





Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 29 Issue 5

May 2019

President's Message

I feel privileged and honored to serve as your president for this year. I have some large combat boots to fill following Bart Ruud. I would like to thank Bart Ruud, Dale Epps, Ralph Remick, and Dave Johnson, for your service to our chapter. Ralph is going to stav on with us as our Treasurer. I also want to welcome Enrique Vasquez, Vice-President, and Gary Barnes, Secretary for this year. When Ralph called me and asked if I would serve as President I was very hesitant. I told him my plate was pretty full already. I serve as President of the Nevada Consolidated Fire Board, work at the fire look-out during the summer, and provide consulting services to various fire departments. I also agreed to handle the E-Waste program this year for NCCVC. However, with that in mind, I reflected on what our former president said regarding participation in our organization. If we belong to an organization we must be willing to contribute to its success. That means stepping forward when called. As president I do not plan on changing much. I think we are on a good course for success. I would like to encourage any member during introductions to share stories with us. Some may be humorous, others not so much. We served in an era where nothing was shared. Sharing is therapeutic. Just sitting in the audience I overheard many stories that

would be beneficial to the rest of the organization. I will try and hold our meetings to an hour in length. There is talk at the national level about disbanding VVA and joining with another organization. This has been met with strong resistance from the membership. I feel this would be a mistake. VVA already has a place at the political table and our opinions are respected. There is no way I can serve as president without your help. We have a number of committee chairs that need to be filled. It does not take much time to participate. There is always fear of the unknown. Step forward and contribute it can be fun! Remember we are here to support each other. We are survivors of a not so popular war. Thank you for reading this and see you at our May meeting./ Keith

Election Results for 2019-2020 Officers and Directors

President: Keith Grueneberg Vice-President: Enrique Vasquez Treasurer: Ralph Remick Secretary: Gary Barnes

Director: Dave Chaix Director: Dick Corn Director: Dale Epps Director: Ray James Director: Dave Johnson Director: Dave Middleton Director: Bart Ruud Director: Rick Sheridan Director: Mike Underwood Director: Tom Wollard

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.

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.

The **50:50 Raffle** initiated on May 3, 2018 had a March 2019 winner of \$252. Another \$252 was dedicated to our VVA-535 general fund. An additional \$62 for the April raffle was contributed by the winner to VVA.

Guest Speaker for May 2, 2019

We anticipate a presentation by Grass Valley PD Officer Jessee Cloyd with his K-9 for an overview of skills demonstrated by a working police dog. See attached photo, Pg. 15.

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Upcoming Events

All Veterans Day @ Capitol – 4/24/19 CSC meeting – April 26-28, 2019, Fresno NCCVC Meeting – May 2, 2019 General Meeting – May 2, 2019 Director's Meeting – May 2, 2019* Placer Veterans Stand Down 5/14 – 16, 2019 at Placer County Fairgrounds National VVA Convention – 7/16 – 7/21/19 Nevada County Fair – August 7 – 11, 2019 Victorian Christmas – Dec. 8,11,15,18, 22, 2019

* Subject to change?

Chapter 535 Officers

President Keith Grueneberg kgberg0178@sbcglobal.net (H) 530-265-1946(C) 916-425-1121

Treasurer Ralph Remick559-7716

Secretary Gary Barnes 530-333-7391

Directors

Dave Chaix	.269-1431
Dick Corn	277-8856
Dale Epps	368-6156
Ray James	478-1126
Dave Johnson	887-8297
Dave Middleton	205-9375
Bart Ruud	823-1368

Ric Sheridan		274-1413
Mike Underwood	. 925	-759-2924
Tom Woollard		432-1212

Committee Chairs

FinanceRalph Remick & Dave Jo	hnson
Parade and Honor Guard Dick	Corn
Membership AffairsRic She	eridan
Newsletter Interim editor Bart Ru	Jud
Victorian Christmas Vacan	t
Nominations Ralph F	Remick
Veterans Assistance Keith Gru	eneberg
NCCVC Dick Co	orn
Speakers Bureau Tom W	oollard
Web Master Ralph F	
Quartermaster Dick Co	orn
Facebook Master Mike La	aborico
Nevada County Fair Keith Grue	eneberg
VSO Liaisons (Open oppo	ortunity)
CA State Council Rep Mike Unde	rwood

Nevada County Veterans Service Officer

VSO Officer -David West (530) 273-3396 office (530) 913-5046 cell 988 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley 95949 <u>ncvso@co.nevada.ca.us</u> 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 April 4, 2019

An effort to reconcile several email lists is in progress.

Mike Underwood will attend the National Convention on VVA-535's behalf. Reasonable expenses for the Pre-Conference meeting in Sparks, NV on June1 and for the National Convention will be reimbursed.

The shadowbox in the basement hallway has been completed.

Treasurer Ralph Remick has developed a proposed VVA-535 Budget for the upcoming year.

We need to obtain a new pop-up shelter for use at the Nevada County Fair and at Victorian Christmas.

Staph Infections

Cause and Preventive Measures to Minimize

Source: USA TODAY. Jayne O'Donnell . March 5, 2019

Nearly 120,000 people contracted bloodstream staph infections in the United States in 2017, most of them in health care facilities – and nearly 20,000 died. Progress against the most dangerous antibioticresistant staph infections in hospitals stalled after dropping an average of about 17 percent per year from 2005 to 2013, according to data released 5 MAR by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Staph is a common bacteria found on the skin and in the noses of one in four healthy people. It's usually harmless. But if the skin is damaged or cut, it can cause infection. The World Health Organization recommends that all patients be screened for the Staph aureus bacteria before surgery. The United States doesn't require screening for MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus), and has not developed plans to manage the infection. Staph infections can be reduced and even eliminated.

MRSA is the result of decades of often unnecessary antibiotic use. For years, antibiotics have been prescribed for colds, flu and other viral infections that don't respond to these drugs. Even when antibiotics are used appropriately, they contribute to the rise of drug-resistant bacteria because they don't destroy every germ they target. Bacteria live on an evolutionary fast track, so germs that survive treatment with one antibiotic soon learn to resist others.'



MRSA, the more dangerous antibioticresistant staph infection, can be spread by bed linens, medical equipment or health care workers if they don't wash their hands properly between patients. MRSA can cause life-threatening pneumonia and bloodstream infections, which can lead to sepsis and death. Staph skin infections, including MRSA, generally start as swollen, painful small red bumps (above left) that might resemble pimples or spider bites. The affected area might be warm to the touch, full of pus or other drainage, and accompanied by a fever. These can quickly turn into deep, painful abscesses that require surgical draining. Sometimes the bacteria remain confined to the skin. But they can also burrow deep into the body, causing potentially life-threatening infections in bones, joints, surgical wounds, the bloodstream, heart valves and lungs.

The most recent data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services shows that 249 U.S. hospitals had no cases of MRSA during the 12 months from April 2017 through March 2018, according to an analysis by the hospital rating organization Leapfrog Group. But they're the exception. "Unfortunately, only a small fraction of hospitals do great and the vast majority are not doing as well as they should be," says Joe Kiani, CEO of the medical equipment company Masimo and chairman of the board of the Patient Safety Movement Foundation. Veterans Affairs medical centers reduced staph infections by 43 percent from 2005 to 2017 by implementing a broad MRSA prevention program, the CDC reported. The program included MRSA screening, gloves and gowns on workers, and an increased emphasis on hand-washing and other ways to prevent infections.

Dr. Kevin Kavanagh, founder of the patient safety advocacy group HealthWatch USA, says the VA results show that more can be done. He notes that the standard of care in England is to search for people who have MRSA but are not sick and to decolonize them. Dr. Anne Schuchat, CDC's principal deputy director, said the slowing of progress might indicate that hospitals are "wondering whether it's worth their trouble" to take precautions against infection. But she stopped short of calling for requirements that hospitals screen for MRSA. "There's always a balance between intervention and effect," she told reporters 5 MAR. CDC "strongly recommends" hospitals use precautions to prevent the spread of MRSA, and take additional steps when "declines slow or progress is not continuing." "We don't have a one-size-fits-all and everybody-has-to-do-everything" recommendation, Schuchat said.

MRSA is categorized as either HA (hospital associated) or CA (community associated). Prevention measures for HA-MSRA in the hospital include:

- People who are infected or colonized with MRSA often are placed in contact precautions as a measure to prevent the spread of MRSA.
- Visitors and health care workers caring for people in isolation may be required to wear protective garments and must follow strict hand hygiene procedures.

- Contaminated surfaces and laundry items should be properly disinfected. Prevention measures for CA-MSRA include:
- Wash your hands. Careful hand washing remains your best defense against germs. Scrub hands briskly for at least 15 seconds, then dry them with a disposable towel and use another towel to turn off the faucet. Carry a small bottle of hand sanitizer containing at least 62 percent alcohol for times when you don't have access to soap and water.
- Keep wounds covered. Keep cuts and abrasions clean and covered with sterile, dry bandages until they heal. The pus from infected sores may contain MRSA, and keeping wounds covered will help prevent the bacteria from spreading.
- Keep personal items personal. Avoid sharing personal items such as towels, sheets, razors, clothing and athletic equipment. MRSA spreads on contaminated objects as well as through direct contact.
- Shower after athletic games or practices. Shower immediately after each game or practice. Use soap and water. Don't share towels.
- Sanitize linens. If you have a cut or sore, wash towels and bed linens in a washing machine set to the hottest water setting (with added bleach, if possible) and dry them in a hot dryer. Wash gym and athletic clothes after each wearing.
- Don't inject illicit drugs. Intravenous drug users are at risk of many types of dangerous infections, including MRSA, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and hepatitis C.

With so much known about how to prevent MRSA, Leapfrog CEO Leah Binder says,

hospitals have to make fighting infection "the absolute priority." "Too often they get distracted by other issues," she says. "MRSA infections can be truly monstrous, and people live in fear of hospitals because MRSA can thrive there." Kiani hopes the research will prompt hospitals to adopt protocols and checklists to prevent MRSA. Zero infections isn't "something you hope happens," he says. "You plan for it to happen." He recommends tying employee bonuses to infection reduction. Leapfrog says hospitals should keep MRSA patients separate from other patients and require providers and visitors to wear gloves and gowns around them. "Anyone who says MRSA can't be prevented need only look at the hospitals with zero MRSA infections," says Binder. "Imagine how many lives would be saved if every hospital could get to zero, or even close."

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 <u>bruud45@gmail.com</u> or hand deliver to Bart

Russia reveals giant nuclear torpedo in state TV 'leak' BBC. 12 November 2015



Technical details of the torpedo were clearly visible in the brief shot on state TV.

The Kremlin says secret plans for a Russian long-range nuclear torpedo - called "Status-6" - should not have appeared on

Russian TV news.

The leak happened during a report on staterun Channel One about President Vladimir Putin meeting military chiefs in the city of Sochi.

One general was seen studying a diagram of the "devastating" torpedo system.

Launched by a submarine, it would create "wide areas of radioactive contamination", the document says.

The "oceanic multi-purpose Status-6 system" is designed to "destroy important economic installations of the enemy in coastal areas and cause guaranteed devastating damage to the country's territory by creating wide areas of radioactive contamination, rendering them unusable for military, economic or other activity for a long time", the document says.

"It's true some secret data got into the shot, therefore it was subsequently deleted," said Mr. Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov.

"In future we will undoubtedly take preventive measures so this does not happen again."

The US Defence Department said it had seen the report, but would not comment further.

"We are aware of the video footage, but defer to the Russian navy as to its authenticity," a Pentagon spokesperson told the BBC.

However, the Russian government newspaper **Rossiiskaya Gazeta later reported** details of the weapon, without showing the diagram, and speculated about a super-radioactive cobalt device. So the leak may not have been accidental.

Cobalt warhead?

On the diagram the giant torpedo's range is given as "up to 10,000km" (6,200 miles) and depth of trajectory is "up to 1,000m" (3,300ft).

It was developed by Rubin, a submarine design bureau in St Petersburg. It would, apparently, be launched by nuclear-powered submarines of the 09852 "Belgorod" and 09851 "Khabarovsk" series.

Rossiiskaya Gazeta called the torpedo a "robotic mini-submarine", travelling at 100 knots (185km/h; 115mph), which would "avoid all acoustic tracking devices and other traps".



Some commentators in Russian media suggest leak of giant torpedo plan was deliberate.

Such a torpedo was envisaged in 1950s, during Cold War, by nuclear physicist Andrei Sakharov - later a famous dissident and peace activist.

The 100-megaton warhead could devastate US coast with massive tsunami and intense radiation.

Soviet **"Tsar Bomba"** was biggest nuclear device ever detonated - it was 58 megatons.

Torpedo "leak" is warning to US not to seek nuclear advantage, says Russian military analyst Igor Korotchenko.

Just before the torpedo diagram came into view in the state TV report, Mr. Putin could be heard telling the generals that the US and its NATO allies were forging ahead with a global anti-missile defence system "unfortunately ignoring our concerns and our offers of cooperation".

He said the Western defence project was "an attempt to undermine the existing parity in strategic nuclear weapons and essentially to upset the whole system of global and regional stability".



RS-24 ballistic missile: Russia is expanding its strategic nuclear arsenal



The giant torpedoes would be loaded on to specially adapted nuclear submarines

In June Mr. Putin said Russia would put more than 40 new intercontinental ballistic missiles into service this year.

US 'real goal'. The US is developing the seabased Aegis Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) system to counter the perceived threat of short- and medium-range ballistic missiles from Iran or another so-called "rogue" state. Under the plan, air defence missiles will eventually be sited on land in Romania and Poland. Mr Putin dismissed that NATO argument, pointing to the international deal, agreed this year, imposing limits on Iran's nuclear programme.

"References to an Iranian or North Korean nuclear missile threat are just used to conceal the true plans - their real goal is to neutralise the strategic nuclear potential of other nuclear states... above all, of course, Russia," Mr. Putin told the generals in Sochi, a Black Sea resort. He said Russia would continue developing strategic offensive systems capable of penetrating any anti-missile defence.

According to state-run Rossiiskaya Gazeta, the destructive power attributed to the new torpedo's warhead would fit the description of a cobalt bomb. That would be a type of thermonuclear warhead with a layer of cobalt-59, which on detonation would be transmuted into highly radioactive cobalt-60 with a halflife longer than five years.

Such a weapon would guarantee "that everything living will be killed", the paper said - there would not even be any survivors in bunkers.

A cobalt bomb has never been tested because of the devastating radiation it would unleash. "But it can be considered as a means of deterrence - like the Perimetr system, which is on combat readiness, which guarantees retaliation with all of Russia's nuclear forces even if command posts and the country's leadership have been annihilated".

Russian military experts told BBC Russian Service:

A warhead of up to 100 megatons could produce a tsunami up to 500m (1,650ft) high,wiping out all living things 1,500km (930 miles) deep inside US territory - **Konstantin Sivkov, Russian Geopolitical Academy.**

Robotic torpedo shown could have other

purposes, such as delivering deep-sea equipment or installing surveillance devices. The Russian defence ministry has a special division for deep-sea research - **Konstantin Bogdanov, Lenta.ru website.**

This is no secret for the US, whose military is also working in the area of robotic submersibles for hunting and destroying submarines - Viktor Murakhovsky, reserve colonel, editor of Arsenal of the Fatherland magazine.

VVA National Board of Directors Looking at the Future of VVA

Everything has a lifespan, and that includes the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc.

For the past two years, VVA National has been working on and developing a plan that will lead to the dissolution of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc. on December 31, 2028. That date is looked upon because 50 years will have elapsed since the VVA was incorporated in 1978.

"Based on current membership requirements in the VVA, the last date for a person on active duty military service to become eligible for membership was over 43 years ago on May 7, 1975. As a result, the membership is aging, and in 2018 the average age of VVA members was 72 years old. At some point in the not too distant future VVA members will likely not be able to physically perform the tasks required to effectively manage the activities necessary to continue operation of the VVA National Corporation." (Executive Summary, Revision 0, April 12, 2019)

This matter will be a point of discussion at the upcoming 2019 National Convention.

The Strategic Plan – Revision 0 - will be shared via a separate email.

Nevada County Fair Planning

Our 2019 fair is scheduled for August 7 - 11, 2019. Plan to add your name to the Booth schedule at our May meeting. A **Project Chair** is needed. See attached schedule.

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 <u>any duty location</u> 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 war	at to become a Life Member. My VVA Number is					
Membership: Individual Life Mem	bership: \$50. (Effective Oct. 20, 2018)					
ATTENTION New members : You this application and dues payment	must submit a copy of your DD-214 form along with					
Payment Method:CheckMor	ney OrderCredit Card (Visa, MasterCard, AMEX, Discover)					
Credit Card Number	Exp. Date					
Signature						
Return your completed application, paymen Vietnam Veterans of America, Inc., C P.O. Box 37						

Grass Valley, CA 95945

APRIL

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

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	

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 U.S. Coast Guard Established (1790)	5	6 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting D-Day (1944)	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14 Flag Day Army's Birthday (1775)	15
16 Father's Day	17	18	19	20	21 First Day of Summer	22 Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress (1942) GI Bill Signed into Law (1944)
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 First US Ground Forces Arrived in Korea (1950)
30						

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 US Army Air Corps Established (1926)	3	4 VVA General Meeting & Board Meeting Independence Day	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Final U.S. Ground Combat of Korean War Began (1953)	25	26	27 Korean War ended (1953)
28	29	30	31			



K-9 Officer Jesse Cloyd & partner Rudiger, Grass Valley Police Dept.

Nevada County Fair VVA-535 Booth **Schedule V.1** August 7, 2019 - August 11, 2019 **Project Chair**:

Set-Up: Tuesday, August 6, 2019. Volunteers – Take-Down: Monday, August 12, 2018. Volunteers –

Time Slot	10:00 - 2:00	2:00 - 6:00	6:00 - 10:00
Wed. Aug. 7, 2019	Name: D. Chaix	Name: D. Chaix	Name: D. Chaix
Booth Captain: D. Chaix	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
	Name: B. Ruud;	Name: B. Ruud	Name: B. Ruud
	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
Thurs. Aug. 8, 2019	Name:	Name:	Name:
Booth Captain:	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
	Name:	Name:	Name:
	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
Fri. Aug. 9, 2019	Name:	Name:	Name:
Booth Captain:	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
	Name:	Name:	Name:
	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
Sat. Aug. 10, 2019	Name:	Name:	Name:
Booth Captain:	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
	Name:	Name:	Name:
	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
Sun. Aug. 11, 2019	Name:	Name:	Name:
Booth Captain:	Phone:	Phone:	Phone:
	Name:	Name:	Name:
	Phone: 16	Phone:	Phone: