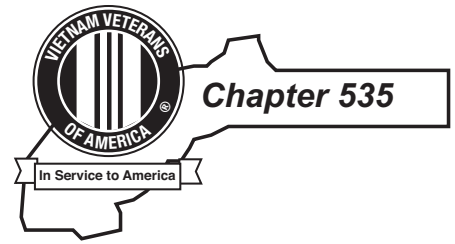




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Chapter 535 Web Page www.vva535.org

"It Feels Good to Get Involved"

Volume 25 Issue 4

In Service To America and the Gold Country

April 2015

President's Message

Be sure to come to the General Membership Meeting on April 2nd at 6:00 P.M. We will be installing new Chapter officers and the Chapter will provide pizza. This is your chance to step up into a leadership position and, also, to vote for the leadership of the Chapter.

This will be my last message as our Chapter President. It has been an honor to serve the Chapter as President and I very much appreciate the Officers and Directors who assisted this organization to accomplish our goals and do great things to support all Veterans and our great community.

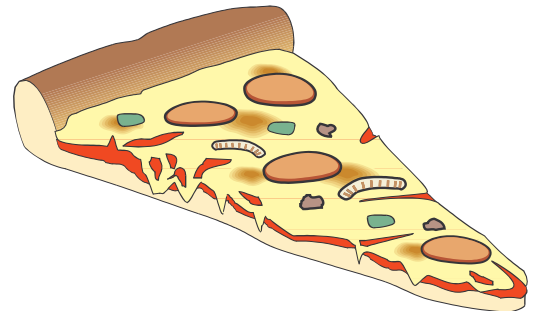
I will be available to help the incoming President in any way that I can. I thank all members for your support and encouragement and ideas over the past year. Carry on! Dismissed!

Dick Corn, President 277-8856
Short Timer President

April Elections Meeting

Thursday April 2nd meeting is our elections meeting at 6 pm, Grass Valley Vets Building. We need a good turn out.

We Will Also Be Serving Pizza At This Meeting



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Nevada County Veterans Services Office to Move

New digs cause doubts for some Nevada A plan to move and upgrade the Nevada County Veterans Services Office had some vets asking questions, while others have already voted to support the plan.

“Some of us guys were pretty nervous about the whole situation,” said veteran Eric Trygg, about the plan to move the county office from the Veterans Memorial Building in Grass Valley to larger and improved quarters at a [newly leased building at Brighton Greens Office Park on McCourtney Road in Grass Valley](#).

Trygg and about 25 other veterans met Thursday with Nevada County Supervisor Dan Miller and county Facilities Manager Tom Coburn at the current Veterans Service Office to discuss the situation.

“They did a pretty good job explaining it,” Trygg said after the meeting. “It was a positive experience.”

Trygg said he felt more “comfortable” about the county’s plans after the meeting.

“Currently, the waiting room chairs are less than 3 feet from the counter where someone comes in to say, ‘I’d like to apply for veterans benefits because I have some issues.’ Then they do go back to an office for the consultation — but the reception area is not private.” County Facilities Manager Tom Coburn “We’ll just have to wait and see,” he said.

Coburn said he would dispel rumors that have surfaced in recent days.

“We’re not planning to sell that building,” Coburn said in response to one of the rumors. The existing veterans office will remain at the Grass Valley building for use by veterans organizations — although Coburn said the details of that use are still being worked out.

“It will still be veterans-related,” he said of the 700-square-foot dining hall and offices in the rear basement of the Grass Valley building. “I have my wish list, but I’m still putting in suggestions.”

He said the other offices in the building, such as Nevada County Agriculture Commissioner’s office and UC Cooperative Extension, will remain in place.

Coburn said it was not an “eviction” from the Grass Valley building, but a way to offer more space, more privacy, more hours and better services to veterans who are applying for benefits. Space will increase from 700 square feet to 1,200 square feet, with a private entrance and separate waiting area from other county social service agencies that will also be moving to Brighton Greens.

“It will be separate,” Coburn said. The new office will remedy several complaints about the current space — lack of privacy for veterans applying for benefits and reduced hours over lunch break.

“Currently, the waiting room chairs are less than 3 feet from the counter where someone comes in to say, ‘I’d like to apply for veterans benefits because I have some issues,’” Coburn said. “Then they do go back to an office for the consultation — but the reception area is not private.”

In addition, access to the office will be improved. When receptionists for the veterans service office go to lunch, they will have staff from other offices at the new building to cover for them, so the office will remain open.

“At least you’re not going to have someone going there to open the door and it’s locked,” Coburn said.

Aside from the group of veterans meeting Thursday, Coburn said he has had mostly positive feedback from area veterans groups, including the American Legion Frank Gallino Post 130 in Grass Valley, the Nevada County Consolidated Veterans Council and the Marine Corps League.

“While the move from the Veterans Memorial Building is an emotional one, the Frank Gallino Executive Committee Board recognizes the need to provide communities’ veterans to the highest possible level of service,” said Robert Germann, Commander of the American Legion post, in a Dec. 15 letter to Coburn. “The board has voted to support this move.” Coburn, who said he goes to all the NCCVC meetings, said that group was supportive of the plan.

The move to the 20,000-square-foot building at Brighton Greens, announced in December when the lease was approved by Nevada County Board of Supervisors, will consolidate Nevada County’s diverse and spread-out social services offices in one central location. Currently, members of the public who may need housing, job or mental health services — for example — likely have to travel to three or more office locations.

“Overall, the public gets more services at one location than they have ever had before,” Coburn said.

Ultimately there could also be some cost savings, he added. “We have three different leases out there now (for social services offices),” Coburn said. “All are due and all are due for increases.”

Nevada County Veterans Services Officer Vic Ferrera echoed Coburn’s comments.

“The veterans office will be separate,” said Ferrera, also Nevada County Office of Emergency Management director. “It will not be lumped in with other social services.”

Chapter 535 Information Center

VSO Office Continued from Page 2

Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

Officers-Phone

President
 Dick Corn277-8856

Vice-President
 Pete Burelle274-3787

Secretary
 Dave Johnson885-1230

Treasurer
 Ralph Remick.....887-8297

Past President
 Fred Buhler

Directors

Ric Sheridan rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net.....274-1413
 Dan Davis272-4110
 Dave Chaix269-1431
 Bill Holman bholman@succeed.net.....265-8387
 Kent Hawley..... 432-3551
 Bart Ruud823-1368
 Dale Epps.....368-6156
 Harold Graves470-8507

CA State Council Delegates

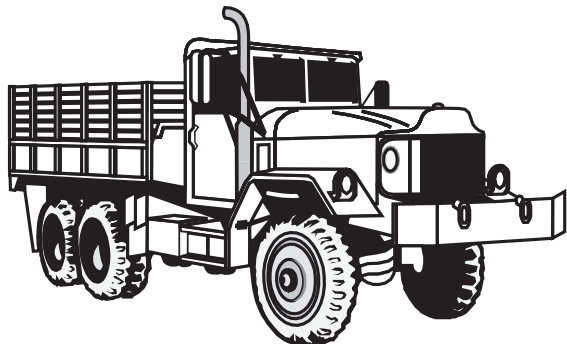
Pete Burelle

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



According to the announcement in December, the following offices are scheduled to move to Brighton Greens in July:

- Veterans Services Office, currently at the Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building;
- Women, Infants and Children program (WIC), currently in leased offices on the second floor of a retail space on Sutton Way in Grass Valley;
- CalWORKS/One Stop, currently in a leased office on Maltman Drive in Grass Valley;
- Children's Behavioral Health and Child Protective Services, both currently at the Laura Wilcox Memorial Building on Sutton Way in Grass Valley;
- Social Services Eligibility, currently split between the CalWORKS/One Stop office at Maltman Drive in Grass Valley and the county's Rood Center in Nevada City.



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

April	2	General Chapter and Elections Meeting 6 pm
May	7	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.....202-565-8124
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act202-233-3616
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.

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

America's Most Beloved Vets



John McCain



Norman Schwarzkopf



R. Lee Ermey

- The future U.S. senator and presidential candidate John McCain endured torture and solitary confinement as a POW, and refused an offer of early repatriation.
- Norman Schwarzkopf (Stormin Norman) led troops in Vietnam and Grenada, and as commander of U.S. forces in the Gulf War, he assembled 765,000 troops from 28 countries to liberate Kuwait.
- America's most famous Marine Corps drill instructor R. Lee Ermey earned a Golden Globe nomination for his role in "Full Metal Jacket," and has starred or appeared in approximately 60 films.

VA Health Care Conversion Proposal

Make it a Non-Profit Government Corporation

The federal agency that provides health care to vets should be turned into a non-profit government corporation that competes with the private sector for patients, according to a veterans' advocacy group. The conservative-leaning Concerned Veterans of America recommends splitting the Veterans Health Administration into two entities, one that focuses on hospital and clinical health care for vets, and another that runs the department's health insurance component. Under the proposal, the VHA would operate along the same lines as Amtrak, the rail service that is independent from the government but also receives some federal money. Veterans would have the choice to stay within the VHA health care system, or obtain care from providers in the private health care network. Those who chose the latter would have to help subsidize the cost of their care through co-payments and deductibles, similar to the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program for civilian federal workers, which the CVA report called "the oldest and most successful premium support program in the world."

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., said the current VHA model doesn't work anymore. The idea behind the proposed reforms is to improve health care veterans by offering them more choices, but also creating competition for VHA and giving the agency incentives to become more efficient. "This approach is not anti-VHA," said the report, crafted by a bipartisan task force headlined by former Sen. Bill Frist (R-TN) and former Rep. Jim Marshall (D-GA). "It is pro-veteran. The VA should be given every opportunity to compete for veterans' health care dollars. But it can no longer take veterans for granted as customers. Some veterans get great care from the VA and will want to continue doing so. Others do not and will not." CVA on 26 FEB released its recommendations for overhauling VHA --the Veterans Affairs Department agency at the heart of the management scandal involving patient wait times --during a Capitol Hill event featuring several high-profile Republicans, including possible presidential hopeful Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida.

The current VHA model doesn't work anymore, Rubio said. "The challenges before our veterans have changed, and the way we provide service for them must change as well. The result of the current system is pretty straightforward. Our veterans today are facing, and are met with, the same charm and the same efficiency from the Veterans Administration as they get from the Department of Motor Vehicles or the IRS," the Florida Republican said. "I believe they deserve a lot better than that." Rubio said navigating the VA health care and benefits system is a huge issue for many of his Florida constituents. As part of the report, CVA surveyed roughly 1,000 vets, with 90 percent of respondents favoring "efforts to reform veteran health care in this country." But what that reform should look like is a matter of debate.

VA Secretary Bob McDonald was not thrilled by CVA's recommendation to carve out VHA from the rest of the department. "Unfortunately, many of today's proposals advocate 'contracting out' a sacred mission to care for those who have borne the battle," McDonald said in a statement. "There is an important role for outside care in the veteran health model to supplement VA's own care, but that role should not diminish or obscure the importance of VA's health care system. Reforming VA health care cannot be achieved by dismantling it and preventing veterans from receiving the specialized care and services that can only be provided by VA." The 2014 Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act allows some vets temporary access to private health care rather than waiting for a VA appointment or traveling more than 40 miles to a VA facility. The Obama administration has said that not as many vets as expected have opted out of the VHA system at this point. President Obama's fiscal 2016 budget recommends taking any money left over from that "choice" part of the law and channeling it back into other VA programs, which many lawmakers oppose.

The task force did not call for a wholesale dismantling of the VHA, and emphasized that vets who want to stay within that health care system would be able to do so under the proposed recommendations. The agency runs the country's largest integrated health care system, with 150 medical centers and nearly 1,400 local outpatient clinics, vet centers and other facilities. Most of the VA's roughly 313,000 employees work at VHA. Frist, who spoke during Thursday's event, sought to distinguish between VA employees and the bureaucracy. "[VA] hospitals are full of people who are committed, who are hard-working, who want to do the very best for that individual patient and take them, and love them and give them the care that they deserve," he said. "But the system sets up barriers that restrict and restrain, and come between that desire and that commitment between the individuals who are in these VA hospitals ... we've got too many barriers in their way to deliver that care." The idea of privatizing veterans' health care and transforming the VHA into a government-chartered corporation is not new. But it's fair to say that the reaction from stakeholders will be mixed.

The Military Officers Association of America did not take a position on CVA's report. "The important thing is that this allows for further dialogue and another perspective that should be considered," said Rene Campos, deputy director of government relations at MOAA. Campos said that there are a lot of challenges facing the veterans' health care system that privatization won't necessarily improve (or make worse), such as data-sharing. The VA and Defense Department historically have had problems sharing health care information, and there's no indication the situation would improve between the VA and private health care providers. All the ideas on reforming VA health care need to be "thoroughly debated and understood," Campos said.

Continued on Page 6

The American Federation of Government Employees, which represents many VA workers, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Other veterans service organizations contacted for comment on the CVA report also did not immediately respond. Some of Thursday's speakers argued that VA employees, who are enrolled in FEHBP, have more health care choices than the vets they serve. "It's kind of ironic that people who work at the VA have choices in the health care that they get, but veterans who enroll in the VHA are captive to the system," said Avik Roy, a co-chairman of the CVA task force and senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute's Center for Medical Progress. Rubio was less diplomatic. "The fact that those very bureaucrats have more options for their own health care than the veterans they are supposed to be working for is immoral and makes no sense," he said.



OBIT Leonard Nimoy 27 FEB 2015

Actor Leonard Nimoy, a former enlisted soldier, died 27 FEB at age 83. Nimoy, who immortalized the science officer Mr. Spock on TV and in movies, wore the Army uniform long before he wore the Star Fleet ensemble for "Star Trek." He served as a soldier from 1953 to 1955. The Army took him to Fort Ord, California, Fort Benning, Georgia, and Fort McPherson, Georgia, according to a Twitter post from Nimoy for Veterans Day in 2013. He posted a photo of himself in uniform, wearing the rank of technician 3rd grade, equivalent to the World War II-era rank of staff sergeant (E-5).



Leonard Nimoy in his Army days

Nimoy had many acting credits before and after his Army days. He was cast to play Spock in 1966, and the show ran until 1969, launching both Nimoy and his character into the icon stratosphere. Nimoy played Spock throughout much of his career after that, including a cameo appearance in the most recent Star Trek movie, "Star Trek Into Darkness" as Spock Prime while actor Zachary Quinto took the role of younger Spock.

How Much You Remember

Let's see how much you remember, and how many of these you can recall.




1. In the 1950s, if you had a flat rear tire, you often had to remove the?
a. Necker knob b. Curb feeler c. Fender skirt
2. What color flash bulbs did Dad use for color film?
a. Blue b. Pink c. Plaid
3. What was the parking brake called when you were a kid?
a. Emergency brake b. Pull Stop c. Breaker.
4. Way before Air Jordan, what was a kids shoe of choice?
a. Buster Brown b. PF Flyers c. Old Stinkers
5. In what year did Dewey Defeat Truman according to the Chicago Tribune? a. 1946 b. 1948 c. 1952
6. Before the Orkin Man, what technology was part of most home bug deterrence? a. Shoe Fly b. Fly paper c. 50 mm Phlit gun
7. Jimmy Durante said what at the end of every show?
a. Aloha, my friends. b. Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are. c. Remember, wherever you go, my nose will get there first.

Answers

1. c) Fender skirts, attached to the rear fenders, covered fully half the wheel streamlining the car.
2. a) Blue
3. a) Emergency brake. We grew up in much more dramatic times. [I still call it that]
4. b) PF Flyers.
5. b) It was November 3, 1948, when Truman upset Republican Thomas Dewey in the first postwar presidential election. T
6. b) Sticky fly paper hanging from kitchen ceilings was common in American homes.
7. b) Good night, Mrs. Calabash, wherever you are.

April - 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			April Fools Day  James Ferrier	General Membership & Elections Meeting Meeting 6:00 pm		
			1	2	3	4
 Easter			8	9	10	11
5	6	7				
			15	16	17	18
12	 William Hald	13	14			
			22	23	24	25
19	20	21				
			29	30		
26	27	28				

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

