: The media have reported that suicides among Vietnam veterans range from 50,000 to 100,000 - 6 to 11 times the non-Vietnam veteran population. Fact: Mortality studies show that 9,000 is a better estimate. The CDC Vietnam Experience Study Mortality Assessment showed that during the first 5 years after discharge, deaths from suicide were 1.7 times more likely among Vietnam veterans than non-Vietnam veterans. After that initial post-service period, Vietnam veterans were no more likely to die from suicide than non-Vietnam veterans. In fact, after the 5-year post-service period, the rate of suicides is less in the Vietnam veterans group.

Myth: Common belief is that a disproportionate number of blacks were killed in the Vietnam War. Fact: 86% of the men who died in Vietnam were Caucasians, 12.5% were black, 1.2% were other races. Sociologists Charles C. Moskos and John Sibley Butler, in their recently published book *All That We Can Be*, said they analyzed the claim that blacks were used like cannon fodder during Vietnam and can report definitely that this charge is untrue. Black fatalities amounted to 12 percent of all Americans killed

in Southeast Asia - a figure proportional to the number of blacks in the U.S. population at the time and slightly lower than the proportion of blacks in the Army at the close of the war.

Myth: Common belief is that the war was fought largely by the poor and uneducated.

Fact: Servicemen who went to Vietnam from well-to-do areas had a slightly elevated risk of dying because they were more likely to be pilots or infantry officers. Vietnam Veterans were the best educated forces our nation had ever sent into combat. 79% had a high school education or better. Statistics from the Combat Area Casualty File (CACF) as of November 1993. The CACF is the basis for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (The Wall): Average age of 58,148 killed in Vietnam was 23.11 years. (Although 58,169 names are in the Nov. 93 database, only 58,148 have both event date and birth date. Event date is used instead of declared dead date for some of those who were listed as missing in action):

Deaths	Average Age	
Total:	58,148	23.11 years
Enlisted:	50,274	22.37 years
Officers:	6,598	28.43 years
Warrants:	1,276	24.73 years
E1:	525	20.34 years
11B MOS:	18,465	22.55 years

Myth: The common belief is the average age of an infantryman fighting in Vietnam was 19.

Fact: Assuming KIAs accurately represented age groups serving in Vietnam, the average age of an infantryman (MOS 11B) serving in Vietnam to be 19 years old is a myth, it is actually 22. None of the enlisted grades have an average age of less than 20. The average man who fought in World War II was 26 years of age.

Myth: The Common belief is that the domino theory was proved false.

Fact: The domino theory was accurate. The ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore and Thailand stayed free of Communism because of the U.S. commitment to Vietnam. The Indonesians threw the Soviets out in 1966 because of America's commitment in Vietnam. Without that commitment, Communism would have swept all the way to the Malacca Straits that is south of Singapore and of great strategic importance to the free world. If you ask people who live in these countries that won the war in Vietnam, they have a different opinion from the American news media. The Vietnam War was the turning point for Communism.

VVA Chapter 535 Victorian Christmas Booth Schedule
 To Sign-up Contact Harold Graves haroldgraves@sbcglobal.net (470-8507)

Wed 12/4	Cider Startup * <u>Pete Burelle</u> * <u>Harold Graves</u> * <u>Dave Chaix</u>	Booth * <u>Ralph Remick</u> * <u>Chris Piccolo</u> * <u>Dave Chaix</u> * <u>Harold Graves</u>
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Wed 12/11	Cider Startup * <u>Pete Burelle</u> * _____ * _____	Booth * <u>Harold Graves</u> * _____ * _____ * _____
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Sun 12/15	Cider Startup * <u>Pete Burelle</u> * _____ * _____	Booth * <u>Harold Graves</u> * _____ * _____ * _____
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Wed 12/18	Cider Startup * <u>Pete Burelle</u> * _____ * _____	Booth * <u>Harold Graves</u> * _____ * _____ * _____
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Sun 12/22	Cider Startup * <u>Pete Burelle</u> * _____ * _____	Booth * <u>Harold Graves</u> * _____ * _____ * _____
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* _____ = A need for someone to sign Up and Volunteer

Volunteers to Help Pete with Cider for Wednesday nights at 2:30pm sharp at the GV Vets Hall Kitchen

Volunteers to Help Pete with Cider for Sunday at 11.00am sharp at the GV Vets Hall Kitchen

Booth workers for Wednesday nights in Nevada City at 4:30 pm sharp to help with the booth set up. The Shift is from 4:30 pm to 9:00 pm.

Booth workers for Sunday in Nevada City at 12:30 pm sharp to help with the booth set up. The Shift is from 1:30 pm to 6:00 pm.

