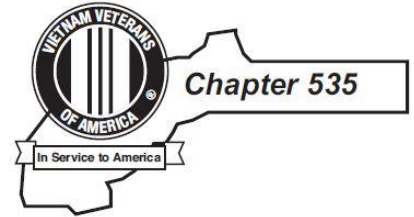




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA

CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 30 Issue 1

January 2020

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 535 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE January 2020

Well 2020 has arrived, another new year. I hope everyone had a great Christmas and enjoyed being with your family. We had a great time at our Christmas party. The food was very good and plentiful. Many thanks to all who prepared the food. Of note the turkeys and ham turned out great. Thanks to Ric, Dave, and Jose. A couple of weeks later Dave Middleton opened his home for his annual Christmas open house. It was a fun time and plenty of food. Thanks Dave! Now on to Victorian Christmas. The kitchen crew did a fabulous job preparing the hot chocolate and apple cider. There were some interesting stories told while the product was being prepared. Plenty of laughs! Everything was ready on time and delivered to Nevada City by our own Michael (Sanford) Underwood each Sunday and Wednesday. Bart filled in on the last Sunday. Our last Sunday had to be called off due to bad weather. Good call on that one! I am sure our receipts will be much lower than last year due to the weather. I heard a number of discussions on better ways to make money rather than the current situation which takes a lot of people and resources. We can discuss this during the year. Many thanks to all who participated in making Victorian Christmas a

success. A special thanks to Patricia Graves and Jose for preparing the brownies. We had a number of people tell us they always come to our booth because of the delicious brownies. The ladies in the Cerinos booth are always thankful for us assisting in set up and take down of their booth. I would be remiss if I didn't mention all of the assistance provided by Bart Ruud. He and Michael Underwood were the leaders on the Victorian Christmas project. Everyone went above and beyond the call of duty this year. Thank You! See you all at our next meeting on January 2, 2020.

President Keith

Toys for Tots

Thanks are extended to Ric Sheridan for spearheading collection of gifts for local children through the Marine Corps *Toys for Tots* program. And, thanks to all who elected to participate in the toy drive held in conjunction with our Christmas Potluck.

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.

Guest Speaker for December 5, 2019

Unknown at this juncture if we will have a guest speaker. Busy holidays compromise coordination.

Tom Woollard works hard to coordinate and arrange for guest speakers. Lend a hand and pass along any ideas you may have for future guest speakers.

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Upcoming Events

NCCVC Meeting – January 2, 2020
General Meeting – January 2, 2020
Director’s Meeting – January 2, 2020

Chapter 535 Officers

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Enrique Vasquez530-575-4416

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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 Johnson
Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
Membership AffairsRic Sheridan
Newsletter Interim editor Bart Ruud
Victorian Christmas Underwood & Ruud
Nominations Ralph Remick
Veterans Assistance Keith Grueneberg
NCCVC Dick Corn
Speakers Bureau Tom Woollard
Web Master Ralph Remick
Quartermaster Dick Corn
Facebook Master Mike Laborico
Nevada County Fair Dave Middleton
CA State Council Rep. Mike Underwood

Nevada County Veterans Service Officer

VSO Officer -David West II (530) 265-1446 office
(530) 913-5046 cell

988 McCourtney Road, Grass Valley 95949
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

Derrick Oliveira ... 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 December 5, 2019

In lieu of our VVA-535 Christmas Potluck, no
Board or General Meeting was held.

B-1 Bomber Update 05: Aging B-1 May Soon Have to Restrict the Way it Flies

Source: Military.com | Oriana Pawlyk | December 8, 2019

The B-1B Lancer bomber, a plane designed with the ability to fly fast and low to the Earth in order to avoid enemy radars, might find itself operating at higher altitudes for the rest of its days in service, as officials weigh options to extend its lifespan. The move is one of several being considered to keep the aircraft flying for years to come because low-altitude missions increase the wear and tear on the aircraft's structure, Military.com has learned. "We're closely working with aircrews, maintenance, industry engineers and combatant commands to identify and determine what, if any, changes may be made as we balance operational necessity today with the longevity of the B-1 airframe for the future," said Air Force Global Strike Command spokesman Lt. Col. David Faggard.

Specifically, officials are weighing whether to tell pilots to stop using the B-1's low-altitude terrain-following capability, known as TERFLW mode, during training. The mode is operated by a basic switch on the plane's avionics. "The B-1

and our airmen have consistently and professionally provided close-air support in the counterterror fight for decades, a mission the aircraft was never designed to fly," Faggard said. The B-1 was designed for a range of activities, most notably its TERFLW capability, but instead has been used for years in Middle East conflicts - a role for which it was not designed. "We're building a viable transition plan to get us from the bomber force we have now to the bomber force of the future. We can change tactics -- altering, bringing back or avoiding any tactics or procedures as necessary on any bomber at any time in the future," Faggard said 6 DEC.

TERFLW, which allows the plane to operate at low altitudes like a jet ski skimming water, was created to allow the B-1 "to sneak in low below enemy radars into Russia during the Cold War, employ nuclear weapons, and get out," said Maj. Charles "Astro" Kilchrist, then-chief of training for the 9th Bomb Squadron at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, in a 2017 interview. Kilchrist, also a pilot, showed off the maneuver when Military.com visited the base that year. Fatigue testing on the bomber has shown that low-altitude training may put additional stress on the airframe, according to two Air Force sources familiar with the discussions. Thus, the argument to limit TERFLW flights in future.

It's not uncommon for bombers to switch up how they fly. For example, B-52 Stratofortress pilots already tend to avoid low-altitude flights because of the additional stress on the venerable bomber's airframe, according to Alan Williams, the B-52 deputy program element monitor at Global Strike Command. Williams has been involved in the B-52 community since 1975. "When I first started flying in the B-52, we went down to 300 to 500 feet above the ground," he said in an interview in August. "Two o'clock in the morning, we'd fly over western Wyoming and we'd pop out four hours later over eastern Wyoming. That was hard on the aircraft." He continued, "Low-level is hard on

aircraft. There's a lot of forces -- atmosphere, turbulence, all those things. [But] over the last 30 years, the B-52 has returned to what it was designed to be: a high-altitude bomber."

Officials haven't totally forbidden B-52 crews to fly low, especially if they're testing new weapons, according to a bomber weapons system officer, who asked not to be identified due to not being authorized to speak publicly on the matter. While the B-52 is sticking around into the 2050s, keeping the B-1 viable until its 2036 sunset date has been a priority for Air Force Global Strike Command. Gen. Tim Ray, head of the command, announced in September that the Air Force had proved it can modify the Lancer to hold more ordnance -- a step that may pave the way to future hypersonic weapons payloads as the bomber seeks new missions.

In tests with the 419th Flight Test Squadron, teams at Edwards Air Force Base, California, demonstrated how crews could fasten new racks onto the external hardpoints of the B-1, and reconfigure its internal bomb bays to hold heavier weapons. "The conversation we're having now is how we take that bomb bay [and] put four, potentially eight, large hypersonic weapons on there," Ray said during the annual Air Force Association Air Space and Cyber conference. "Certainly, the ability to put more JASSM-ER [Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile Extended Range] or LRASM [Long Range Anti-Ship Missile] externally on the hardpoints as we open those up," he said, as reported by Defense News. "There's a lot more we can do."

10 Ways to Kill a Meeting

Source: The Native Son – October-November 2019
Originally published in 1951 in a Northern California Oddfellows newsletter

1. Don't go to meetings.
2. If you do go, go late.
3. If the weather doesn't suit you, don't think of going.

4. If you do attend a meeting, find fault with the work of the officers and members.
5. Never accept office, as it is far easier to criticize than to do things.
6. Get sore if you are not appointed on a committee, but if you are, do not attend committee meetings.
7. If asked by the president to give your opinion on some matter, tell him you have nothing to say.
8. After the meeting, tell everyone how things should have been done.
9. Do nothing more than absolutely necessary, but when other members use their ability to help matters along, howl out that the organization is run by a clique!
10. Hold back your dues or don't pay at all.

It's not a new problem. There are always going to be people who feel complaining and criticizing other members' efforts equals participation. (It does not.) Next time you encounter "The Complainer", offer a question... "How would you do it?" And then, with fraternal affection and respect, say, "I think it would be great if you were Chairman next time. Will you do it?"

Note – Inclusion of this is only for human interest. It is not a criticism of our VVA-535 membership. /Ed.

Skin Regeneration New Technology Can Help Wounded and Ill Vets Regrow Skin

Source: Military.com | Dorothy Mills-Gregg | December 4, 2019

Two skin regeneration products going to market this month may help wounded veterans heal faster and prevent limb-threatening diabetic ulcers. MTF Biologics, a global nonprofit and the world's largest tissue bank, is unveiling both an injection that promotes fat cell growth under

the skin and a epidermis-like bandage at a limb salvage conference in Phoenix this week. Both products are available at the Department of Veterans Affairs through Academy Medical, a procurement service. The first product, called *Leneva*, lets doctors create skin cell growth below the surface with an injection. The other, *SomaGen Mesh*, is a breathable cover that promotes rapid skin regrowth to speed up healing for open wounds like diabetic ulcers.

Dr. Matthew Regulski, a podiatric surgery specialist who's used both products on patients, said 80% of chronic wounds occur from the knee down. Diabetics are at risk of developing chronic foot ulcers. These can result in amputation, and 40% of such patients die within five years from associated complications. Veterans are more likely than civilians to become diabetic, recent research has shown. Data from the Centers for Disease Control published in 2017 showed 9.4% of the general population had diabetes. The US National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey found nearly 25% of veterans had diabetes.

Regulski said most people don't know how debilitating diabetes can be: It affects the whole body physically by slowing down the immune system. There is also a mental effect because patients are told how to live their lives and what to eat, which can lead to depression. As the seventh leading cause of death, diabetes has killed more people than all cancers combined, he said. For this reason, *Leneva* has huge potential to heal and prevent diabetic ulcers by encouraging more blood flow under the surface of wounds by creating new fat cell growth, Regulski explained.

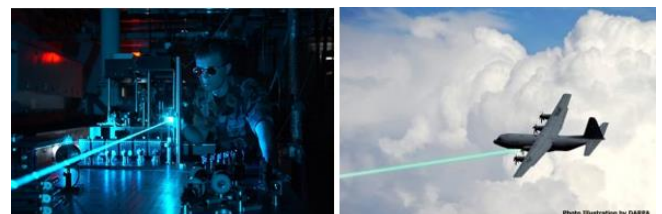
Meanwhile, he said what sets *SomaGen* apart from current products is its design, which lets it expand up to 150% to accommodate wounds of various sizes, making it useful for combat wounds and burn victims. "With *SomaGen*, you get these large pieces," he said. "It's already

penetrated. It has folds to allow fluid to move through from the wound." It's also a cheaper alternative to typical skin regeneration, he added, which must be harvested and stored. "The recurrence of chronic and complex wounds are painful and can be both life-threatening and costly to treat," said Kim Rounds, vice president of wound care at MTF Biologics.

Cruise Missiles

Pentagon to Test Rival Killer Lasers

Source: Breaking Defense | Sydney J. Freedberg |
December 02, 2019



A laser experiment at the Air Force Research Laboratory (left) & Concept drawing for a laser-armed AC-130 gunship

The Army, Air Force, and Navy may be only three years away from a 300-kilowatt laser weapon, one powerful enough to shoot down cruise missiles — using the same basic technology as the checkout counter at your local supermarket. "We are in the process of negotiating contracts with three different performers for three different electrically powered laser concepts," Thomas Karr, who works for Pentagon R&D chief Mike Griffin as assistant director for directed energy, said. (DE includes both lasers and high-powered microwaves). These will be demonstration models for testing, not prototypes of operational weapons, he emphasized in an interview with Breaking Defense.

Industry has proposed several designs that "have all been demonstrated at lower power levels, 50 to 150 kilowatts," Karr said. Those power levels are enough to burn through drones and rockets, but not larger, faster and tougher targets like cruise missiles. "We want to have a

300-kilowatt laser by 2022. We'd like to get up to 500 kilowatts by 2024," he said, "and then, if we still haven't hit the limit of anything, it's on to the megawatt class. "Those are aggressive objectives," Karr acknowledged, "[but] we have high confidence that one or more of these different fiber or slab approaches will scale up to 300 or beyond. I don't think we've seen the limit yet."

The Pentagon actually flew and test-fired a one-megawatt Airborne Laser in 2009-2011, but that system required a 747 full of toxic chemicals, hardly practical in a war zone, not to mention a very easy target. By contrast, today's designs build on widely available and rapidly advancing commercial technologies. "The electrically-driven lasers we're scaling up exploit a lot of commercial technology," Karr told me. "They're all pumped by semi-conductor diodes, which is a multi-billion-dollar industry. It's not just off-the-shelf. It's not the semiconductor laser that's in your supermarket scanner, but we're building off that huge investment in commercial industry."

Two of the three demonstrators Karr plans to build use bundles of fiber-optic cables – like the ones probably connecting your computer to the internet as you read this – to channel beams of coherent light, which are then combined into a single powerful blast. "There's a large commercial industry in these fiber lasers for cutting, welding, material processing," Karr said, "and they're up to kilowatts and very good in quality." The third demonstrator will use small lasers to "pump" energy into slabs of specially formulated material that amplify their power. "Again, that's been scaled up to the point where we think we're ready to go," Karr said. "We believe we can add additional amplifier stages and each amplifier adds more power [and can] still maintain the beam quality."

Karr made clear he doesn't need all three designs to work. In fact, the project might

survive all three failing, because he's put out another request for proposals for designs in the 300-500 kW range. "We have three good proposals to start with," he said, "[but] we think we will add additional contractors in the future. "We have enough money to fund multiple competing technical concepts, as well as multiple performers," Karr said. (The effort's 2019 budget was \$70 million; the 2020 budget remains in limbo). "The POM [five-year Program Objective Memorandum] number is adequate to carry multiple contractors over the finish line to 300 [kW] level." "When we do reviews, every performer will see, on the key performance metrics, where they rank compared to their competitors," Karr said, although no competitor will get to see details of its rivals' performance. "You're in the green zone or you're in the red zone.... It will stimulate competition. "Most of my career has been in the private industry, more in private industry than in government. I love competition," he said. "I like the fact that we have lots of competition in this program."

While Karr is encouraging industry to compete, he's also getting the armed services to cooperate. "In the past, every service that wanted to scale up a laser, it picked the laser and it invested to try to scale that up," he said. "Now... we have for the first time a unified laser scaling program that's led by OSD [the Office of the Secretary of Defense] with the concurrence and participation of all the services. "I think it's much more efficient," he said. "Maybe it's not one size fits all. Maybe there's two or three sizes, but there's a limited number of government-controlled interfaces... common standards that all of the services could agree to," governing such things as how to couple the laser to its external power source and cooling. "One of the things that OSD wants the whole community to move towards is a more open architecture for all these systems, so that there are interchangeable or at least similar major subsystems, instead of everything being custom designed," Karr told me.

There are definitely opportunities for the services to share, he said. “They face a lot of similar challenges,” he said, “so there’s a lot of exchange of information between Army, Navy, Air Force, and DARPA or SOCOM [Special Operations Command].” “One of the nice things about sitting in OSD is I can look down the stovepipes to all the services and see there’s a lot in common,” Karr said, “particularly in beam control” – the difficult science of getting the laser beam from the weapon to the target without losing power or focus. “There’s room for a joint beam control experiment [that] everybody can spin off.”

At the same time, there are definite differences between putting a laser on an airplane – as the Air Force and SOCOM plan to do – versus a ship or a vehicle. “The airflow over these systems introduces some special challenges that the Air Force Research Lab is moving on,” he said. “The absorption of the beam in the maritime environment” – with lots of humidity and salt – “is different than you would have in a land environment. “Size, weight, and power efficiency requirements are most stressing for the airborne cases,” he summed up. “It’s somewhat easier on land vehicles and on ships, but it still is not a trivial issue. But the military’s existing aircraft, ships, and vehicles were never designed to carry weapons that suck up hundreds of kilowatts of power in seconds and emit much of that as heat. “We’ll learn how to manage that,” he said, but it will require a customized solution for each ship, plane, and ground vehicle.

Military lasers have made major advances since the Navy field-tested its Laser Weapon System (LaWS) aboard a ship in the Persian Gulf five years ago. The 30-kilowatt LaWS was basically six commercial lasers bolted together, their six separate beams converging on one spot. Today’s lasers are still built of multiple modules, but they combine the beams from those modules into a single coherent laser, and

their overall power is much higher. “We have laser technology getting onto platforms in the 50-60 kilowatt class,” Karr said, such as the Navy’s HELIOS, the first laser fully integrated into a warship’s combat systems. “Those are adequate for engaging small boats, small UAVs [drones], bringing those down or blinding the sensors.” Then, in cutting edge experiments, he went on, “we have electrically powered lasers in the 150-kilowatt class. One has just been lifted onto a ship in San Diego harbor: the Laser Weapon System Demonstrator..

“The next level of targets is harder, faster things like cruise missiles,” Karr continued. “They move a lot faster, you have to engage farther away. So you need, we believe, a 300kw class [laser] – that’s sort of a consensus across the services... to start doing those harder, longer range missions.” “That’s why everybody agreed, let’s try for 300 kW in 22,” he said. “There will be some challenges to cleverly handle all of this additional power,” Karr acknowledged. “You’ve got more heat, you’ve got more thermal loading, [and] typically the way people deal with that is that they’ll make stuff bigger. We don’t want to grow the size and mass of things arbitrarily. We want to keep things small and compact as possible.”

As OSD and the services strive to scale up electrical lasers, will they hit a point of diminishing returns, beyond which further power increases are unaffordable or impractical? At some point. But Karr thinks he get to viable missile defense lasers first. “If I look back over multiple decades, [across] many different concepts – starting with CO2 Laser, CO lasers, chemical lasers, free-electron lasers, chemical oxygen-iodine,” Karr said, “every one of those... at some point we hit a level where problems were very, very challenging.” “I don’t know where that will be with electrical lasers,” Karr said. “We haven’t hit that yet.”

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 or hand deliver to Bart.

Cyborg Soldier 2050

Human/Machine Fusion Study

Source: Military.com | Matthew Cox |
December 2, 2019



By 2050, the U.S. military could have the ability to implant sophisticated machine technology into combat troops for enhanced performance capabilities such as super eyesight and advanced brain function for controlling unmanned drones and other weapons systems, according to a recent Defense Department study In "Cyborg Soldier 2050: Human/Machine Fusion and the Implications for the Future of the DOD," the Biotechnologies for Health and Human Performance Council study group surveyed several current and emerging technologies designed to augment human performance to present the feasibility, military uses, and ethical, legal, and social implications of the technology.

"The [study group] predicted that human/machine enhancement technologies will become widely available before the year 2050 and will steadily mature, largely driven by civilian demand and a robust bio-economy that is at its earliest stages of development in today's global market," the report states. The report's analysis states that the development of

"direct neural enhancements of the human brain for two-way data transfer would create a revolutionary advancement in future military capabilities."

The study group predicted that by the half-century mark, special neural implants would enable operator's brains to interact with battlefield assets such as weapon systems and reconnaissance drones as well as personnel within proximity or across distances through hierarchical relays with a central network. "The potential for direct data exchange between human neural networks and microelectronic systems could revolutionize tactical warfighter communications, speed the transfer of knowledge throughout the chain of command, and ultimately dispel the 'fog' of war," the report states.

The procedure for implanting such technology could be "invasive and involve methods that use microelectrodes directly implanted into regions of the brain or extended across the surface of the brain," according to the report, which adds that noninvasive methods such as using electrodes on the scalp can also be used. "The level of invasiveness of early iterations and the potential irreversibility of these implants may limit acceptance by military personnel and society, although specialized teams (Navy SEALs, Army Rangers, etc.) may be more inclined to accept these technologies if they could provide significant improvements in capability, lethality, survivability, and overall battlefield superiority," it continues. The study group also predicted that the technology for enhanced vision will also be available by 2050, offering operators "enhanced computational capabilities, which would allow for target identification, selection, and data sharing with other individuals or military systems," the report states.

Like the neural implants, the procedure for vision enhancement, in some cases, would be invasive. "The eyeball itself is completely replaced, and data feeds pass directly into the optical nerve bundle behind the eye," according to the report. "The sensory input for visualization would be completely mechanical or electronic in composition, which would allow data feeds of all types and across all spectra including those previously not capable of being visualized by humans." The development of high-bandwidth, implantable interfaces that stimulate nerves at the single-neuron level will facilitate two-way data transfer that is not currently possible, the study group predicted. "In essence, the eye would be completely artificial and capable of pulling in any manner of sensory data and feeding it directly into the brain for interpretation," the report states.

The report includes a disclaimer that stresses the study group's findings "are not an official policy or position of the Department of the Army, the National Defense University, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Government." The Defense Department should develop legal, security and ethical frameworks for this emerging technology, the report states. The Pentagon should also support research to validate human-machine fusion technologies, the group recommended, "before fielding them and to track the long-term safety and impact on individuals and groups."

The report acknowledges that using such technology to enhance human beings may not be accepted by the public. "Across popular social and open-source media, literature, and film, the use of machines to enhance the physical condition of the human species has received a distorted and dystopian narrative in the name of entertainment," the report states. "Efforts should be undertaken to reverse negative cultural narratives of enhancement technologies."

The report's authors ultimately recommended that the Pentagon should conduct global assessments of societal awareness and perceptions of human-machine enhancement technologies. "A generalized perception exists in the United States that our adversaries are more likely to adopt technologies that U.S. populations are reluctant or unwilling to field because of ethical concerns," the report concluded. "However, the attitudes of our adversaries toward these technologies have never been verified."

The study group recommended that a "more realistic and balanced (if not more positive) narrative, along with transparency in the government's approach to technology adoption, will serve to better educate the public, mitigate societal apprehensions, and remove barriers to productive adoption of these new technologies."

Desert Storm Memorial Design Concept Receives Formal Approval

Source: Military.com | Richard Sisk | December 2, 2019

The effort to build a National Desert Storm Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., passed a significant milestone in late NOV with formal approval of a design concept granted by the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts. Now, the plan is to have the memorial dedicated by Veterans Day 2021, which would mark the 30th anniversary of the 1991 Gulf War, said Scott Stump, CEO and president of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association. The design will be unveiled this week. "Our eternal thanks go out to the entire design team, along with the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Park Service for helping us reach this very important milestone," Stump said in a statement.



Fundraising is still underway to meet the projected \$40 million cost of the memorial, at a site off Constitution Avenue near the Vietnam Memorial, to honor those who served in Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm and liberated Kuwait from the forces of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. The initial design called for a semi-circular wall to recall the "left hook" by U.S. ground forces through the Saudi desert to cut off Iraqi troops in Desert Storm. It would include the names of the fallen and the 34 countries that joined the U.S. coalition, according to the association's website.

The effort to establish a Global War on Terrorism Memorial is not as far advanced as the Desert Storm memorial. But it got a boost earlier in November with the introduction of a bill in the House by Reps. Jason Crow (D-CO) and Mike Gallagher (R-WI) that would designate three possible sites for the GWOT memorial. One proposed site for the memorial, which has yet to get design approval, is near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; another is near the Korean War Veterans Memorial; and a third is in West Potomac Park near the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial. A GWOT memorial would be the first in the nation's capital for a war still underway. The project got past a roadblock in 2017 when Congress agreed to waive the requirement that the construction of war memorials on the Mall had to wait until 10 years after the conflict ended. The Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation is now in the process of raising an estimated \$50 million for the project, with a

proposed groundbreaking in 2022 and a dedication in 2024.

Victorian Christmas Wrap

Our preplanning for development of an operational strategy for our 2019 Victorian Christmas fundraiser resulted in success as far as the project went. Weather proved a complicating factor but as Co-Chair, together with **Mike Underwood**, I submit it was good to carry on a long-time VVA-535 tradition.

The camaraderie in the kitchen and on the street was first class and it was fun to be a part of such an outstanding team of volunteers. In total, 21 from our membership pitched in and brought the event to fruition. We are so grateful to **Patricia Graves** and **Jose Gonzales** for their volunteer efforts in making hundreds of brownies. And yes, we cancelled the last Sunday setup, but this might be looked upon as a prudent move. The weather was vile. *Hospitality House* became benefactors of bottled cider, and that was good. Hearty thanks to all who were there to lend a hand with the project.



SUBMITTED BY ANNITA KASPARIAN
A few stragglers walk around Broad Street Monday for the final Victorian Christmas of 2019.

Photo courtesy of Ralph Remick

Brainstorming VVA-535 Social Activities (Repeat Query)

Mike Underwood has asked questions of interest:

- How many among us own or sometimes rent RVs?
- Is there interest in a weekend get-away RV/tent campout?
- How many like to shoot at gun ranges? Is there interest in scheduling a shoot?
- Is there interest in informal activities such as a come-as-you-will breakfast gathering, or even an informal dinner gathering wherein general camaraderie among members and significant others could be enjoyed.

VVA-535 Fundraiser 0.177 Caliber Air Rifle

This is a photo showing a display of the air rifle to be offered by VVA-535 for members only. Tickets, at \$20 each, will be available at the December VVA-535 meeting/potluck. A total of one hundred tickets will be available.



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

December

2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 VVA Christmas Potluck	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (1941)
8 Victorian Christmas	9	10	11 Victorian Christmas	12	13	14 Wreaths Across America
15 Bill of Rights Day Victorian Christmas	16 Battle of the Bulge began (1944)	17	18 Victorian Christmas	19	20 Operation Just Cause (1989)	21 <i>First Day of Winter</i>
22 Victorian Christmas	23 Hanukkah	24 Christmas Eve U.S. began strikes on Laos (1964)	25 Christmas Day	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve Official end of WW II (1946)				

January

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2 VVA-535	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	14	15	16	17 Operation Desert Storm began (1991)	18
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27 Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)	28	29	30	31	

February

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 Groundhog Day	3	4	5	6 VVA-535	7 Wear Red Day	8 Boy Scouts of America founded 1910
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday 1809 Operation Homecoming began 1973	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 Sinking of USS Maine 1898
16	17 President's Day	18	19 U.S. Marines landed on Iwo Jima 1945	20	21	22 Washington's birthday 1732
23 Flag raised on Iwo Jima 1945	24 Operation Desert Storm ground war started 1991	25	26 Ash Wednesday	27	28 Persian Gulf War ceasefire 1991	29