

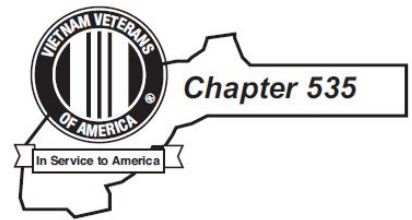


# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## CHAPTER 535

Website: www.vva535.org



Volume 27 Issue 6

June 2017

### President's Message

Greetings,

President Chuck might have gone fishing, or at the very least, continues his recovery from c-spine surgery which has left lingering issues that are slowly becoming less debilitating.

In lieu of no words of wisdom submitted by President Chuck at my arbitrarily imposed INCOMING publishing deadline, let me just pencil in a few thoughts that Chuck might concur with:

- Please keep our Past President Harold Graves in your thoughts as he and Patricia seek the best care possible for Harold's comfort and stability as he fights his throat disorder.
- Consult your personal calendars so that you will be prepared at our general meeting of June 1 to commit to booth time at the Nevada County Fair.
- Do a little critical thinking regarding potential speakers to enlighten us at our forthcoming meetings. It is prudent to build a list we can operate from over President Chuck's term. Guest speakers do not have to present on purely military-related subjects.
- Invite Vietnam era veterans you may know to join us at an upcoming general meeting.

(Ed.)

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### Matters of interest as outlined at Board Meeting of May 18, 2017:

Directors approved purchase of 150 US flags for resale at parades over the coming months.

The July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade will be headed up by the American Legion. The VVA deuce-a-half will be at the Veterans Hall at 9:00 a.m. on July 4<sup>th</sup> to set it up and load up for the 11:00 a.m. parade.

A new pop-up shelter for use by VVA-535 has been purchased.

Directors discussed the formation of a "Speakers Bureau" as means to solicit a speaker to present at each general meeting.

Discussion for a future Johnny Cash Tribute show to possibly be scheduled for 5/19/2018 at the Center for the Arts was deferred.

**Upcoming Events**

General Meeting ..... May 4, 2017  
Director’s Meeting ..... May 18, 2017  
May 25, 2017 .. Ribbon Cutting – Armed  
Forces Pavilion, Auburn, CA 5:00 p.m.  
Memorial Day events: Pioneer Park 5/29/2017  
NCCVC Expo, Pioneer Park, June 17, 2017  
July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade, GV - July 4, 2017  
CSC Full Council - July 21-23, 2016, Fresno  
Nevada County Fair – August 9 – 13, 2017.  
Constitution Day Parade, NC – Sept. 10, 2017  
VVA 535 Summer Picnic – To be determined  
CSC Full Council - October 27-29, 2017, Fresno  
VVA-535 Christmas Dinner Dec. 7, 2017  
Victorian Christmas – Dec. 3, 10, 13, 17, 20, 2017

**Chapter 535 Officers**

President  
Chuck Holmes (H) 478-1126; (C) 263-6968  
  
Vice-President  
Dave Chaix ..... 269-1431  
  
Treasurer  
Ralph Remick .....559-7716  
  
Secretary  
Dave Johnson ..... 887-8297  
  
Past President  
Harold Graves ..... 470-8507

**Directors**

Craig Johnson ..... 575-3576  
Dave Johnson ..... 887-8297  
Ralph Remick ..... 559-7716  
Ric Sheridan ..... 274-1413  
Dave Chaix .....269-1431  
Bill Holman ..... 265-8387  
Bart Ruud ..... 823-1368  
Dale Epps ..... 368-6156  
Harold Graves ..... 470-8507  
Chuck Holmes ..... 478-1126

**Committee Chairs**

Finance .....Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson  
Parade and Honor Guard ..... Dick Corn  
Membership Affairs ..... Ric Sheridan  
Newsletter ..... Interim editor Bart Ruud  
Victorian Christmas ..... Chuck Holmes  
Nominations ..... Dick Corn  
Christmas Year Round ..... Harold Graves  
NCCVC ..... Ken Farmer  
Web Master ..... Ralph Remick  
Quartermaster ..... Kent Hawley  
Facebook Master ..... Mike Laborico  
Nevada County Fair ..... Chuck Holmes  
VSO Liaisons ..... Don Bull & Gary Oliver  
CA State Council Rep. .... Chuck Holmes

**Nevada County Veterans Affairs Rep.**

Kevin Edwards ..... (530) 273-3396  
[ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us) Tuesday & Thursday,  
8:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 – 4:00 are “Walk-In” days.

**FREE NCCVC BBQ**

On June 17, 2017 there will be an “open to the public” hamburger/hot dog barbeque at Pioneer Park in Nevada City, sponsored by all Nevada County Veteran organizations. Each organization is to have a table set up to provide membership information. The food cost is to be split by the Veteran groups. Set-up is at 10:00 and food service begins at 11:00 a.m.

**MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS**

**Docents are needed for the Memorial Bridge Tours honoring local heroes from the Viet Nam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. If you are interested in assisting as a docent, please contact Will Buck at (530)913-2310 or Pat Nelson at (530)477-8480.**

**JOIN US ON MAY 29, 2017!**

THE NEVADA COUNTY CONSOLIDATED  
VETERANS COUNCIL INVITES YOU  
To the following Memorial Day Events and  
Tours:

9:00 am - Memorial Day Ceremony at Pioneer Park, Nevada City - Veterans of Foreign Wars, host.

9:15 am - Bicycle Tour of Memorial Bridges leaving from Pioneer Park after the 9:00 am ceremony – led by Connie Strawser, of Tour of Nevada City Bicycle Shop.

11:00 am - Memorial Day Ceremony at Grass Valley Veterans' Hall - American Legion, host.

1:00 pm - Local Heroes' Grass Valley Memorial Bridge Walking Tours will meet under the Memorial Bridge Tour Banner in front of the Veterans' Hall.

## **Nevada County Veterans Stand Down**

The 2017 Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, and will take place at the Northern Mines building at the Nevada County Fairgrounds.

The Stand Down is a completely free event linking local veterans with local and regional resources, providing information, referrals and services, and having a little fun along the way. Nevada County Stand Down Board is expanding services this year and hopes to include Veteran friendly employers, making the Stand Down a one-stop shop for attendees. Service providers can reach the Stand Down committee at [nevcostanddown@gmail.com](mailto:nevcostanddown@gmail.com)

## **Armed Forces Pavilion & Community Garden Ribbon Cutting and Dedication set for May 25, 2017**

Located at 995 Lincoln Way in Auburn, CA, *The Forgotten Soldiers Program* inspired Armed Forces Pavilion & Community Garden, will be officially recognized by the Auburn Chamber of Commerce with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and garden dedication at 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 25, 2017. Food and drinks will be served. Veterans and interested community members are invited to participate in the activity. The Pavilion is the site of the installation of the VVA-Chapter 535 bronze plaque, installed on March 4, 2017.

## **Writing Your Story for INCOMING**

### **Ongoing repeat solicitation**

Ideas for your story:

- Think about what you appreciated about the Vietnam experience. There is surely a means to segue into that with very little reflection on the negative aspects of war.
- What did you appreciate about the Vietnamese people during your deployment?
- Can you steer away from the bad stuff and reflect on the best experience you had in the Nam?
- Surely you had a close buddy and you supported each other. Maybe there is a story in that.
- What really got you through the day-to-day anxieties and fears? There might be a positive recollection in that regard.
- How did your experience instill in you a sense of patriotism that you possibly express every day of your life.

So far we have heard from Ruud, Epps, Chaix, Hamer & current Marine LCpl. Jesse Hernandez. (Thank you!)

No writer needs to dwell on the negatives of war Each of us who was there lived the negatives, and all of us are better people for having served, especially when we look at how we matured as a result of our experiences. Each of us has derived a sense of being and

an energy that is different from what it might have been had we not been sent across the pond.

Do share with us, in your own words, something of that chapter of your life. And, thank you for your service.

Forward your story to Bart Ruud at [bruud45@gmail.com](mailto:bruud45@gmail.com) or hand deliver to Bart.

## **Air Force Special Ops medics to Test Freeze-Dried Plasma on the Battlefield (Charlsy Panzino, Air Force Times. 3/26/2017)**

Plasma makes up more than half of a person's blood, and its clotting properties help stop bleeding — which is why medics carry the precious liquid, in frozen form, on the battlefield.

Frozen plasma needs to be kept cold, however, and lugging a freezer in combat isn't exactly practical. That's why the Defense Department is working on bringing freeze-dried plasma to the U.S.

This type of plasma doesn't need to be kept cold and is also more stable than frozen plasma. Since the Food and Drug Administration hasn't approved a U.S.-sourced product yet, the military is using French-manufactured freeze-dried plasma in a joint effort to bring the technique to the States.

And Air Force Special Operations Command is part of this effort.

Lt. Col. Rebecca Carter, chief of AFSOC's medical modernization, said the command will receive 25 units of the product from France under the [FDA's Investigational New Drug](#) protocol. This allows the Air Force to receive the product before it receives FDA approval.

The use of freeze-dried plasma, however, is not new.

"[The U.S.] used it in World War II," Carter said. "At the time, we did not have as reliable and accurate methods of donor screening for the blood supply," which increased the possibility of infection.

France received approval for freeze-dried plasma from its FDA equivalent in 1994, and now the United States is working on its own approval.

Once the AFSOC medical team receives its supply of French freeze-dried plasma this month, it will be ready to deploy when needed and used to treat special operations airmen on the battlefield, Carter said. The two main branches of the command's medical team are the operational medic support team and the special operations surgical team. They also support pararescuemen, Carter said.

Carter said each shipment of freeze-dried plasma is meant to support a single deployment cycle.

Frozen plasma must be thawed and warmed before it can be injected into a patient, she said. Frozen plasma can remain frozen for an extended period of time, but it cannot be thawed and then refrozen. Once thawed, the product starts to degrade rapidly.

With freeze-dried plasma, the water is removed and the product becomes a powder. This powder is reconstituted with sterile water and injected into the patient intravenously or via intraosseous infusion — directly into the bone.

The French product is contained in glass bottles, but Carter said the U.S. plans to hold its freeze-dried plasma in IV bags to make transporting them easier and safer.

“The French product is really a bridge product for special operations forces to get to the U.S.-sourced product,” she said. “The larger [Defense Department] community has a team of research and development professionals that are supporting projects to ensure we do have U.S.-sourced [freeze-dried plasma].”

Carter said it will probably take up to five years before the U.S. has its own freeze-dried plasma product.

“Our job is to facilitate the fielding of the product throughout the Air Force,” she said.

Army Special Operations Command was the first to use the French product in the United States, and now the Army Blood Program is seeking volunteers to donate plasma in the effort for U.S.-sourced freeze-dried plasma.

## **Weed for Warriors**

(Presented at VFW Post 904, Loomis, CA)

*Weed for Warriors.* An “Informational Q&A Seminar” to discuss ‘Medical Cannabis’ issues will be held Saturday, June 17th, at the Loomis Veterans Hall for any/all service Veterans. The seminar will run from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. VFW Post 904 is sponsoring this seminar and a planning committee is promising a legitimate, informed panel for the presentation. Reportedly, a Placer County law enforcement officer, an attorney, growers and medical panelists will be present. No cannabis products or paraphernalia will be available on site. The seminar will be restricted to Veterans only attendance. A free BBQ lunch will be served. The seminar will be located at the Loomis Memorial Hall, 5945 Horseshoe Bar Road, Loomis, CA.

**Note: This seminar is in direct conflict with the NCCVC Picnic, an event which is of critical importance to all Nevada County Veterans organizations. Perhaps allegiances appropriately belong with the NCCVC event.** Editor.

## **The Judge In Bergdahl Case Has Just Set A New Trial Date**

By **COREY DICKSTEIN, STARS AND STRIPES** on May 7, 2017

The military judge overseeing the court-martial of accused Army deserter Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl set an October trial date for the case during a hearing Friday at Fort Bragg in North Carolina.

The judge, Army Col. Jeffery R. Nance, told prosecutors and defense attorneys that he intends to begin the jury selection process Oct. 16 and start the trial Oct. 23, said Paul Boyce, a spokesman for U.S. Army Forces Command at Fort Bragg, which is in charge of Bergdahl's court-martial.

Bergdahl, 31, has admitted he willingly left his eastern Afghanistan post in June 2009. The Army has charged him with "misbehavior before the enemy by endangering the safety of a command, unit or place" and "desertion with intent to shirk important or hazardous duty." The more serious misbehavior charge carries a potential life sentence.

The soldier's trial was initially scheduled for August 2016 but has been delayed three times because of issues pertaining to the government's processing of a massive amount of classified information related to the case.

Bergdahl has yet to enter a plea to either of the charges that he faces. He remains on active duty in a clerical job at Joint Base San Antonio in Texas, and he has not been held in pre-trial confinement.

He is expected to return to a Fort Bragg courtroom June 21 for another pre-trial hearing, Boyce said.

Bergdahl spent five years as a captive of the Taliban-aligned Haqqani Network in Pakistan after he was captured within hours of walking off Observation Post Mest. He was released to American special operations forces in May 2014 in a controversial exchange for five senior-level Taliban members detained at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

After Bergdahl's release, the soldier told investigators that he left his post to cause a disturbance that would place him in front of top commanders to express concerns about his unit's leadership. He said he had no intention of deserting the Army.

Bergdahl's attorneys have sought to have the case thrown out over comments made by top American officials, including Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and President Donald Trump during his campaign.

Nance declined to dismiss the case over either McCain's or Trump's comments, but Bergdahl's attorneys have filed an appeal to the highest military appellate court.

That appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces remains open and asserts that Trump's repeated disparaging comments about Bergdahl on the campaign trail violated his right to due process.

## **Vietnam Service Medals – Overview**

From Medals of America

Authorized by executive order on July 8, 1965 for U.S. military personnel serving in the Vietnam Theater of Operations after July 3, 1965 through March 28, 1973. Personnel must have served in Vietnam on temporary duty for at least 30 consecutive/60 nonconsecutive days or have served in combat with a unit directly supporting a military operation in Southeast Asia. Military personnel serving in Laos, Cambodia or Thailand in direct support of operations in Vietnam are also eligible for this military medal. The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal was awarded for earlier service in Vietnam from July 1, 1958 to July 3, 1965, inclusive; personnel receiving that award may be awarded the Vietnam Service Medal, but are not authorized both awards for Vietnam service. The front of the medal depicts an oriental dragon behind a grove of bamboo trees; below the base of the trees is the inscription, "REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM SERVICE." The reverse of the medal depicts a crossbow with a torch through the center and contains the inscription, "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" along the bottom edge. The colors of the suspension drape and ribbon suggest the flag of the Republic of Vietnam (the red stripes represent the three ancient Vietnamese empires of Tonkin, Annam, and Cochin China) and the green represents the Vietnamese jungle. Bronze and silver stars are authorized to signify participation in any of the 17 designated campaigns during the inclusive period.

### **Designated campaigns for the Vietnam Service Medal are as follows:**

#### **Army and Naval Services:**

- Vietnam (VN) Advisory, 1962 - 1965
- VN Defense, 1965 - 1965
- VN Counteroffensive Campaign, 1965 - 1966
- VN Counteroffensive Campaign Phase II, 1966 -1967
- VN Counteroffensive Campaign Phase III, 1967 - 1968
- TET Counteroffensive, 1968
- VN Counteroffensive Campaign Phase IV, 1968
- VN Counteroffensive Campaign Phase V, 1968
- VN Counteroffensive Campaign Phase VI, 1968 - 1969
- TET69 Counteroffensive, 1969
- VN Summer - Fall 1969, 1969
- Vietnam Winter - Spring 1970, 1969 - 1970
- Sanctuary Counteroffensive, 1970

- VN Counteroffensive Campaign Phase VII, 1970 - 1971
- Consolidation I, 1971
- Consolidation II, 1971 - 1972
- Vietnam Cease-Fire Campaign, 1972 – 1973

#### **Air Force:**

- Vietnam (VN) Advisory, 1961 - 1965
- VN Defense, 1965 - 1966
- VN Air Campaign, 1966
- VN Air Offensive Phase I, 1966 - 1967
- VN Air Offensive Phase II, 1967 - 1968
- VN Air/Ground Campaign, 1968
- VN Air Offensive Phase III, 1968
- VN Air Offensive Phase IV, 1968 - 1969
- TET 69/Counteroffensive, 1969
- VN Summer-Fall, 69, 1969
- VN Winter-Spring, 1969 - 1970
- Sanctuary Counteroffensive, 1970
- Southwest Monsoon, 1970
- Commando Hunt V, 1970 - 1971
- Commando Hunt VI, 1971
- Commando Hunt VII, 1971 - 1972
- Vietnam Cease-Fire, 1972 - 1973



**Application For Membership**  
VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA, INC., CHAPTER 535  
P.O. Box 37, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Membership is open to U.S. armed forces veterans who served on active duty (for other than training purposes) in the Republic of Vietnam between February 28, 1961, and May 7, 1975, or in **any duty location** between August 5, 1964 and May 7, 1975.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional) Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am already a VVA member and I want to become a Life Member. My VVA Number is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Type of Membership:** Individual \_\_\_\_\_ 1 year @ \$20. Individual \_\_\_\_\_ 3 years @ \$50.  
Life Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ \$100. (Check type of membership)

**ATTENTION New members and new life members:** You must submit a copy of your DD-214 form along with this application and dues payment.

Payment Method: \_\_\_ Check \_\_\_ Money Order \_\_\_ Credit Card (Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover)

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Return your completed application, payment and a copy of your DD-214 to:

Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., Chapter 535  
P.O. Box 37  
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Revised: January 2016

May 2017						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> General Meeting 6:00 Kent State Massacre	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> VE Day Declared (1945)	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Mother's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> NVAR departs Auburn to D.C.	<b>18</b> Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Armed Forces Day
<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> National Maritime Day	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Armed Forces Pavilion & Garden	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Pioneer Park Activities Memorial Day	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>			

<b>June 2017</b>						
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>	<b>Saturday</b>
				<b>1</b> General Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Flag Day U.S. Army founded (1775)	<b>15</b> Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Medical Cannabis Seminar NCCVC Picnic
<b>18</b> Father's Day	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	

## July 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 <u>Independence Day</u> July 4 <sup>th</sup> Parade	5	6 General Meeting 6:00 p.m.	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	21 CSC Council - Fresno	22 CSC Council - Fresno
23 CSC Council - Fresno	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

## August 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> General Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Set up for Nevada County Fair	<b>9</b> Nevada County Fair	<b>10</b> Nevada County Fair	<b>11</b> Nevada County Fair	<b>12</b> Nevada County Fair
<b>13</b> Nevada County Fair	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

## September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	2
3	<b>4</b> <u>Labor Day</u>	5	6	7	8	9
10 Constitution Day Parade	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	16
17	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	23
24	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	30

## October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 General Meeting 6:00 p.m.	6 Nevada County Stand Down	7 Nevada County Stand Down
8	9 <a href="#">Columbus Day</a>	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 CSC Council - Fresno	28 CSC Council - Fresno
29 CSC Council - Fresno	30	31 <a href="#">Halloween</a>				

## November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Veterans Day Parade
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
				<u>Thanksgiving</u>		
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		



## December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	2
3 Victorian Christmas	4	5	6	7 VVA-535 Christmas Dinner	8	9
10 Victorian Christmas	11	12	13 Victorian Christmas	14	15	16 Wreaths Across America
17 Victorian Christmas	18	19	20 Victorian Christmas	21 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	22	23
24	25 <u>Christmas</u>	26	27	28	29	30
31						