

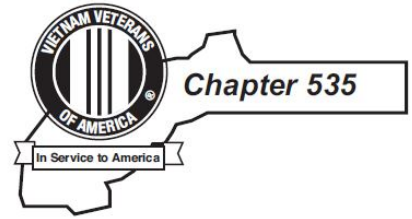


INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535

Website: www.vva535.org



Volume 28 Issue 6

June 2018

Gentleman and Ladies,

Among the several goals I penciled out at the beginning of the current administrative year was a hope that we might increase our membership. Alas, at the meeting of May 3, we found three new members in our midst. A warm welcome is extended to **Steve, Ken Tokutomi** and **Steve**. (Regrets on not catching full names.) Please warmly welcome these Veterans into the fold. Remember, "Every Veteran Counts," and that is a driving force to have every member attend at least 80 percent of our General Membership meetings.

Great appreciation is extended to **Gary Barnes** for his leadership with coordinating the *Rhythm Riders* Concert that was staged on April 28th at the Center for the Arts in Grass Valley. The concert was deemed a great success with an apparent \$5,581.76 noted as being the profit realized from the endeavor. Thanks are extended to **Ralph Remick** for drafting letters of appreciation to our valued donors.

Dave Middleton is putting much effort into organizing for a **Texas Hold 'Em** poker tournament to be staged **Oct. 20, 2018**. Thank you, Dave.

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Hopefully there has been some voluntary participation with two challenges – one being a self-monitored walking program, and the second being saving pop-tabs for the Ronald McDonald house program.

The **50:50 Raffle** initiated on May 3, 2018 currently has \$20 in the can. If you choose to participate, the Raffle will continue at the meeting of June 7, 2018.

- Bart

Attention

If you do not drive and need a ride to a meeting or any VVA-535 function, please contact Bart Ruud or any local VVA -535 member and we will do our best to arrange transportation for you.

Guest Speaker June 7, 2018

Tom Woollard has arranged another interesting program for presentation at our June 7th meeting. **Mr. John Gulserian** from the **Nevada County Office of Emergency Services** will share insight about his office's operations.

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Dave Johnson 887-8297
Dave Middleton 205-9375
Ralph Remick 559-7716
Bart Ruud 823-1368
Ric Sheridan 274-1413
Tom Woollard 432-1212

Upcoming Events

NCCVC Memorial Day events – Pioneer Park, Nevada City. 9:00 a.m. VFW hosts. May 28th.
General Meeting June 7, 2018
NCCVC meeting. 10:00 a.m. June7, 2018
Director’s MeetingJune 7, 2018
Elegance in the Garden – Auburn Armed Forces Pavilion, June 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$30 and the event honors Rear Admiral Bonnie Potter.
VVA Leadership Conference, Palm Springs, CA July 22 – 30, 2018
Nevada County Fair – August 8 – 12, 2018
CSC Full Council - August 24 – 26, 2018, Fresno
Texas Hold ‘Em tournament – October 20, 2018
Victorian Christmas... Dec 2, 9, 12, 16, 19, 2018

Chapter 535 Officers

President Bart Ruud
(H) 530-823-1368; (C) 530-305-0493

Vice-President
Dale Epps 368-6156

Treasurer
Ralph Remick559-7716

Secretary
Dave Johnson 887-8297

Directors

Dave Chaix269-1431
Dale Epps 368-6156
Kent Hawley 432-3551
Bill Holman 265-8387
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 Jose Gonzales
NominationsDick Corn
Christmas Year Round Bart Ruud
NCCVC Dick Corn
Speakers Bureau Tom Woollard
Web Master Ralph Remick
Quartermaster Kent Hawley
Facebook Master Mike Laborico
Nevada County Fair Bart Ruud
VSO Liaisons Don Bull & Gary Oliver
CA State Council Rep. Chuck Holmes

Nevada County Veterans Affairs Officer

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.

Placer County Veterans Service Officer

Suzi Vinci 916-780-3290.
1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA
Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Matters of interest as outlined at Board Meeting of May 3, 2018

Three additional Booth Captains for the Nevada County Fair, August 8 – 12, 2018 are needed. Booth Captains and Booth Sitters to be solicited at upcoming General Meetings. See Nevada County Fair updates, as published herein.

The Board is continuing its wordsmithing and developing a **Mission Statement** specific to VVA Chapter 535. In addition, the Board is brainstorming a fitting legacy project for expenditure of at least \$2,900 that has been contributed in memory of Past-President Harold graves.

VP **Dale Epps** volunteered to represent VVA 535 at Memorial Day ceremonies scheduled for Memorial Park on Memorial Day. Thank you, Dale.

BBQ Social a Great Success Submitted by Jose Gonzales

There is not a BBQ event requiring no preparation or help. Given that, the end results always turns a good outcome. How wonderful to have a BBQ with ever so many brothers with families attending. It turned out to be with the best of fair weather. The School House providing air conditioning and a childish flavor since it's utilize as a day care center with all the toys and devices surrounding the room yet, it became our dining room. Yes, we did ring the school bell for chow call.

The camouflage was perfect having to use yellow paint on the good side of a cardboard, declaring the directions to the site. Of course you didn't see them! Which was part of the test to check your alertness and colorblind patterns. At 11:15 hours, I was still the only person there! I was worried but only for a short time. With 23 attending, there remained plenty of empty parking places.

Just for a moment I thought I hear the sounds of a bubbling brook and smelled the air pungent with a distinctive aroma that only comes from a BBQ, then the moment was gone and I was released from my day dreaming, "Oh, so we are at the School". I could hear the ringing sounds coming from the horseshoe pits. However, the conversations among the groups were plenty, Stories revealed with laughter and joy in the air. The ladies as usual preparing their dishes on the serving table and placing flowers on the dining tables.

Thanks to **Peter Hidalgo**, for jumping in and helping cook ribs and corn on the cob and my daughter **Kimberley**, for cooking the tacos. The salsa seemed to have come from New York City, Helen, didn't want it to be too, too spicy.

Ribbed out you say! The food lacked an ending to an empty bowl, Ladies your side dishes were perfect and very delicious, Thank you. We started with a blessing being said by Rich and a moment of silence for our brothers. After that it was a dash to the chow line. After much chomping, I should believe that everyone took home extras for dinner. Thank you all for returning the School site to its previous condition and returning the tables and chairs to the shed. Again a big thank you for attending, hoping you enjoyed the BBQ.

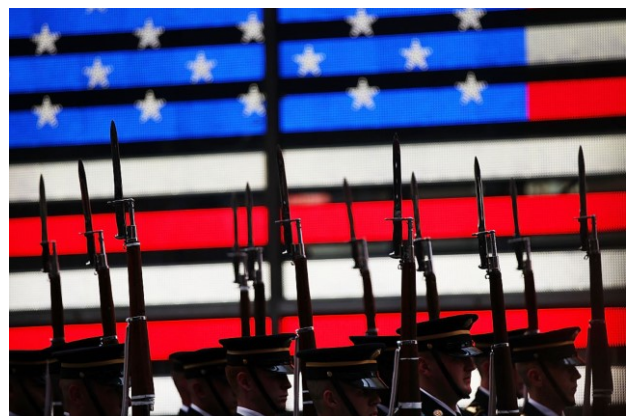
Yes, indeed we missed you!

Jose

Thank you, Jose, for brainstorming this idea for a BBQ and coordinating the event. Ed.

Rejecting the Mindset of the Forever War

Saturday, May 12, 2018 *By William Rivers Pitt, Truthout | Op-Ed*



Members of the U.S. Army Drill Team perform in Times Square in New York City in honor of the Army's 240th birthday on June 12, 2015 in New York City.

My daughter was born in the 22nd year of the

Forever War, which stands today upon its 27th year and counting. People who should know better may tell you the war started only 17 years ago, after September 11, but those people are likely trying to sell you something, and it's probably more war.

The Forever War began as Desert Storm and wended its way through different iterations such as Operation Desert Fox, before morphing into the current multi-theater murder machine we know today. It has no Pentagon jargon name any more, not really. It's just forever.

They came for me just before it all began. I was a newly minted high school graduate, green as new grass, when the man in the uniform paid his call. Saddam Hussein is as dangerous as Adolph Hitler, the Army recruiter told me in my living room, with a huge army that threatens the world. War is coming. If I join the Reserve Officer Training Corps in September, however, I wouldn't see that war for another four years, and I would be an officer when I did. "Probably," he said, "it will all be over by then."

My father heard a similar argument some 25 years before my conversation with the recruiter, and heeded it by joining ROTC before volunteering for Vietnam. A good FDR liberal from the Deep South, where they still remembered the Tennessee Valley Authority (a wildly successful New Deal jobs program) with deep fondness, my father wanted to run for office someday, and you didn't run for office without time in uniform back then.

So he went, and he came home, but he never came back, not all of him. In many ways, I lost my father to that war before I ever met him. Even then, so long ago, I knew this about him, about war. Remembering, I thanked the recruiter for his time and sent him on his way.

My father passed away three years ago with pieces of his heart, mind and soul still lost thousands of miles away. I still have his dog

tags. His war lasted 25 years. My war, the one I chose not to fight, will be turning 30 soon with no end in sight. I have never fought in it, but it is my war nonetheless, and now my daughter's. The Forever War is a generational affair.

"Probably," the recruiter said, "it will all be over by then."

I think about him now and again, and wonder how many kids like me he fed to the Forever War. I wonder if he even knows. I wonder if he remembers saying that to me. I wonder how many times he said it to others, and if he is still saying it today, out there in living rooms with other green kids. Someone like him is saying something like that somewhere, right now, because the machine is always hungry. Here is a slice of our cruel, blood-rusted Forever War in its current state: Bombings and killings continue unabated in Afghanistan. Bombings and killing continue unabated in Iraq, where weapons of mass destruction have still not been found. Syria is a killing field, as is Yemen. Lebanon still bleeds. Iran, which has entirely fulfilled its end of the bargain, watched in rage this week as a nuclear deal struck with the US and Europe was shredded in yet another dangerous move by Donald Trump, who sought to placate the John Bolton wing of his rudderless party. Libya, Egypt and much of North Africa are in violent turmoil. Millions upon millions of war refugees suffer the cruel indignities of displacement and want.

With the nomination of Gina Haspel to run the Central Intelligence Agency, we see a day in the life of the Forever War in miniature. A debate has broken out regarding the efficacy of torture. See, our government tortured some folks during the Forever War, as President Obama blithely admitted back in 2014. Our government tortured people in Iraq, Afghanistan, in so-called "black sites" around the world, on a base 90 miles from Florida and, in at least one instance, right here on US soil.

Gina Haspel ran one of these black sites as a CIA operative, oversaw the practice of torture, and later destroyed the evidence of those vicious crimes. Now, Donald Trump wants to put her in charge of the CIA, because torturing other human beings is no impediment to promotion these days. When questioned by Congress this week, Haspel pledged not to re-start a torture program but stopped short of condemning the practice outright.

For John McCain, Republican Senator from Arizona, Haspel's answers fell far short of the mark. "Ms. Haspel's role in overseeing the use of torture by Americans is disturbing," McCain said in a statement after her testimony was concluded. "Her refusal to acknowledge torture's immorality is disqualifying. I believe the Senate should exercise its duty of advice and consent and reject this nomination." For the record, I generally do not like John McCain much at all. Notwithstanding his glorious ability to get under Trump's skin like an Alabama tick, I consider the Senator from Arizona to be a cruel bannerman for the hard right. On this specific issue, however, McCain's opinion is above reproach, as well it should be given his personal experience.

In 1967, McCain's A-4E Skyhawk was shot down over Hanoi by a missile. The crash left him with two broken arms and a broken leg. His captors crushed his shoulder with a rifle butt and stabbed him with a bayonet. He was given scant medical treatment, beaten at two-hour intervals for extended periods, and placed in solitary confinement for two years. Then it got worse. An attempt at suicide was thwarted by the guards. This was his life for more than five years. When he finally came home, his hair had turned white.

In a just world, the opinion of a man like John McCain on the topic of torture would be respected. At minimum, it would not be insulted. Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas

McInerney and Kelly Sadler of the White House communications office remind us, sadly, that we do not live in a just world.

Lt. Gen. McInerney went on Fox Business this past Thursday to argue in favor of torture, and by proxy the nomination of Haspel, claiming that torture is effective because it worked on John McCain. "That's why they call him 'Songbird John,'" said McInerney, coughing up the old canard about McCain giving intelligence to his captors in exchange for better treatment. In essence, McInerney said torture works because it turned John McCain into a traitor.

Kelly Sadler's job at the White House is to manage talking points for administration allies to deploy during media appearances. On the same day that an Air Force general accused a sitting US senator and torture survivor of treason on live TV, Sadler found herself in a communications office staff meeting about the Haspel nomination. When the subject of McCain's statement came up, Sadler said, "It doesn't matter, he's dying anyway." This statement has since been twice confirmed. In other words, for the crimes of detesting torture and disliking the president, spokespeople for the party McCain has served throughout his career have now labeled him traitor and buried him before he is dead. "I like people that weren't captured," Trump said of McCain during the campaign. The fish rots from the head down.

That's where we are today, but that's not all of it, not by half. Donald Trump and his henchmen are a symptom, not a cause.

To nick a line I once used about George W. Bush, blaming Trump for all this is like blaming Mickey Mouse when Disney screws up. We have been in an active shooting war in one form or another for almost 30 years now, and have been on a wartime economic footing since President Truman signed the National Security Act more

than 60 years ago. Within that context, Trump just came down with the last drop of rain.

The Forever War is not just in the Middle East. It is in Korea, where US troops still stand to post along the DMZ. It is in Vietnam, where hundreds of thousands of children have been born with spina bifida, neural tube problems, missing limbs, missing vertebrae, autoimmune disorders and more, four decades after the US finished hosing that nation down with Agent Orange. And yes, the Forever War is also in Iraq, which practically glows at night from all the depleted uranium the US has detonated there since 1991.

This is why we find ourselves today talking about torture the way other people talk about their sandwich order, and why powerful voices see fit to accuse torture survivors of treason. We have been thoroughly debased by all this war, all this violence, all this death for so many years. The most popular video games come with body counts. Neighbors with massive arsenals are the norm, and massacres flicker by like dandelion seeds.

We are a crumbling nation not just in a moral sense, but in a literal one. The trillions of dollars spent on the Forever War have turned our economy into a shaky shell game, and deprived us of the opportunity to make education, infrastructure, genuine health care and artistic achievement the cornerstones of our culture. When capitalism sits at the table with democracy, sooner or later all the plates are empty save for a golden few. The United States did not invent the concept of using war to plunder the treasury. It simply perfected the practice.

Donald Trump did not do this. He and his friends are merely taking mighty advantage of it. They know we are all smothered by the sense that it is this way because it has always been this way, and so it will always be this way. No greater lie could be told, yet we tell it to

ourselves in word and deed every day, because we are very well trained after all these years.

This is the only world my daughter has known, the world I have known since I was a boy, the world that counts my father among its countless casualties. By accepting this unendurable reality as the new normal, we are doing the war machine's work for it, oftentimes with earnest diligence. This must end. We cannot let the Forever War into our heads any more. I'm ready when you are.

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, Chuck Holmes, 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.

Insight re Walking

A new study evaluated the health boosts you get from equivalent energy expenditures with moderate intensity walking and vigorous intensity running. (Run for 15 minutes? Walk for about 30 minutes to get an equivalent energy output.)

- Walking reduced the risk for developing hypertension by 7.2 percent; running, 4.2 percent.
- Walking slashed the risk for developing high cholesterol by 7 percent; running, 4.3 percent.
- Walking cut the risk for developing type 2 diabetes by 12.3 percent; running, 12.1 percent.
- And walking nipped the risk for developing coronary artery disease 9.3 percent; running, 4.5 percent.

Interested? Enlist a pal, and try this:

Weeks 1-2: Walk continuously for 30 minutes (1 mile in 16-18 minutes), three times a week.

Weeks 3-4: Go for 30 minutes (1 mile in 14-15 minutes) five times a week.

Week 5: Increase to 45 minutes almost every day. Over time, aim for 10,000 steps daily. And if you combine daily walking and 20 minutes of aerobics three times a week, amazing things happen!

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 2017

Nevada County Fair VVA-535 Booth Schedule V.4 Mar. 20, 2018

August 8, 2018 - August 12, 2018

Project Chair: ?????????????????????????????????

Set-Up: Tuesday, August 7, 2018. Volunteers – **D. Chaix; B. Ruud;**

Take-Down: Monday, August 13, 2018. Volunteers – ??????????????????????????????

Time Slot	10:00 – 2:00	2:00 – 6:00	6:00 – 10:00
Wed. Aug. 8, 2018 Booth Captain: Dave Chaix	Name: D. Chaix Phone: Name: B. Ruud; T. Eberlein Phone:	Name: D. Chaix Phone: Name: B. Ruud Phone:	Name: D. Chaix Phone: Name: B. Ruud Phone:
Thurs. Aug. 9, 2018 Booth Captain: Dick Corn	Name: C. Holmes Phone: Name: M Laborico Phone:	Name: E. Vasquez Phone: Name: Craig Johnson - (maybe) Dick Corn Phone:	Name: Phone: Name: Phone:
Fri. Aug. 10, 2018 Booth Captain: Gary Barnes	Name: C. Holmes Enrique Vasquez Phone: Name: C. Johnson Phone:	Name: Dale Epps Phone: Name: C. Johnson Phone:	Name: Dave Middleton Phone: Name: Phone:
Sat. Aug. 11, 2018 Booth Captain: _____ Peter Hidalgo	Name: Dale Ferguson Phone: Name: Peter Hidalgo Phone:	Name: Phone: Name: Phone:	Name: Kent Hawley Phone: Name: Phone:
Sun. Aug. 12, 2018 Booth Captain: _____	Name: Dave Johnson Phone: Name: Rick Sheridan Phone:	Name: Phone: Name: Phone:	Name: Phone: Name: Phone:

May

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 VVA General Meeting	4	5
6	7	8 VE Day declared (1945)	9	10	11	12 VVA -535 BBQ
13 Mother's Day	14	15 Peace Officer's Memorial Day	16	17 VVA Board Meeting	18	19 Armed Forces Day
20	21	22 National Maritime Day	23	24	25 National Poppy Day	26
27	28 Memorial Day Observed	29	30			

June

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6 D-Day: Allied Invasion of Europe (1944)	7 VVA Board Meeting & General Meeting	8	9
10	1	12 Peace Officer's Memorial Day	13	14 Flag Day US Army founded (1775)	15	16 Elegance in the Garden
17 Father's Day	18	19 National Maritime Day	20	21 1 st day of Summer	22 Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress (1942)	23
24	25 Korean War began (1950)	26	27	28	29 First US ground forces arrived in Korea (1950)	30

July

2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Canada Day (Canada)	2 US Army Air Corps Established (1926)	3	4 Independence Day	5 VVA Board & VVA General Membership meeting	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20 First Manned Moon Landing (1969)	21
22	23	24	25	26	27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. Korean War ended (1953)	28 World War I began (1914)
29	30	31				

In Honor of
Rear Admiral Bonnie Potter

Elegance in the Garden

Saturday



16th June

Extraordinary Entertainment

Live Music *AND* Fire Dancers

The Armed Forces Pavilion &
Community Garden
995 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA,
95603

Tickets available at the door

Advance tickets available at
eventbrite.com: Search Bonnie Potter

Providing Darjeeling Gin Cocktails
California Distilled Spirits
and Fawnridge Winery

Ticket Price: \$30

Includes a glass of wine or
beer & light appetizers

Doors open at 7:30 pm

