



INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 24 Issue 11

In Service To America and the Gold Country

November 2014

President's Message

All the leaves are turning to beautiful colors and Old Man Winter is about to show his face. I hope he brings large amounts of rain with him!

If members are available, we are giving the brass plaque honoring Vietnam Veteran Thomas W. Crawford back to Cal Trans to be re-set in the newly expanded Dorsey Drive Bridge on Monday November 3, 2014, at 9:00 A.M. There will be a brief ceremony with flag and rifles. Some Blue Star Mothers will be present as well. Please wear your Chapter shirt, cap, jacket, etc., if possible. This will be an honor to our fallen brother.

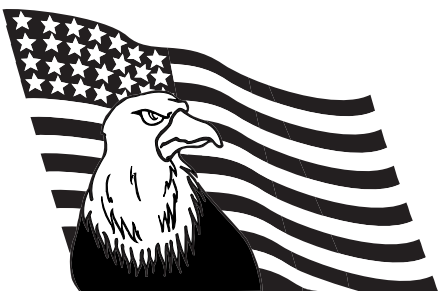
It's time to start thinking about Victorian Christmas. It will be happening this year on December 10th, 14th, 17th and 21st. Sundays are 1:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. Wednesdays are 5:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. Please sign up for booth duty and/or preparation of cider, etc., at the G.V.Veterans Building earlier on that day. This is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year.

The Chapter Christmas dinner is in the dining room at the G.V.Veterans Building on December 4th at 6:00 P.M. Plan to bring something to share that you really like.

There will be a Board of Directors meeting on November 20th at 6:00 P.M. to fine tune Victorian Christmas details and to do the Chapter's business. All are invited to attend.

Don't forget to send Newsletter Editor, Bill Holman, a photo of yourself in uniform.

Dick Corn, President 277-8856



Thanksgiving in Vietnam



Members of Det "A", 5th Special Forces Group, located north of Saigon in War Zone D, are served their Thanksgiving Day dinner a little in advance of "Turkey-Day". With two regiments of North Vietnamese Regulars in the vicinity, it is unlikely the men will have a quiet Thanksgiving Day. Prepared at a distant base, the complete hot meal was flown in by helicopter during a lull in the fighting.

Contents	Page
Message from the President	1
VA Physician Salaries.....	2
Dick Corn in Vietnam	3
Chapter Information	3
Membership Facts.....	3
Upcoming Dates and Events	3
Chapter Birthdays	3
Military Discharge Types	4
America's War Horse, Sgt. Reckless.....	5
VA Vaccination Program	6
Veterans Dinners.....	6
Victorian Christmas Booth Schedule.....	7
VVA Application Form.....	8

VA Physician Salaries

\$20K to \$30K Annual Increases Coming

Due to a three-year federal pay freeze, the annual pay ranges for VA physicians and dentists haven't increased since October 2009. The Veterans Affairs Department wants to increase the annual salaries of new physicians and dentists by up to \$35,000 as part of a nationwide recruitment effort to hire more doctors and improve veterans' access to care. The change, which the department announced 17 SEP, would update existing pay tables for several categories of physicians in the Veterans Health Administration, enabling newly hired doctors to potentially earn between \$20,000 and \$35,000 more than the current salary ranges. The pay ranges for physicians who serve in leadership roles, including department undersecretaries and VA medical center directors, would not change. The notice outlining the new policy will be published 18 SEP in the Federal Register and will take effect on 30 NOV. "We are committed to hiring more medical professionals across the country to better serve veterans and expand their access to timely, high-quality care," said VA Secretary Bob McDonald, in a statement.



McDonald told reporters last week during a press conference that he's worried about the department's ability to recruit and retain a talented workforce as it recovers from a major scandal and reinvents itself to better serve the country's vets. He said the department needs new doctors, nurses and clinicians for 28,000 jobs authorized by Congress in the 2014 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act. That law was passed in response to several whistleblower allegations that VA employees falsified documents related to patient care and has sparked a department wide management reform and public relations effort that McDonald hopes will improve services and rebuild the VA's trust with veterans.

VA has seven pay tables for physicians and dentists with different levels or "tiers" that include a salary range for positions in those categories. Each pay table corresponds

to a specialty within the medical field, or a specific executive position. Pay Table 1, for example, covers a range of medical specialties, including allergy and immunology, geriatrics, psychiatry and general practice dentistry. The current annual pay range for Pay Table 1, Tier 1 is \$98,967 to \$195,000. Under VA's proposed increase, the maximum yearly salary for new physicians and dentists covered in that category would jump to \$215,000. For those in Pay Table 3, which includes noninvasive cardiology, dermatology, ophthalmology and oral surgery, the maximum salary for Tier 1 would increase \$35,000—from \$265,000 to \$300,000. Of course, reaching the maximum pay in each range depends on a doctor's skill sets, and is not guaranteed.

"With more competitive salaries for physicians and dentists, VHA is in a position to attract and hire the best and brightest to treat veterans," said Dr. Carolyn Clancy, interim undersecretary for health. It's unclear how the pay changes could affect the morale or retention of current doctors and dentists. There are more than 40 physician and dentist specialties in the VA system, and more than 25,000 doctors and dentists who work for the department. In crafting the new pay ranges, department officials looked at salary survey data that most closely resembled the VA in terms of environment. The pay increase for new hires is one part of a wide-ranging VA recruitment effort. The department also plans to collaborate with nursing schools on psychiatric and mental health to strengthen relationships between academia and VA facilities, expand the loan repayment program, and augment a pilot program to bring in combat medics and corpsmen as clinicians at the VA. For a comparison of the current salary ranges for each pay table and VA's recommended increases click on http://www.govexec.com/media/gbc/docs/pdfs_edit/091714kl1.pdf.



Chapter 535 Information Center

Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers-Phone

President
 Dick Corn 277-8856
Vice-President
 Pete Burelle 274-3787
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.net 265-8387
 Kent Hawley 432-3551
 Bart Ruud 823-1368
 Dale Epps 368-6156
 Harold Graves 470-8507

CA State Council Delegates

Pete Burelle

Chapter 535 Committees Chairs

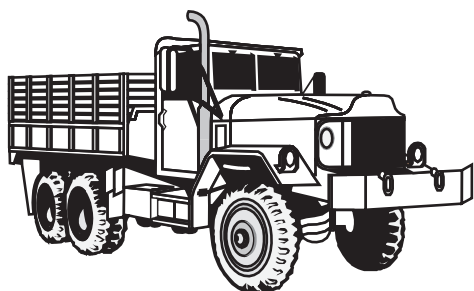
FinanceRalph Remick & Dave Johnson
 Parade and Honor GuardPete Burelle
 Membership Affairs Ric Sheridan
 Newsletter ... bholman@succeed.net, 265-8387 Bill Holman
 Nominations Harold Graves
 Christmas Year Round Harold Graves
 NCCVC Margie Buhler
 Web Master Ralph Remick

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

Eric(530) 273-3396

November Birthdays

11 19 Baird, Bill
 11 29 Buckley, Willam



Dick Corn in Vietnam

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

Nov. 6 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 newsletter's or hearing from us, please contact Bill Holman at 265-8387.



Military Discharges by Type

Type	Description	Benefits eligibility		Number discharged fiscal 2000-13
		VA (health/pension)	GI Bill (education)	
Honorable	Service member met the standards of acceptable conduct and performance.	yes	yes	1,983,893
General	Service record is satisfactory but not sufficiently meritorious to warrant an honorable discharge.	yes	no	172,125
Uncharacterized	Applies to those who leave the military within 180 days.	yes	no	288,568
Other-than-honorable conditions	Service record shows a string of minor offenses, such as drug and alcohol incidents.	no	no	125,204
Bad conduct	Equivalent to a low-level civilian criminal conviction. Requires conviction by court-martial.	no	no	19,054
Dishonorable	Often compared to committing a felony, includes rape or murder. Requires conviction by court-martial.	no	no	1,467

Source: Defense Department

Military Trivia

America's War Horse Sgt. Reckless

The young filly showed great promise every time she ran a race. Many believed she would be a prize winner. But she never got the chance. In June 1950, North Korean troops stormed across the border between South Korea in a surprise attack that changed life on the Korean Peninsula. It also brought the sport of horseracing to a standstill. With no races to run, owning racehorses became a financial liability for their owners. Like many others, she was abandoned at the Seoul racetrack. A young Korean stable boy named Kim Huk Moon took over feeding, watering and grooming her. In October 1952 some U.S. Marines from the 5th Marines' Anti-Tank Company's Recoilless Rifle Platoon discovered the young filly and decided she'd be valuable for carrying supplies into combat. The platoon leader, Lt. Eric Pederson, paid \$250 of his own money to buy her. The only reason Kim sold his beloved horse was so he could buy an artificial leg for his older sister, Chung Soon, who lost her leg in a land mine accident.



Because she would be transporting the Recoilless Rifle into battle, the Marines decided she be named Reckless. During her training, she quickly became a unit mascot and allowed to roam freely through camp. On cold nights she slept in the Marine's tents. She was known to eat anything and everything. Among her favorites were scrambled eggs and pancakes in the morning washed down with a fresh cup of coffee. She also loved sweets of all kind: cakes, cookies, even the hard chocolate bars that came with C-rations. When she got bored she was known to eat blankets, hats, even poker chips. But her bravery under fire and her innate intelligence in numerous battles made her a hero. Learning each supply route after only a couple of trips, she often traveled to deliver supplies to the troops on her own, without benefit of a handler.

One of Reckless' finest hours came during the Battle of Outpost Vegas in March of 1953. This particular battle, according to one writer "was to bring a cannonading and bombing seldom experienced in warfare ... twenty-eight tons of bombs and hundreds of the largest shells turned the crest of Vegas into a smoking, death-pocked rubble." Reckless was in the middle of all of it. In a single day during the battle, she made 51 trips on her own, carrying over 9,000 pounds of ammunition and walked over 35 miles through open rice paddies ignoring the sounds of battle as artillery exploded around her. When she returned to the ammo dump, she often carried wounded soldiers down

the mountain to safety, unload them, get reloaded with ammo, and off she would go back up to the guns and the din of battle. She also provided a shield for several Marines who were trapped trying to make their way up to the front line. Wounded twice, she didn't let that stop or slow her down from carrying out her duties.

She was given the battlefield rank of corporal in 1953, and then a battlefield promotion to sergeant in 1954, several months after the war ended. She also became the first horse in the Marine Corps known to have participated in an amphibious landing. Her military decorations include two Purple Hearts, Good Conduct Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with star, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Navy Unit Commendation, and Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, all of which she wore proudly on her red and gold blanket. Sgt. Reckless was a household name in the 1950s earning her media coverage that rivaled attention bestowed on other famous animals, including Lassie and Seabiscuit. Her wartime service record, featured in *The Saturday Evening Post*, and *LIFE* magazine, recognized her as one of America's 100 all-time heroes, alongside George Washington and Abraham Lincoln.

When the war ended in 1953, she was retired and brought to the United States to live out her retirement years at Camp Pendleton. Her popularity continued where she made appearances on television and participated in the United States Marine Corps birthday ball. A horse so heroic during the Korean War, she was officially promoted to staff sergeant in 1959 by Gen. Randolph McC Pate, the Commandant of the Marine Corps. Seventeen hundred Marines marched in her honor during her promotional ceremony.

Sgt. Reckless was well cared for and treated as a VIP during her time at Camp Pendleton where she produced four foals. She developed arthritis in her back as she aged and injured herself on July 13, 1968, by falling into a barbed wire fence. She died under sedation while her wounds were being treated. At the time of her death, she was estimated to be 19 or 20 years old.

Although so famous in her day, she is mostly forgotten by history. Author and screenwriter Robin Hutton is doing something about that. Upon hearing the horses' story for the first time, she got goose bumps. She is quoted as having said, "When I first heard of her story eight years ago, the first thing that came to my mind was why haven't heard of this horse before? She should have had at least three movies done on her. But when I Googled her name, there was nothing on her. It was a travesty and I started writing a screenplay and later the book 'Sgt. Reckless America's War Horse.'" The book is due out in August. Documentary filmmaker Victoria Racimo is marketing it to HBO. Racimo's short documentary of Sgt. Reckless was

Continued on Page 6

VA Vaccination Program

New Partnership with Walgreens

In a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced 2 OCT that it will join forces with retailer Walgreens to provide greater access to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention-recommended vaccinations to Veterans across the country. This partnership grew out of a successful pilot program that began in Florida to provide flu vaccines to Veterans throughout the state. Based on those results, VA is expanding the pilot nationwide. Through its nearly 8,200 locations nationwide, Walgreens will offer flu and other recommended vaccinations to Veterans. Pharmacists can administer vaccinations to Veterans and will leverage eHealth Exchange, through its Walgreens Cloud Electronic Health Records platform, to securely share immunization records with VA to help ensure complete patient medical records. Vaccinations are available daily during all pharmacy hours with no appointment necessary and are subject to availability.

“VA is proud to partner with Walgreens to provide needed vaccines to our nation’s Veterans,” said VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald. “This partnership is a great example of how government and the private sector can work together to effectively and efficiently provide Veterans the care and benefits that they’ve earned.” Walgreens President and Chief Executive Officer Greg Wasson said, “Walgreens is committed to supporting our Veterans, and we are proud to work with the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide convenient access to vaccines,” said “This is an excellent opportunity for our pharmacists to help VA educate Veterans about the importance of vaccinations, to improve immunization rates through greater access and to contribute to helping veterans get, stay and live well.” Interim Under Secretary for Health, Dr. Carolyn Clancy said, “The VA-Walgreens partnership gives Veterans greater choice in time and location for getting their flu shots without having to complete any other VA forms,” said “With this program, the Veteran patient’s record is integrated, and VA maintains a complete immunization record that allows us to more effectively provide patient-centered care.”

Vaccines are subject to availability. Age, state and health related restrictions may apply. Many immunizations may be covered by commercial insurance plans, Medicare Part B or Medicare Part D. As part of this launch and under the agreement, VA funding can provide approximately 75,000 flu shots for enrolled veterans. Patients are encouraged to check with their health plan for specific coverage details. To find the nearest Walgreens, veterans can call 1-800-WALGREENS or visit <http://www.walgreens.com>. For more information about VA’s immunization program, visit <http://www.ehealth.va.gov/Immunization.asp>.

America’s War Horse Sgt. Reckless page 5

shown at the 2014 Kentucky Derby and together with Hutton they succeeded in having a race named and run in her honor during the 8th race at Kentucky Oaks. Robin Hutton also led the effort to see Sgt. Reckless immortalized in bronze. “I just thought she needed to have a monument so people would forever know who she was,” Hutton said. A statue by sculptor Jocelyn Russell of Sgt. Reckless carrying ammunition shells and other combat equipment was unveiled on Friday, July 26, 2013, in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, one day before the 60th anniversary of the Korean War. There is a lock of her tail hair in the base of the statue.



Veterans Dinner at Nevada City Elks

When Saturday Nov. 8th
Dinner 6 pm

Where Nevada City Elks Club

Veterans are free, all others are \$10.00. No host bar.

RSVP 265-4920

Veterans Dinner at Grass Valley Elks

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



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

Sun 12/7	Cider Startup	Booth
	* Pete Burelle	* Ralph Remick
	* Harold Graves	* Chris Piccolo
	* Dave Chaix	* Dave Chaix
	* Dick Corn	* Harold Graves

Wed 12/10	Cider Startup	Booth
	* Pete Burelle	* Harold Graves
	* Dick Corn	*
	*	*
		*

Sun 12/14	Cider Startup	Booth
	* Pete Burelle	* Harold Graves
	* Dick Corn	*
	*	*
		*

Wed 12/17	Cider Startup	Booth
	* Pete Burelle	* Harold Graves
	* Dick Corn	*
	*	*
		*

Sun 12/21	Cider Startup	Booth
	* Pete Burelle	* Harold Graves
	* Dick Corn	*
	*	*
		*

* _____ = 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.

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

