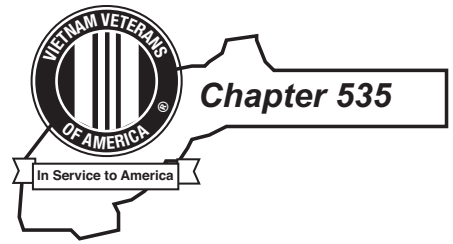




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 24 Issue 1

In Service To America and the Gold Country

January 2014

President's Message

January Guest Speaker – Sean Metroka, Colonel, USMC (Retired)

Born in Santa Rosa, Sean attended Paradise High School and Chico State University. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1976 and was commissioned in 1981. He served ten years on active duty and twenty two years in the reserves. While in the Marine Corps, Sean had tours in Korea, Okinawa, Kuwait and Iraq. During the invasion of Iraq in 2003 he was force fires coordinator, directing air support as well as missile and rocket missions. In 2006 he returned to Iraq serving with the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force.

Sean currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the Superior Court of California, Nevada County. He has held this position for the past ten years. Sean will speak to us about his experiences in Iraq.

Welcome to New Member Terry Pittsford A warm welcome to Terry Pittsford. Terry was a Motion Picture Photographer assigned to COMDOC at Bien Hoa, RVN.

Continued on page 5

Oliver North, Speaking to the NRA in 2009

The average age of the young American serving in uniform today is twenty and a half years of age making him about ten months older than his grandfather who would've served in my war. He's a high-school graduate. He's a volunteer. He is brighter, better educated, better trained, led, and equipped than any soldier, sailor, airman, guardsman, or Marine of any country in history. He goes to work wearing an eight pound Kevlar helmet, a forty five pound flak jacket, and today in Kandahar it was one-hundred and ten degrees, and he'll hike up those hills and walk back down them without complaining. He's been taught chemistry, and physics, and ballistics, avionics, and

electronics to operate and maintain the most sophisticated weapons and equipment ever designed by the hand and mind of man. He can use his body like a weapon, and his weapon like a part of his body. And he can take a life or save one because he's been so remarkably well trained. The images of young Marines and soldiers, and sailors, and airmen going to bible studies and religious services aren't staged; they're all real. They're all spontaneous and nearly all of them are initiated by those young Americans in harm's way. When they gather in prayer circles and huddle up before a mission, they're not going out to play football; they're going out into mortal combat and they know that some of them are liable not to come back and they do it because they have faith.

How many of you raised a teenage boy? Think about getting a teenage boy to clean up his own room, do his own laundry, fix his own meals, clean up everything without a size ten in his backside, and yet that same youngster today washes and mends his own clothing, feeds himself, takes care of cleaning his weapon, cleaning himself. He's totally self-sufficient. The kid, who once wouldn't share a candy bar with his little brother, now

North Continued on page 2

Contents	Page
Message from the President	1
Oliver North	1
E-Waste Event	2
Chapter Information	3
Membership Facts.....	3
Upcoming Dates and Events	3
Chapter Birthdays	3
Vietnam Veteran Buckle.....	3
Military Trivia.....	7
VVA Application Form.....	8

Oliver North from page 1

gives away his last drop of water to a wounded comrade, his only MRE to a hungry Afghan kid, and splits his ammo with a mate in a firefight.



This is a frame taken from my footage on the 6th of April, 2003. Baghdad is the smoke ball you see in the background. The Marine unit I'm embedded with is the lead element on the attack of the Eastern corridor. We're about fifteen miles outside of Baghdad and the Republican Guard's regiment ambushes this Marine rifle company. They spin their humvees around and there is a gunfight to the curbs with this regiment and this rifle company. And in the midst of the beaten zone; the area where the intersecting bullets are crossing, a United States Navy Corpsman I had first met in Kandahar in 2001, rushes in to the battlefield, right through the fire, drags two wounded Marines out, and carries them on his shoulder to a helicopter that's landed in the roadway. And with this footage right here, I am standing on the ramp of that helicopter. And this Corpsman who's rushed now twice before and brought these two wounded back, now has a third one. And off to the right-hand side as you look at the screen, a Reuters news crew sets up their tripod and they're videotaping him going in and out. And as this guy staggers back into the gunfight, one of them shouts out, 'Hey mate, what did you do that for? Didn't you notice..' ..in other words, you stupid American... 'Didn't you notice that wasn't a Marine?' If you look carefully at that photograph, you will see that the wounded warrior, who's already been bandaged up by that United State Navy medical Corpsman, isn't a Marine, it's a wounded Iraqi soldier. And this U.S. Navy Corpsman rushed into the battlefield to save his life. And so, because it's polite company Wayne, I can only put it this way. In response to the Reuters news crew, the Navy Corpsman gives them a gesture. (a single finger salute). He gives them a gesture and says, 'Didn't you notice? He was wounded. That's what we do. We're Americans.'

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



January Birthdays

1	3	Hubka, Dale
1	8	Hald, Camille AVVA
1	15	Fleuti, Dave
1	24	Snyder, William
1	26	Hill, Andrew

The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

www.friendsofvso.org

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	30
Life members	38
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	71



Upcoming Dates and Events

December 2 Chapter Meeting 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

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 newsletters or hearing from us, please contact Bill Holman at 265-8387.



Victorian Christmas



Chapter 535's Booth at Victorian Christmas in Nevada City.

Using a recipe first introduced to our Chapter by Dave Fleuti in the last century, our booth at Victorian Christmas in Nevada City broke all records this year generating gross receipts of \$4,435! The team, including Pete Burelle, Al Hernandez, Chuck Holmes (soon to be a member), Dave Chaix, Armando Garza, Chris LoPiccolo, Dick Corn, Ralph Remmick, Leroy Hubbard, Margie Buhler, Joyce Yaksik (longtime supporter of the VVA whose grandson is a Navy seal) and our leader Harold Graves, all did an outstanding job. Thanks to all of you for your hard work.



Mr. "Ralph" wearing a fine looking homburg hat at our booth.

Chapter Christmas Pot Luck



Pete, Harold and Patricia having a serious conversation.

About 60 chapter members and their guests gathered for our annual Christmas pot luck on December 5th. As usual, the food was excellent and the conversation stimulating.



New member Dennis Roe and his wife joined in the festivities before heading to north east Africa on a church mission. We wish them safe travel and a speedy return.

In Memory of Greg Boysol

Greg passed away ten years ago, on December 17th, while working at our Victorian Christmas booth. Although Diane Meyers wasn't able to join us this year at our Christmas dinner, she sent the following message which I read to the group.

I want to share the peace and hope of the Holidays with you all as you gather tonight to give thanks and remember. Since this is the tenth anniversary of the passing of Greg Boysol, I especially wanted to be there with you all; however, I had a previous engagement in Sacramento. It was Dec 17th ten years ago that Greg and I had stayed home to work since it was "Brownie Night" at Victorian Xmas and he wanted to go up early to help with set up. He left in the afternoon kissing me good bye, saying "see, ya' later". It was several hours later that evening that a sheriff's deputy showed up at the door and said "Do you know a Greg Boysol?"

With the utterance of those words my life changed forever. I had lost my significant other, my business partner and my friend of almost 20 years. Your first reaction is you just can't believe it, so I had to call Dick Corn after the officer left to verify the night mare.

Unfortunately I am not the only one who has lost a VVA 535 member since 2003, many were good friends of Greg. Even as recently as last month, we lost Dale.

In the middle of sorrow and despair, however, I found I had family in VVA 535. Several members spent many hours with me immediately after Greg's death. My family was all back East and Greg's last family member (his mother) had just passed away two months earlier. The late Bob Carton accompanied me to the mortuary and coroner's officer the next day, Fred and Margie were constantly at my side, and Bill Holman helped with all the notifications and planning, and many other members who helped with the funeral and dinner. Many still call, just to see how I am doing. This support is something you can't put a price on and I appreciated it all.

With the passage of these ten years, I frequently find myself wondering what Greg would have thought about the world today: The politics, the advances in technology, and the achievements of VVA locally and statewide in the last years. The Chapter's website is fantastic and Greg would have been proud. The growth in membership and the achievements of 535 would also have pleased him.

On the funny side, I bet Uncle Si of Duck Dynasty would be one of his favorite TV characters. And I wonder how would he feel about his favorite actor, Bryan Cranston from Malcom in the Middle, becoming a drug czar in Breaking Bad? Even though someone has left this world, these thoughts go thru your mind, reminding you of their presence and influence on your life.

Finally one last story I will share with you all about Greg. When I vacated our office in Yuba City, a neighboring insurance agency that we were friends with, took over our lease and the contents.

It was a few years later that the Insurance Agent called me and we talked for a while. Then he told me something he said I may not believe. He told me he had to have Greg's spirit "removed" from the building. At first I thought.....hmmm "what have you been smoking?". But as he told the story, it sent goose bumps up my arm. It seems that shortly after the agent moved in, they started seeing a male figure in the doorway and feeling a presence in Greg's office. The owner's daughter and secretary actually ran out of the office in fright one day when they saw the figure coming at them and going into Greg's room. This went on for some time until they hired a woman who worked with "spirits" and she was able to make an on-site visit, feel the presence and move his spirit along "to the other side". While it takes a belief in the super natural to really grasp the story, I can believe that Greg had "unfinished business" he just felt he needed to complete.

In closing, I hope this wasn't a downer, but more a reminiscence of ten years ago when a vet died far too early, but doing what he loved—helping his fellow vets!

My Best Wishes to All over the holidays. Hopefully my life will become less complicated soon, so I can rejoin the group and participate.

Diane L Myers

Lifetime AVVA Member

We hope that Diane will be able to join us soon at one of our meetings.

Reminder - Strategic Planning Meeting on January 15 with Al Sickle California State Council Director-at-Large Al Sickle will join our board meeting on January 15 at 6 PM for a discussion on fund raising projects and other strategic issues. Although this is our regularly scheduled board meeting, all chapter members are invited.

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878



Military Trivia Facts

1. 30 of the 43 Presidents served in the Army, 24 during time of war, two earned the rank of 5-star General (Washington and Eisenhower) and one earned the Medal of Honor (T. Roosevelt)
2. Less than 28 percent of Americans between the ages of 17-23 are qualified for military service, that's only about 1-in-4.
3. The U.S. Air Force was part of the Army until 1946. It was called the Army Air Corp.
4. Only one President (James Buchanan) served as an enlisted man in the military and did not go on to become an officer.
5. The Department of Defense employs about 1.8 million people on active duty. It is the largest employer in the United States, with more employees than Exxon, Mobil, Ford, General Motors, and GE combined!
6. The Department of Defense owns worldwide 29,819,492 acres of land worldwide.
7. The United States has 737 military installations overseas alone.
8. The Navy's bell-bottom trousers, are commonly believed to be introduced in 1817 to permit men to roll them above the knee when washing down the decks and to make it easier to remove them in a hurry when forced to abandon ship or when washed overboard. In addition the trousers may be used as a life preserver by knotting the legs and swinging them over your head to fill the legs with air.
9. The Coast Guard seizes 169 pounds of marijuana and 306 pounds of cocaine worth \$9,589,000.00 everyday.
10. The Coast Guard is smaller than the New York City Police Department.
11. The Marine Corps motto, "Semper Fidelis," was adopted in 1883 as the official motto. It is Latin for Always Faithful.
12. The nickname "Leatherneck" originates from the stiff leather stock that early Marines wore around their necks, probably to protect their jugular vein against saber blows.
13. The English Bulldog, also known as "Teufel-hunden," or "Devil Dogs," is the unofficial mascot that symbolize the ethos of the Warrior Culture of the U.S. Marines. The U.S. Marine Corps earned this unofficial mascot during World War I, when many German reports called the attacking Ma-

rines "teufel-hunden," meaning Devil-Dogs. "Teufel-hunden" were the vicious, wild and ferocious mountain dogs of German Bavarian folklore.

14. The U.S. Army was in charge of exploring and mapping America. The Lewis and Clark Expedition was an all Army affair. Army officers were the first Americans to see such landmarks as Pike's Peak and the Grand Canyon.

15. The Air Force's F-117 fighter uses aerodynamics discovered during research into how bumblebees fly.



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:** (select one)
 Individual – 1 year @ \$20 annual Individual – 3 years @ \$50
 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:** (select one)
 Check Money Order Visa MasterCard

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

In Service To America

Address Correction Requested

