

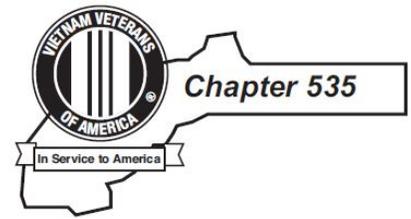


# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

## CHAPTER 535

Website: [www.vva535.org](http://www.vva535.org)



Volume 29 Issue 3

March 2019

Gentleman and Ladies,

### **Beware the Ides of March**

Let the adventure begin, but fear not as the *Ides* was only an ancient marker used as a reference to dates in relation to lunar phases. Never mind that a group of Roman senators stabbed Julius Caesar to death on March 15, 44 B.C. *Ides* only referred to the first full moon of a given month, which usually falls between the 13<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the month. In 2019, however, our full moon will be something special because it will occur on March 20<sup>th</sup>, which is significant because the Spring equinox lands on March 20<sup>th</sup>. With the advent of Spring, we might also have hope for weather and daylight patterns conducive to circadian rhythm changes that can turn us into energizer bunnies. Remember 1969's "Born to be Wild" lyrics, "Get your moto runnin', head out on the highway, lookin' for adventure and whatever comes our way..." ? Steppenwolf - "Born to be Wild" 1969.

Where were you in 1969?

Perhaps the metaphor of the *Ides* and those "Born to be Wild" lyrics are a bit of a stretch, but twist it a little and turn it into a challenge for personal and Chapter 535 growth with the passage of time.

It can be a new dawn. And it should be a new dawn because there are notions to contemplate as VVA moves to the future. We should have a new slate of VVA-535 officers, refreshed energy and a willingness to meet the challenges which will be front and center at a June 1<sup>st</sup> VVA Region 8 & 9 Pre-Convention Conference in Sparks, NV that precedes the VVA National Convention in Spokane, WA, scheduled for July 15 – 20, 2019.

Major issues will be on the Agenda, yet unknown to me. Privatization of VA health care might be a hot item. So too might be the eventual dissolution of VVA and a necessity to merge its membership with one or another long-standing veterans' organization.

How would you feel about losing your identity as one who served our country in the Vietnam era? How do you feel about the transformation of veterans' medical care to private care? Your voice counts even though you are one voice among seven million who annually receive medical care through our current VA hospital system. Anything you vocalize is a message for consideration at the Pre-Convention Conference, at which Chapter 535 will have hard-core representation.

Thank you for your anticipated indulgence and sharing of thoughts. /br

## VVA Chapter 535 Mission Statement

*To foster camaraderie among members and assist those with disabling mental and physical injuries, to promote the welfare of our brethren affected by the war, and to engender public understanding of the sacrifice, patriotism and bravery of those who served, those who gave all, and those left behind.*

The **50:50 Raffle** initiated on May 3, 2018 currently has \$257 in the can. If you choose to participate, the Raffle will continue at the meeting of March 7, 2019. At the current \$373 enticement, if you drew the Black Marble you would pocket \$187. Surely that sum will increase on March 7th. The odds are getting better as only three marbles, including the Black Marble, remain in the sock. I plan to buy in and take my chances!

## Guest Speaker for March 7, 2019

**As shared during our February meeting, our March gathering will welcome spouses, significant others, friends and all veterans.** Everyone deserves to understand we are not a cult, nor do we tell stories of our war experiences. In actually, at the outset of the current activity year, your now short-term chairman espoused that our meetings are always open to anyone who might like to attend. We have an open door. Take it to heart.

We might have a few nibbles on hand.

In lieu of a scheduled guest speaker, VVA-535 Director Dave Chaix & Bart Ruud will share of a short PowerPoint program about the Vinh Son & Sao Mai orphanages. There will be time for questions and answers.

### 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.

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- Director's Meeting ..... March 7, 2019
- NCCVC meeting: March 7, 2019
- Forgotten Soldier Program/Women Veterans –  
March 16, 2019 – Auburn, CA
- CSC meeting – April 26-28, 2019, Fresno

### Chapter 535 Officers

President Bart Ruud [bruud45@gmail.com](mailto:bruud45@gmail.com)  
(H) 530-823-1368; (C) 530-305-0493

Vice-President  
Dale Epps ..... 368-6156

Treasurer  
Ralph Remick .....559-7716

### Upcoming Events

General Meeting ..... March 7, 2019

Secretary  
Dave Johnson ..... 887-8297

### Directors

Dave Chaix .....269-1431  
Dale Epps ..... 368-6156  
Kent Hawley ..... 432-3551  
Bill Holman ..... 265-8387  
Chuck Holmes ..... 478-1126  
Dave Johnson ..... 887-8297  
Dave Middleton ..... 205-9375  
Ralph Remick ..... 559-7716  
Bart Ruud ..... 823-1368  
Ric Sheridan ..... 274-1413  
Tom Woollard ..... 432-1212

### Committee Chairs

Finance .....Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson  
Parade and Honor Guard ..... Dick Corn  
Membership Affairs .....Ric Sheridan  
Newsletter ..... Interim editor Bart Ruud  
Victorian Christmas ..... Jose Gonzales  
Nominations ..... Dick Corn  
Veterans Assistance ..... 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 ..... (Open opportunity)  
CA State Council Rep. .... Mike Underwood

### Nevada County Veterans Service Officer

VSO Officer -David West (530) 273-3396 office  
(530) 913-5046 cell  
988 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley 95949  
[ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us](mailto:ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us)  
Thursday, 9:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 – 4:00 is a  
“Walk-In” day.

### 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 February 7, 2019**

NCCVC will be asked to pursue bids for completion of the VVA Shadowbox installed within the confines of the Veterans Hall so that this project might be completed. NCCVC will be asked to pursue this.

A \$200 contribution was made in Nov. 2014 toward completion of the VVA-535 Shadowbox. Payment was to then Shadowbox project chair Ken Farmer. The project remains incomplete.

State Board of Equalization Sales Tax filing for 2018 has been submitted. A \$24 payment was made.

Mike Underwood will be reimbursed for expenses incurred when he represented VVA-535 at the January 2019 California State Council meeting in Fresno.

Nominations for 2019-2020 Officers & Directors will be opened at the VVA General Meeting on this date.

### **It turns out the demand for surplus Army 1911 handguns outstrips supply (by a lot)**

By: Todd South. Army Times 2/20/2019



Pistols like this 1970s-era 1911 handgun could soon be available to private purchasers as part of 8,000 surplus guns being sold through the Civilian Marksmanship Program.

According to a new government report, there has been double the demand for surplus M1911

.45 caliber pistols released for civilian sales from the Army, and the same program received 100,000 more requests for surplus M1 Garand .30 caliber rifles.

A recent Government Accountability Office report showed detailed accounting for the weapons that the Civilian Marksmanship Program has transferred for civilian sales between 2008 and 2017.

The sidearm was a low priority for decades, taking the back seat to bigger systems such as vehicles, tanks and artillery — but that's all about to change.

The CMP uses much of the revenue from those sales to support civilian marksmanship training and matches.

In January 2018, the Army transferred 8,000 of its 1911 pistols to the CMP for sale to the public. It received 19,000 requests for those pistols, according to the report. It has stopped taking orders for those pistols and is still processing the flood of requests, according to the CMP website.

Upgraded variants of the 1911 are still in service with Marines and some special operations units, but the World War I-era handgun was replaced by the M9 Beretta in the 1980s.

In late 2019 the Army began fielding its replacement — the M17 9mm Sig Sauer handgun. Other services have also adopted the M17 to replace the M9.



A .45-Caliber round is laid out next to a 9 mm round. The Civilian Marksmanship Program is selling off 8,000 surplus 1911 .45 caliber pistols. Marines still use a much-upgraded version of the venerable weapon which has seen action in all of America's major wars since its adoption more than a century ago.

Those that have sold or will sell through the CMP program range in price from “service grade” for \$1,050, “field grade” for \$950 and “rack grade” for \$850, according to the report. As of December, CMP reported that it had sold 632 service grade 1911s, generating \$663,600 in revenue.

The CMP officials determined that 145 of the 8,000 they received were unsellable. So, as of December, 7,223 surplus 1911 handguns remained in the initial batch transferred from the Army. GAO estimated that could provide the program with nearly \$8 million once they're all sold.

CMP expects to have processed those sales by this spring.

The primary item that CMP has sold for nearly two decades has been the M1 Garand. From 2008 to 2017, it sold 304,233 rifles, the vast majority of those being the M1. The average sale price was \$650. And 279,032 of those were from the Army. Two-thirds of those were M1s. But the other third included the following:

- M82 Kimber rifle – 5,014
- Mosin Nagant M44 Carbine – 3,397
- M12 Mauser rifle – 675
- M52 rifle – 573

- M513T Remington – 570
- M40X1/M40 rifle – 503
- M14 National Match rifle – 486
- M1917 Enfield rifle – 443
- M1903 rifle – 183
- M13 rifle – 182
- Mossberg M144 rifle – 99

While there is not a detailed breakdown in the report of what kinds of rifles are still in the inventory, it did note that 148,714 sellable surplus rifles remain in stock. That surplus — along with the anticipated future pistol sales — could bring in nearly \$105 million to CMP, according to the report.

And early last year, the CMP received 100,000 M1s from stocks in the Philippines and Turkey, according to the report.

### **What's next in Syria? Here are 10 takeaways.**

By: Tara Copp Army Times 2/15/2019



U.S. and Turkish tactical vehicles take a defensive posture during rehearsals at Gaziantep, Turkey, Oct. 14, 2018. These NATO allies have conducted independent coordinated patrols for the past several months. In accordance with the Manbij Roadmap and Manbij Security Principles, U.S. and Turkish military forces continue to work together to ensure security and stability in the region.

At the Munich Security Conference, Acting Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan met with a dozen of the coalition partner countries contributing troops to the fight against Islamic

State in Iraq and Syria.

Following the meeting, a senior defense official supporting the talks met with reporters to discuss where things stand. Here's what you should know:

#### **1.) The U.S. is really leaving.**

Among discussions with coalition members, "It's just sort of taken as a given at this point. The conversation was much more about, 'What do we do when the United States withdraws, less fighting the proposition of it, at this stage. We are very clear in all of these discussions from Secretary Shanahan on down. We have an order from the president. We are withdrawing. Period. Dot. That's it.'"

#### **2.) Coalition members have not promised to fill the gaps.**

There were no promises made, "no specific commitments from any of the countries either that they would stay, or that they would leave. Keep in mind that many of these countries don't actually have troops on the ground in Syria. All of them have some presence in Iraq."

Some allies, such as the French, have been pretty clear that they will not keep forces on the ground if the U.S. troops depart, the official said.

#### **3.) Those U.S.-supplied weapons may not be returned.**

"Everything we have provided to the SDF [Syrian Democratic Forces] has been for the D-ISIS mission. Most of the heavy equipment and weapons we have provided have actually been destroyed and rendered inoperable because of that hard fight. There's no plans to provide them weapons of any sort for purposes of just their survival."

So is the U.S. collecting the weapons? "We've

made commitments to the Turks at times to do that, if possible, but it's going to be a military decision."

#### **4.) There is a general withdrawal timeframe.**

"This is going to be a deliberate withdrawal, and there's a timeline associated with that. It's conditions-based ... It'll be here in months, not weeks and not years. But there actually wasn't much discussion about a specific date."

#### **5.) There will be some type of safe zone.**

"We know there's going to have to be some kind of security arrangement in northeast Syria when we depart. Because we do play a role there helping to guarantee aspects of the stability. So I think there was a discussion about things that are in the coalition's interest, [such as] how is Turkish security protected? At the same time, how do we hew carefully to the sense of, in many respects, moral responsibility owed to the Syrian Democratic Forces? That was a point of discussion. I think many of the ministers recognize the degree to which the SDF has actually done the fighting and dying, and they feel a sense of obligation to just not turn our backs."

#### **6.) There might be an observer force, or something like it.**

"I think in order for a zone to work, you have to have certain ability to observe and enforce. But this was not military planning; this wasn't the sort of arrangement of ministers where we would talk specifics."

"I think there's a tremendous desire to have a security arrangement or mechanism that doesn't result in a security vacuum. What that is, I think, is still being developed. And frankly, it's an area where ministers have different views heavily colored by their existing commitments. So those that have invested in Iraq think of

protecting Iraq first. Those that are in Syria, I think, are carefully looking at what the U.S. is going to be able to do and probably making their own decisions as a result."

#### **7.) Some U.S. airpower may remain to support a safe zone or future coalition activities.**

"As we think of options on the table, tools we might have, those haven't been ruled out. But I also can't rule them in from a military perspective or a legal perspective."

#### **8.) The captured foreign fighter problem is a top priority.**

The topic "comes up every time we have a conversation," the official said, noting that approximately 800 foreign ISIS fighters from about 40 different countries have been captured in Syria.

#### **9.) Are they headed to Guantanamo?**

"It's not at the top of our list."

#### **10.) Whether and how many U.S. troops will go from Syria to Iraq is undecided — and politically tricky.**

"We're aware of that [hesitation/political sensitivities.] One of the guiding principles as we look towards our continued troop presence in Iraq is not seeing a situation that complicates an already hard Iraqi situation. So we're very aware of that. That said, I don't think there's ever been a plan to take every single last boot that's on the ground in Syria. So some of this might be crafting a false narrative."

**A Link to the Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage website:**

<https://www.friendsofvso.org>

## **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](mailto:bruud45@gmail.com) or hand deliver to Bart.

**From personal archives, provided by Dick Corn, and originally published in Volume 1, Issue 3 of the Vietnam Veterans of America Newsletter. (VVA Chapter 535, at the time, June 1990, was awaiting its Charter.)**

### **A Review of CHICKENHAWK by Robert Mason, and submitted by Bill Larson.**

Bob Mason can write! He also can fly, and in his intriguing book, CHICKENHAWK, he takes the reader on a tour of the life of a combat helicopter pilot in the Vietnam of 1965 – 66. Specifically as a pilot of Huey slicks, Mason flew over 1,000 combat missions with the First Air Cav, and, later the 12<sup>th</sup> Aviation Division. He was shot down once, saw several comrades killed in hot LZs, and witnessed more carnage and atrocities than anyone could ever need. And like so many others, he was very affected by these experiences.

In truth, CHICKENHAWK is two stories. On one level, it relates the events in a single tour during a particular phase of the Vietnam War. On a deeper level, however, it chronicles the inner life of a combat participant as he becomes more and more traumatically stressed by experiences he can never fully accept. From the beginning, Mason has doubts about the government's case touting Vietnam as a viable cause. He is also quite candid about his fear, which everyone shares but few are willing to express. The term "Chickenhawk" in fact (describing himself as part chicken, part hawk) was devised to relate this basic ambiguity. Both the term and the author's story do this quite well without detracting in any way

form Bob Mason's courage and dedication under truly harrowing circumstances. In following this inner-outer drama, then, the reader is treated to a double-edged dose of suspense and intrigue. The combat reporting is almost journalistic in its terseness, and the book reads much like a good novel causing us to invest emotionally in Mason and his cast of buddies. It's hard to put the book down when we're drawn in so to the execution and outcome of particular operations, not knowing who will survive until the last chopper makes it back in. The reader is also aware from the book's midpoint that Mason is beginning to change, and it is not until the last few pages (indeed, the last paragraph) that we know the extent of these changes in the author's life. This was the only point where I found myself disappointed with CHICKENHAWK, however, for Mason so condenses his post-war experiences that we miss significant part of this man's story. Perhaps it is the fact that I am a therapist of post-traumatic veterans, but I wanted to know much more about the process of Bob Mason's homecoming and attempt to reintegrate into American society that was provided.

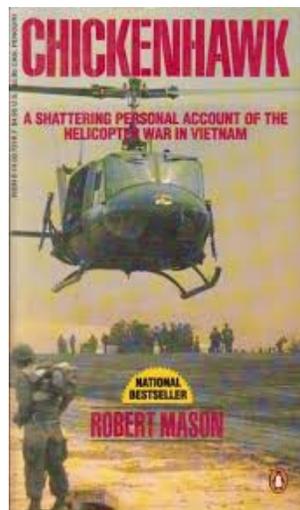
This does not detract from the book's effectiveness, however. CHICKENHAWK gives us a step-by-step view of the development of s post-traumatic-stress-disorder. It also chronicles the life of a combat helicopter pilot which is a story I never heard spelled out in such a detailed and dramatic fashion. Readers with an interest in aviation will be spellbound by the mechanical and strategic explanations of how both helicopters and helicopter pilots work. Those like me who depended often on these men and their machines for their very survival will simply be impressed, and very, very grateful.

Chickenhawk is Robert Mason's narrative of his experiences as a "Huey" UH-1 Iroquois helicopter pilot during the Vietnam War. The book chronicles his enlistment, flight training, deployment to and experiences in Vietnam, and his experiences after returning from the war. [Wikipedia](#).

**Originally published:** August 1983.

Available on Amazon.

ISBN 0 14 00. 7218 7



**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 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Membership:** Individual Life Membership: \$50. (Effective Oct. 20, 2018)

**ATTENTION New 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 2019

# FEBRUARY

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Groundhog Day
3	4	5	6	7 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting	8 Boy Scouts of America founded (1910)	9
10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday (1809)	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16
17 Mardi Gras Parade Nevada City	18 President's Day	19 U.S. Marines landed on Iwo Jima (1945)	20	21	22 Washington's Birthday (1732)	23
24 Desert Storm Ground Campaign Began (1991)	25	26	27	28		

# MARCH

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Operation Rolling Thunder began (1965)
3 Star Spangled Banner made U.S. Anthem (1931)	4	5	6 Ash Wednesday	7 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting	8	9
10 Daylight Savings begins	11	12 Girl Scouts of America founded (1912)	13	14	15 American Legion's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday	16 FSP - Women Vets - Auburn
17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Start of Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003)	20 First Day of Spring	22	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29 Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	30
31						

# APRIL

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 April Fools' Day	2	3	4 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting.  VVA -535 Elections	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Persian Gulf War Official Cease Fire (1991)	12	13
14 Palm Sunday	15	16	18	14	19 Good Friday	20
21 Easter Sunday	22 Earth Day	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

# MAY

# 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting	3	4
5 Cinco de Mayo	6	7	8 V-E Day (1945)	9	8	10
11 Mother's Day	12	14	15 Peace Officers Memorial Day	16	17	18 Armed Forces Day
19	20	21	22 Maritime Day	23	24	25
26	27 Memorial Day	28	29	30 Ascension Day	31	3