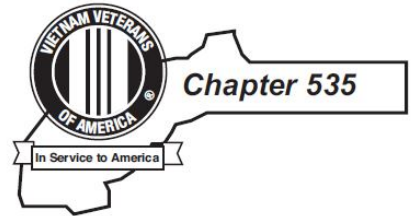




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 30 Issue 6

June 2020

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

As May 2020 melds into June, we find ourselves continuing in the grips of social distancing and applying due diligence to other mandates suggested by the CDC, State and local governments as we seek avoidance of being stricken with COVID-19. At this juncture, I believe our membership is virus free.

Elections of a 2020-21 of Officers and Directors occurred via our ZOOM meeting of May 7th, and with that, please join me in acknowledging the past Presidency of Keith Grueneberg, the leadership of retiring Director Dale Epps, and the pinch-hitting of Dave Johnson as Secretary when he stepped up to fill a vacancy created due to the medical leave of absence of Gary Barnes. Thank you to all for your exemplary leadership.

Going forward, each of us recognizes that VVA-535 cannot function well without its complement of Officers, Directors and Committee Chairs. As your elected Present for the current service year, I will be seeking and relying upon the wisdom and energy of many. Together, we can anticipate a successful year, a year some trepidation and uncertainty caused by the appearance of the Coronavirus.

Much of what we do can be business as usual, but a most concerning circumstance centers on fundraising. We have questions in the air regarding the validity of planning for Victorian Christmas. Some judge that this activity is too labor intensive and too subject to weather circumstances and economic vitality. Perhaps so. Should the project go by the wayside, and that seems probably, what will replace it as a fundraiser.

Suggestions heard include the following. Further brainstorming is welcome:

- Schedule a Poker Tournament. (Ric Sheridan volunteered to assist Dave Middleton).
- Host a tribute concert, perhaps with the Beach Boys or Santana. A Project and Marketing Chair would be needed, and the event would be scheduled through the Center for the Arts in Grass Valley.
- Organize a –"Take-out" Spaghetti Dinner, or alternatively a BBQ chicken or tri-tip dinner.
- Organize a parking lot size rummage sale.

Bart Ruud

**Watch for an Announcement for a possible
June 4, 2020 ZOOM meeting.**

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 May 7, 2020

Bart Ruud will share an overview of his 1971-72 deployment as a 17B40 NCOIC in I-Corps, Vietnam. Note: *ON HOLD* until beyond ZOOM.

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 - Mostly cancelled

NCCVC Meeting – June 4, 2020 ??
General Meeting – June 4, 2020 online via Zoom
Director's Meeting – June 4, 2020
June 4, 2020 – Drawing for air rifle (???????)
CSC Meeting – Visalia – April 24-26, 2020
June 4, 2020 - Installation of Officers & Directors (????)
CSC Meeting – Visalia - July 31 – Aug. 2, 2020
CSC Convention – July 30 – August 2, 2020
Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down – October 16-17, 2020
CSC Meeting – Visalia Oct. 23-25, 2020

Chapter 535 Officers

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Dave Johnson 887-8297
Dave Middleton 205-9375
Ric Sheridan 274-1413
Mike Underwood 925-759-2924
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Tom Woollard 432-1212

Committee Chairs

FinanceRalph Remick & Dave Johnson

Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
 Membership Affairs Ric Sheridan
 Newsletter Interim editor Bart Ruud
 Victorian Christmas open
 Nominations Ralph Remick
 Veterans Assistance Keith Grueneberg
 NCCVC Mike Underwood
 Speakers Bureau Tom Woollard
 Web Master Ralph Remick
 Quartermaster Dick Corn
 Facebook Master Mike Laborico
 Nevada County Fair open
 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

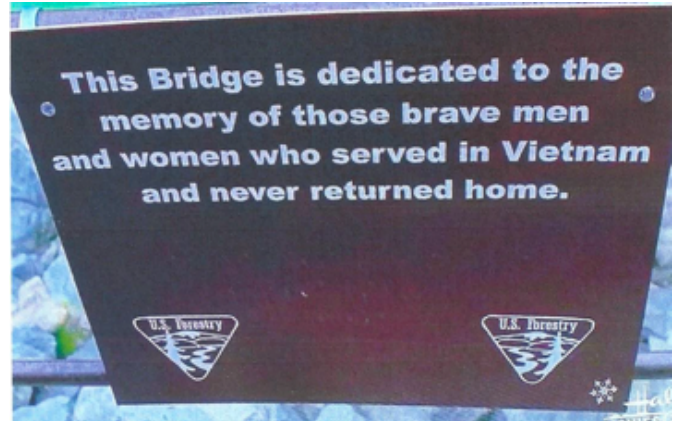
Derrick Oliveira ... 916-780-3290.
 1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA
 Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00
 p.m.

Matters of interest as outlined at Board Meeting of May 7, 2020

In March the Board discussed the Traveling Wall project and came to no conclusions, other than to table some questions and defer those questions to the General Membership: Could the project be combined with the Nevada County Stand Down, October 16, 17, 2020? Would the VVA-535 insurance cover the project? Would NCCVC be permitted to provide 24-hour security as means to offset costs? This project remains a work in progress for future discussion by VVA-535 and the NCCVC.

The installation of a plaque recognizing Vietnam War veterans at the Hwy. 49 bridge over the Yuba River remains as a work in progress

because of a communication breakdown. State Parks administrators need to weigh in.



2020 Nevada County Fair – August 12 – 16, 2020

General Update: Per April 7, 2020 Nevada County Fair Board of Directors minutes: The team continues to plan for the 2020 Fair, keeping in mind that contingency plans for Fair and the livestock auction will need to be developed in the event that the Fair has to be canceled.

Note: While INCOMING should not be a political forum, the following could be of interest as an information item.

Heads Up, Californians

California’s Attorney General Xavier Becerra has been successful in clearing the way for a November 2020 ballot initiative that would repeal 1978’s Proposition 13 for commercial properties.

This is a so-call “split-roll” initiative that would tax commercial and industrial properties at current fair-market value rather than the purchase price. An estimated \$11 billion in annual proceeds would distribute about 40% to local schools and 60% to local governments.

Groups backing the California Schools and Local Communities Funding Act include the League of Women Voters and the Alliance of Californians

for Community Empowerment as well as some prominent state and local teachers' unions.

The initiative is opposed by the California Chamber of Commerce due to its fears that higher taxes will likely be passed along to consumers, or ... businesses may close and relocate to states with a less hostile tax environment.

Dust Mite Allergy
Triggered by Mite Feces (Poop)
www.informedhealth.org April 2020

In dust mite allergies, it isn't the dust that causes the symptoms. Instead, the allergy is triggered by substances that are mainly found in the dust mites' feces ("poop"). The tiny particles of feces are attached to the dust and spread in that way. No home is completely free of dust mites. They are found in beds, carpets, rugs, upholstered furniture and curtains. Because of this, people who have a dust mite allergy have allergy symptoms such as sneezing and a runny nose all year round. If someone has an allergic reaction that affects their upper airways (nose, sinuses and throat), it is called "allergic rhinitis."

Symptoms

People who have a dust mite allergy sneeze a lot and have a runny or stuffy nose. If their symptoms are more severe, they might also feel weak and tired. Their eyes might water and itch, and they might have swollen eyelids. Asthma-like symptoms such as coughing, wheezing and shortness of breath may occur too. Dust mite allergies usually cause milder symptoms than hay fever (a pollen allergy) does. But they occur all year round, whereas hay fever is seasonal. The symptoms are typically worse at night and in the morning because dust mites tend to live in mattresses, pillows and bedding.

Causes and risk factors

Allergy symptoms arise when your body overreacts to particular substances that

are usually harmless. These substances (allergens) trigger a chain reaction in the immune system. First, the body makes antibodies to fight the allergen, and the antibodies bind to specific cells. If these cells come into contact with the allergen again, they are then able to "respond" by releasing chemical substances such as histamine. These substances then set off an allergic reaction, causing symptoms such as sneezing or itchy eyes. It's almost impossible to avoid contact with dust. If dust is stirred up – for instance, by a draft of wind or when shaking up bedding it floats through the air and is breathed in, together with the allergens on it. Sometimes a higher risk of allergies runs in families. Environmental factors such as air pollution and cigarette smoke can make them more likely too.

Prevalence and outlook

Allergic rhinitis affects about 1 out of 4 people in industrialized countries like Germany. Most people develop the symptoms before the age of 20. Dust mite allergies typically first develop in childhood or puberty, and never go away again. If people have allergic rhinitis for many years, the allergy might "move down" into the lower airways (lungs) too, causing asthma. Sometimes people become allergic to certain foods too after a while (a phenomenon known as cross-reactivity). This is less likely to happen with dust mite allergies than it is with other allergies, like hay fever. But people who have dust mite allergies may become allergic to foods like shellfish and mollusks such as mussels, crabs, lobsters, shrimps or snails. Severe symptoms may increase the likelihood of developing other medical conditions such as sinusitis (inflammation of the sinuses). Allergic rhinitis often makes the mucous membranes that line the airways overly sensitive in general too. As a result, their nose may react more strongly to irritants like dry air in heated rooms and cigarette smoke.

Diagnosis & Prevention

If you see a doctor, he or she will first ask you about your symptoms, circumstances in life,

and medical history. The doctor can then do an allergy test (a skin prick test) to find out whether you are allergic to particular substances. This involves placing small drops of various allergens on the skin of your forearm, leaving enough space between them, and then gently pricking the surface of your skin where the allergens are, so the substances go into the skin. If the skin becomes red and swollen (like a big mosquito bite) where it was pricked, it's a sign that you're allergic to that substance.

You might also need a blood test, or something known as a provocation test. This is where the membranes lining the nose are exposed to extracts of the potential allergen using a nasal spray or drops. If the lining of your nose becomes swollen, you sneeze and your nose starts running, you are likely to be allergic to that substance. The most effective way to prevent allergy symptoms is to avoid the substances that trigger the allergy. Although dust mites can't be completely avoided, contact with them can be reduced. Particularly in the bedroom, it may be helpful to combine a number of different approaches: wiping the bedroom floor with a damp cloth, using mite-proof mattress covers, removing "dust traps" such as upholstered furniture and curtains, and regularly washing your bedding at temperatures above 60°C (140°F). Dust mites survive longer in warm and humid conditions. So, it can be a good idea to keep the bedroom temperature constant between about 18 and 20°C (about 64 to 68°F), and regularly open the windows to let fresh air in. Air humidifiers and plants can make it easier for dust mites to thrive, so it's best to keep them out of bedrooms. Dust mite sprays containing acaricides (pesticides against mites and ticks) could also help reduce the symptoms. They can be sprayed onto mattress covers, for instance. Special dust mite air filters are available too, but it isn't clear how effective they are.

Treatment

Various medications are available for the treatment of allergy symptoms:

- Antihistamines
- Steroids (corticosteroids)
- Chromones (mast cell stabilizers)
- Leukotriene receptor antagonists
- Decongestant nasal drops and sprays

There are also non-drug alternatives such as saline (saltwater) nasal sprays and nasal washes (nasal irrigation). Allergen-specific immunotherapy (also known as desensitization) can reduce your sensitivity to allergens over the long term. A bit like with vaccines, this treatment approach involves exposing people to small amounts of the allergen. Here it is done at regular intervals by either injecting the allergen under your skin or placing it under your tongue. Allergen-specific immunotherapy takes about three years to complete.

Still Tasty

Foods That Can Keep for Years

Money Talks News | Alex Valdes | March 23, 2020

If you hadn't previously thought about how you would build up a food supply for an emergency, the new coronavirus probably has made you consider it. What kinds of foods are best to keep in the pantry and freezer in case of a natural disaster, zombie apocalypse or pandemic that drags on for more than a couple of weeks? Start with the following options. These foods can last for years before going bad.

1. Oats

This prolific cereal grain and staple of many American breakfast tables can last up to 30 years, according to the Utah State University Extension. Store oats in airtight containers in a cool, dark, dry place. To maximize shelf life, use oxygen absorber packets.

2. White rice

Also known as polished rice, white rice has a shelf life of 25 to 30 years when properly stored. The best temperature for storing this grain is 40 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. The best container is one that is sealed and oxygen-free.

3. Popcorn

Unpopped kernels can last two years, according to the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Best storage is at room temperature.

4. Dark chocolate

Dark chocolate lasts up to two years if properly stored, according to Harvard's T.H. Chan School of Public Health. It should be stored in a tightly sealed containers and at a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees. Keep it in a dry location as well. Do not refrigerate it, because the sugar can rise to the surface and give the chocolate a whitish appearance.

5. Honey

Winnie-the-Pooh's favorite can remain stable indefinitely, according to the National Honey Board. However, a two-year shelf life is standard. The trade group explains: "Honey stored in sealed containers can remain stable for decades and even centuries! However, honey is susceptible to physical and chemical changes during storage; it tends to darken and lose its aroma and flavor or crystallize. These are temperature-dependent processes, making the shelf life of honey difficult to define.

6. Powdered milk

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Keeper storage guide, powdered milk can last three to five years — but keeps only three months once the package has been opened. For best storage, keep at cool temperatures in a dark location.

7. Dried beans

Dried beans and lentils have a shelf life of up to 10 years or more when stored properly, according to the Utah State University Extension. However, Utah State notes that — as with many stored foods — after five years, stored beans likely will have lost nearly all their vitamins. The best method of storage is to use No. 10 cans or Mylar-type bags with the oxygen removed, and keep the beans at a colder temperature.

8. Certain cheeses

Low-moisture, hard cheese can last from 10 months to several years, reports Dairy Foods Magazine. For example, the typical shelf life for parmesan is up to five years, and that of aged cheddar is up to 10 years. The Food Network has a handy how-to on best practices for cheese storage at <https://www.foodnetwork.com/food-network/news/2019/01/i-ve-been-storing-my-cheese-all-wrong--according-to-experts>.

9. Canned foods

Generally, commercially canned foods that are canned in liquid should maintain their best quality until their expiration date, which is usually two to five years from the manufacture date, according to the Utah State University Extension. Note that unopened home-canned foods have a shorter shelf life — one year — and should be used before two years. The USU Extension explains: "Commercially canned foods are superior to home canned for food storage. Commercial canners can closely control quality and safety to produce the best product." When buying canned foods, avoid cans that are: Rusted, Dented, Scratched, Bulging

10. Frozen foods

That succotash that's been in your freezer for years might not taste amazing, but it's perfectly safe and likely still nutritious — assuming your freezer has been kept at 0 degrees Fahrenheit or

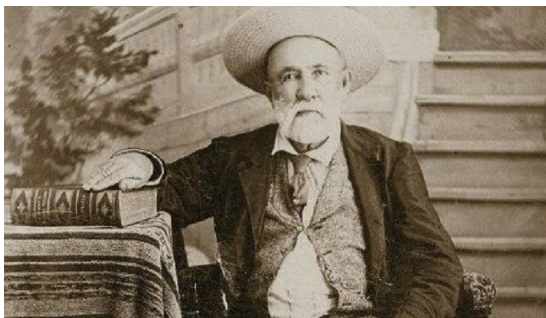
colder. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, foods frozen at that temperature remain safe almost indefinitely, and freezer storage has little to no effect on food nutrient value. Quality is a different matter, but the USDA has a handy storage chart showing how long different frozen foods maintain their quality. The USDA recommends storing frozen food in packaging that keeps air out.

https://www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-safety-education/get-answers/food-safety-fact-sheets/safe-food-handling/freezing-and-food-safety/ct_index/!ut/p/a1/jVLBbslwDP2aHtOYlSHYrao0QTfKENoovaDQpE2kkISJoRtfv8AubION5BDH7z3ZfgktaE4LzfaqZqiMZs3xXgzWMIdBb5RAOhv1HmGSvc1nT0kCw8W9J6z-IGTRjforK4b_9OkNBe7sNjnWtGgZSqJ0ZWheCyRMu05YR_PKGE4cqWR-klqVSJwUAj1wzJETKpnmjdK1J1shDj7yck70IDQvca00F-90SYvvXUHP70kWLfrjNItg1v9JuGDbF-G6L37wujGb0xutYr2Jhn5CKyphhQ131qclYvsQQA Bd14WVUy7cOc7C2ux9qnUBtMYiawI4YgGaVXpz3M3BN-Vp6_gYcFKSQxKb1kA3HS6MYyTLUNhFWvcpTackUjzX-Vpu33ND8_xGNTLdjl08SeTEkFi/#19

Judge Roy Bean

Knew Little about the Law or Proper Court Procedures

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roy_Bean | Megan Brenan | March 16, 2020



A saloonkeeper and adventurer, Bean's claim to fame rested on the often humorous and

sometimes-bizarre ruling she meted out as a justice of the peace in western Texas during the late 19th century. He called himself, "The Law West of the Pecos". According to legend, he held court in his saloon along the Rio Grande on a desolate stretch of the Chihuahuan Desert of southwest Texas. By then, Bean was in his 50s and had already lived a life full of rough adventures. Born in Kentucky some time during the 1820s, Bean began getting into trouble at an early age. At sixteen he left home in 1847 to ride a flatboat to New Orleans, hoping to find work. After getting into trouble in New Orleans, Bean fled to San Antonio, Texas, to join his older brother Sam who was a teamster and bullwhacker who hauled freight to Santa Fe and then on to Chihuahua, Mexico. In 1848 the two brothers opened a trading post in the Mexican state of Chihuahua. Soon after, Roy Bean shot and killed a Mexican desperado who had threatened "to kill a gringo." To escape being charged with murder by Mexican authorities, Roy and Sam Bean fled west to Sonora, Mexico. By the spring of 1849, Roy Bean had moved on to San Diego, California, to live with his older brother Joshua Bean, who would be elected the first mayor of San Diego the following year. Considered handsome, Roy Bean competed for the attentions of various local women. A Scotsman named John Collins challenged Bean to a pistol-shooting match on horseback. Bean was left to choose the targets and decided that they would shoot at each other. The duel was fought on February 24, 1852 and ended with Collins receiving a wound to his right arm. Both men were arrested and charged with assault with intent to murder. In the two months that he was in jail, Bean received many gifts of flowers, food, wine and cigars from women in San Diego. Hidden in the final gifts he received while incarcerated were knives that were encased in tamales. Bean used the knives to dig through the cell wall and escaped on April 17, 1852. He fell into the same old habits in Los Angeles, eventually killing a Mexican

officer in a duel over a woman. Angry friends of the officer hanged Bean in revenge, but luckily, the rope stretched, and Bean managed to stay alive until the woman he had fought for arrived to cut him down. Bearing rope scars on his neck that remained throughout his life, Bean left California to take up a less risky life in New Mexico and Texas. For about 16 years, Bean lived a prosperous and relatively legitimate life as a San Antonio businessman. In 1882, he moved to southwest Texas, where he built his famous saloon, the Jersey Lilly, and founded the hamlet of Langtry. Saloon and town alike were named for the famous English actress, Lillie Langtry. Bean had never met Langtry, but he had developed an abiding affection for the beautiful actress after seeing a drawing of her in an illustrated magazine. For the rest of his life, he avidly followed Langtry's career in theatre magazines. Before founding Langtry, Bean had also secured an appointment as a justice of the peace and notary public. He knew little about the law or proper court procedures, but residents appreciated and largely accepted his commonsense verdicts in the sparsely populated country of West Texas. Bean was often deliberately humorous or bizarre in his rulings, once fining a dead man \$40 for carrying a concealed weapon. He threatened one lawyer with hanging for using profane language when the hapless man referred to the "habeas corpus" of his client. Less amusing was Bean's decision to free a man accused of killing a Chinese rail worker on the grounds that Bean knew of no law making it a crime "to kill a Chinaman." By the 1890s, reports of Bean's curmudgeonly rulings had made him nationally famous. Travelers on the train passing through Langtry often made a point of stopping to visit the ramshackle saloon, where a sign proudly proclaimed Bean to be the "Law West of the Pecos." Bean fell ill during a visit to San Antonio. He returned to Langtry, where he died on March 16, 1903. Lillie Langtry, the object of Bean's

devoted adoration, visited the village named in her honor only 10 months after Bean died.

Illegal Aliens

Daily Caller | Jason Hopkins | April 13, 2020

Financial Burden on Taxpayers is nearly \$132B Annually

Many states and the federal government are spending millions in taxpayer dollars on illegal aliens while veterans across the country still face a slew of issues like homelessness and long waits for primary care, a newly released study found. While the federal government will spend roughly \$217 billion on the Department of Veterans Affairs this fiscal year, the net financial burden of illegal aliens on taxpayers annually is nearly \$132 billion, according to an analysis by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR). The study was exclusively provided first to the Daily Caller News Foundation.

"The War on Terrorism has resulted in more veterans who have experienced overseas combat deployments than at any time since the end of World War II," the study said, adding that this has resulted in more veterans than ever before needing services from the U.S. government. "But, due to America's foolhardy immigration policies, our government is now spending more and more money on services for illegal aliens foreigners who have no right to be in the U.S resulting in a squeeze on resources available for the citizens and lawful immigrants who were prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country," the study continued.

FAIR looked at where the majority of homeless veterans lived and reported how much taxpayer funding illegal aliens in those localities received. There were an estimated 37,085 homeless veterans in January 2019, according to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Over a quarter of these homeless veterans lived in California, another 1,585 lived

in Washington, and 1,270 lived in New York. In California, it's not always easy for veterans to obtain quality health care, the study found. Veterans in San Jose waited an average of 50 days before landing an appointment with a primary care VA clinic, and the average wait time in Modesto was 95 days, according to the study. California, however, spends more than \$23 billion on undocumented individuals and their children every year, according to FAIR. In regard to health care, California lawmakers passed legislation in 2019 that sets aside taxpayer-funded health insurance to illegal aliens between the ages of 19 and 25 an initiative that will likely cost \$98 million in its first year. Another state home to many homeless veterans has also chosen to prioritize the undocumented community.

State lawmakers in New York which spends \$7.5 billion on illegal aliens annually allotted \$27 million in college tuition assistance for the children of illegal aliens in April 2019 but didn't add several hundred thousand dollars to an initiative that provides university education assistance to the children of disabled and deceased veterans. "That is perhaps the most egregious example of the way in which flawed immigration policies are putting veterans in competition with illegal aliens," the authors said of New York's educational priorities.

Beyond health care and education, the study also highlighted examples of jurisdictions doling out millions in legal assistance for the undocumented. In Oakland, California, a \$300,000 fund was established in 2018 to help undocumented immigrants fight removal from the country, according to the study. A larger fund was established in Los Angeles, which has so far spent over \$7 million in legal aid to those living unlawfully in the U.S. Baltimore approved \$200,000 in 2018 to support aliens facing deportation, and Montgomery County, Maryland, has allotted \$370,000, according to the study. Meanwhile, FAIR found that more than 6,000 veterans committed suicide in

2017, including 491 veterans in California and another 78 in Maryland. "If states cared more about veterans than illegal aliens, many of those 6,000 Americans may still be with us today," the study stated.

Altogether, FAIR concluded that there were 14.3 million illegal aliens living in the U.S., posing a financial burden of \$132 billion annually for their health care, educational, and other welfare services. In comparison, there are 19.5 million veterans in the U.S., and their needs will cost the country \$217 billion this fiscal year. FAIR concluded that, should the illegal population continue to grow, the cost to meet their needs will surpass those of veterans. "Americans who care about the members of our armed forces should ask, 'Why are we spending billions of dollars catering to illegal aliens when we aren't properly taking care of the men and women who risk life and limb to protect us against all enemies foreign and domestic?'" the authors said.

South China Sea Ops

Navy Ships Enter to Counter Beijing 'Bullying'

NavyTimes | Geoff Ziezulewicz | May 8, 2020

Littoral combat ship Montgomery steams near the drillship West Capella in the South China Sea.

Two U.S. Navy ships sailed into the South China Sea 7 MAY in a show of support for a Malaysian drill ship that's been getting hassled by Chinese vessels as Beijing continues its attempts to claim the resource-rich sea as its own. The littoral combat ship Montgomery and the dry cargo ship Cesar Chavez each steamed near the Malaysia-contracted



West Capella, which has been harassed by Chinese fishing vessels and coast guard ships in recent months, according to the Center for Strategic and International Studies' Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

The West Capella has been conducting exploratory drilling in two oil and gas fields, Malaysian moves that have irked a Chinese government that has increasingly tried to lay claim to the region. Similar disputes have arisen in the past year with neighboring Vietnam as well. Both U.S. ships were already underway in the region at the time of the maneuver.

"We are committed to a rules-based order in the South China Sea and we will continue to champion freedom of the seas and the rule of law," Pacific Fleet commander Adm. John Aquilino said in a statement. "The Chinese Communist Party must end its pattern of bullying Southeast Asians out of offshore oil, gas and fisheries. Millions of people in the region depend on those resources for their livelihood."

The Navy regularly sends ships into the contested waters. The so-called freedom of navigation operations, or FONOPs, are intended as a gray-hulled signal to Beijing that the United States seeks to keep those waters open and international.

"Through continued operational presence in the South China Sea, the U.S. Navy supports transparency, the rule of law, freedom of navigation and overflight, the principles that underpin security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific, so that all nations in the region may benefit," the command said.

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.

The Army is planning a mass recruiting drive this summer

Army Times [Kyle Rempfer](#) May 22, 2020



Army recruits at Fort Sill, in Oklahoma, low crawl in sand during an obstacle course at basic combat training on April 23, 2020. (Army)

The general helming [Army Recruiting Command](#) is preparing a massive virtual hiring event this summer after the Army's 245th birthday on June 14. Like the other military branches, the ground service is fighting the anticipated [dent to manpower](#) after the coronavirus shuttered recruiting stations across the country this spring.

The push will involve “every person” and “every aspect” of the service that Army recruiting commander Maj. Gen. Frank M. Muth can muster, he said during a telephone call on Wednesday.

An intensive event between June 30 and July 2 will tap senior leaders to visit with city councils, nonprofits, educators and other pillars of local communities — a supercharged version of the program that the Army Chief of Public Affairs already runs, which brings Army generals back to their hometowns to engage with civilians able to influence young people.

“We would do the same thing, but it would end up being on Zoom or [Microsoft] Teams,” said Muth. “The secretary is from Chicago, maybe he engages with the Chicago leadership, and the 101st commander goes down to Nashville because he’s right there. And the 82nd commander goes and he Zooms with Raleigh. There’s all these different ways we can use these folks.”

Muth pitched the idea two weeks ago to the Army’s service secretary and chief of staff, calling it Army National Hiring Days. It will be limited in certain areas based on where shelter-in-place orders are still in effect. But Muth intends for it to be a never-before-seen recruiting drive regardless.

“Every person in the Army is involved. Every asset is involved. Everyone is on message,” Muth added. “We are engaging in the ‘Focus 22’ and we’re driving our message for people to either go into the recruiting stations or go to [GoArmy.com](#).”



Army retention rises as economy slumps, but recruiting hasn't seen a boom yet

The general in charge of Army recruiting said the economic downturn doesn't appear to have impacted enlistments — yet.

Focus 22 is in reference to the 22 American cities, like Chicago, Seattle and Los Angeles, with large populations of Generation Z youths who Army leaders say have had minimal exposure to the service as a potential path in life.

Army recruiters were doing fairly well late last year and early this spring in sourcing candidates for service. By March, they had signed up 2,200 more recruits than they had by the same time last year. But the pandemic dampened their efforts as brick-and-mortar stations shuttered and the recruiting enterprise was forced to move completely online.

Right now, the service is about 4,000 contracts short of where it wants be.

"It's more than we were last year, but at the same time, historically, we've had a year where we were behind that much too," said Muth, adding that had his recruiters "not been in a position to virtually recruit," they would have done "about zero" new contracts over the past few months.

The looming economic downturn could also help boost recruitment numbers later this summer. Unemployment has hit record levels in recent months, but economists say there's still uncertainties about how long the slump will last. Bad economies are typically good for military recruiting and retention.



Soldiers at Fort Sill, in Oklahoma, stand in formation while wearing masks and maintaining physical distancing during reception before entering basic combat training May 14, 2020.

Perhaps an early indicator that confidence in the civilian job market is dropping is the fact that Army retention is roughly 15 percent higher than expected, thanks in part to short-term reenlistment contracts, according to E. Casey Wardynski, the Army's assistant secretary for manpower and reserve affairs. Wardynski said this week that he still expects the service to meet its targeted end-strength number of 485,000 soldiers.

The Army National Hiring Days event could also "give a good indication" of how the economy will impact recruiting later in the year, according to Muth.

"I don't know if we've seen the upturn yet of what we'd normally get" during times of high unemployment, said Muth. "What I would tell you is, I think we'll ... have an indication by mid-July, beginning of August if things really start to change."

Muth's intent is to get as many general officers and command sergeants major as he can to participate. As part of an opening salvo on June 14, he's also looking to potentially use the Army Golden Knights parachute team and the Fife and Drum Corps, as well as the Army's legacy divisions.

"That's kicking off on June 14, but between now and then is our shaping operation. We're now starting to message out; we're starting to dominate the digital space," Muth said.

Recent Army advertising campaigns have tried to emphasize a different side of the service, with less focus on combat roles. A commercial released last month, and another this month, focus on the Army's role staffing hospitals and building ad-hoc medical facilities during the coronavirus pandemic.

"Everyone sees us as all armor and infantry and artillery and aviation, which is true, but that's only 15-20 percent of the Army. A larger portion is the tech, and the help, and the engineers and the logistics," Muth added. "People didn't realize that."

2020 Memorial Day

Many thanks to Ralph Remick, Keith Grueneberg and Dave Middleton for weighing in on the insertion of an ad in the Saturday, May 23, 2020 edition of the Grass Valley Union newspaper with the following VVA-535 advertisement. The Union published this ad free of charges, and for that courtesy we extend thanks.

We also appreciate Dick Corn, if present, and others who participated in the VFW Color Guard's presentation of wreaths and a 21-volley salute at Pioneer Park in Nevada City and Memorial Park in Grass Valley.

Answering an appeal for further community service, Ralph Remick voluntarily played Taps four separate times at various Memorial Day events around Grass Valley and Nevada City. Thank you, Ralph, for stepping up to the call.



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 **\$10 each**, will be available at the December VVA-535 meeting/potluck. A total of one hundred tickets will be available.

The drawing for this air rifle was to have been conducted on **April 6, 2020**.

DRAWING HAS BEEN DEFERRED DUE TO COVID-19 until a drawing can be conducted in the presence of a cadre of observers to ensure transparency.



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

May

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	8	9
10 Mother's Day	11	12	13 NVAR Departs	14	15 Peace Officers Memorial Day	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20	21	22 Maritime Day	23
24	25 Memorial Day (observed)	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNE

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 U.S. Coast Guard Established 1790 VVA-535	5	6 D-Day Allied Invasion of Europe 1944
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Flag Day Army Birthday 1775	15	16	17	18	19	20 First Day of Summer
21 Father's Day	22 Pledge of Allegiance Recognized by Congress 1942	23	24	25 Beginning of the Korean War 1950	26	27
28	29 First U.S. Ground Forces Arrived in Korea 1950	30				

JULY

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 VVA-535 U.S. Army Air Corps Established 1926	3	4 Independence Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23 Beginning of the Korean War 1950	24	25
26	27 National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day. Korean War ended 1953	28	29	30	31	

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