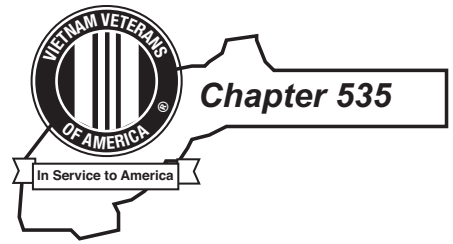




# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
**CHAPTER 535**



Chapter 535 Web Page [www.vva535.org](http://www.vva535.org)

*"It Feels Good to Get Involved"*

Volume 25 Issue 8

*In Service To America and the Gold Country*

August 2015

## **We Will Have a Guest Speaker at Our August Meeting**

Matt Proietti Air Force Vet To Speak About Vietnam War Hero. Penn Valley resident Matt Proietti will speak at our Aug. 6 meeting about the life of a career Air Force sergeant who posthumously received the Medal of Honor in 2010 for actions taken prior to his death in a mountaintop battle in Laos four decades earlier.

Proietti recently published his first book, "At All Costs," which details the life of Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard L. Etchberger, 35, a Pennsylvanian who was among 12 U.S. airmen killed March 11, 1968, when a North Vietnamese Army special forces team scaled a 3,000-foot cliff and attacked their secret radar camp.

Etchberger helped rescue three of his comrades, two of whom were severely wounded. He made it safely aboard an evacuation helicopter himself before being shot through the floor as it lifted off from the mountain, where he helped lead a team that aided the U.S. bombing campaign of North Vietnam in an operation called Project Heavy Green. He and two fellow airmen were killed outright. Their bodies and those of nine others were not recovered following the clash. The remains of two have since been identified through DNA testing and returned to their families.

Nine months after his death, Chief Etchberger received the Air Force Cross, the service's second-highest decoration, in a small Pentagon ceremony attended by his survivors. In 2008, then-Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley nominated Etchberger for the Medal of Honor, which is awarded "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty."

President Obama approved the request in July 2010, making Etchberger just the second airman awarded the Medal of Honor since the end of the Vietnam War. The presentation in a White House ceremony in September 2010 drew national attention to the little-known Project Heavy Green and the battle at Lima Site 85, which resulted in the largest loss of Air Force ground personnel in the war.

Etchberger was the 60th airman to receive the Medal of Honor, including those who served before the Air Force became a separate service from the Army in 1947. "At All Costs" is the first book by Proietti, who served four years as an Air Force print journalist and remains a military reservist today. Proietti, a former civilian community newspaper editor in California, learned about Etchberger's actions while running the Air Force's Washington, D.C.-based news team in 2008 and published the book in a partnership with a foundation started by Etchberger's sons. He is currently converting it into a movie screenplay.

He launched "At All Costs" at an April 21 book signing in Montgomery, Alabama, at the Air Force Senior Noncommissioned Officer Academy, which presents an award named after Etchberger in each of its sessions.

The Freedoms Foundation in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, will use "At All Costs" as a textbook for three weeklong sessions of its Medal of Honor Legacy course for teachers this summer.

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## **POW/MIA Recoveries**

### **Vietnam**

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced 17 JUN that the remains of a serviceman, missing from the Vietnam War, have been identified and will be returned to his family for burial with full military honors. U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Edwin E. Morgan, 38, of Eagle Spring, N.C., will be buried June 27 in Rockwell, N.C.



On March 13, 1966 Morgan was assigned to the 6252nd Combat Support Group, as the loadmaster of an AC-47D gunship aircraft that departed Da Nang Air Base, Vietnam on an armed reconnaissance mission along the Vietnam-Laos border. The aircraft failed to return and neither Morgan nor the aircraft was seen again. Morgan was listed missing in action and a military review board later amended his status to presumed dead. In 1992 and 1996, U.S. teams attempted to locate the crash site in Vietnam and Laos, but were unsuccessful. On Feb. 9, 1997, a joint U.S./Lao People's Democratic Republic (L.P.D.R.) team located a crash site in Xekong Province, Laos. On Feb. 8, 2010, another joint U.S./L.P.D.R. team surveyed the crash site, successfully recovering remains and military equipment. The team confirmed that the crash site was consistent with an C-47 or AC-47 aircraft with at least one crewman aboard.

Between Oct. 21, 2010, and May 20, 2014, four joint U.S./L.P.D.R. teams excavated the crash site recovering human remains, military equipment, and aircraft wreckage consistent with an AC-47 aircraft. In the identification of Morgan, scientists from DPAA used circumstantial evidence and dental comparison, which matched Morgan's records. We appreciate the cooperation we receive from the governments and people of Laos and Vietnam in our continuing efforts to achieve the fullest possible accounting for our missing personnel from the Vietnam War. The success in this case and those before it would not be possible without their support and assistance, and we look forward to expanding progress.

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## **VA ID Card Update**

### **New Card for All Vets**

On 22 JUN, the U.S. Senate amended and passed with unanimous consent a bill from a Florida congressman which ensures every veteran receives an ID card from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs without burdening taxpayers. The House passed the bill last month with 402 representatives backing it and no votes cast

against it. U.S. Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL) introduced the Veterans ID Card Act earlier this year. Buchanan's bill would ensure all veterans receive ID cards from the VA instead of just those who served 20 years in the armed forces or are seeking medical treatment for service-related wounds. The bill Directs the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to issue a veteran's identification card, for a fee, to a requesting veteran who is neither entitled to military retired pay nor enrolled in the VA system of patient enrollment. The card, among other things, will:

- Display the veteran's name and photograph.
- Serve as proof that the veteran has a DD-214 form or other official document in his or her military personnel file that describes the veteran's military service.
- Does not serve as proof of entitlement to any benefits.

In pushing his bill in recent months, Buchanan has noted veterans are forced to carry DD-214 paperwork, which contains sensitive information including Social Security numbers, and an ID card would be more convenient and would do a better job of keeping their personal information secure. "A simple, standardized ID card will make life easier for our veterans and serve as a reminder that our brave service men and women deserve all the respect a grateful nation can offer," Buchanan said on 23 JUN. Buchanan insisted his bill was budget neutral since veterans who opted for the ID card would have a small fee which the VA secretary would examine every five years.

In the Senate, U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) offered an amendment to Buchanan's bill ensuring all veterans would be eligible for the ID card, sending the bill back to the House. Buchanan's office expects the bill to sail through the House once again and be signed into law by President Barack Obama. The bill has won the backing of veterans groups including AMVETS and Veterans for Common Sense (VCS). Anthony Hardie, the director of VCS, praised the bill on Tuesday. "Veterans who have honorably served their country deserve to have a simple, straightforward way to prove their veteran status," Hardie said. "Veterans for Common Sense supports sensible legislation like Rep. Buchanan's Veterans ID Card Act."

## **Chapter Information Fair Booth**

We will have a sign-up sheet for the Chapter Information Fair Booth at our next meeting. More information about the booth will be given during the next meeting.

# Chapter 535 Information Center

## Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

### Officers-Phone

<b>President</b>	
Pete Burelle .....	274-3787
<b>Vice-President</b>	
Al Hernandez .....	265-6765
<b>Secretary</b>	
Dave Johnson .....	885-1230
<b>Treasurer</b>	
Ralph Remick .....	887-8297
<b>Past President</b>	
Dick Corn	

### Directors

Pete Burelle .....	274-3787
Al Hernandez .....	265-6765
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Ralph Remick .....	887-8297
Ric Sheridan rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net .....	274-1413
Dave Chaix .....	269-1431
Bill Holman bholman@succeed.net .....	265-8387
Kent Haley .....	432-3551
Bart Ruud .....	823-1368
Dale Epps .....	368-6156
Harold Graves .....	470-8507
Dick Corn .....	272-5922

## 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 .....	Ken Farmer
Web Master .....	Ralph Remick

### Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

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

### Membership Facts Chapter 535

<b>VVA</b>	
Individual members	31
Life members	39
<b>AVVA</b>	
Individual members	1
Life member	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>

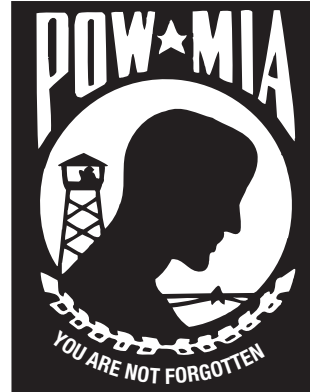


The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

[www.friendsofvso.org](http://www.friendsofvso.org)



The prototype AC-130A Gunship



## Vietnam Vet Radio

<http://vietnamvetradio.com>

Vietnam Vet Radio is an internet only non-profit radio station dedicated to the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and their families and friends. With a few exceptions all the songs played are from the Vietnam War era. They also play the authentic jingles and public service announcements that were played on AFVN (American Forces Vietnam Network) Radio. While Vietnam Vet Radio is neither political nor religious it is most certainly a pro-America and pro-military radio station that acknowledges that we are a blessed people. No anti-war rhetoric or anti-war songs. Online song requests can be made at <http://vietnamvetradio.com/index.php/test-2/> from a play list that can be accessed at <http://vietnamvetradio.com/index.php/playlist>.

## Upcoming Dates and Events

August	6	General Chapter Meeting 6 pm
August	12-16	Nevada County Fair

## **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 .....202-565-8124  
Freedom of Information/Privacy Act .....202-233-3616  
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

## **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](mailto: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

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## **Have You Heard?**

### **Bet You Didn't Know**

Early aircraft's throttles had a ball on the end of it, in order to go full throttle the pilot had to push the throttle all the way forward into the wall of the instrument panel. Hence "balls to the wall" for going very fast. And now you know, the rest of the story.

During WWII, U.S. airplanes were armed with belts of bullets which they would shoot during dogfights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measure 27 feet and contained hundreds of rounds of bullets. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say, "I gave them the whole nine yards," meaning they used up all of their ammunition.



# **Military Enlistment Standards 2015**

## **Age**

One would think that age to enlist in the US military would be a simple category. One is either old enough, or too old, right? Unfortunately, it doesn't quite work that way. By federal law (10 U.S.C., 505), the minimum age for enlistment in the United States Military is 17 (with parental consent) and 18 (without parental consent). The maximum age is 35. However, DOD policy allows the individual services to specify the maximum age of enlistment based upon their own unique requirements. The individual services have set the following maximum ages for non-prior service enlistment:

### Active Duty None-Prior Service

- Army -35 (must ship to basic training prior to 35th birthday. The Army experimented with raising the age limit to age 42 for a brief period of time, but effective April 1st, 2011, the Army has reverted to the lower age limit.
- Air Force - 27
- Navy - 34
- Marines - 28
- Coast Guard -Age 27. Note: up to age 32 for those selected to attend A-school directly upon enlistment (this is mostly for prior service).

### Reserve Non-Prior Service

- Army Reserves -35 (must ship to basic training prior to 35th birthday)
- Army National Guard -35 (changed from 42 in 2009)
- Air Force Reserve - 34
- Air National Guard -40 (Changed from 34 in Aug 2009)
- Naval Reserves - 39
- Marine Corps Reserve - 29
- Coast Guard Reserves -Age 39

**Age Waivers.** Age waivers for non-prior service enlistments are very rare. The few this writer has seen approved involved those who started the enlistment process within the required age limits, but were unable to complete the process and ship to basic training before their birthday. In these cases, only a couple of months of age was waived.

**Prior Service Enlistments.** The age limit for prior service enlistment for most of the branches is the same as above, except that an individual's total previous military time can be subtracted from their current age. For example, let's say that an individual has four years of credible military service in the Marine Corps and wants to join the Air Force. The Air Force could waive the individual's maximum enlistment age to age 31 (Maximum age of 27 for the Air Force, plus four years credible service in the Marines).

For the Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Reserve, the maximum age of enlistment for prior service is 32, after computing the prior-service age adjustment. For the Army and Air National Guard, the maximum age for prior service enlistment is 59, as long as the member has enough years of prior service to be able to complete 20 years of creditable service for retirement by age 60.

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## **Vietnam War News 1960-1964**

Before the 1960s, the U.S. media had no interest in Vietnam. American journalists followed events only when breaking news happened in the region. Those who covered the beginning of the war in Vietnam were only reporting the rise of communism in the country. The official agencies that handled the press in Vietnam during the early years had little control over what those reporters wrote. The French colonial government set up a system of censorship, but correspondents had only to travel to Singapore or Hong Kong to say what they wanted. [1] American reporters who went to Vietnam at the beginning of the 1960s were reporting the story, while the government in America was telling them to get on the field. [citation needed]

During this period, what was published in the news reflected what America was most preoccupied with: communism and the cold war. But if one asks instead how the United States got into Vietnam, then attention must be paid to the enormous strength of the Cold War consensus in the early 1960s shared by journalists and policymakers alike, and to the great power of the administration to control the agenda and the framing of foreign affairs reporting.

The first editorial about the rise of communism in Vietnam was published by The New York Times in January 1955. In the same way after the United States threw its weight behind Ngo Dinh Diem, who became South Vietnam's president in 1955, journals in the United States ignored the new leader's despotic tendencies and instead highlighted his anti-Communism. [1] The death of civilians in a coup against President Diem at the end of 1960 started to change how Vietnam was viewed by the media. As a result, the New York Times sent their first reporter to Saigon, the capital of South Vietnam. This was followed by other journalists arriving from Reuters, Agence France Presse, Times and Newsweek. The basic policy governing how the US mission in Saigon handled these reporters reflected the way the administration of President John F. Kennedy conceived of the American role in the war. Under that framework, the United States' role in South Vietnam was only to render advice and support in that nation's war against the

-5-Communists.

## **Awards Replacement New Reg Offers Guidance**

The newly revised edition of the Army regulation for military awards, AR 600-8-22, lays out the procedures that service members, veterans and surviving family members need to follow for requesting replacement medals of previously awarded decorations. Replacement medals will be issued on a one-time, no-cost basis to the recipient of the award, or the primary next of kin to a deceased recipient. Subsequent replacement medals or service ribbons for individuals not on active duty may be made at cost price, according to the 25 JUN update of the regulation.

Government replacement of service medals and ribbons that predate World War I is not possible, as these items no longer are carried in the military supply system. However, many of these decorations may be purchased from private dealers in military insignia. Medals and appurtenances issued by the Army include decorations, service medals and ribbons, palms, rosettes, clasps, arrowheads, service stars (campaign/battle), the French Fourragere, Netherlands Orange Lanyard, and Army Good Conduct Medal. In addition to these are oak leaf clusters, numerals, "V" devices, certificates for decorations, lapel buttons for decorations, ten-year devices, Berlin Airlift Devices, containers for decorations, miniature decorations to foreign military personnel, letter "M" devices and the Medal of Honor flag.

Badges and appurtenances issued by the Army include combat and special skill badges; Basic Marksmanship Badges; Distinguished Marksmanship Badges; excellence in competition badges; Basic Marksmanship Qualification Badges and bars; Army Staff Identification Badge; The Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Identification Badge; Army Recruiter Badge; Career Counselor Badge; and the new Basic, Senior and Master Instructor Badges. Items not issued or sold by the Army include miniature medals, service ribbons, devices and appurtenances; lapel buttons for service medals, and lapel buttons for service prior to Sept. 8, 1939; Active Reserve lapel buttons; lapel buttons for badges; certificates for badges; foreign badges, and miniature Combat Infantryman, Expert Infantryman, Combat Medical, Expert Field Medical and Aviation badges, and dress miniature badges.

When requesting replacement medals for awards issued by the U. S. military services, individuals should access the website of the National Personnel Records Center (<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/replacemedals.html>). Medals and appurtenances awarded while in federal service with the Army or a sister U.S. service will be issued on request to the appropriate military service as follows:



- Requests for personnel in active federal military service, or the Army National Guard or Army Reserve should be submitted to the individual's unit commander.
- Requests for personnel who do not hold current Army status, or who died before Oct. 1, 2002, should be submitted to the National Personnel Records Center, 1 Archives Drive, St. Louis, Mo. 631381002.
- Requests for individuals who retired, were discharged (or have a Reserve obligation), or who died (except for general officers) after Oct. 1, 2002, should be submitted to the Commander, Army Human Resources Command (AHRC-PDP-A), 1600 Spearhead Division Ave., Fort Knox, Ky. 40122-5408.
- Requests for general officers should be submitted to the Commander, Army Human Resources Command (AHRC-PDP-A), 1600 Spearhead Division Ave., Fort Knox, Ky. 40122-5408.

Addresses for requesting medals from the non-Army U.S. military services are:

- Navy awards: Chief of Naval Operations (DNS-35), Navy Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 203502000.
- Air Force awards: Air Force Personnel Center, Attn: AFPC/DSPSIDR, 550 C St., Randolph Air Force Base, Texas 78150-4712.
- Marine Corps awards: Commandant, Marine Corps, Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Code MMMA, 3280 Russell Road, Quantico, Va. 22134-5103.
- Coast Guard awards: Commandant (G-PS-5/TP41, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, D.C. 205937238.



# August - 2015



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				General Membership Meeting 6 pm		
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9	Wayne Cronos					
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Dave Chaix						
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John Van Dyk Sr.						
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**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

