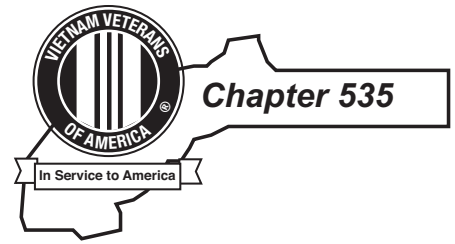




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 25 Issue 2

In Service To America and the Gold Country

February 2015

President's Message

Our membership agreed that we will do a Color Guard Mission at the Mardi Gras Parade on February 15th in Nevada City. The parade starts at 2:00 P.M. from Broad and Cottage Streets. Those interested should be at the Nevada City Veterans Building parking lot no later than 12:30 P.M. The streets close and you can't drive there after that time. We will be wearing VVA white polo shirts, dark blue pants and dark (black) boots/shoes. If you do not have this attire, you can fall in at the rear. I will have all the flags, belts, etc., as needed. If you have not participated in a parade as a Vietnam Veteran yet, you will be surprised at how receptive the crowd is toward our participation.

February is also a good time to decide if you want to be in a leadership role in our Chapter. We need volunteers for most of our positions, including Directors. Contact Harold Graves, our Nominations Committee Chair, for information and duties required.

Our February 5th General Membership meeting will feature Victor Ferrera as our guest speaker. He is the Veterans Service Officer for Nevada County. He will give us an overview of his office and will answer your questions or lead you to someone who will help you. Invite all Veterans who might be interested, not just members of Chapter 535.

Our March 5th General Membership Meeting will feature guest speaker Emmett Spraktes. He has received many accolades and medals as a Staff Sergeant in the Army National Guard. He served in Afghanistan and Iraq as a flight medic and he has many other military experiences to share. For more information on him and his book, "Selfish Prayer", go to www.selfishprayer.com

Dick Corn, President 277-8856
Short Timer President

Speaker for the February Meeting

The next Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 535 meeting on February 5th at 6 PM will feature guest speaker **Victor Ferrera**. He is the new Veterans Service Officer for Nevada County. He will answer all your questions as well. Invite all veterans you know who might be interested. Our meeting is in the Remembrance Room behind the stage at the Grass Valley Veterans building at 255 S. Auburn St.



Contents	Page
Message from the President	1
February Speaker	1
DoD Humvee Auction	2
Chapter Information	3
Upcoming Dates and Events	3
The All Veterans Honor Guard	3
Coccal Carry Weapons Class.....	4
America's Most Beloved Vets	4
Fighter Pilot Remains Found in Vietnam	5
VinhSon Orphanage Thank You	7
VVA Application Form.....	8

DoD Humvee Auction **Selling For Off-Road Use Only**

What in the world is the U.S. military going to do with all of its surplus Humvees? For the first time, it will auction off as many as 4,000 of the workhorse vehicles for sale to the public, instead of scrapping them. Even as controversy churns over the Pentagon's transfer of military equipment to local civilian police departments, the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) sent the first batch to auction through IronPlanet's <http://www.govplanet.com>. Since bidding started at \$10,000 a couple of weeks ago, pent up demand has yielded bids on nearly all of the Humvees — selling for off-road use only. “We definitely see lots of interest, and we're certainly excited to have the opportunity to sell these,” said Randy Berry, IronPlanet's senior vice president for operations and services. “These items have been scrapped up to now ... so it's a win for the taxpayers and everybody involved here.”

Sitting on a dusty lot at Hill Air Force Base in Utah are 25 Humvees built between 1987 and the mid 1990s, some with visible wear and patchy camouflage paint jobs, and whose odometer readings range from 1,361 to 38,334. The public will have the chance to bid on them in a live online action on Dec. 17 and take home a Humvee that once served as a troop or cargo carrier. DLA will have some 4,000 Humvees considered surplus inspected for defects — and so long as they're not taken or have military characteristics, like armor — they will be offered to IronPlanet. Before the restrictions had been lifted, they might have been scrapped. “We know that there are thousands going through the screening process now, and some will be claimed by states and local governments, and anything not claimed will go through for public sale, through our marketplace,” Berry said. “We expect to have a steady stream of those available over time.”

AM General, which has manufactured more than 300,000 Humvees since the Army adopted them in 1985, has made no secret of its opposition to the sale of military Humvees to the general public — which had heretofore been restricted by the government. The company's website says it sells parts or service information only to its military customers, and not for vehicles that “wind up in civilian hands.” AM General “opposes any use of these military vehicles by individuals or entities outside of the military context for which the vehicles are designed?” The surplus sales could be viewed as competition for the company, which manufactured the civilian “Hummer” from 1992 to 2010, and debuted a civilian “Humvee C-Series” kit in 2013 for the base price of \$60,000, without a power train. Restrictions on the M908, M908A1, M1038, and M1038A1 model Humvees — which are out of military use — were lifted by the US State and Commerce departments in the last year or so, clearing the way for DLA. Beyond the military, surplus Humvees had only been available to fire and police departments in the 1033 program, the one facing widespread



criticism and congressional scrutiny of late over the militarization of local law enforcement. “With cooperation from other government offices, DLA Disposition Services can now make some military vehicles into assets instead of having to send them to be scrapped,” DLA public affairs chief Michelle McCaskill said in an emailed response to questions about the Humvee auctions. In July, DLA awarded IronPlanet a two-year contract to manage and sell DLA's rolling stock surplus assets, valued at \$50-\$70 million annually, with a bid equal to 75.29 percent of revenue share to the DLA. (Liquidity Services, Inc., filed a protest that was since denied.)

IronPlanet has since held three auctions from the stock, which includes cargo trucks, tractor trucks, utility trailers, forklifts, construction equipment. After the holidays, it plans to continue weekly auctions for the items, some including the Humvees, which are at more than 60 military sites around the country. “You can bid any time prior to the auction itself,” Berry said. “We structure ours like events, with all these items selling today, and then a live format, where instead of the auction just concluding anonymously, you get to watch all the items selling.” Winners must pay within three days, sign an agreement indemnifying IronPlanet and arrange for transportation, as the vehicles are not considered roadworthy. IronPlanet helpfully offers detailed inspection reports, with photos, and referrals to transport companies. “We anticipate there are plenty of interested bidders out there,” Berry said, “and plenty of off-road uses for these vehicles.”



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.....	887-8297
Past President	
Fred Buhler	

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

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

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

Victor Ferrera..... (530) 273-3396

February Birthdays

2	1	Hernandez, Al
2	3	Chuck Holmes
2	7	John Spencer
2	9	Dennis Sanders
2	10	English, Phil
2	23	Kelly, Patrick
2	28	Pete Burelle

Navy beat Army

Guy walks into a bar and trailing behind is an old, mangy dog who promptly curls up in a corner and goes to sleep as the guy is bellying up to the bar.

Bartender comes over and says: "No dogs allowed in here, you'll have to put him outside."

Guy says: "You can see he's an old dog, it's cold out there and I take him everywhere. If he can do a trick you like will you let him stay?"

Bartender says: "Him do a trick? That I would like to see."

Guy goes up to the dog and yells: "Navy beat Army". Dog's ears immediately come up, he pops up, jumps on the bar, does fourteen back flips, barks out the rhythm of Anchors Weigh, jumps off the bar and promptly goes back to sleep in the corner.

Bartender says: "That really is something - what does he do when Army beats Navy?"

Guy replies: "I don't know - he's just fourteen years old."

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

February 5 General Chapter Meeting 6 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 Appeals202-233-3001
Central Office.....202-233-4000
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act202-233-3616
Personnel Locator.....202-233-4000
Public Information.....202-233-3056
Veterans Health Administration202-535-7010
VA Telephone Care Program800-733-0502
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 Locator317-542-4211
Navy Times Locator Services.....703-750-8636
Service Reunions703-998-7035
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 CA805-872-4035
Retired Pay - Cleveland DFAS.....800-321-1080
Navy Lodging.....800-NAVY INN
Army Lodging.....800-GO ARMY

Conceal Carry Weapons Class

Dennis Fruzza, American Legion

If anyone is interested in attending the CCW course that we hold monthly in the Remembrance Room at the Grass Valley Veterans building, please contact Gary Weber at 274-7664 or <<http://weberfirearms@gmail.com/>>weberfirearms@gmail.com. Gary will then send notification emails for the next course and all of the material to the interested parties. We are charging 1/2 price for Veterans and their spouses, which at this time is \$50.00 all others \$90.00. Everyone pays the \$10.00 range fees.

Recommendation is to download the CCW Application from the mynevadacounty web site, print it out, or obtain one from the NCSO, follow their instructions. Then take the application to the NCSO on the second floor of the Rood Bldg. Once the course is taken and the qualifying is completed, then add the certificate to the application and wait for them to call.

Three firearms can be put onto the CCW permit, qualifying with all of them, shooting 50 total rounds between the firearms.

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 you are not receiving your newsletter's or hearing from us, please contact Bill Holman at 265-8387.

America's Most Beloved Vets - Korea



Jerry Coleman Kurt Chew-eeen Lee Mitchell Red Cloud Neil Armstrong

■ The Yankees second baseman and sports broadcaster Jerry Coleman flew combat missions in World War II and Korea.

■ The first Asian-American Marine Corps officer Kurt Chew-eeen Lee helped thousands escape death at Chosin and served as a combat intelligence officer in Vietnam.

■ The Ho-Chunk Indian Mitchell Red Cloud sounded the alarm about an impending Chinese attack, killing several enemy soldiers and saving his company from being overrun before he was shot to death.

■ Neil Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, started as a Navy pilot, flying 78 combat missions in Korea.

Fighter Pilots Remains Found in Vietnam

The Defense POW/MIA Office announced the identification of remains belonging to Air Force Col. William E. Cooper, 45, of Albany, Ga., was assigned to the 469th Tactical Squadron, 388th Tactical Fighter Wing, when his F-105D Thunderchief was shot down while on a strike mission on a highway-railroad bridge north of Hanoi, North Vietnam, on April 24, 1966. He will be buried with full military honors on a date and location yet to be determined.

The following account by Ray Davidson, a syndicated columnist, addresses Col. Cooper's last mission.

The aircraft that Cooper and his flight flew that morning was the Republic F-105D "Thunderchief" a supersonic tactical fighter-bomber that could carry 12,000 pounds of ordnance. The plane, nicknamed the "Thud", had already proven its battle worthiness. In addition to its bomb payload the single seat fighter could be mounted with air-to-air and air-to-surface missiles as well a 6,000 round per minute Vulcan cannon.

On this day Cooper's plane had a load of six 750-pound bombs. The strike team's target was the Bac Giang Bridge, a highway-railroad bridge located 35 miles northeast of Hanoi. It was a vital link between North Vietnam and China. Cooper and his pilots knew the bridge would be well defended with Surface to Air missiles and anti-aircraft artillery (AAA) emplacements. In fact, two planes and pilots had been lost the day before, this and the fact that the skies were overcast above the bridge with a low flight ceiling made for a dangerous mission. Cooper's flight that day was called Oak, while the second flight of "Thuds" was code named Pecan. Cooper flew as Oak 1, Warren Moon was Oak 2, Jimmy Jones was Oak 3, and Dick Dutton was Oak 4.

A member of the flight recalls the mission, "The leader called for a weapons check as we crossed the Mekong River. The 'fence check' was the time to confirm all switch settings and turn the master arm switch on. At this point everything would be set to release the bombs or fire the cannon. In the Thud there were nine switch settings the pilot needed to confirm on the fence check. Most of them could be set prior to takeoff except for the master arm switch."

"We were now over Laos and headed north to the 'Hook' in the Red River northwest of Hanoi. The Hook was a prominent landmark for navigation and timing. From there we would go east to the north end of Thud Ridge, down Thud Ridge to the southeast and then direct to the target. Oak flight was a couple of minutes ahead of Pecan as we headed down the ridge."
"As the Red River Valley opened out in front of us I could see the real meaning of 'flak so thick you can walk on it'. We were



at 9,000 feet and 540 knots. It looked like every five-level gunner in North Vietnam had been turned loose. The gray puffs of the 37 mm flak were going off at about 6,000 feet so I didn't have the feeling of imminent danger at that particular moment but I knew damn well we would have to penetrate the flak level sometime. The flak was everywhere you looked across the entire valley."

"Suddenly, 'SAM at two o'clock for Oak three', came over the radio."

"Number [Oak] Three was the only one with vector gear. [Cooper had vector gear but never turned it on. He was an "old school" pilot and distrusted the new "fangled" electronics.] He [Oak 3] had a SA-2 at his right, two o'clock position that was tracking us. I was on the right wing looking across the formation, which made the SAM site in front of me or slightly to my right. Number [Oak] Three rolled inverted."

'LAUNCH, LAUNCH, take it down, take it down' crackled over the radio.

"I rolled inverted and pulled over five g's to get the nose 45 degrees low. I rolled upright and pulled again to get back to level flight. The SAM was less than 100 feet directly in front of me with the booster still burning. The lettering and numbers were easily seen as the missile continued straight up. That one was meant for me had it not been for [Oak] three's call."

"As I pulled up and to the left I looked at Lead [Oak 1, Cooper's plane]. Another SAM impacted his airplane at that moment. He had not maneuvered and was still at 9,000 feet heading straight for the target. The large, orange fireball consumed the entire airplane. Didn't he [Cooper] hear Three's call for the 'take it down'?"

"Two, do you have three in sight?"

'Roger, Three.'

'Get on my wing. We are going on in.'

"Number three picked up responsibility for the formation without any hesitation."

'Four's hit [Pecan 4, Lt Jerry Driscoll].'

'Four [Pecan 4], you're on fire.'

"Pecan Four had been hit by flak as the flight entered the valley at the end of Thud Ridge. Pecan four [would have] nearly seven years to go as a POW before being released."

"Oak Three couldn't get us to the bridge because of the weather. Our bombs would be used to create a road. I moved the throttle outboard for afterburner and pulled the nose up to match number three as he popped up for his dive bomb pass. It would be a left roll in for a pass to the northwest. We had passed within five miles of the bridge but couldn't get to it."

"I topped out at 12,000 feet and rolled left and down to reach a 45-degree dive. Coming out of afterburner I tried to hold the airspeed at 450 knots. It seemed eternally slow and I felt a naked vulnerability as I maintained a constant flight path to a bomb release altitude at 4,500 feet. If the gunners are any good at all they are going to be tracking me now. Oak Three and Four were below me and to the right."

'Come off north and get back into the hills.'

"Oak Three directed the egress to get out of the heavy threat. I dropped the bombs, selected afterburner and turned hard to the north. Jinking left and right I didn't look around until I was in the hills."

'Oak Two, do you have Three?'

Negative. I think I am out in front of you.

'Head west, head west.'

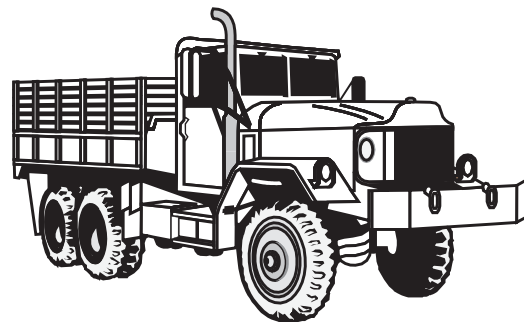
Bia Giang had cost the Air Force four pilots in two days. The pilot of Oak Four that day would be shot down on a later mission and spend over six years as a POW.

It was April, 1966. The Secretary of Defense had said we would lose 576 airplanes in Southeast Asia by the end of the next fiscal year (July 1967). He missed it by three. We would lose 111 F-105s in 1966 alone. The Bac Giang Bridge was destroyed by F-105's on May 5, 1966. The bridge would be repaired many times over. The bridge would be destroyed many times over before the war ended. Many more planes and pilots were lost at the Bac Giang Bridge"

Bob Krone shared a trailer at Korat with Cooper and became Squadron Commander after Coopers death. In talking about Cooper, Bob had this to say: "I was Ops [Operations Officer] and Cooper was Commander, 469th... USAF policy was that we never flew combat at the same time. On 24 April 66, afternoon, I was in Ops and got the word that both Cooper and Driscoll had been shot down. Major Jimmy Jones was number three in Coopers 4-ship flight. When Jimmy landed I climbed up the ladder to his cockpit. He had tears in his eyes and said, "That Stubborn old man."

"Cooper did not believe in taking evasive action. His first combat was in bombers [WWII], straight and level to the target. He also did not use the electronic SAM missile alert system that had been put in our planes early in 1966. The flight members picked up the SAM radar homing on their gear... Jimmy Jones called Coop with the fact they were being painted [targeted]. Coop did not respond or react. Then the missile firing radar came up on the gear. Jones called a 'Break to the flight,' the three members of the flight broke to the left and right, Coop kept straight and level and the missile hit him directly."

In closing Krone said, "Bill Cooper died performing what he believed to be a fighter pilot's highest duty. One evening in the trailer we shared for housing at Korat, he made this statement to me: 'Only this is real.. ...all else is bullshit'."



January 26, 2015

President

Dave Chaix
dmc402@att.net

Secretary

Dennis Coyne
dcoyne@zoomtown.com

Treasurer

Colleen Sands
ccsands4fvso@gmail.com

Senior Vice President

Pat McKee
mckee@sbcglobal.net

1st Vice President

Sister Marie Dominique
srmdndc@gmail.com

2nd Vice President

Mike Little
littlecrazy3@cox.net

Board Members:

Rich Lahey
richard.lahey@earthlink.net

Patrick Leary
leary_patrick@yahoo.com

Clyde Lewandowski
clew4@midco.net

Hank Gonzales
free2golfanytime@hotmail.com

Bart Ruud
bruud@ssctv.net

VVA Chapter 535 Nevada County, CA
Dick Corn – President
P.O. Box 37
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Dear Dick,

Thank you and VVA 535 very much for your ongoing support of the Vinh Son Orphanages (VSO), located in Kontum, Vietnam. The VVA Chapter 535 **\$3,000** contribution will be used for the construction project at Vinh Son 4. You continue to make a wonderful difference in the lives of the children and the Sisters and children remember you in their prayers every day. A picture of a child is attached.

We completed our Annual Meeting January 2 that reviewed the year 2014 and set goals for 2015. We are looking at advanced education for children who have the potential to do so. This will require that we look into the cost for feasibility. But we think we can do it. Many who have received advanced education in the past have made their services available to the orphanages - especially those with medical training. More information the meeting will be in the next newsletter.

Once again, thank you for supporting VSO, and may God bless you and your loved ones.

Sincerely,

Dave Chaix
President
Friends of Vinh Son Montagnard Orphanage

No goods or services were received in exchange for this contribution

A Non-Profit Humanitarian Project benefiting Vinh Son Orphanage Kontum, Vietnam

P.O. Box 9322 Auburn, California 95604-9322

Email: info@FriendsofVSO.org - Web www.FriendsofVSO.org



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



Grass Valley, CA 95945
Post Office Box 37
Chapter 535