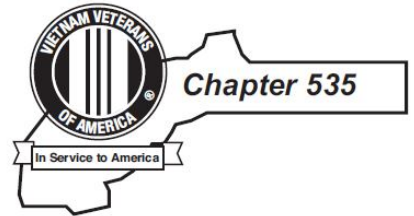




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 30 Issue 7

July 2020

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

By all accounts our June 4 meeting was a success, at least to the degree that meeting online is a means to an end. At this moment, it's likely we'll Zoom it again in July unless the county opens the Veterans Memorial Hall for public use. Thanks to all who joined via Zoom on June 4, 2020.

Our last two meetings have seen Board and General Membership meetings melded together. This expedites our ability to walk through a meeting in a timely manner and I expect that will be for ongoing format as long as we are Zoomin'. Many thanks are extended to Ralph Remick for coordinating our meetings via Zoom.

With cancellation of the Nevada County Fair, we are spared coordinating booth sitters to staff our outreach at the fair. Such action negates filling 30 staffing slots, which by deduction would seem to suggest we could utilize some of that time for a special meeting to brainstorm and actually plan some kind of fundraiser. Fundraisers inherently mean camaraderie and teamwork. Are you up for it? I will look for a core group to collaborate for a couple of hours on this matter. Do think about volunteering to lend a hand with planning.

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, Santana or perhaps a repeat of the Rhythm Riders. 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.

As we approach the Independence Day holiday, pause and reflect on what this day means to you. Recall that this federal holiday commemorates the signing of the Declaration of Independence of the United States, on July 4, 1776. As it was, 244 years ago, the Continental congress declared that our 13 American colonies were no longer subject to, or subordinate to, King George III, the monarch of Britain.

Have a safe, sane holiday.

Bart Ruud

Watch for an Announcement for a possible July 2, 2020 ZOOM meeting.

- Pg. 13 Rifle Toting Veteran
- Pg. 15 Air Rifle Fundraiser
- Pg. 16 VVA Application
- Pg. 17 Calendars

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 July 2, 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.

Table of Contents

- Pg. 1 President’s Message
- Pg. 2 Mission Statement
- Pg. 2 Guest Speaker
- Pg. 2 Table of Contents
- Pg. 2, 3 Upcoming events
 - Officers, Directors & Committee
 - Chairs
- Pg. 3 May Board Meeting Aftermath
- Pg. 3 Benefits of Service Dogs
- Pg. 5 Dehydration
- Pg. 6 Russian Mig Shootdown
- Pg. 8 Amblyopia
- Pg. 10 Writing Your Story
- Pg. 12 A Man Named Harold

Upcoming Events - *Mostly cancelled*

- NCCVC Meeting – July 2, 2020 ??
- General Meeting – July 2, 2020 online via Zoom
- Director’s Meeting – July 2, 2020
- July 2, 2020 – Drawing for air rifle (???????)
- CSC Meeting – Visalia – April 24-26, 2020
- July 2, 2020 - Installation of Officers & Directors (????)
- 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

- President Bart Ruud
bruud@ssctv.net
(H) 530-823-1368 (C) 530-305-0493
- Vice-President
Enrique Vasquez530-575-4416
- Treasurer
Ralph Remick559-7716
- Secretary
Dave Middleton 530-205-9375

Directors

- Dave Chaix269-1431
- Dick Corn 277-8856
- Dan Davis 530-272-4110
- Keith Grueneberg916-425-1121
- Ray James 478-1126
- Dave Johnson 887-8297
- Dave Middleton 205-9375
- Ric Sheridan 274-1413
- Mike Underwood 925-759-2924
- Mel Williams1-707-391-7692
- 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 open
Nominations Ralph Remick
Veterans Assistance Bart Ruud
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

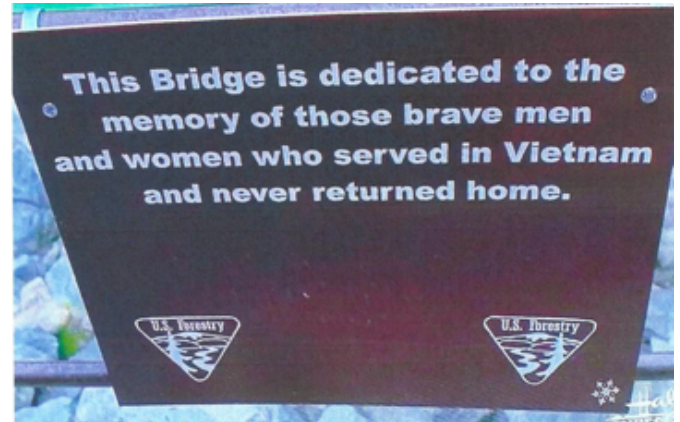
Derrick Oliveira ... 916-780-3290.
1000 Sunset Blvd, Suite 115, Rocklin, CA
Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00
p.m.

Matters of interest as outlined at Board Meeting of June 4, 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 Board voted to contribute %\$50 to a Veteran in need so that he might obtain his birth certificate.

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 is CANCELLED

COVID-19 risks have resulted in cancellation of the fair. The Junior Livestock and Ag Mechanics auctions will be held online. More detailed information will be shared as it becomes known. So far VVA-535 has 13 commitments at \$50 to fund the purchase of an animal at the auction..
Thank you to all who have opted to participate.

The Benefits of Service Dogs

Michael French. R Newswire. September 20, 2019

Supporting veterans when they return home

MISSION, Kan., Sept. 20, 2019 /PRNewswire/ -- (Family Features) Service dogs offer countless benefits to help combat symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but they can also be instrumental in rebuilding and uniting families after veterans come home from serving their country.

unconditional love



According to the National Institutes of Health, up to 30% of American military veterans experience PTSD after returning home from combat. Yet only about 40% of those individuals ever seek help.

Service animals are recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act. The designation is limited to dogs who are trained to do work or perform tasks for a person with a disability. In some cases, these tasks are highly physical in nature, such as guiding a person who is blind or pulling a wheelchair. Other roles service dogs play may be less immediately visible, such as providing a calming presence to a person with PTSD who is experiencing an anxiety attack.

More Than a Companion

Service dogs are highly trained to assist military veterans in achieving better quality of life. Veterans who utilize service dogs report lower levels of depression and anxiety, fewer hospitalizations and a reduction in medical and psychiatric costs, among other benefits. Beyond what these canines help prevent, consider these examples of what they empower:

- Ease loneliness and stress
- Reduce social anxiety
- Decrease reliance on prescription drugs
- Help veterans return to work or attend college
- Strengthen personal relationships
- Provide security, protection and

Up to the Task Just like the members of the armed forces they help, service dogs are highly trained professionals with an important job to do, including tasks such as these:

- Turn on lights and open doors before a veteran enters his or her home
- Nudging, pawing or licking to interrupt flashbacks or nightmares
- Utilizing body weight as a grounding mechanism to reduce anxiety or alleviate panic
- Retrieve bags with medications or a list of numbers to call during a medical emergency
- Provide security and reduce hypervigilance in public places
- Pick up dropped items and assist with mobility and ambulation

To see [video stories](#) of how service dogs have impacted the lives of veterans and their families, visit DogChow.com/service. In addition, for every purchase of specially marked bags of Dog Chow Complete Adult through Nov. 1, the brand will donate 5 cents, up to \$100,000, to the Tony La Russa Animal Rescue Foundation Pets and Vets program, which matches veterans experiencing PTSD and other challenges with service dogs, free of charge.

When You See a Service Dog

Service dogs are often large breeds that stand out in a crowd, and their calm demeanor can make it seem perfectly appropriate to approach and pet them. However, it's important to remember that service dogs are at work and distractions can prevent them from providing the service their owners need.

The International Association of Canine Professionals offers these etiquette tips for interacting with service dogs and their owners:

- Remember that a service dog is there as support for a person with a physical or

health disability, which may or may not be readily apparent.

- Respect that health conditions are private matters most people prefer not to discuss with strangers.
- Just as you would not stare or point at a person in a wheelchair, avoid calling unnecessary attention to a person with a service dog.
- If you must interact, always focus your attention on the handler, not the dog, so the dog can stay focused on its job. Avoid whistling, clapping or otherwise distracting the dog.
- Teach children not to approach service dogs. Although most are trained to avoid aggression, a perceived threat to their handlers could result in warning growls or barks that may scare a child.

Dehydration

Senior's Overlooked Health Risk

MoneyTalksNews & <https://www.brita.com> | Chris Kissell
| June 8, 2020

Most of us worry about illness as we grow older. Cancer, diabetes and heart disease all become concerns in our senior years. But one relatively common and potentially fatal condition — dehydration — often flies under the radar. The human body is, after all, comprised of 60% water, so water is clearly critical to a healthy and productive lifestyle. Dehydration occurs when your body loses more fluid than it is taking in. The lack of fluid can prevent the body from functioning normally. When this happens, you may experience symptoms such as lack of urination, fainting and confusion. Rapid heartbeat and rapid breathing also may occur. In severe dehydration, the body can go into shock. For some people, dehydration is fatal.

Dehydration can occur at any age. But seniors are particularly susceptible. Most people's sense

of thirst diminishes with aging, so older adults may not drink enough fluids. The danger increases for seniors who have medical conditions — such as diabetes, cystic fibrosis or kidney problems — that cause them to urinate more often or sweat more profusely. Older adults also have less fluid in their bodies than younger people. Fortunately, the solution to dehydration is a simple one: Drink more fluids. This is especially important when you exercise or spend time outdoors in hot weather. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) recommends taking the following steps to prevent dehydration:

- Drink more water every day. Aim to drink 64 oz. of water a day on days without heavy exercise or sun/heat exposure. According to Harvard Medical School, most healthy people should drink between four to six cups of water daily, however, this amount may vary based on the individual. Fluid needs differ from person to person, so ask your physician how much water you should drink daily.
- Drink extra fluids after exercising or spending time outside on a hot day. The NIH says sports drinks can help restore minerals you may lose through sweating. Drinking additional fluids also makes sense when you are sick.
- Skip drinks with sugar and caffeine. Sugary drinks are especially bad for people with diabetes, and caffeinated drinks have a slight diuretic effect, meaning they lead to more frequent urination.
- Many foods — including celery, cucumbers, watermelon and strawberries — also have a hydrating effect when you eat them.

It's important to stay hydrated on a regular basis and not to wait until you are thirsty. By the time a senior is becoming thirsty, he or she already is becoming dehydrated, according to the Cleveland Clinic. Dehydration is a

common source of hospitalization among seniors. The Mayo Clinic suggests seeing a doctor if you or a loved one experience the following:

- Diarrhea for 24 hours or more
- Irritability or disorientation
- Sleepiness and a lower level of activity than normal
- An inability to keep down fluids
- Bloody or black stool
- Infrequent urination and dark colored urine

Following are a few ways to enhance your fluid intake:

Drink from a refillable and reusable water bottle so you can keep track of the amount you are drinking when at work, traveling, or even at home. Brita® offers a variety of reusable filter water bottles that are not only designed to help you hydrate throughout your busy day, but also filter out the impurities found in household tap water.

When water tastes good you'll drink more of it. Check out these fun recipes to enhance the taste of your water. o Eat your water! Apples, cantaloupe, watermelon, cherry tomatoes, oranges, celery and carrots all help you stay hydrated.

- Start each day with a glass of water (no ice). Drink it before you have coffee, tea or juice. It will help replace fluids lost overnight and get your hydration efforts off to a good start.
- Establish regular water breaks during your work day (e.g., before or after each meeting).
- Cook with high-quality sea salt. Unrefined sea salt is rich in trace minerals which aid cell health and hydration.
- Don't overdo it! Although unusual, it is possible to become ill by drinking too much water or other fluids.
- the nation."
-

Russian MiG Shootdown 50 Years a Secret

San Diego Union-Tribune | & War is Boring | Diane Bell |
May 24 & 28, 2020

E. Royce Williams is being called a forgotten hero in a forgotten war — a military pilot whose heroic action was never fully recognized because his mission was filed away as top secret. Now members of American Legion Post 416 in Encinitas, CA want to shed light on the retired Navy captain's distinguished service. They are campaigning to get him the Medal of Honor while he is still among us. Williams, now 95, spent 37 years forging a highly regarded career in the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1980. But it was one dog fight — about 35 minutes long, off the coast of North Korea on Nov. 18, 1952 — that made him a hero.

To his friends, family, and others he served with, Williams was known as a decorated fighter pilot, who led a successful career in the Navy, where he flew more than 220 missions in Korea and Vietnam. However, even his wife wasn't aware of what he'd done on Nov. 18, 1952. That morning, Williams was continuing what had become a daily routine for him as a young Navy pilot stationed onboard the USS Oriskany off the coast of Korea during the Korean War; flying his F9F-5 Panther fighter aircraft over the skies of North Korea to attack targets in support of operations on the ground. On this particular morning, the only difference was the targets were further north than usual — close to the country's border with the Soviet Union.

Despite a blizzard sweeping in with heavy winds and snow, Williams said the mission began successfully, with minor amounts of anti-aircraft fire. However, they hadn't counted on the nearby Soviet base to notice their presence. Within minutes, the Soviets went to general quarters and scrambled seven MiG-15 fighters to react to the situation. "Our combat information center notified us that there were inbound bogeys," said Williams. "I spotted seven contrails coming from the north, and identified

them as MiGs.” Once the MiGs passed over Williams and his wingman, they circled around and split into two groups – four to the right, and three to the left. Williams lost sight of the aircraft, and was ordered to move closer to the strike group to protect it in case the Soviets attacked.

That’s when they dropped back in on Williams. “They dropped back in and started shooting,” said Williams. “Since they started the fight, I shot back.” Williams quickly locked on to one of the aircraft and hit it, watching as it caught fire and billowed smoke on its way down. His wingman followed it, leaving Williams alone with the remaining MiGs. In another intense moment, Williams was able to dodge the weapons fire and shoot back, downing another MiG, leaving two of the original four in the fight. “I’m on the defensive – I’m not really declaring war on them,” said Williams. As he kept maneuvering to avoid being hit by the hundreds of bullets being fired, one of the Soviet pilots made a grave mistake, putting his aircraft directly in Williams’ sights. He took the opportunity and opened fire, downing a third MiG.

On another turn, Williams felt his aircraft shake violently as it was hit by a MiG’s 37mm cannon – ripping holes in his fuselage and exploding, leaving his aircraft severely damaged. As he struggles to stay in the fight, something else goes wrong – Williams runs out of ammunition. The remaining MiGs followed Williams as he turned his damaged aircraft into the storm, using the high winds to shield himself from the incoming rounds as he headed full speed back towards his task force. “I could see the bullets coming over me, and under me,” said Williams. As he approached the task force, the remaining MiGs quickly retreated, assuming Williams probably wouldn’t make it back to the Oriskany due to severe damage regardless. Williams knew if he ejected, he’d end up freezing to death before he could be rescued, and his communications were now severed due to the

damage done to his aircraft. He had no choice but to attempt a landing.

To make matters worse, the task force had gone to general quarters with orders to open fire on any unidentified aircraft; since Williams couldn’t communicate with them, they opened fire on his aircraft – luckily stopping once he got close enough to identify. His Panther was unable to slow down or it would stall, which forced Williams to make his landing at 200 miles per hour. Somehow, he was still able to catch a wire on the flight deck and emerged unscathed. The next day, the crew inspected his Panther and found 263 holes in the aircraft. “You’d be surprised, it was almost like a training mission,” said Williams, recounting the story. “I was pretty stable.”

Soon after returning, Williams was ordered into a meeting with his Admiral and a representative of a brand new government agency – the National Security Agency. The NSA had been testing new communications equipment that was intercepting radio chatter from the Soviets, and they knew if any details from Williams’ mission went public, the Soviets would know the United States could hear their communications. Therefore, Williams was ordered not to tell a soul about his mission – it was classified as Top Secret. For the rest of his accomplished Navy career, and for decades after retirement, the details of Williams’ dogfight with Soviet MiGs over North Korea remained a secret. When he was finally contacted by the government and told his mission was declassified, the first person Williams said he told was his wife.

Peter-Rolf Ohnstad Jr., with American Legion Post 416, has been helping with the MOH quest. He says the Medal of Honor resolution was approved by the regional American Legion district, "enthusiastically endorsed" by the state American Legion and "overwhelmingly approved" at the group's national convention in 2017. "Williams has never sought this recognition," Ohnstad notes. "He is the quietest,

humblest person I've ever met." A replica of Williams' Panther sits on the USS Midway Museum flight deck bearing four MiG kill symbols. Williams is taking the quest for a Medal of Honor in stride. It's in his past. He says he doesn't expect any additional recognition. What was currently on his mind is climbing aboard a World War II plane on Memorial Day in Riverside and flying with one of 18 vintage warbird pilots over Southern California to pay tribute to veterans of all conflicts.

Amblyopia Lazy Eye in Children

www.informedhealth.org | June 4, 2020

Normally, our brain processes the images sent by both eyes equally. This is needed for the best possible vision. In some children, though, one eye is favored by the brain because it provides a sharper image. The brain then ignores the images from the other eye. As a result, the child's vision doesn't develop properly because the information from the weaker eye is no longer used. This is known as amblyopia, or "lazy eye."

Symptoms & Causes

If your child has a squint or trouble recognizing things, it could be a sign of lazy eye. They may, for instance, have to hold toys or other objects very close to their eye to see them properly, or always turn their head to one side when looking at things. Lazy eye (Amblyopia) develops when the two eyes keep sending such different images to the brain that the brain can't merge them into one. The most common cause of this is a squint (strabismus). If a child has a squint, one eye will look straight ahead while the other looks up, down or to the side, so it is taking in a completely different image. In an effort to avoid seeing double, the brain often blocks out the images from the eye that doesn't see as well, and relies on just one eye. About 60 to 70% of children who have a squint have a lazy eye

because of this, compared to only 2% of children who don't have a squint.

Refractive errors are another common cause of amblyopia. They make the image that appears on the retina of the eye blurry. There are three different kinds of refractive error:

Illustration: Refractive errors in nearsightedness and farsightedness

- *Nearsightedness* (shortsightedness or myopia): The eye can only focus clearly on objects that are close by. When looking into the distance, though, the lens can't bend the incoming light in a way that results in a clear image on the retina. This might happen if, for instance, the eyeball is a little too long.
- *Farsightedness* (hyperopia): The eye can only focus clearly on objects that are far away. When looking at things close-up (e.g. when reading) the lens can't bend the incoming light enough, for instance because the eyeball is too short.
- *Astigmatism* (not shown in the illustration): Everything appears blurry because the lens or the cornea is deformed.

Refractive errors are more likely to lead to a lazy eye if each eye is affected in different ways (i.e. one eye is farsighted or nearsighted and the other one is normal.'or'one eye is farsighted and the other is nearsighted. Lazy eye is only rarely caused by another eye disorder. Eye disorders that can cause lazy eye include a cloudy lens at birth (congenital cataracts), a droopy eyelid (called ptosis) or a missing eye lens (aphakia) at birth.

Prevalence & Diagnosis

Lazy eye is a common vision problem in children and young adults. It is estimated that about 3% of children and young people in Europe are affected overall, and up to 6% of preschool children. Lazy eye is equally common

in boys and girls. It usually develops before the age of 7. There are several tests that eye doctors can do to find out whether a child has amblyopia: A physical examination can help to see whether the poor eyesight is caused by something else, like a cataract. The following eye tests are suitable for diagnosing lazy eye:

- *Eye charts:* Doctors can use eye charts to find out how well a child can see. The child is asked to read things like numbers or letters from an eye chart or screen. Eye charts for younger children may have simple symbols on them – like a circle, a house or an apple – and the child is asked to say what they can see. Or there might be symbols that look like the letter C (a broken ring) or E. The symbols are arranged in rows on the charts and face in different directions. Then the child is asked to say where the “gap” in the C-shaped ring is, for example. Or they are given a kind of E-shaped plastic fork and are asked to hold it in the same direction as the symbol they are looking at.

Illustration: Different types of eye charts

- *Retinoscopy:* Toddlers and babies can have an examination using an instrument known as a retinoscope. Here the child doesn't have to recognize anything or say what they can see. Instead, the doctor shines a light into the child's eye and observes how the light reflects off the retina at the back of the eye. By holding various corrective lenses in front of the light beam, the doctor can find out exactly how farsighted or nearsighted the child is in that eye. Depending on the equipment used, eye drops are typically given to dilate (open) the pupils before examining the eyes with a retinoscope. The eye drops occasionally cause skin irritations or burning in the eyes.

- *Covering one eye:* A slight squint isn't always visible to the naked eye. To tell whether a child has a squint, the position of their eyes can be measured – for instance, with a test in which the eyes are covered one at a time. The doctor then checks whether the other eye moves.

Screening & Treatment

Specialists believe that eyesight mainly develops in the first five years of life. They think that lazy eye should be detected and treated as early as possible in order to avoid lifelong vision problems, as well as problems at school and in the child's social development. For this reason, an extra screening test was introduced in Germany for all preschool children who have statutory health insurance. This test is called “U7a” in the German health care system, and its main aim is to detect vision problems. It is offered in addition to the existing screening examinations for children in Germany (the so-called “U-Untersuchungen”), and is aimed at toddlers who are nearly three years old (between 33 and 35 months old).

Lazy eye can't be fixed instantly by putting on glasses that correct the problem. But there are a number of different ways to improve vision in the weaker eye – for instance with glasses, an eye patch on the stronger eye, or with eye drops. Treatment might only be needed for a few weeks. Although it can sometimes take quite a long time to get good results, lazy eye can be treated successfully in most children. If another eye problem (e.g. a droopy eyelid) is causing the lazy eye, that problem is treated first.

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.

Military base namesakes include slaveholders, failed generals

Dan Sewell, The Associated Press



This Jan. 4, 2020, file photo shows a sign at Fort Bragg, N.C. (Chris Seward/AP)

CINCINNATI — As much as President Donald Trump enjoys talking about winning and winners, the Confederate generals he vows will not have their names removed from U.S. military bases were not only on the losing side of rebellion against the United States, some weren't even considered good generals.

The 10 generals include some who made costly battlefield blunders; others mistreated captured Union soldiers, some were slaveholders and one was linked to the Ku Klux Klan after the war.

Trump has dug in his heels on renaming, saying the bases that trained and deployed heroes for two World Wars "have become part of a Great American Heritage, a history of Winning, Victory, and Freedom."

However, there is growing support in the GOP-led Senate to remove the Confederate names and from former U.S. military leaders such as retired 4-star general David Petraeus, who wrote last week that the bases are named "for

those who took up arms against the United States, and for the right to enslave others.”



Demonstrators walk into Lee park surrounded by counter demonstrators in Charlottesville, Va., Saturday, Aug. 12, 2017. (Steve Helber/AP)”

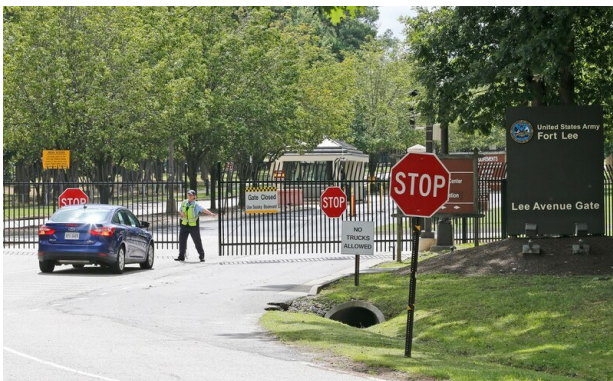
Army leaders to make decision on Confederate flags ‘soon’

By Kyle Rempfer

Army leaders will make an announcement “soon,” a defense official said on background.

Long revered in much of the South, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee has often been a flashpoint for opponents of honoring Confederates who triggered a war that killed hundreds of thousands of Americans on U.S. soil in some of the bloodiest fighting ever seen.

Trump paid tribute to Lee as “a great general” in an impromptu Civil War history lesson during a 2018 rally in Lebanon, Ohio, saying Abraham Lincoln developed “a phobia” about trying to defeat Lee before turning to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant of nearby Point Pleasant, Ohio, for success.



This Aug. 25, 2014, file photo shows security guards opening a gate for motorist at the visitor entrance to Fort Lee, Va. (Steve Helber/AP)

While Lee’s early victories put the Union Army on the defensive, his failure at the decisive battle of Gettysburg in 1863, capped by the disastrous Pickett’s Charge into Union fire, was the turning point of the war.

Lee has been portrayed in the South as a gentlemanly hero, but he had been a slaveholder in his native Virginia and at least one of his former slaves testified that Lee had him whipped brutally.

></div>

Gen. Braxton Bragg, namesake for the famed North Carolina Army base, was also a slaveholder and an unpopular general who resigned his command after defeat in 1863 at Chattanooga.



Gen. John Bell Hood, namesake of the Texas base, and his other commanders slept at Spring Hill, Tennessee, after a long day of mostly successful fighting in 1864, allowing Union soldiers to get away on a road so close to the sleeping Confederates that some reportedly used the rebels’ campfires to light their pipes. He followed with defeat at Franklin, Tennessee, and the late historian Shelby Foote wrote in “The Civil War: A Narrative” that “Hood had wrecked his army, top to bottom.”



U.S. Army Infantry soldiers-in-training conduct a 'Cross Rifles' ceremony at Fort Benning, Ga. The base is one of many Army installations named after Confederate leaders. (Patrick A. Albright/Maneuver Center Photographer)"

No one knew they were fighting specifically for venerable US military installations until today

By J. D. Simkins

We live in the upside-down.

Gen. A.P. Hill, namesake of a base in Virginia, was killed in battle in 1865 but is remembered for actions after the Battle of the Crater in 1864, where some rebel troops were enraged by the North's use of black units. Some soldiers wrote letters describing rebels executing defenseless black soldiers. Historians say Hill ordered white Union prisoners to be mixed with black soldiers to be paraded through the city of Petersburg to hear racist jeers from the townspeople.

Virginia base namesake Gen. George Pickett, the big loser at Gettysburg, had 22 Union soldiers executed and later fled to Canada. Gen. John Brown Gordon, an effective commander, became governor of Georgia after the war but was suspected of being a Klan leader in the state.



This Nov. 5, 2009, file photo shows the entrance to Fort Hood Army Base in Fort Hood, Texas, near Killeen, Texas. (Jack Plunkett/AP)

Some scholars of the South, such as history professor Ted Ownby, say it's not clear how renaming the bases would play politically. He said people in the communities around the bases might take offense, but that in today's South, there's not as much fascination or identification with Confederate leaders as in older generations.

"What Southern means and who Southerners are has expanded to be much more ... that being Southern isn't rooted in support or respect for the Confederacy," said Ownby, of the Center for the Study of Southern Culture, at the University of Mississippi.

A Man named Harold; and a president named Barack
by John Duck
ducksdeluxe15@gmail.com

Special to L. Neil Smith's *The Libertarian Enterprise*

Number 1,052. December 22, 2019

This summarizes how most liberals view the US military:

Harold was a bright child. He grew up in America. He went to school and had a bright future ahead of him. Harold was full of life but was cut short in a violent moment. While few people had ever heard of Harold before his death, many did afterward And in death, something very shocking happened. What was

so shocking, especially when it is compared to the death of someone else recently in the news?

Harold was Harold Greene, Major General, United States Army. On Aug. 5, 2014, Major General Greene was killed by a Taliban terrorist.

He was returned to America with full military honors.

It has been a tradition that the president attends the funeral of General and Flag officers killed in the line of duty.

Richard Nixon attended the funeral of a Major General Casey killed in Vietnam and George W. Bush attended the funeral of Lieutenant General Timothy Maude, who was killed in the 9/11 attacks.

While Major General Greene was buried, Barack Obama was golfing. The Vice President wasn't there either. Neither was the Secretary of Defense.

Flags were not even lowered half-mast.

Four days after Harold Greene gave his life for America, Michael Brown was killed in Ferguson, Missouri.

Brown was at best a young thug. In the minutes before his death, he committed a robbery at a local convenience store. According to other reports, Brown struck Officer Darren Wilson and shattered his orbital bone. Obama sent a three-person delegation to Brown's funeral!

Neither Obama nor Biden would attend the funeral of the highest-ranking military officer killed in the line of duty since 9/11, yet he sent a delegation to the funeral of a thug.

When Margaret Thatcher, one of America's staunchest allies and Ronald Reagan's partner in bringing down Soviet communism died, Obama sent only a small low-level delegation to her funeral. The snub was not missed by the British.

When Chris Kyle, the most lethal American sniper in history was murdered, there was no expression of sympathy from the White House.

But when Whitney Houston died from drug overdose, the Obama/Biden administration ordered all flags be flown at half-mast.

There was no White House delegation at the funeral of an American hero. American heroes die and Obama goes to the golf course.

A thug dies and he gets a White House delegation.

No wonder most "REAL" Americans hold Obama in such contempt, especially members of our Military.

And Biden is now expounding on how great the Obama/Biden administration was. Stand up for the "Harolds" in America.

Keep this going, okay?

Rifle-toting vet arrested after dressing up, trying to join National Guard crowd control formation

J.D. Simkins Observation Post June 3, 2020



Gregory Wong, 31, seen here cosplaying a World War II soldier, was arrested Tuesday for attempting to join a formation of National Guard troops while armed and in uniform. (Spartan117GW)

A rifle-toting veteran who once spent time in the National Guard was arrested Tuesday morning in Los Angeles after he reportedly dressed up in a uniform resembling those worn by California National Guard troops and attempted to fall into formation during the city's anti-racism demonstrations.

Gregory Wong, 31, allegedly arrived equipped with multiple weapons after taking an Uber to the scene of the protests that have surged in the wake of the murder of George Floyd, CBS Los Angeles reported.

Once downtown, Wong reportedly joined a formation of guardsmen who had recently arrived to monitor select sites and aggressive crowd behavior — part of a 4,500-person force mobilized throughout California by Gov. Gavin Newsom, the report said.

But Wong's time in formation didn't last, as puzzled troops began to question the authenticity of the unfamiliar service member in the mismatching uniform.



Members of California National Guard stand guard outside the City Hall, Sunday, May 31, 2020, in Los Angeles. (Ringo H.W. Chiu/AP)

The skeptical troops subsequently alerted officers from the Los Angeles Police Department, the report said, who took Wong into custody at approximately 1:30 a.m. Tuesday.

According to the report, police classified Wong's

M-4 rifle as a "ghost gun" — or, a custom-built weapon that contains no serial number. The veteran was also armed with a pistol, the report said.

For brandishing the rifle Wong was charged with the transportation of an assault weapon, LAPD officer Drake Madison told CBS.

Madison added that Wong claimed to have come to the area only to provide security for a friend's business.

"While investigators are still looking into the incident, at this time it does not appear that Mr. Wong intended to harm anyone," Madison said.

The veteran is currently being held on \$50,000 bond.

A search of Wong's recent activity, meanwhile, reveals a foray into numerous endeavors under his personal brand, Spartan117GW, under which Wong claims to "currently manage social media for several companies and the fan club Jurassic Park Motorpool," according to his bio on the brand website.

"Recently I also picked up World War 2 reenacting, cosplay, and background acting when I have free time. ... Lately I have been fortunate to provide military technical consulting in the film and TV world helping make projects more realistic and fun for military audiences (sic)."

Twitter and Facebook accounts for Spartan117GW appear to have been disabled since Wong's arrest.

Cosplay (コスプレ, kosupure), a portmanteau of the words costume play, is a performance art in which participants called cosplayers wear costumes and fashion accessories to represent a specific character.

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

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 VVA CSC Convention	31 VVA CSC Convention	

August

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 VVA CSC Convention
2 VVA CSC Convention	3	4 Coast Guard Birthday 1790	5	6 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting Hiroshima 1945 ending WW II	7 Purple Heart Day	8
9 Nagasaki 1945	10	11	12 Nevada County Fair	13 Nevada County Fair	14 Nevada County Fair Japan surrendered 1945	15 Nevada County Fair Allied invasion of southern France 1944
16 Nevada County Fair	17	18	19	20	21	22
2	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					