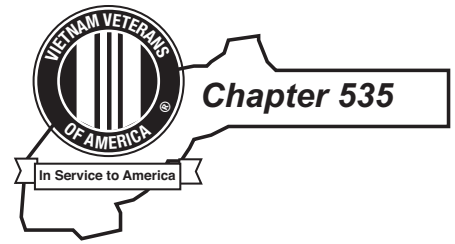




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 24 Issue 10

In Service To America and the Gold Country

October 2014

President's Message

If any VVA members have a photo of yourself in uniform, send it to Bill Holman our newsletter editor. Put your name, outfit inf. And approximate year and where the photo was taken. He will fit in one for each newsletter if room permits. I hope to see you at the October meeting on the 2nd at 6PM.



Dick Corn, President 277-8856

VVA on DoD Announcement of Guidance for Upgrading Discharge Requests

"Vietnam Veterans of America is very pleased with the recent announcement by Secretary of Defense Hagel regarding the September 3, 2014, Department of Defense (DoD) guidance to Military Department Boards for Correction of Military/Naval Records (BCM/NR) when considering petitions regarding discharge upgrade requests by veterans claiming Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, who received Other Than Honorable (OTH) Discharges," said VVA National President John Rowan.

"It is the right thing to do, especially for our Vietnam veterans. Many of our brothers and sisters were inappropriately discharged under other than honorable conditions after serving their country, because PTSD was not recognized at that time. In many cases, a PTSD diagnosis was not made until decades after their service was completed. And, because of their OTH discharge, they were unable to receive VA benefits. VVA has been advocating for these veterans for a long time, and we are very grateful that Secretary Hagel has taken this action," said Rowan.

As stated in the September 3 guidelines, "...in cases where service records or any document from the period of service substantiate the existence of one or more symptoms of what is now recognized as PTSD or a PTSD-related condition during the time of service, liberal consideration will be given to finding that PTSD existed at the time of service. Liberal consideration will also be given in cases where civilian providers confer diagnoses of PTSD or PTSD-related conditions when case records contain narratives that support symptomatology at the time of service, or when any other evidence which may reasonably indicate that PTSD or a PTSD-related disorder existed at the time of discharge which may have mitigated the misconduct that caused the under than honorable conditions characterization of service."

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Exchange Online Shopping Update

All Vet Use Proposal Roadblocks

A proposal to allow all honorably discharged veterans to shop in the online military exchange has hit some roadblocks. At least one Navy policy official has raised concerns, according to sources who spoke on condition of anonymity. But there is also some opposition within the Defense Department. In addition to a number of questions about the business plan, a main concern is that expanding on-line access would result in “benefit creep” — access for veterans to brick-and-mortar exchange stores and even to other quality-of-life benefits, sources said. A 6 AUG point paper prepared by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service stresses that AAFES would clearly communicate that the new benefit would apply to online shopping only. “No additional benefits such as access to brick and mortar stores are implied or envisioned,” states the document, a copy of which was obtained by Military Times.

The document, providing a business case, was prepared for the DoD Executive Resale Board, following a 29 JUL meeting at which a number of questions were raised. Currently, a limited number of honorably discharged veterans can shop in military exchanges — those who are hospitalized or determined to be 100 percent disabled. But about 90 percent of honorably discharged veterans are ineligible to shop. AAFES notes that expanding the online customer base to all honorably discharged veterans would “offer enormous potential upside for the entire military community.” Allowing these additional 18.8 million veterans to shop “has the capacity to generate significant incremental sales and earnings.” A majority of those profits would be distributed to morale, welfare and recreation programs, and would be shared with all service branches, depending on branch of service of the veterans doing the shopping. The document does not mention sharing profits with the veteran community or the Veteran Canteen Service, which operates retail stores inside Veterans Affairs Department hospitals.

“The AAFES proposal was formally submitted to DoD on 14 MAY and is currently under review,” said DoD spokesman Navy Lt. Cmdr. Nate Christensen. “No decision has been made, nor is there a timetable for reaching one.” Asked about the Navy’s concerns, spokeswoman Lt. Richlyn Ivey said that service “is receptive to proposals that recognize and honor the contributions and sacrifices of our veterans. As with any potential change to statute and/or policy, a thorough evaluation to determine the viability and impact of the proposition is necessary.” The 12-page AAFES document was prepared in response to a request from the DoD Executive Resale Board for additional information. In an email sent to the board members 7 AUG, a defense official encouraged them to include questions

they may have in feed-back provided to AAFES CEO Tom Shull after they reviewed the business case. “Hoping that all agree that the Board’s consideration of this proposal will benefit from an open exchange and discussion of any and all questions or concerns,” wrote Stephanie Barna, acting as-sistant secretary of defense for readiness and force management.

The AAFES point paper refers to another concern — how online veteran shoppers would be validated. AAFES officials have said planning has already started between AAFES and the Defense Manpower Data Center to establish an on-line verification process. The only true “con,” in AAFES’ view, is the inability to quickly move on the veterans’ online shopping benefits. Each month of delay in implementing the initiative is costing DoD \$8 million to \$14 million in profits and is costing MWR \$5 million to \$9 million in dividends, the point paper states. AAFES has been taking steps to shore up its financial position, reducing its overhead by \$250 million over the last three years. In 2013, it contributed \$208 million in dividends to MWR programs out of \$332 million in profits.

As the Army and Air Force have reduced their personnel end strength, AAFES has seen a 10 percent decrease in sales. “While the organization’s intent is to maintain the same level of service, earnings and dividends, [AAFES] may be unable to meet these objectives without this change in policy,” said AAFES spokesman Judd Anstey, when asked what it could mean to AAFES’ viability if the proposal is turned down. AAFES contends the new plan would require only a “modest change” to DoD policy, not a change in law. That remains to be seen; if the Executive Resale Board makes a recommendation to the Pentagon, DoD general counsel would determine whether a change in law would be required. [Source: NavyTimes |



Chapter 535 Information Center

Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

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| Kent Hawley..... | 432-3551 |
| Bart Ruud..... | 823-1368 |
| Dale Epps | 368-6156 |
| Harold Graves..... | 470-8507 |
| CA State Council Delegates | |
| Pete Burelle | |

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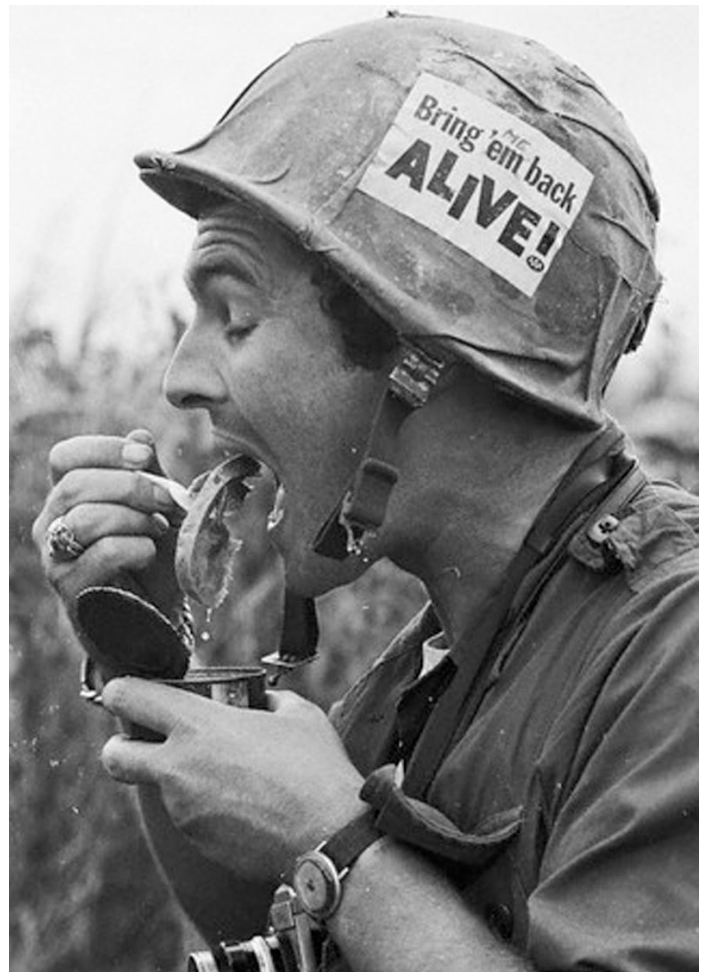
| | |
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| Finance | Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson |
| Parade and Honor Guard | Pete Burelle |
| Membership Affairs | Vacant |
| Newsletter ... | bholman@succeed.net, 265-8387 Bill Holman |
| Nominations | Harold Graves |
| Christmas Year Round | Harold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

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

| | |
|------------|----------------|
| Eric | (530) 273-3396 |
|------------|----------------|

October Birthdays

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



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

Oct. 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.

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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.



Normandy Then & Now Juno Beach at Saint-Aubin sur Mer



A crashed U.S. fighter plane on the waterfront some time after Canadian forces came ashore on a Juno Beach D-Day landing zone in Saint-Aubin-sur-Mer, France, in June 1944. View of the same location on August 23, 2013 showing tourists enjoying the sunshine on the same stretch of beach.

ENERGY

FOR A HARD FIGHT!



The LCT (Landing Craft, Tank)—launched from an LST—is a dogged, fearless lighter facing fire to feed heavy tanks and guns into beach positions. Powerful motors depend on fuel for driving energy.

Baby Ruth FEEDS QUICK FOOD-ENERGY

A non-energetic body is like an LCT without fuel. Baby Ruth is fuel for the body, rich in dextrose and other wholesome ingredients . . . bringing quick food-energy . . . helping pep up body and spirits when blood sugars run low. Men in foxholes, cockpits, or aboard ships call for more and more Baby Ruth, so civilians sometimes must wait until Uncle Sam is supplied.

CURTISS CANDY COMPANY • CHICAGO 13, ILL.
Producers of Fine Foods



Dreamy!—Cookies taste so good made with Baby Ruth

RECIPE ON EVERY WRAPPER



VA Rural Access

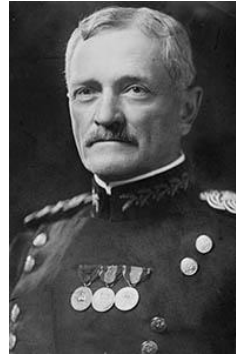
RUCA Use Change Will Improve Service

In order to more accurately identify and serve rural Veterans, the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) is improving the method it uses to define urban, rural and highly rural land areas. "The Department of Veterans Affairs is committed to providing high quality health care to Veterans when and where they need it, including rural and highly rural areas of the country," said Secretary Robert McDonald. "With this change, we will be better able to deliver services to Veterans when and where they need them." The current method is being replaced by a more accurate method, modeled on one used by other leading federal agencies. It is anticipated that implementation will begin before October 1, 2014. The Rural-Urban Commuting Areas (RUCA) system, developed by the departments of Agriculture and Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration, has become more accepted because of its sound social science basis and its adaptability for special programs.



VHA strives to provide high-quality, accessible health care to all enrolled Veterans," said Interim Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Carolyn Clancy. "However, we must know where rural Veterans live in order to provide adequate access to care. This requires the best possible definition of 'rural' land areas. With this change, VHA will be able to better serve this important Veteran population." Improving VHA's method for identifying urban, rural and highly rural Veterans will result in more accurate identification of rural Veterans, improved reporting of the number and location of rural Veterans and of statistics on their geographic access to sites of care along with improved allocation of resources and improved research on rural Veterans' needs. Currently, 3.2 million rural Veterans are enrolled in the VA system, which represents 36 percent of the total enrolled Veteran population. For a more detailed explanation of the change, visit the VA Office of Rural Health website <http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov>. Source: VA News Release

America's Most Beloved Vets of World War I



John J. Pershing



Quentin Roosevelt



Theodore Roosevelt Jr.

- The celebrated soldier John J. Pershing rose to fame by leading the Pancho Villa expedition, commanded the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, and was given the title "General of the Armies" by Congress.
- The youngest son Quentin Roosevelt of former President Theodore Roosevelt was shot down in a dogfight - and buried by the Germans with full military honors.
- The politician and businessman Theodore Roosevelt Jr. commanded a battalion in World War I, led the assault on Utah Beach in World War II, and was one of the founders of The American Legion.

Veterans Dinner

When Monday Nov. 10th No Host Bar 5 pm
Dinner 6 pm
Where Grass Valley Elks Club

Veterans are free, all others are \$12.00. Menu Salad, Orange Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Vegetables and Dessert. No host bar.

RSVP required by November 4th. Call 273-9228.

Late RSVP and walk-ins will be on standby and non vets \$15.00. Veterans will still be free.



Vietnam PTSD Discharges

DoD Has Agreed to Reconsider

The Defense Department has agreed to reconsider the bad-paper discharges for thousands of Vietnam-era veterans who may have suffered from combat-related post-traumatic stress disorder but were kicked out of the military in the era before that became a diagnosable condition. In a new rule announced 3 SEP, the Pentagon said veterans from the Vietnam era and other past wars with other-than-honorable discharges will be given “liberal consideration” if they seek to correct their military records and provide some evidence of a PTSD diagnosis that existed at the time of their service. Upgraded discharges could result in the restoration of some benefits, such as disability pay, separation pay or GI Bill benefits from the Veterans Affairs Department, which are typically denied to vets who receive other-than-honorable discharges. Health care in the VA system is typically provided to veterans regardless of their discharge.



U.S. soldiers carry a wounded comrade through a swampy area during action in Vietnam in 1969.

In today’s military, PTSD is considered a mitigating factor for misconduct and behavioral problems. The military services are required to grant a medical evaluation to any service member who claims PTSD before finalizing a bad discharge. The Pentagon’s new rule comes in response to a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of several veterans in March that claimed the Defense Department was wrongfully denying discharge upgrade applications from veterans with claims and evidence of PTSD. The new policy was applauded by the Yale Law School Veterans’ Legal Service Clinic, which is spearheading the federal McTiernan, a student intern involved with the lawsuit. However, she said, it’s too early to tell how the new rule will be.

Huey Helicopter UH-1N Officially Retired

The US Marine Corps (USMC) has officially retired the last of its Bell UH-1N ‘Huey’ helicopters after more than 40 years of service, it was announced on 3 SEP 2014. A ‘sundown’ flypast of the last UH-1N to be operated by Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron (HMLA) 773 took place at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base New Orleans, Louisiana, on 28 AUG during which the helicopter was accompanied by its Bell UH-1Y Venom successor. Having entered service in 1971 the UH-1N flew its final combat operation in Afghanistan in 2010, since when it has been used for training and liaison duties. In all, 205 such helicopters were delivered to the USMC.



The US Marine Corps’ final UH-1N ‘Huey’ helicopter (front) is escorted by its UH-1Y Venom (rear) successor during its sundown flypast on 28 August

As part of the H-1 upgrade program, the UH-1N is being replaced by the UH-1Y (the other part of that program will see the AH-1W SuperCobra replaced by the AH-1Z Viper). Although based on the same UH-1 airframe, the newer UH-1Y is a larger and altogether more capable platform than its predecessor in terms of range, payload, speed, ballistic protection and crash survivability. It is also cheaper to operate and has a smaller logistical footprint. A total of 160 UH-1Ys (of which 10 will be remanufactured airframes) will now be delivered by 2018. [Source: IHS Jane’s Defence Weekly |



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

