



INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535

Website: www.vva535.org



Volume 26 Issue 6

September 2016

President's Message

The Fair is over and it looks like we are not worst for wear. I think the concept we had this year was good, but I think we need to tweak it a little. As most of you know, in the past we had Pete opening every morning and me closing every night. Everybody else filled in the blanks.

Pete had a pass and a parking permit as I did also. Everyone else fended for themselves. This year we tried having 5 captains that worried about one day. We have to have feed back to see if we can fix it so it goes more smoothly without someone working alone, closing too early, or not closing up the booth properly, and my not knowing what our final donations were. So I would like to hear from everyone about how to fix it, or maybe going back to the old way we ran it.

Our next meeting is on the first and our guest speaker is our own quartermaster Kent Hawley. He has a presentation about his recent trip to Washington D.C. If anyone has modern projector that he can use, please contact Kent.

We are working on the jackets but I don't expect them back for the meeting. I still need patches for a few of them so if you bring them to the meeting I would appreciate it

As Ever, Harold Graves

Matters of interest as outlined at Board Meeting of August 18, 2016:

- The Board meeting of 9/18/2016 was cancelled.

Upcoming Events

Sept. 11, 2016 – Constitution Day Parade, 2:00 p.m., Nevada City.

Sept. 24, 2016 - Summer picnic – Lake Wildwood Noon to ?. Save the date; details to follow.

December 2016 – Victorian Christmas

The Pentagon closer to extending a new benefit to millions of veterans

Karen Jowers, Military Times 6:35 p.m. EDT
August 15, 2016

Plans are progressing to extend online military exchange shopping privileges to all honorably discharged veterans, Military Times has learned. The Defense Department's Executive Resale Board voted unanimously Aug. 9 to recommend the policy change, sources said. Extended shopping privileges would apply only to the exchange system's online stores — not brick-and-mortar facilities located on military installations.

The Pentagon did not immediately confirm the board's move, and it's unclear what its next steps will be. Officials have said previously that they'd like to implement the expanded benefit on Veterans Day 2017.

Exchanges operate as discount department stores for the military community. Currently, access is authorized only for active-duty service members, reservists, National Guard personnel, retirees, veterans who are 100 percent disabled and immediate family members. Officials estimate that's about 10 percent of the nation's 21.7 million veterans.

If the plan proceeds, the Defense Manpower Data Center would be called on to verify veterans' status so they can shop at the exchange online. The idea was proposed in May 2014 by Army and Air Force Exchange Service CEO Tom Shull, who touted it as a way to provide a modest benefit to veterans who didn't serve long enough to retire from the military, including a number who have served multiple tours in combat in Iraq and Afghanistan. Navy Exchange Service Command CEO and retired Rear Adm. Robert Bianchi and Cindy Whitman Lacy, director of the Marine Corps Business and Support Services Division, have said they support the idea.

This would also benefit those currently serving, officials have said. Any increase in exchange profits would generate more money for the service's morale, welfare and recreation programs. According to one analysis, the exchanges could see an increase of \$18 million to \$72 million if online shopping is extended to all veterans. Generally, about half of the exchanges' profits go to MWR dividends, and the rest goes to capital reinvestment in the exchanges, such as renovations and construction.

American Legion Post 130 2nd Amendment Sweepstakes

Raffle tickets remain available for a Mossberg 500 Tactical 12 gauge shotgun and a Glock 19 semi-automatic 9 mm pistol. Tickets are \$10 each or 11 tickets for \$100. Winner need not be present to win. Contact Dick Corn at 530-277-8856 for updated information.

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- Christmas Year Round Harold Graves
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- Web MasterRalph Remick
- Quartermaster Kent Hawley

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.

- Kevin Edwards (530) 273-3396
- ncvso@co.nevada,ca.us

VVA 535 Jackets

President Harold Graves has reported that jackets for which VVA members have submitted unit patches have been delivered to a seamstress. Completed price of each jacket will be \$100. Members who have committed to purchasing a jacket will be responsible for obtaining their unit patches and promptly getting those patches to Harold. It is suggested that one peruse the patches available from *Medals of America*, or a supplier of choice, as found on an Internet website. Unit patches from Medals of America cost around \$6.95 each and shipping is similar. Timely accommodation will assist in moving forward with this project.

VA Suicide Report 2014: 65 Percent of Veterans over Age 50

(Washington, DC)-On August 3, the VA released *Suicide Among Veterans and Other Americans 2001-2014*, a comprehensive analysis of veteran suicide rates in the United States in which VA examined more than 55 million veterans' records from 1979 to 2014.

“While the number of suicides among all veterans is significant, what may not be known is that approximately 65 percent of all veterans who died from suicide in 2014 were 50 years of age or older,” said John Rowan, National President of Vietnam Veterans of America. “Why is it that so many veterans, basically, take their lives by suicide? Last year, the Clay Hunt SAV Act, Public Law 114-2, was enacted to address the high suicide rate amongst the newer veterans but did not specifically address the older veterans. We call on the VA to increase its outreach and education efforts immediately so that the families of all veterans, especially our older veterans, are aware of this risk.”

The VA must overcome all barriers to find the key-if indeed there is one-to preventing suicide in as many instances as possible among our veterans. All

Americans must also realize that there is a very serious problem with veteran suicides and act upon it with a coordinated effort in our communities-with our fellow veterans, both young and old; our families; our friends; and with researchers and the agencies of government. As we have repeatedly stated, one veteran suicide is too many. And let's not fool ourselves with easy answers.”

Since 2001, the rate of suicide among U.S. veterans who use VA services has increased by 8.8 percent, while the rate of suicide among veterans who do not use VA services increased by 38.6 percent. In the same time period, the rate of suicide among male veterans who use VA services increased 11 percent, while the rate of suicide increased 35 percent among male veterans who do not use VA services. In the same time period, the rate of suicide among female veterans who use VA services increased 4.6 percent, while the rate of suicide increased 98 percent among female veterans who do not use VA services. A link to the report may be found [here](#).

AmazonSmile – A Work in Progress

At time of publication no update had been received but Board Member and Treasurer Ralph Remick is likely continuing his effort to set up an Amazon Smile account for VVA-535.

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Every item available for purchase on www.amazon.com is also available on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com) at the same price. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

For more information about the AmazonSmile program, go to <http://smile.amazon.com/about>

Proposition 61

Defeating Proposition 61 on California's November ballot is a huge priority for our organization. That's because Prop 61 would take away a special benefit provided to those who have served our country and the measure could increase prescription drug costs for veterans. We hope you will join us in the fight to protect veterans by joining the official campaign opposed to Prop 61.

The US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives special discounts on prescription drugs for veterans in honor of their service to our country. This helps keep medicines affordable to the 75% or

veterans who currently pay low out-of-pocket co-pays for prescriptions, and the 25% of vets who pay no prescription co-pays. Prop 61 attempts to extend these special discounts to some state programs. History has shown that when these special discounts are provided to other sizable populations, VA costs goes up.

If Prop 61 passes and VA prescription costs go up, there would be added pressure to increase prescription drug co-pays for veterans and to limit the availability of certain drugs.

Join the campaign opposed to Prop 61 and help protect veterans.

2016 VA Disability Compensation Rates

The following tables show the 2016 VA compensation rates for veterans with a disability rating 10 percent or higher. (Effective Dec. 1, 2014) (From Military.com)

Dependents Allowance:

In addition veterans entitled to compensation whose disability is rated as 30 percent or more, shall be entitled to additional compensation for dependents as follows (monthly amounts):

Without Children:

Disability Rating: [30% - 60%](#)

Disability Rating: [70% - 100%](#)

With Children:

Disability Rating: [30% - 60%](#)

Disability Rating: [70% - 100%](#)

You May Also Like: [Dependency & Indemnity Compensation](#) a VA benefit for survivors of disabled veterans.

[10% - 20%](#) (With or Without Dependents)

Percentage	Rate
10%	\$133.17
20%	\$263.23

[30% - 60%](#) Without Children

Dependent Status	30	40	50	60
Veteran Alone	\$407.75	\$587.36	\$836.13	\$1,059.09
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$455.75	\$651.36	\$917.13	\$1,156.09
Veteran with Spouse & One Parent	\$494.75	\$703.36	\$982.13	\$1,234.09
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$533.74	\$755.36	\$1,047.13	\$1,312.09
Veteran with One Parent	\$446.75	\$639.36	\$901.13	\$1,137.09
Veteran with Two Parents	\$485.75	\$691.36	\$966.13	\$1,215.09

Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$44.00	\$59.00*	\$74.00	\$89.00
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70% - 100% Without Children

Dependent Status	70	80	90	100
Veteran Alone	\$1,334.71	\$1,551.48	\$1,743.48	\$2,906.83
Veteran with Spouse Only	\$1,447.71	\$1,680.48	\$1,888.48	\$3,068.90
Veteran with Spouse and One Parent	\$1,538.71	\$1,784.48	\$2,005.48	\$3,198.96
Veteran with Spouse and Two Parents	\$1,629.71	\$1,888.48	\$2,122.48	\$3,329.02
Veteran with One Parent	\$1,425.71	\$1,655.48	\$1,860.48	\$3,036.89
Veteran with Two Parents	\$1,516.71	\$1,759.48	\$1,977.48	\$3,166.95
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$104.00	\$118.00	\$133.00	\$148.64

30% - 60% With Children

Dependent Status	30%	40%	50%	60%
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$491.75	\$699.36	\$976.13	\$1,227.09
Veteran with Child Only	\$439.75	\$630.36	\$890.13	\$1,124.09
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$530.75	\$751.36	\$1,041.13	\$1,305.09
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$569.75	\$803.36	\$1,106.13	\$1,383.09
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$478.75	\$682.36	\$955.13	\$1,202.09
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$517.75	\$734.36	\$1,020.13	\$1,280.09
Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$24.00	\$32.00	\$40.00	\$48.00
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$78.00	\$104.00	\$130.00	\$156.00
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$44.00	\$59.00	\$74.00	\$89.00

70% - 100% With Children

Dependent Status	70%	80%	90%	100%
Veteran with Spouse and Child	\$1,530.71	\$1,775.48	\$1,995.48	\$3,187.60
Veteran with Child Only	\$1,409.71	\$1,637.48	\$1,840.48	\$3,015.20
Veteran with Spouse, One Parent and Child	\$1,621.71	\$1,879.48	\$2,112.48	\$3,317.60
Veteran with Spouse, Two Parents and Child	\$1,712.71	\$1,983.48	\$2,229.48	\$3,447.70
Veteran with One Parent and Child	\$1,500.71	\$1,741.48	\$1,957.48	\$3,145.28
Veteran with Two Parents and Child	\$1,591.71	\$1,845.48	\$2,074.48	\$3,275.34
Add for Each Additional Child Under Age 18	\$56.00	\$64.00	\$72.00	\$80.52
Each Additional Schoolchild Over Age 18 (see footnote a)	\$182.00	\$208.00	\$234.00	\$260.13
Additional for A/A spouse (see footnote b)	\$104.00	\$118.00	\$133.00	\$148.64

FOOTNOTES:

- A. Rates for each school child are shown separately. They are not included with any other compensation rates. All other entries on this chart reflecting a rate for children show the rate payable for children under 18 or helpless. To find the amount payable to a 70% disabled Veteran with a spouse and four children, one of whom is over 18 and attending school, take the 70% rate for a veteran with a spouse and 3 children, \$1,642.71, and add the rate for one school child, \$182.00. The total amount payable is \$1,824.71.
- B. Where the veteran has a spouse who is determined to require A/A, add the figure shown as "additional

for A/A spouse" to the amount shown for the proper dependency code. For example, veteran has A/A spouse and 2 minor children and is 70% disabled. Add \$104.00, additional for A/A spouse, to the rate for a 70% veteran with dependency code 12, \$1,586.71. The total amount payable is \$1,690.71.

These rates were provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The original copies can be found on [the Department of Veterans Affairs website](#).

VA Travel Reimbursement

Reimbursement for mileage or public transportation may be paid to the following:

- Veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or more;
- Veterans traveling for treatment of a service-connected condition;
- Veterans receiving a VA pension;
- Veterans traveling for scheduled compensation or pension examinations;
- Veterans whose income does not exceed the maximum VA pension rate;

Mileage Reimbursement is at the rate of 41.5 cents per mile. These milieage subject to a deductible of \$3 for a one way trip, \$6 for a round trip, with a maximum of \$18 per or the amount after six one-way trips (whichever occurs first) per calendar month. However, these deductibles can be waived if they cause a financial hardship to the veteran.

The deductible is also waived for veterans traveling for scheduled compensation or pension examinations.

CalVet 16-091 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

CalVet seeks to support activities commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. If your organization plans to host an event marking this important historical era, please send details to pao.calvet@calvet.ca.gov.

CalVet will include your event on our online calendar and, with enough lead time (typically at least 90 days in advance), we can assist event organizers in obtaining materials such as lapel pins, buttons, certificates, posters, and stickers from the Department of Defense (DoD) to honor Vietnam Veterans attending the event.

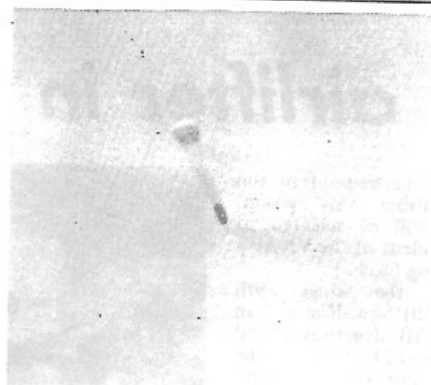
Please submit the following information:

- Event name
- Sponsoring organization (s)
- Time and location
- Contact name and phone number or e-mail address
- How many Vietnam Veterans you expect to attend (for pins)

The goals of the DoD Vietnam War Commemorative Program are:

1. To thank and honor veterans of the Vietnam War, including personnel who were held as prisoners of war (POW), or listed as missing in action (MIA), for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the United States and to thank and honor the families of these veterans.
2. To highlight the service of the Armed Forces during the Vietnam War and the contributions of Federal agencies and governmental and non-governmental organizations that served with, or in support of, the Armed Forces.
3. To pay tribute to the contributions made on the home front by the people of the United States during the Vietnam War.
4. To highlight the advances in technology, science, and medicine related to military research conducted during the Vietnam War.
5. To recognize contributions and sacrifices made by the allies of the United States during the Vietnam War.

THIS IS HOW IT LOOKS FROM THE TIME WE DROP, TO IMPACT. IT HAD BEEN KEPT SECRET, BUT AS THE PRESS WAS ACCUSING US OF DROPPING TACTICAL NUKES BECAUSE OF THE MUSHROOM CLOUD, WE HAD TO EXPOSE "COMMANDO VAULT", ie. THE DAISY CUTTER. WE HAD TWO DROP CREWS IN OUR WING, AND WE WERE ONE OF THEM. MY CREW DROPPED THIS ONE. D. EPPS, FLT. ENG.



Creates instant LZs

Big bomb blasts boondocks

CAM RANH BAY AB—One of the most unique and successful new concepts introduced in the Vietnam war is the huge "Commando Vault" bomb—the "little ole' instant landing zone maker". The huge 15,000 pound bombs are used to create landing zones for Army helicopters.

The bombs are dropped by C-130 Hercules aircrews operating under Det. 2, 834th Air Division here. The crew never sees the bomb actually explode, as the mission is radar controlled. When the aircraft reaches a certain point, the weapon is released.

The Hercules loadmaster becomes a bombardier at this point as he releases retaining blocks on the bomb's pallet. A parachute extracts the bomb from the aircraft; then a lanyard separates the pallet and the bomb. And finally, another chute opens to stabilize the falling bomb.

The explosion, set off by a long probe on the bomb's nose, occurs several feet above ground. Thus, the full force of the blast is directed against the jungle foliage, and no crater is formed.

Within five minutes after the explosion, the area is safe and occasionally helicopters begin immediate landings. Otherwise, Army engineers move in to clear remaining debris.

The bomb's effectiveness depends on the density of the jungle. With trees taller than a 20-story building, four feet in diameter, there is sometimes only enough landing area for one helicopter. In less thick jungle, three or four helicopters may be able to land.

Men of the Aerial Delivery Team, 14th Aerial Port Squadron at Cam Ranh Bay are charged with coaxing the huge weapon onto its pallet and loading it into the C-130. Then, munitions experts from the 483d Tactical Airlift Wing install fuses and ready them for the loadmaster to arm just prior to release.

"Commando Vault" was developed by the 463d TAW at Clark AB, in the Philippines. Flight crew training for the bomb drop is extensive, with group school for loadmasters at Clark AB and training flights at Cam Ranh Bay. Crews fly five practice "dry runs" before being allowed to make a live drop.

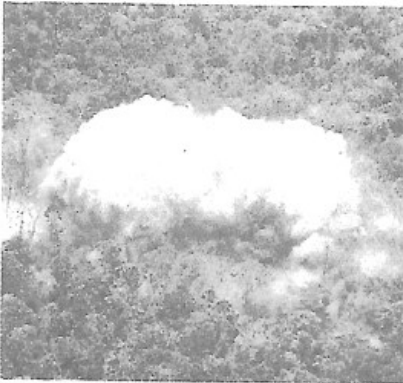




Figure 1 Daisy Cutter on display - Saigon - 2012



501 ©3 # 27-2305344 Non-Profit

BRICKS

In the Veterans Garden

Sgt John Doe
USMC
1965-1969

The Forgotten Soldier Program is offering the opportunity to leave your veterans mark in a very special place. Bricks are available to be engraved with your customized message until we sell out.

Honor a family member or organization in a very special way.

The cost is \$95 per brick for one to three lines, limited to 23 spaces per line. The Forgotten Soldier Program will verify information before engraving and will contact you when installed.

ORDER FORM

(Please Print Clearly)

Date: _____
Purchaser : _____
ADDRESS: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____
Signature: _____

NAME/ORGANIZATION

(Please Print Clearly)

LINE 1 _____
LINE 2 _____
LINE 3 _____

**The Forgotten Soldier has the right to approve all messages.*

All proceeds go directly to The Forgotten Soldier Program a non-profit. A receipt will be provided for tax purposes. Please pay with cash or check made out to the Forgotten Soldier program.
Contact The Forgotten Soldier Program @ 530-889-2300 Or Email info@the-forgotten-soldier-program.org
Or complete and mail form to 991 Lincoln Way Auburn Ca 95603

September 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 General Meeting 6:00 p.m. WW II Began (1939)	2 V-J Day: Japan Signed Formal Surrender (1945)	3
4	5 Labor Day	6 Operation Desert Shield began (1990)	7	8 G	9	10
11 Patriot Day	12	13	14 “Star Spangled Banner “ Written by Francis Scott Key	15 VVA 535 Board 6:00 p.m.	16 POQ/MIA Recognition Day	17 U.S. Constitution Approved (1787)
18 U.S. Air Force Established (1947)	19	20	21	22 First Day of Autumn	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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