

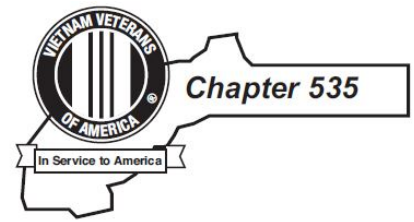


INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535

Website: www.vva535.org



Volume 27 Issue 11

November 2017

President's Message

Dear fellow Veterans,

There are a few things coming up that you may be interested in;

- 1) Stand down had less participants than normal. There were quite a few displays and services that were made available for those needing help. Thanks to Ralph for helping on Saturday.
- 2) We will still need help with the Victorian Christmas booth for all dates. Sunday December 17th we will need one more person to help in the kitchen.
- 3) Bart Ruud made a preliminary batch of brownies for the board meeting. Pretty good. We have discussed hiring a women's group to make the brownies. The women that serve at the American Legion dinners are a possibility.
- 4) Please respond to your Evite for the Christmas dinner or contact Ric.
- 5) Both trailers have been picked up from Harold's. The old trailer was put online for sale. If interested, contact Ralph. Thanks to Ric, Dave and Ralph for helping relocate the trailers. Dave cleaned up the new trailer and we have a little bit of work to prepare it. We are still looking for a place to store the new trailer. If not, we may secure behind the VFW storage units at the back of the parking lot.

6) We are still discussing having a concert next year. Tentative dates have been penciled in. Various groups will be discussed at the next meeting.

7) Veterans day. Ceremonies at Pioneer Park in the a.m. and then at the Veterans Memorial Hall afterwards. Lunch in dining area afterwards by Boy Scouts.

8) Christmas dinner on the 7th of December. Send back Evite please.

9) Dave Middleton's open house on the 16th of December.

10) Submit your suggestions for guest speakers.

11) State Council meeting next weekend. Report will be given at next monthly meeting.

That is all for now. Thanks everyone for all the help and suggestions. See you at the next meeting, Nov. 2, 2017.

Chuck

Veterans Day

On Veterans Day at 9 a.m., there will be a short ceremony at the Memorial Lawn by Seaman Lodge at Pioneer Park in Nevada City. VFW Post 2655 will do a color guard presentation and post the flags. There will be a few short speeches. Each local veteran's group will set their wreath by the monuments. The All Veterans Honor Guard will fire a 3 round volley to conclude the ceremony.

Table of Contents

Pg. 1 .. President’s Message
Pg. 2...Table of Contents
 Board Meeting Aftermath
 Upcoming Events
 Officers & Directors
Pg. 3 ... Grass Valley Native serves
Pg. 4... Twitter Users Track Navy
Pg. 5 .. The Army’s Badass Laser
Pg. 6 ... Writing your story for INCOMING
Pg. 7.... So What Do You Think, Mike?
Pg. 8 ... The VA Just Dropped...
Pg. 9 ... Not All Veterans Will Be Eligible....
Pg. 10 Dave Middleton’s Party
Pg. 11 John Adams Academy breakfast
Pg. 12 Trailer storage solicitation letter
Pg. 13 ..The History of the Buddy Poppy
Pg. 15 Christmas Potluck Dinner
 Contact Information Booklet
Pg. 16 .. Calendars

Matters of interest as outlined at Board Meeting of October 19, 2017

Ryan Wealth Management, an independent financial services firm located in Yuba City, CA has again requested 100 “vouchers” for our Victorian Christmas fare – cider, hot chocolate and brownies – for distribution to their clients. Rather than collecting \$2 for each ticket, the Board, as it did a year ago, opted to release the vouchers for \$1.75 each.

April 28, 2018 looks like a potential date for a Chapter 535 sponsored concert that might be coordinated with Center for the Arts in Grass Valley. Ralph Remick will explore the potential for engaging a “Big Band.”

President Chuck spent time at the October 6th Nevada County Stand down and reported it was well organized, with a plethora of services available. The VFW has largely underwritten the expense of the annual Stand Down, but it was felt by the Board that all Veterans groups should share in the expense. This will likely

become a matter of discussion at a future NCCVC meeting.

President Chuck, VP Dave Chaix and Directors Sheridan, Remick, and Epps – and maybe others – picked up the old storage trailer and its contents on Oct. 5 and thoroughly cleaned all materials therein. They also picked up the newer trailer, purchased from Harold and Patricia Graves, and transferred the contents to that trailer for storage. The old trailer is now listed for sale on Craig’s List. Meanwhile, we continue to seek a storage site for our replacement trailer.

Upcoming Events

- General Meeting Nov. 2, 2017
- Director’s MeetingNov. 16, 2017
- VVA 535 Summer Picnic – To be determined
- CSC Full Council - October 27-29, 2017, Fresno
- NCCVC meeting. 10:00 a.m. Nov. 2, 2017
- Veterans Breakfast – Nov. 8 at John Adams Academy - a charter school in Roseville
- 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 Remick559-7716

Secretary
Dave Johnson 887-8297

Past President
Harold Graves 470-8507

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Dave Chaix269-1431
 Bill Holman 265-8387
 Bart Ruud 823-1368
 Dale Epps 368-6156
 Harold Graves 470-8507
 Chuck Holmes 478-1126

Committee Chairs

FinanceRalph Remick & Dave Johnson
 Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
 Membership AffairsRic Sheridan
 Newsletter Interim editor Bart Ruud
 Victorian Christmas Chuck Holmes
 NominationsDick 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 Tuesday & Thursday,
 8:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 – 4:00 are “Walk-In” days.

**Grass Valley native serving aboard
 U.S. Navy ship forged from World
 Trade Center Steel**

by Lt. Wesley Holzzapfel, Navy Office of Community
 Outreach. September 5, 2017

Photo By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Robert Zahn

(MAYPORT, Fla.) – As the nation prepares to observe the 16th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, a 2014 Nevada Union High School graduate and Grass Valley, California native is serving in the U.S. Navy aboard a ship built using steel from the World Trade Center.



Fireman Zach Garrity, serving aboard USS New York, is responsible for working on the air conditioning systems and hydraulic systems for the ship. USS New York, one of the Navy’s newest and most advanced amphibious ships, is designed to deliver Marines and their equipment where they are needed to support a variety of missions ranging from amphibious assaults to humanitarian relief efforts.

“I played baseball growing up in Grass Valley,” said Garrity. “It taught me how to work well with others. I use that skill every day in the Navy. My great grandfather served in the Air Force in World War II, my uncle served in the Marine Corps in Vietnam. Every day I try to honor them and the sacrifices they made.”

Homeported in Mayport, Florida, USS New York, named for the state of New York, is longer than two football fields at 684 feet, is 105 feet wide and weighs more than 24,000 tons. It has four diesel engines that can push the ship through the water in excess of 26 mph.

According to the Navy, New York’s bow, forged from steel salvaged from the wreckage of the 9/11 World Trade Center attack, embodies the strength and determination of the people of the United States: to recover, rally, and take the fight to the enemy and honor the memory of those who were affected by the attacks. USS New York forges an enduring alliance between the people of New York, the ship, and her crew

Serving in the Navy and aboard New York, Garrity is constantly learning how to be the best leader, Sailor and person possible by handling numerous responsibilities, meeting deadlines, and forging lasting professional relationships.

Sailors' jobs are highly varied aboard USS New York. More than 400 men and women make up the ship's crew, which keeps all parts of the ship running smoothly, from washing dishes and preparing meals to handling weaponry and maintaining the engines. An additional 700 Marines can be embarked. New York is capable of transporting the Marines and landing them where they are needed via helicopters, vertical takeoff and landing aircraft and landing craft.

"It's a ship like no other," said Capt. Todd Vandegrift, commanding officer, USS New York. "It represents the fighting spirit and resiliency of our Navy and Nation. While 9/11 maybe a distant memory for many, the events of that day are ever present before the crew and they shape the service and performance of each Sailor. The USS New York is at the forefront of readiness, amphibious operations and warfighting innovation. From being the ship of choice for the most demanding mission, to the highest scores in the amphibious transport dock (LPD) fleet during the USS New York's recent Board of Inspection and Survey Inspections Material Condition Inspection, this ship and its crew leads the LPD fleet. It's an honor and a privilege to be able to help guide and mold these young men and women's futures."

Collectively, the San Antonio-class ships will functionally replace more than 41 ships providing the Navy and Marine Corps with modern sea-based platforms. Amphibious transport dock ships are warships that embark, transport, and land elements of a landing force for a variety of expeditionary warfare missions. These ships support amphibious assault, special operations or expeditionary warfare missions and can serve as secondary aviation platforms for amphibious ready groups. Because of their inherent capabilities, these ships have been and will continue to be called upon to support

humanitarian and other contingency missions on short notice as well.

As a member of one of the U.S. Navy's high-tech amphibious assault ships, Garrity and other New York sailors are proud to part of a warfighting team that embodies the spirit, strength and resilience of the American people.

"I was a little too young to understand the impact that 9/11 had at the time, but it started to mean more as I grew up," said Garrity. "The fact that I serve on a ship that memorializes 9/11 serves as a reminder of why I joined every day. It's really an honor."

Twitter users appear to track Navy ships using newly activated beacons

By SETH ROBSON | STARS AND STRIPES. Oct. 3, 2017

Naval enthusiasts are tweeting what they believe are U.S. warship positions after commanders ordered the vessels to activate their beacons while in congested waters to avoid collisions.

The order to turn on the Automatic Identification System (AIS) locators, reported by National Public Radio on Sept. 29, follows a series of collisions that have killed 17 sailors in the Pacific in recent months. However, it appears that the new procedure is also allowing people to track the warships online.

A tweet posted on Sunday that maps the location of a "US GOV VSL" approaching Hong Kong reads: "Reason to believe this is USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)."

The aircraft carrier and the guided-missile destroyer USS Chafee anchored near Hong Kong on Monday, a Pacific Fleet statement said.

A tweet posted on Sunday, Oct. 1, 2017 that maps the location of a "US GOV VSL" approaching Hong Kong reads: "Reason to believe this is USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76)."

NPR reported that it still isn't clear whether the USS Fitzgerald was transmitting its AIS at the time of a June collision that killed seven sailors off the coast of Japan; however, it is known that the USS John S. McCain was not when it hit a merchant ship near Singapore two months later, killing 10.

Retired Vice Adm. William Douglas Crowder, a former 7th Fleet commander and a former deputy chief of naval operations, told NPR that Navy ships typically use locators in receive-only mode, which allows them to see other vessels using the system but doesn't let other ships see them.

"It's all about operational security," Crowder said. "We don't want to be broadcasting our exact position to everyone."

However, Lyle Goldstein, an associate professor in the China Maritime Studies Institute at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I., said in an email that he doesn't think America's potential adversaries will gain much by studying warships' AIS data.

"Chinese ISR (intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance) would already have a rather good notion of the locations of U.S. surface ships from a variety of sources, including satellite monitoring, Skywave Radar, the large Chinese fishing and merchant fleets, as well as China's huge Coast Guard and related maritime patrol assets," he said.

Classic espionage techniques are also likely being used to track U.S. warships operating near places such as Singapore, he said.

During World War II, a network of 400 Australian and New Zealand military officers,

Pacific Islanders and escaped prisoners of war monitored Japanese ship movements in the Pacific.

"No one can imagine that US ships operate off of Hong Kong undetected," Goldstein said.

Turning on the locators in congested waters is a prudent measure that won't have a major impact on potential adversary knowledge of U.S. ship movements, he said.

"I would imagine that anyways there are certain sensitive zones (near Philippines and Japan for example) wherein U.S. warships will continue to operate without active beacons as before for military security purposes," he said.



The Army's Badass Laser Weapon Just Took A Major Step Forward

By SARAH SICARD, Task & Purpose, October 3, 2017

The Army's Advanced Test High Energy Asset (ATHENA, a nod to the Greek goddess of Wisdom) laser weapon underwent substantial prototype testing at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico in August, and the results are pretty damn impressive based on new video of the weapon in action.

div>

During testing, manufacturer Lockheed Martin flexed the ATHENA's muscles — the weapon uses the company's 30-kilowatt Accelerated

Laser Demonstration Initiative (ALADIN), nestled in an advanced system of optics and sensors, to generate the heat energy to burn through drones — to blast the bejesus out of five Outlaw drones, a feat it was happy to show off in highlight reel published on Sept. 20.

Once ATHENA takes aim at the Outlaw drones' back rudders, they burst into flame, spiral into a tailspin, and freefall to the ground. Though the laser's "beam" is all but invisible to the naked eye, the drone's mid-air disintegration is very, very real — and very, very awesome.

See: <http://taskandpurpose.com/armys-badass-laser-weapon-athena-just-took-major-step-forward/>

"The system defeated airborne targets in flight by causing loss of control and structural failure," Lockheed Martin said in press release. "Lockheed Martin and the Army will conduct post mission reviews, and data collected will be used to further refine the system, improve model predictions and inform development of future laser systems."p

This is just the Army's latest step forward with regards to directed energy weapons. In April, the branch unveiled a Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV) prototype specially equipped with Mobile High Energy Laser (MEHEL) system designed to counter ISIS suicide drones. And in June, an AH-64 Apache was fitted with a laser developed by Raytheon to experiment with taking out unmanned aerial vehicles, blasting drones out of the sky from 1.4 km away.

But knocking drones out of the sky is just one of the uses that Lockheed envisions for its new laser technology. In the near future, the defense giant hopes to expand the utility of its laser weapons systems to aircraft, ground vehicles, and ships.

"Our technology today is ready to defend against small rockets, artillery shells and mortars, small unmanned aerial vehicles, small attack boats and lightweight ground vehicles that are approximately a mile away," the company said. "As fiber laser power levels increase, our systems will be able to disable larger threats and do so across greater distances."

The military is also looking at other applications for laser technology beyond downing pesky UAVs. Air Force Special Operations Command is exploring the possibility of equipping AC-130J Ghost Rider gunship with lasers that can disrupt or destroy communications and electrical systems, as well as enemy infrastructure. And the Navy's USS Ponce has been using the AN/SEQ-3 Laser Weapon System for defensive purposes against enemy watercraft 2014.

All of this is great, but we hope that, one day, the Pentagon takes the final step towards world domination: sharks with frickin' laser beams attached to their heads.

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, Kent Hawley, and Mike Laborico. (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 or hand deliver to Bart.

So What Did You Do This Week, Mike?

I'm a volunteer driver for the Reno Nevada Veterans Hospital. I drive disabled veterans to their doctors appointments from Grass Valley, Ca. to Various locations in Reno and back. Sometimes I'll drive to take a Vet and leave them at the hospital; sometimes I bring a Vet back home. I've had WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and now the Middle East Vet's to transport. Sometimes the trips are like a "Box of Chocolates", ya just don't know what you're going to get.

Wednesday, October 4th, I spent a day with a homeless Vietnam Veteran. It was my turn to drive disabled Vet's to the Veterans hospital. John (not his real name) met me at my Van. He had slept outside under some trees the night before because he didn't want to miss the shuttle. He said it was cold last night and had a hard time sleeping. The van was cold, but after a few minutes and the heat turned up, John started to relax. He slept all the way to the hospital; about an hour and a half drive. I drove him out where he needed to be and then shuttled him to another location and then back to the hospital. When I dropped him off at the hospital, I gave him a few bucks and told him to go to the cafeteria and get something to eat. His pride didn't want to accept my offer. But, I told him, "John we're brothers in this, take a look around, we're all brothers and sisters, we share something in common. If we don't help each other, who will? He gratefully accepted my offer. I later found him eating a sandwich and a cup of coffee.

On our return trip, he was wide-awake and shared some of what was inside of him. I'm not allowed to question my passengers, but if they offer, it's OK to engage. Part of his trip was to get some medical attention; the other was to in his words, "to finally accept help from the VA to assist the homeless Vet." Unknown to me, I had driven him to "Homeless VA" assistance clinic. It didn't say that on the building signage. John confided that he could no longer live the way he is. In his

words, “As I get older, it gets more dangerous out there.”

I mentioned, “we had something in common”. He and I both were in the Signal Corps (1st Signal Brigade) in Vietnam and during the same period of time. Although we were in different Battalions, he was assigned to ASA (Army Security Agency). His assignment was to intercept North Vietnamese activity and report his findings in one single communication back, so not to be triangulated and spotted. So I quizzed him on some Army stuff and communications and his responses were spot on. He is multi-lingual. He speaks, Taiwanese, Vietnamese, Chinese or a dialect of, and English – I have trouble with that one. He was tested at the Monterey Language Institute after entering the military. He gave me some examples of his ability. I asked him “how the hell, can you do that?” “Oh, it seems to come natural I guess”, he said.

On our journey we drove through a few road constructions, “Oh, that’s a Caterpillar ABC, I operated one until the company shut down.” Another point, Caltrans was reseeding an area that fire took earlier this summer. John said, “it’s good that they’re doing that, it helps to control erosion.” We were both Boy Scouts and talked about some of our events, and Merit Badges we earned. And, much more ...

John gave me a whole new prospective of the homeless. John was a real person; a human being that is just playing the cards that have been dealt out to him. I know that not all of the homeless fit this picture, but I’ll reconsider my perception from now on. When we returned, a “friend” in a car met John. John gave me a sincere handshake and a thank you. I wished him well and we went our way.

So what did I do ... I hope a made a man, feel like a person again and not homeless. I hope that for a short period of time, homeless was not in Johns mind and he was a human being just like the rest of us.

Mike Laborico – VVA-535

The VA Just Dropped More Details About The New Veteran ID Cards

By **ADAM LINEHAN** on October 17, 2017. Task & Purpose

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been playing coy since it first announced that new veterans identification cards — wallet-sized IDs that allow people to prove their military service without a copy of their DD214 — will become available to former service members beginning in November, revealing details about the application process in piecemeal. Now the department has graced us with a little more information.

Military.com, which first broke the news of the new veteran IDs earlier this month, now reports that vets who want one of the new cards must first register online with Vets.gov, a website that authenticates users through the ID.me system. Officials originally told Military.com that veterans would be able to apply for the cards online, but provided few specifics; they were no less taciturn with Task & Purpose. We did

confirm, however, that veterans will *not* be able to use the cards as proof of age when shopping for adult commodities like cigarettes and beer, because they are not official government-issued IDs — which, as a Military.com notes, also means they can't be used for things like air travel.

Unfortunately, we still don't know what the cards will look like.

The 2015 Veterans Identification Card Act directed the VA to issue a hard-copy photo ID to any veteran who applies for one. The legislation was introduced after politicians realized that people were having trouble proving that they had served in the military when attempting to secure sweet veteran discounts and benefits, like a free meal at Applebee's on Veterans Day.

Not all veterans will be eligible for new ID cards

By: Leo Shane III Military Time October 19, 2017

WASHINGTON — When the Department of Veterans Affairs starts offering new ID cards next month, they won't be available to every veteran. That's because of a decision by VA officials to issue the new IDs only to individuals with honorable discharges, a move that goes against earlier department policies at increasing outreach to veterans with so-called "bad paper" discharges.

The decision has upset advocates, who see it as an unnecessary restriction.

"There's really no reason to do that," said John Rowan, national president at Vietnam Veterans of America. "It doesn't serve veterans well."

Department officials will start issuing the new veterans ID cards next month. The purpose is to give eligible veterans an easy way to prove their military service for a variety of non-government

services, such as business discounts and other promotions.

Legislation authorizing the cards, sponsored by Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Fla., passed through Congress without objection in July 2015. Since then, VA leaders have spent time finalizing the rules and application process for the new IDs.

Veterans who wish to receive one of the cards will have to apply through the VA website starting next month. Specifics on that process, including what the cards will look like and how long it will take for them to be mailed out to eligible recipients, have not yet been made public.

But VA Press Secretary Curt Cashour confirmed this week that "only those veterans with honorable service will be eligible for the ID card."

The legislation as passed by Congress calls for VA officials to issue an ID to any veteran who requests one and "presents a copy of Department of Defense form DD-214 or other official document from the official military personnel file of the veteran that describes the service of the veteran." It does not specify excluding veterans with other-than-honorable dismissals.

Cashour declined to provide specifics on the reasoning behind VA's decision. VA officials will make the cards available for free to all veterans who request them through the department's web site.

Veterans advocates for years have pushed for expanded services for the estimated 500,000 veterans who have been separated from the military with so-called "bad paper" discharges, arguing that many are reputable veterans whose underlying conditions forced them out of the service. They argue that many troops booted from the ranks because of drug abuse and minor

insubordination issues may actually have been suffering from untreated mental health issues like post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury. They can appeal those rulings if medical evidence surfaces later, but advocates say it's a complicated and inconsistent process.

Veterans with other-than-honorable discharges are ineligible for a host of VA benefits and health services. But earlier this year, VA Secretary David Shulkin opened up emergency room mental health services to veterans with other-than-honorable discharges for the first time, arguing that bringing those isolated veterans back into the system would help identify their lingering medical problems and stem the problem of veteran suicide. At the time, veterans groups called that an important step forward in helping an often-shunned section of the military community. Now, they see the ID card decision as a step backwards.

"I find it incredibly frustrating, and deeply hurtful, that the VA would deny hundreds of thousands of veterans like me our very identity, after all that we know today about the nexus of PTSD and bad paper," said Kris Goldsmith, founder of High Ground Veterans Advocacy and a veteran with a bad-paper discharge. "I served on active duty, and was discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The law says I'm a veteran. But VA's current self-imposed policy is telling me that I'm not. This is a direct contradiction of the secretary's efforts to bring veterans with bad-paper back into the fold."

Rowan, whose group has made bad paper issues one of their primary lobbying focuses in recent years, said if VA recognizes other-than-honorable veterans in emergency rooms, they should also recognize their service in less critical matters like business discounts.

The new cards won't replace VA medical cards

or official defense retiree cards, and will not carry any force of law behind them. Supporters have called a national veterans ID card a simple way to honor veterans' service, and a way to cut down on identity theft issues that arise from veterans carrying around their military discharge paperwork or other personal documents prove their status.

The law allows VA to collect a fee to cover the costs of the new cards, but department officials have said they will be issuing the IDs for free.

Rowan said he plans to petition Shulkin personally in coming days to lift the ID restrictions. In the meantime, VA is promising more information on the application process in coming weeks.

the Middleton's Annual Christmas Get together

Sat 12/16 Sun 12/17
1PM - 5PM

While you are out and about shopping and other holiday errands...

TAKE A BREAK
share Holiday cheer and good tidings with friends

JoAnne's **Snow Village** and other festive decorations

Enjoy
Dave's Chili
Homemade Soups
Homemade Christmas Cookies

Coaco/Cider/Coffee
BYOB
ALL ARE WELCOME

STAY AS SHORT OR AS LONG AS YOU LIKE

12704
Banner Lava Cap Rd.
530-205-9375

JOHN ADAMS ACADEMY
CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO



VETERANS DAY
20 BREAKFAST & ASSEMBLY 17

WEDNESDAY

BREAKFAST

8:15 A.M.

Nov. 8TH

ASSEMBLY

9:00 A.M.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
CAPTAIN ROCKY DEAL, U.S. NAVY

R.S.V.P.

JOHN ADAMS ACADEMY
1 SIERRA GATE PLAZA, ROSEVILLE, CA 95678
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KIMBERLY MARTIN - (916) 521-9521

Meet Dave Johnson in Auburn and ride down together.



Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is the only national Vietnam veterans organization congressionally chartered and exclusively dedicated to Vietnam-era veterans and their families.

We are a non-profit 501 veterans organization, with our local Nevada County Chapter 535 formed in 1992.

Over the past 25 years, VVA Nevada County Chapter has supported many community efforts including Meals-On-Wheels, local high school scholarships, emergency one-time financial help for veterans, and Information and Referral services for veterans. More recently, our local chapter provides direct financial support to Friends of Vinh Son, a group of Montagnard (mountain people) orphanages neglected by the Vietnamese government.

To fund our community efforts, our VVA Chapter depends on our members fundraising activities. Our primary fundraising activity is during the weeks of Victorian Christmas, when our members sell hot cider, hot chocolate, and homemade brownies from our booth in Nevada City.

Our current need is to have a location available to store our approximately 8'x16' trailer containing our booth equipment and supplies for about 11 months out of the year, when the trailer is unused. As a business entity, the value of your space donation should be tax deductible and would be very much appreciated by our VVA Chapter and those we serve. An IRS tax ID Number can be provided.

The History of the Buddy Poppy

The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States was the first veteran organization to promote a nationally organized campaign for the annual distribution of poppies assembled by disabled and needy veterans.

The poppy movement was inspired by the poem "*In Flanders Fields*" written by Colonel John McCrae of the Canadian forces before the United States entered World War I. Selling replicas of the original Flanders' poppy originated in some of the allied countries immediately after the Armistice.

No definite organized sale of poppies on a nationwide scale was conducted in America until 1921, when the Franco-American Children's League sold poppies ostensibly for the benefit of children in the devastated areas of France and Belgium.

Madam Guerin, who was recognized as "the poppy lady from France", sought and received the cooperation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. early in 1922, after the Franco-American Children's League was dissolved. The VFW conducted a poppy sale prior to Memorial Day, 1922, using only poppies that were made in France. In the 1923 poppy sale, due to the difficulty and delay in getting poppies from France, the VFW made use of a surplus of French poppies that were on hand and the balance was provided by a firm in New York City manufacturing artificial flowers.

It was during the 1923 campaign that the VFW evolved the idea which resulted in the VFW Buddy Poppy - fashioned by disabled and needy veterans who were paid for their work as a practical means of providing assistance for these Comrades. This plan was formally presented for adoption to the 1923 encampment of the VFW at Norfolk, Virginia. Immediately thereafter the VFW Buddy Poppy factory was established in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where all VFW Buddy Poppies for the 1924 sale were assembled by disabled veterans. General Frank T. Hines, Director of the U.S. Veterans' Bureau, endorsed the plan and pledged the cooperation of his department. All men employed in the assembling of the Buddy Poppies for the 1924 sale were sent to the VFW poppy workshop by the U.S. Veterans' Bureau regional manager in Pittsburgh. The designation "Buddy Poppy" which originated with the men themselves, was adopted at that time. IN FEBRUARY, 1924, THE VFW REGISTERED THE NAME "BUDDY POPPY" WITH THE UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE, AND A CERTIFICATE WAS ISSUED ON MAY 20, 1924, GRANTING THE VFW ALL TRADEMARK RIGHTS IN THE NAME OF "BUDDY" UNDER THE CLASSIFICATION OF ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS. The VFW has made that trademark a guarantee that all poppies bearing that name and the VFW label are genuine products of the work of disabled and needy veterans. No other organization, firm or individual can make legal use of the name "BUDDY" POPPY.

Following the 1924 sale, a number of the larger Departments (States) of the VFW believed it would stimulate local sales if the poppies they used were assembled by disabled veterans in hospitals within their own jurisdiction. The 1924 encampment of the VFW at Atlantic City granted this privilege, under the provision that all poppies would be produced according to specifications set forth by the National Buddy Poppy Committee, and that all poppies would be assembled by disabled veterans in government hospitals and by needy veterans in workshops supervised by the VFW.

The National Buddy Poppy Committee has maintained a close check on the making of Buddy Poppies and has supplied VFW Buddy Poppy labels which must be used on all poppies sold by any unit of this organization. The VFW has steadfastly adhered to the policy of veteran assembled poppies.

The VFW organized the first nationwide distribution of poppies ever conducted by a veterans organization in May, 1922. Immediately thereafter, the poppy was adopted by the National Encampment held in Seattle, Washington during August of that year as the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

In September, 1920, the National Convention of the American Legion held at Cleveland, passed a resolution adopting the poppy as the official flower of that organization. However, at the third National Convention of the American Legion held in Kansas City in October, 1921, the American Legion repudiated the poppy and adopted the daisy as its official flower.

In October, 1922, following the first nationwide sale of poppies conducted by the VFW during the month of May of that year, the fourth National Convention of the American Legion held at New Orleans, Louisiana in October, adopted the following resolution which is taken from a printed summary of the proceedings: *"Resolved, that the poppy is hereby declared to be the official American Legion flower, instead of the daisy, which was adopted by the 1921 convention of the American Legion"*.

This indicates the daisy was adopted by the American Legion in 1921 and following the successful poppy sale conducted by the VFW in May, 1922 the American Legion realized the financial possibilities of the poppy movement. In the spring of 1923, following the New Orleans encampment and one year after the first poppy sale of the VFW on a nationwide scale, the American Legion conducted its first poppy sale using poppies supplied by a French manufacturer as shown in the report of the National Adjutant for the year ending October 15, 1923.

The records are clear, however, on the subject of the first nationwide distribution of poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. in May, 1922.

From the very beginning, the Buddy Poppy project of the VFW has received the endorsement and cooperation of the Director of the Veterans Administration, and the support of administrators and medical officers of government hospitals. All Presidents since Warren G. Harding (1921-1923) have conveyed to the nation at large, endorsement and recognition of this VFW effort.

Today, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled, needy, and aging veterans in VA Hospitals and domiciliaries across the country. The majority of proceeds derived from each sale conducted by VFW Posts and their Ladies Auxiliaries is retained locally to provide for veteran services and welfare. The minimal assessment (cost of Buddy Poppies) to VFW units provides compensation to the veterans who assembled the poppies, provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs, and partially supports the VFW National Home for orphans and widows of our nation's veterans.

Buddy Poppy proceeds represent no profit to any VFW unit. All the money contributed by the public for Buddy Poppies is used in the cause of veterans welfare, or for the well-being of their needy dependents and the orphans of veterans.

In Flanders Fields

[John McCrae](#), 1872 - 1918

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow

We are the dead short days ago
We live, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders field.

ANNUAL VVA CHAPTER 535 CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER

Please mark your calendar for the VVA Chapter 535 Annual Christmas Potluck on Thursday, December 7, 2017, beginning at 5:00 p.m., with potluck starting around 6:00 p.m. The hour beforehand will allow time to visit with fellow VVA members and their families.

This year, ham and soft drinks will be provided. Please bring your favorite side dish (e.g. stuffing, potatoes, salad, or dessert) to share. Don't worry about what dish to bring; just bring it.

Jose Gonzales will be bringing two deep—fried turkeys.

Optional: Bring an unwrapped toy for local distribution by the Marine Corps League "Toys for Tots" toy drive.

Questions or comments call Ric Sheridan at 530-274-1413 or email rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net

- Grass Valley Veterans Memorial Building (downstairs dining hall) 255 South Auburn Street, Grass Valley, CA 95945

Member Contact Information Booklet

One of our members, Leo LaBrie, is compiling a member contact information booklet. Please send a reply to Ric Sheridan at rfsheridan@sbcglobal.net

Within your response, please identify your branch of service and the first name of your spouse or significant other for inclusion. When completed, these booklets will be shared with our members.

Note – if you replied to the EVITE request for this information, there is no need to repeat it.

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

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 Invasion of N. Korea 1950 Columbus Day	10	11	12	13 US Navy Established 1775	14
15	16	17	18	19 Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 CSC Council – Fresno. Navy Day	28 CSC Council - Fresno
29 CSC Council - Fresno	30	31 Halloween				

November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 VVA General Meeting	3	4
5 Daylight Savings Begins	6	7 Election Day	8	9	10 US Marine Corps established 1775	11 Veterans Day Parade
12	13	14	15	16 VVA Director's Meeting	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 <u>Thanksgiving</u> Day	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	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						