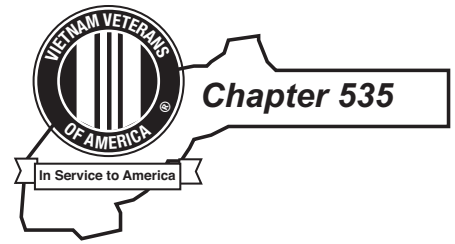




# INCOMING

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 10

*In Service To America and the Gold Country*

October 2015

## **President's Message**

## **Dave Chaix Receives Award**

Pete Burelle, President 274-3787



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Dave Chaix (Holding the award) was honored by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, September 8, in the County Board of Supervisors Chamber, for his leadership of the Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage. Over the past fourteen years, FVSO has grown, and now supports seven orphanages with 830 children in Pleiku and Kontum, Vietnam.

Dave, together with several other veterans of the Vietnam War, formed Friends of Vinh Son shortly after visiting the orphanage in 2001. Over the past fourteen years FVSO has grown, and now supports seven orphanages with 830 children in Pleiku and Kontum. Dave served as the group's President until he stepped down in June of this year.

## **The Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down**

The Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down is a nonprofit entity structured to provide services to any Nevada and Sierra County eligible U.S. Military veteran. This year's annual Stand Down event is organized to integrate, at one site, multiple helpful resources and practical services for our local veterans. Serving those who served our Nation is the primary goal of the Stand Down.

The location of this year's Stand Down event is the Nevada County Fairgrounds - Sugar Pine Lodge Area - on Friday, October 9th, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and Saturday, October 10th, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Service and resource providers that will be available include: information on financial assistance, judicial consult, medical and dental services, animal veterinary services, and home health care resources. In addition, breakfast and lunch will be provided along with some local entertainment. These services are all graciously provided and volunteered by our local government agencies, local businesses, and many other community volunteers.

Opening ceremonies will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Friday the 9th. Veterans can avoid waiting in line at the event and register ahead of time online at <http://www.nevadacountystanddown.com/registration.html> or by visiting the Nevada County Veterans Services Office at 255 So. Auburn St. in downtown Grass Valley. Proof of Military Service is required.

If there are any questions please do not hesitate to contact the Nevada County Veterans Services Office at 530-273-3396 or visit the Stand Down's website contact page at <http://www.nevadacountystanddown.com/contact.html>



## **Vietnam POW/MIA Accounting**

The Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) announced 21 AUG that the remains of a U.S. serviceman, missing from the Vietnam War, who was identified earlier this year will be buried with full military honors. Army Maj. Dale W. Richardson, 28, of Mount Sterling, Ill., will be buried Aug. 29, in Mountain View, Ark.

Richardson was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, and was the passenger aboard an UH-1H Iroquois (Huey) helicopter that was en route to Fire Support Base Katum, South Vietnam, when it was diverted due to bad weather. After flying into Cambodian airspace, the aircraft came under heavy enemy ground fire, causing the pilot to make an emergency landing in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia. The Huey's four crewmen and its four passengers survived the landing. One crewman was able to evade being captured by enemy forces and later returned to friendly lines. The other three crewmen and one passenger were captured. Two of the captured crewmen were released by the Vietnamese in 1973, and the remains of the other two captured men were returned to U.S. control in the 1980s and identified.

Richardson died at the site of the crash during a fire fight with enemy forces. His remains were not recovered after the fire fight.

From 1992 through 2008, joint U.S. / Kingdom of Cambodia (K.O.C.) teams investigated the site without success. On Feb. 18, 2009, a joint team interviewed witnesses in the Memot District of Cambodia who claimed to have information on the loss. The witnesses identified a possible burial site for the unaccounted for servicemen. The team excavated the burial site but was unsuccessful locating the remains. From Jan. 16, 2010 to March 11, 2011, joint U.S. / K.O.C. teams excavated the area, but were unsuccessful recovering the crewman's remains. In February 2012, another joint U.S. / K.O.C. team re-interviewed two of the witnesses.

The witnesses identified a secondary burial site near the previously excavated site. The team excavated the secondary burial site and recovered human remains and military gear from a single grave. In the identification of Richardson, scientists from DPAA and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory (AFDIL) analyzed circumstantial evidence and used forensic identification tools, to include mitochondrial DNA, which matched his sister. Today there are 1,627 American service members that are still unaccounted for from the Vietnam War.

# Chapter 535 Information Center

## Chapter 535 Officers & Board of Directors

### Officers-Phone

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

### Directors

Pete Burelle ..... 274-3787  
 Al Hernandez ..... 265-6765  
 Dave Johnson ..... 885-1230  
 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

VVA  
 Individual members 31  
 Life members 39  
 AVVA  
 Individual members 1  
 Life member 2  
**Total 73**



The Vinh Son Orphanage, has a new web site

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

## Veterans Dinner

When Wednesday Nov. 11th 6 pm

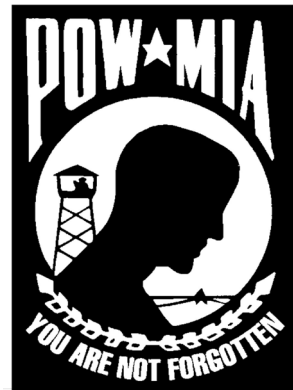
Where Grass Valley Elks Club

Veterans are free, all others are \$15.00.

Salad  
 Salisbury Steak w/Gravy  
 Mashed Potatoes  
 Assorted Vegetables  
 Dessert

No host bar.

RSVP required by November 6th. Call 273-9228.



### Upcoming Dates and Events

Octoberr	1	General Chapter Meeting 6 pm
October	9-10	Stand Down



## 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

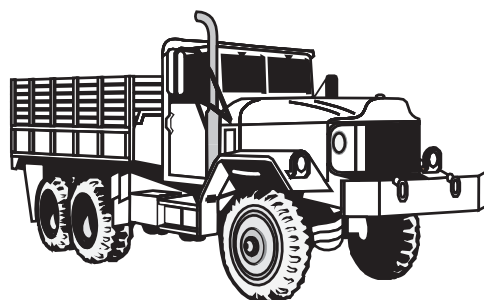
call Bill Holman at (530) 265-8387

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



## **Army Facts Did you Know?**

1. The Army is older than the country it serves. Americans celebrate the birth of their nation as July 4, 1776, but the Army is actually the country's "big brother." Which makes sense, considering the Continental Army of 1775 — led by future President George Washington — needed to start beating the British in the colonies so Thomas Jefferson could finally get some time to write. Before the Army was established, colonists were organized into rag-tag militias with no real structure or unified chain-of-command. But in the spring of 1775, most wanted to attack the British near Boston but knew they needed more structure to confront the professional soldiers on the other side. That's where the official birth of the Army came in, on June 14, 1775, through a resolution from the Continental Congress. The next day, George Washington was appointed as commander-in-chief of the new Army, and took command of his troops in Boston on July 3, 1775, according to the Army History Division.

2. If the U.S. Army were a city, it would be the tenth-largest in the United States. There are just over one million soldiers currently serving in the Army. Just about half of that number is on active-duty and serving full-time, while the rest make up the reserve components of National Guard and Army Reserve. To put it in perspective, a city filled with soldiers would have more people in it than San Jose, California, Austin, Texas, Jacksonville, Florida, and San Francisco, California.

3. It is also the second-largest employer. With 2.2 million people on the payroll, Walmart is America's largest employer. But the Army maintains the second spot with more than one million active-duty and reserve soldiers. While budget cuts are going to bring the number of soldiers in uniform down substantially in 2015 to about 1,042,200, the Army still beats the next-largest employer of Yum! Brands, which has 523,000 total employees.

4. Specialist is the most-prevalent rank among soldiers — by far. There's a reason many soldiers joke about the existence of an "E-4 Mafia." That's because if you want anything done in the Army, you'll probably need a Specialist (or three) to get it done. Across active-duty and reserve ranks in 2015, there are 264,890 specialists, making up more than one-quarter of the U.S. Army. Though the Army used to have Specialist ranks that had grades from Spec-4 to Spec-9, it eliminated that system in 1985, setting aside Specialist-4 as a junior-enlisted rank called just "Specialist" from then on. Unlike Corporals who are also E-4s, the Specialist rank isn't considered a non-commissioned officer, which is probably why some are very good at earning their "sham shield."

5. The service burns through nearly one billion gallons of fuel every year. Just like any other large organization that needs energy to sustain operations, the Army needs fuel. A lot of fuel. A 2011 Army fact sheet estimated the Army used over 22 gallons every day, per soldier — much more than only one gallon required per soldier during World War II. A 2008 Army report said the service purchased approximately 880 million gallons of fuel for mobility operations. The report is a little dated though, and the Army has been working hard to bring down its energy usage — along with the rest of the DoD — citing a reliance on fossil fuels as a major national security risk and logistical problem for troops in the field.

6. Among U.S. Presidents with military service, most served in the Army. Of the 44 men who have served as President of the United States, 31 had military service. Twenty-four of them served in the Army, or in state militias (our modern-day National Guard). Though being in the military is not a requirement for the presidency, President George Washington started a trend that saw future presidents in some cases making their name as war heroes: Theodore Roosevelt received the Medal of Honor for his famous charge up San Juan Hill, and George H.W. Bush received the Distinguished Flying Cross during World War II and barely escaped after his plane was shot down.

7. The Army owns so much land that if it were a state, it would be larger than Hawaii and Massachusetts combined. Not surprisingly, the Army has a ton of infrastructure. Soldiers serve at 158 installations around the world, and the service owns more than 15 million acres of land across the U.S., which totals up to roughly 24,000 square miles. That would make the "State of Army" larger than smaller states like Maryland, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and Vermont.



Coming Home from Vietnam



## **Military History Private Snafu**

Private Snafu was a cartoon character produced by most of the biggest Hollywood production studios including Warner Bros. Cartoons, MGM and Walt Disney Productions. They were meant to be instructional in nature, training new soldiers in areas like sanitation habits, security, equipment and other military subjects. Humorous in nature, they were meant to also raise troop morale, because as you can imagine, tensions were high before deployment. The voice of Private Snafu was performed by Mel Blanc, which as you might have picked up on, was also the voice of Bugs Bunny. Directed by Frank Capra and written by Theodor "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, Philip D. Eastman and Munro Leaf, this cartoon depicted Private Snafu doing everything wrong to illustrate what the consequences were. Another purpose was to break through to the many enlisted men with poor literacy skills, as the series used simple language with funny anecdotes in order to relate to them. An interesting note is the Private Snafu cartoon was actually a military secret, and people working on them were required to adhere to security measures at the cost of their freedom if they broke protocol.



## **Army Cartoon Characters in the 1970's**

*Bill Holman*

Cartoon Characters were still being used in training manuals in the 1970's. In 1976 I was an art director in an advertising agency, located in Los Altos California. The Agency I worked for received a proposal to develop a cartoon character for a comic book type publication for the maintenance of an M-16 rifle. This was a proposal that went out to hundreds of agencies.

Many of the of the enlisted personal in the 1970's still had poor literacy skills, so a cartoon format was used to deliver the information they needed to perform many tasks.

I hired a retired Walt Disney artist to help with the prototype comic book manual. The key character was an M-16 standing up with the barrel down on the ground and the butt of the M-16 had a cartoon face. The M-16 cartoon character was the key character in explaining how to dismantle, clean and put back together the M-16 rifle.

We spent about a month developing this publication, but ended up not getting the contract.





