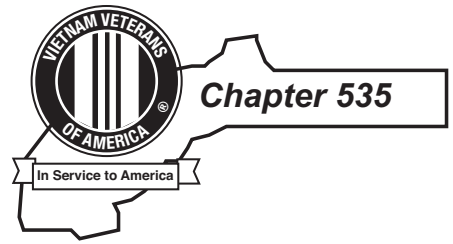




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 24 Issue 5

In Service To America and the Gold Country

May 2014

President's Message

May 17 Concert

We need your help!

The Johnny Cash & Patsy Cline tribute concert, featuring Johnny & Dee Price, will be held on May 17 (Armed Forces Day) at the Grass Valley Veterans Hall. Tickets are available at www.vetsconcert.com or 1-800-838-3006 or from the Briar Patch and SPD Markets. Ralph reports we have sold enough tickets and obtained pledges from enough sponsors to cover our expenses. (Whew!) Now we need to hustle to sell more tickets to ensure a healthy profit for the Chapter and our partners, Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage. Talk to your friends and family members. Tell them what a great concert this is. And, don't forget to buy tickets for yourself! If we all push in the next couple of weeks, this event will be a great success. Let's get out there and sell, sell, sell!

We also need volunteers the night of the concert to serve as ushers, parking lot attendants and security. Call Dale Epps (368-6156) if you would like to help with one of these tasks.

Kudos to Ralph and his team (Chuck Holmes, Dale Epps, Dave Chaix, Bart Ruud, Dan Davis, Harold Graves, Rick Sheridan and Pete Burelle). They are doing a terrific job bringing this together. Thanks for your help.

Congrats to Kent Hawley

Kent is the Environmental Restoration Program Manager at Beale Air Force Base. His team recently was recognized for outstanding performance, receiving the "General Thomas D. White ERP Award". Nominations for this national award are evaluated for overall merit focusing on the installation's initiatives in planning to close, or have in final remediation, all contaminated sites by 2015. Installations are also recognized for the best or most improved environmental restoration program that seeks to limit the spread of contamination, speed up final cleanup, and participate

in local community public affairs activities. In 2012 Beale AFB began an 8-year fence-to-fence project to clean up environmental hazards on the base. Given Beale's long history as a military training center dating back to before World War II, this is a huge task. Congratulations to Kent and his team for a job well done!

Honoring Former Chapter Leaders

The Center for the Arts and the Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council are working together to put backs on the bleacher seats in the Veterans Auditorium. The seat backs will make these seats much more comfortable for concerts and other events. For \$125, a seat back can be purchased in honor of a veteran. A plaque will be placed on the seat back with the veterans name and branch of service.

A donor recently gave \$2,000 to the Center of the Arts to fund seats to honor twenty local veterans. The funds will be split evenly between the five veterans organizations

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active in our community. Participating veteran's organizations are asked to nominate four veterans to be honored, and contribute \$25 for each of the four seats. At our board meeting last week the \$100 expense was approved and the following members or former members were nominated to have their name placed on a seat back; Jim Reber, Greg Boysol, Art Thomas and Ken Smith. You will recall that Jim Reber was our chapter's founder and first President. Greg Boysol, Art Thomas and Ken Smith, all deceased, filled many leadership positions over the years. We are pleased to have the opportunity to honor all four men in this manner.

Chapter Elections

Elections were held during the Chapter's Annual Meeting on April 3. Dick Corn was elected Vice President, Dave Johnson - Secretary, Ralph Remick - Treasurer. The following were elected Directors; Bill Holman, Ric Sheridan, Harold Graves, Bart Ruud, Dave Chaix, Dale Epps and Kent Hawley. Pete Burelle was elected CSC Delegate. I was elected President. Thanks to all for agreeing to serve. We appreciate your leadership.

Moving On...

In 2001 Margie and I were using goats to clear brush on our property. We put on a "brushing" demonstration at the fair. We set up a paddock filled with brush next to the Forestry Service booth to show just how fast the goats can clear an area. One day we wandered over to the VVA booth to see what they were up to. We met Art Thomas and Marty Martines. Within a few minutes Art and Marty talked us into filling out applications. The rest, as we say, is history!

Both Margie and I have thoroughly enjoyed our time with this Chapter. As you know, Margie served as Secretary-Treasurer for several years and is currently our Membership Chair. She has also been our representative on the Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council and has been instrumental in raising substantial amounts of money for improvements to the Vets Building. I represented the Chapter on the California State Council for three years. My stint on the CSC was interrupted by a trip to the Middle East. Since 2012 I have served as the Chapter's President.

In recent months Margie and I have been thinking about moving to another house that requires less maintenance. We have enjoyed our home in Nevada City but, with my 74th birthday fast approaching, we are finding it more challenging to keep up with the work that needs to be done to maintain our house and property. A few days ago we found a house in Lincoln that meets our requirements. Our offer on that house was accepted and we will soon put our cur-

rent home on the market. We expect to move sometime this summer.

In view of our move, I submitted my resignation effective June 1.

Both Margie and I have thoroughly enjoyed our association with Chapter 535. We leave with mixed feelings and will continue to follow the Chapter's progress with great interest in the coming years.

Fred Buhler, President 265-4878

Congressional Medal of Honor

Bacon, Nicky Daniel

- Rank and Organization: Staff Sergeant, U.S. Army, Company B, 4th Battalion, 21st Infantry, 11th Infantry Brigade, Americal Division
- Place and Date: West of Tam Ky, Republic of Vietnam, 26 August 1968

Citation: For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty. S/Sgt. Bacon distinguished himself while serving as a squad leader with the 1st Platoon, Company B, during an operation west of Tam Ky. When Company B came under fire from an enemy bunker line to the front, S/Sgt. Bacon quickly organized his men and led them forward in an assault. He advanced on a hostile bunker and destroyed it with grenades. As he did so, several fellow soldiers including the 1st Platoon leader, were struck by machine gun fire and fell wounded in an exposed position forward of the rest of the platoon. S/Sgt. Bacon immediately assumed command of the platoon and assaulted the hostile gun position, finally killing the enemy gun crew in a single-handed effort. When the 3d Platoon moved to S/Sgt. Bacon's location, its leader was also wounded. Without hesitation S/Sgt. Bacon took charge of the additional platoon and continued the fight. In the ensuing action he personally killed 4 more enemy soldiers and silenced an antitank weapon. Under his leadership and example, the members of both platoons accepted his authority without question. Continuing to ignore the intense hostile fire, he climbed up on the exposed deck of a tank and directed fire into the enemy position while several wounded men were evacuated. As a result of S/Sgt. Bacon's extraordinary efforts, his company was able to move forward, eliminate the enemy positions, and rescue the men trapped to the front. S/Sgt. Bacon's bravery at the risk of his life was in the highest traditions of the military service and reflects great credit upon himself, his unit, and the U.S. Army.

Chapter 535 Information Center

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	
Ralph Remick	559-7716
Past President	
Fred Buhler	265-4878

Directors

Ric Sheridan rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net	274-1413
Dan Davis	272-4110
Dave Chaix	269-1431
Bill Holman bholman@succeed.nett	265-8387
Kent Hawley.....	432-3551
Bart Ruud.....	823-1368
Dale Epps	368-6156
Harold Graves.....	470-8507

CA State Council Delegates

Pete Burelle, Fred Buhler (alternate) 265-4878

Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

Finance	Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson
Parade and Honor Guard	Pete Burelle
Membership Affairs	Margie Buhler
Newsletter ...	bholman@succeed.net, 265-8387 Bill Holman
Nominations	Harold Graves
Christmas Year Round	Harold Graves
Concert Committee.....	Ralph Remmick
NCCVC	Margie Buhler
Web Master.....	Ralph Remick

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

Eric(530) 273-3396

May Birthdays

5	6	Babao, Donna
5	11	LeeRoy Hubbard
5	15	Harold Graves
5	15	Remick, Ralph
5	16	Robert Roberts
5	19	Bart Ruud,
5	19	Carl Alford
5	21	Nick de Zaparkanszky
5	23	Grueneberg, Keith
5	25	Steven MacDonald
5	27	Alfred Buhler (Fred)
5	28	Richard Sciaroni

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

The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

www.friendsofvso.org

Membership Facts Chapter 535

VVA	
Individual members	33
Life members	39
AVVA	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
Total	75



Upcoming Dates and Events

May	1	Chapter Meeting 6 pm
May	17	Cash & Cline Concert
June	21	E-Waste 9 am -1 pm

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

Veteran's E-Waste Collection

NCCVC is having a Free-E-Waste collection on Saturday, June 21, 2014, from 9 am to 1 pm in the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building parking lot. Bring your electronic e-waste and we will unload it. Your electronic e-waste is valuable to NCCVC. For more information contact Gary at 477-1533 or Margie at 265-4878 (before June 1).



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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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.

Proposition 41

Proposition 41 will appear on the June ballot. The following information was sent to us by Pete Conaty, a Vietnam Vet and our lobbyist in Sacramento.

AB 639. (Chapter 727, 2013), Pérez. Veterans Housing and Homeless Prevention Bond Act of 2014.

Yes/No Statement

A YES vote on this measure means: The state would sell \$600 million in general obligation bonds to fund affordable multifamily housing for low-income and homeless veterans.

A NO vote on this measure means: The state would not sell \$600 million in general obligation bonds to fund affordable multifamily housing for low-income and homeless veterans.

Summary of Legislative Analyst's Estimate of Net State and Local Government Fiscal Impact Increased state bond repayment costs averaging about \$50 million annually over 15 years.

What do you think?

How Do You Solve a Problem Like Russia?

American Actions Speak Louder Than Words

By Rep. Mac Thornberry

If there was ever any question that the security situation in the world is constantly changing, these past five years provide undeniable evidence.

It must be clear even to Barack Obama that the world he hoped and wanted to find is not the world as it is. In the real world there is evil, aggression and opportunism willing to exploit any perceived weakness. Whether it is Vladimir Putin's Russia, al-Qaeda, North Korea, Iran, China, or others, there are adversaries ready to pounce on any opening offered by U.S. retreat. And they, as well as our allies and the rest of the world, are watching very carefully to see how the United States proceeds in light of Russian annexation of Crimea.

What should we do?

First, there is widespread consensus that Russia must be made to pay a price for its aggression. While no one advocates military force to reverse the Crimea seizure, we cannot allow it to stand without Russia suffering some consequence. Diplomatic isolation and economic sanctions, even those that hurt some U.S. industries, need to be imposed. We need to push the Europeans as far as we can toward joining us, but we also cannot allow our sanctions to be limited by the weakest link in the sanctions chain.

Many analysts point to the mid- to long-term weakness in the Russian economy. Smart Russians know that as well. The sanctions imposed now will not cause Putin to withdraw from Crimea but could increase the anxiety about where he is taking the country, weakening his hold.

Second, we must strengthen our support for those nations that are threatened. Appropriate military and financial support to Ukraine should be pursued. Reassuring steps for the Baltics' defense should be taken. Swiftly cutting through the roadblocks to allow exports of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) and support the development of natural gas production in Poland and other Eastern European nations must be a priority.

Third, the president and those in his administration should be very careful about what they say, and make absolutely certain that no declarations are made nor any "red lines" drawn that the United States will not back up. One of the most damaging developments to U.S. national interests has been the loss of credibility. From our premature withdraw-

al from Iraq to lines drawn in the sand in Syria, we have failed to match our rhetoric and our promises with action. As a result, much of the world does not take statements by our president seriously.

This problem will not be solved within the time left to this administration. U.S. credibility has been damaged seriously, and it will take time and proof to repair it. But a starting place is to not damage it any further. At no time in recent history has it been more important to "speak softly and carry a big stick." That will be a challenge for a president who has a high opinion of his rhetorical abilities and at a time when so many words are carelessly bandied about. But it is absolutely necessary to align our words with our actions. And that begins by restraining our words.

Fourth, and most importantly, we need to increase defense spending. While restraining our rhetoric is part of the equation for restoring our credibility, our decreasing defense budgets and the resulting decline in capabilities are even more significant factors. Nothing will make it clearer to Vladimir Putin that we will not lay down before him than to have President Obama propose a new, higher defense budget. The amount of the increase is not as important as the direction as long as it is a significant change.

We should not relax our effort to get more defense out of every dollar we spend. That means continuing to push defense reforms, such as reducing overhead costs and making improvements in our broken acquisition system. In a host of areas, we need to update old laws and programs to meet the wide array of challenges we face today.

While we are pursuing those reforms, however, the clearest message and the most effective results come from an increasing defense budget. The United States must show the world - as opposed to just saying it in a speech - that the U.S. is not in retreat. Making it abundantly clear that our military capabilities are second to none is the surest way to discourage further aggression. It also ensures that we are as prepared as possible for the security challenges to come. This kind of approach acknowledges the realities of the world and will help shape a safer place in the days to come. Rep.

Mac Thornberry serves as the Vice Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee and the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.



Fiscal Impact: Increased state bond costs averaging about \$50 million annually over 15 years.

Background

State Housing Programs. In most years, about 150,000 houses and apartments are built in California. Most of these housing units are built entirely with private dollars. Some, however, receive financial help from federal, state, or local governments. For example, the state provides local governments, nonprofits, and private developers with low-cost loans to fund a portion of the housing units' construction costs. Typically, housing built with these funds must be sold or rented to Californians with low incomes.

A portion of housing units built with state funds is set aside for homeless Californians. These include homeless shelters, short-term housing, and supportive housing. Supportive housing combines housing with certain services, including mental and physical health care, drug and alcohol abuse counseling, and job training programs. A January 2013 federal government survey identified 137,000 homeless Californians, including about 15,000 veterans. California veterans are more than twice as likely to be homeless than non-veterans.

Veterans' Home Loan Program. The state and federal governments provide home loan assistance to some of the 1.9 million veterans living in California. Under the state program, the state sells general obligation bonds to investors and uses the funds to buy homes on behalf of eligible veterans. Each participating veteran then makes monthly payments to the state, which allows the state to repay the investors. These payments have always covered the amount owed on the bonds, meaning the program has operated at no direct cost to taxpayers. Since 2000, the number of veterans receiving new home loans under this program each year has declined significantly. Many factors have contributed to this decline, including: (1) historically low mortgage interest rates, (2) the availability of federal home loan assistance, and (3) the recent housing crisis. When the Legislature placed this measure on the ballot, it also reduced the amount of bonds that could be used for the veterans' home loan program by \$600 million. As a result, about \$500 million of state bonds remain available for veterans home loans.

Proposal

New General Obligation Bonds for Veterans' Housing. This measure allows the state to sell \$600 million in new general obligation bonds to fund affordable multifamily housing for low-income veterans. The general obligation bonds authorized by this measure would be repaid using state tax revenue, meaning that taxpayers would pay for

the new program. (For more information on the state's use of bonds, see "Overview of State Bond Debt" later in this guide.)

Housing for Low-Income Veterans. This measure funds construction, renovation, and acquisition of affordable multifamily housing, such as apartment complexes. The state would do this by providing local governments, nonprofit organizations, and private developers with financial assistance, such as low-interest loans, to fund part of a project's costs. Housing built with these funds would be rented to low-income veterans (and their families)—that is, those who earn less than 80 percent of average family income, as adjusted by family size and county. For example, the average statewide amount for a single person to be considered low-income for this program is about \$38,000. State law requires these units to be affordable, meaning rent payments made by veterans cannot exceed 30 percent of the income limit for the program.

Housing for Homeless Veterans. State law gives funding priority in this program to projects that would house homeless veterans and veterans who are at risk of becoming homeless. In particular, at least one-half of the funds would be used to construct housing for extremely low-income veterans. These veterans earn less than 30 percent of the amount earned by the average family in the county where they live. (The average statewide amount for a single person to be considered extremely low-income is about \$14,000.) A portion of the funding for extremely low-income veterans would be used to build supportive housing for homeless veterans.

Other Provisions. Under this measure, the Legislature could make changes in the future to improve the program and the state could use up to \$30 million of the bond funds to cover the costs of administering the program. In addition, the state would be required to publish an annual evaluation of the program.

Fiscal Effects

Bond Costs. This measure would allow the state to borrow up to \$600 million by selling general obligation bonds to investors, who would be repaid using general tax revenues. The cost of these bonds would depend on their interest rates and the time period over which they are repaid. We assume that (1) the interest rate for these bonds would average 5 percent, (2) they would be sold over the course of five years, and (3) they would be repaid over a ten-year period. Based on these assumptions, the cost to taxpayers to repay the bonds would average about \$50 million annually for 15 years. This amount is less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the state budget.

JOHNNY
CASH

PATSY
CLINE

TRIBUTE SHOW

With Johnny & Dee Price

and *The Rhythm Riders*



Saturday, May 17th **Armed Forces Day**

8:00PM 255 South Auburn Street, Grass Valley
VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

TICKETS: GENERAL ADMISSION \$25
PREMIUM \$35 (FRONT 10 ROWS & PARKING)

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT 800-838-3006, ONLINE AT WWW.VETSconcert.com
AND AT BRIAR PATCH AND SPD MARKETS

PRESENTED BY VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
AND FRIENDS OF VINH SON ORPHANAGE



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

