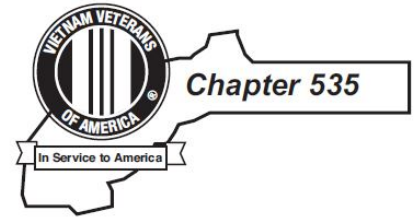




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



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Volume 30 Issue 9

September 2020

**VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
September 2020**

At the conclusion of our August 2020 Zoom meeting, our VVA-535 Board discussed and decided we could opt for a daytime meeting in a local park when it came time for our September meeting. It was exciting to look forward to a face-to-face meeting, albeit with appropriate cautions, including social distancing. This was to be a hybrid meeting with local attendees joining the park gathering and others joining from afar via Zoom technology.

Alas, an international service club, to which I belong – Rotary International – has advised against holding gatherings that thwart State and local advisories regarding Covid-19. The issues are risk and liability, and those who would stage a gathering could be held liable if someone fell ill with the coronavirus when they might have been exposed and infected at such meetings. Rotary International insurance will not cover the liability incurred.

I checked with Dick Southern, VVA Region 9 Director, and have been informed VVA National, similarly, will not cover liability for transmittable disease. One must adhere to State and County Health Department policies to avoid potential lawsuits filed by anyone who might

become ill with the coronavirus. Policies have been in a state of flux since March 2020 but currently the risk appears too great to hold an in-person meeting. Thank you for your understanding and appreciation of our effort to put no one at risk. Reluctantly but in a positive vein, Chapter 535, at this moment in time, will hold a Zoom meeting on September 3, 2020 at 1730 hours. Please join us. Connectivity details will be sent prior to the meeting.

Bart Ruud

**Watch for an Announcement for a possible
September 3, 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 August 6, 2020

Bart Ruud will share an overview of his 1971-72 deployment as a 17B40 NCOIC in I-Corp, 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 – Sept. 3, 2020 ??
General Meeting – Sept. 3, 2020 online via Zoom
Director's Meeting – Sept. 3, 2020
Sept. 3, 2020 – Drawing for air rifle (???????)
Nevada County All Veterans Stand Down –
October 16-17, 2020 ??
CSC Meeting – Visalia Oct. 23-25, 2020

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Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
Membership Affairs Ric Sheridan
Newsletter Interim editor Bart Ruud
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Veterans Assistance Bart Ruud
NCCVC Mike Underwood
Speakers Bureau Tom Woollard
Web Master Ralph Remick
Quartermaster Dick Corn
Facebook Master Mike Laborico
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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 Zoom Meeting of August 6, 2020

It has been learned that the county will utilize the Veterans Memorial Hall at least through August 31 as a Covid-19 testing site. The building is closed to public use.

Membership Chair Ric Sheridan reported the VVA-535 roster shows 87 Regular members and 5 Associate members, perhaps the greatest membership count ever.

The Board collectively gave approval for a September meeting to be held at 10:00 a.m. in Condon Park, Grass Valley. **NOTE: Because of recently learned concerns regarding organizational liability for risk of the spread of communicable disease (Covid-19), this is not likely .**

The Board gave consensus to moving forward with the prospect of supporting the online Nevada County Fair online Junior Livestock Auction as funded from voluntary donations.

Our VVA-535 project for installation of a plaque recognizing Vietnam War veterans at the Hwy. 49 bridge over the S. Yuba River remains as a work in progress because of a communication breakdown. State Parks administrators need to weigh in. Assemblywoman Megan Dahle, 1st State Assembly District, has been contacted for assistance.



Nevada County Fair Junior Livestock Auction

Our Treasurer, Ralph Remick, informed me prior to the August 13-15 online auction that VVA 535 received \$1,500 in contributions offered in support of the livestock auction that was set up as a result of cancellation of the 2020 Nevada County Fair.

While the auction incorporated both livestock and agricultural mechanics entries, VVA 535 only participated in the livestock sector. A total of 24 “add-on” donations were made, 18 at \$75 each and 6 additional at \$25 each. This spread the wealth among many students and entailed recognition of Supreme Grand Champions, Reserve Grand Champions and Champion beef, swine, lambs and goats.

Thank you to each of you among our membership who voluntarily donated to the auction fund. / Bart Ruud

First Harold Graves Jr. Memorial Scholarship Awarded

Local Nevada Union High School graduate Jonny Patterson was selected as the first recipient of this prestigious scholarship by a review committee that found high satisfaction with what was learned from evaluation of the several submitted scholarship applications.

Recently, **Patricia Graves** and Bart Ruud asked Jonny to join them for a patio lunch so that the \$1,000 award could be passed along in person. We are pleased to inform our membership that both Patricia and I became convinced that our committee decision to award Jonny this scholarship was a very good decision. While we have hoped Jonny could attend a VVA-535 meeting to accept the award, we all know that we’ve been relegated to Zoom meetings for months. Patricia and I share that Jonny was grateful for the recognition and for the award. Jonny anticipates his delayed enlistment in the U.S. Marine Corps to come to fruition sometime in the next few weeks. His expectation is that he

will be trained in aviation mechanics and he foresees furthering that endeavor when his enlistment comes to an end. /BR

VJ Day 15 August 1945 | The Rest of the Story

Source: Frontlines of Freedom Newsletter | 14 Aug 2020

That is the day Japan surrendered and WWII ended (VJ=Victory over Japan). Here's an interesting piece of history about the actual surrender that took place in Tokyo Bay on the battleship USS Missouri.

Why did the US choose a US Navy Iowa-class battleship as the location for Japan's surrender in World War 2 even though they were in Tokyo Bay and could have used a building on land? Pure symbolism. Nothing says "you're utterly defeated" than having to board the enemy's massive battleship in the waters of your own capital city. A naval vessel is considered sovereign territory for the purposes of accepting a surrender. You just don't get that if you borrow a ceremonial space from the host country. In addition, the Navy originally wanted the USS South Dakota to be the surrender site. It was President Truman who changed it to USS Missouri, Missouri being Truman's home state. The Japanese delegation had to travel across water to the Missouri, which sat at the center of a huge US fleet. It's a bit like those movie scenes where someone enters a big-wig's office, and the big-wig sits silhouetted at the end of a long room, behind a massive desk. The appellant has to walk all the way to that desk along a featureless space, feeling small, exposed, vulnerable and comparatively worthless before the mogul enthroned in dramatic lighting before him. By the time he gets there the great speech he had prepared is reduced to a muttered sentence or two.

In addition, the USS Missouri flew the flag of Commodore Perry's 19th century gun-boat diplomacy mission that opened the closeted Edo-era Japan to the world and forced upon them the Meiji restoration which ended the rule

of the samurai class. The symbolism here is pretty clear - "this is how we want you to be, and remember what happens to countries that defy us." It was particularly humiliating for a proud country like Japan, and that was entirely the point. The symbolism of the ceremony was even greater than that. The ship was anchored at the precise latitude/longitude recorded in Perry's log during his 1845 visit, symbolizing the purpose of both visits to open Japan to the West. Perry's original flag was also present, having been flown all the way from the Naval Academy for the ceremony. When the Japanese delegation came aboard, they were forced to use an accommodation way (stairs) situated just forward of turret #1. The freeboard (distance between the ship's deck and the water line) there makes the climb about twice as long as if it had been set up farther aft, where the freeboard of the ship is less.

NOTE: This was even more of an issue for the Japanese surrender party as the senior member, Foreign Affairs Minister Shigemitsu, was crippled by an assassination attempt in 1932, losing his right leg in the process. The #1 and #2 turrets had been traversed about 20 degrees to starboard. The ostensible reason for this was to get the turret overhangs out of the way to create more room for the ceremony on the starboard veranda deck, but in fact this would have only required traversing turret #2 had it been the real reason. In reality, the turret position also put the gun barrels directly over the heads of the Japanese. They were literally standing "under the gun." The honor guard of US sailors (side boys) were all hand-picked to be over six feet tall, a further intimidation of the short-statured Japanese. The surrender documents themselves, one copy for the Allies and one for the Japanese contained identical English-language texts, but the Allied copy was bound in good quality leather, while the Japanese copy was bound with light canvas whose stitching looked like it had been done by a drunken tailor using kite string.

After the signing ceremony, the Japanese delegation was not invited for tea and cookies; they were shuffled off the ship as an Allied air armada of over 400 aircraft flew overhead as a final reminder that American forces still had the ability to continue fighting should the Japanese have second thoughts on surrender.

And now you know the rest of the story ...

Historic Soviet Sub Chase

USS Grenadier Chase of 28 May, 1959

Source: USSVI Tucson Base | Dean Lohmeyer | August 2, 2020



The former commanding officer of the Tench-class diesel submarine USS Grenadier (SS-525) recounted the experience of his crew 50 years ago; the events of 28 May, 1959, impacted submarine warfare, especially during the Cold War era. Capt. Ted Davis, a native of Gloversville, NY, who now makes his home in Virginia Beach, Va., was commanding officer of Grenadier that day and can still recall the events as if they happened only five years ago. After 18 hours of tracking a contact through the icy waters of the Northern Atlantic Ocean, the captain and crew of the Grenadier would force the surfacing of a Russian Zulu-class missile-firing submarine. It marked the first time visual and photographic proof of the presence of Soviet submarines in the Atlantic was able to be captured.

Grenadier left its homeport of Key West, Fla., in April 1959, along with USS Amberjack (SS 522), USS Atule (SS 403), and USS Grampus (SS 523), to conduct special anti-submarine exercises in the Northern Atlantic Ocean. Their mission was to patrol the "GIUK gap," a chokepoint from Greenland to Iceland to the United Kingdom. However, their unofficial goal was much

different. During Grenadier's overhaul in the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Davis learned of a proclamation from Adm. Jerauld Wright, then commander-in-chief of the Atlantic Fleet. The proclamation was more of a challenge in the form of an award to the first naval unit in the fleet that could prove the presence of a "non-US or known friendly" submarine. The first to do so would be presented an award that was undoubtedly a sign of the times - "one case of Jack Daniels Old No. 7 black label Tennessee sour mash whiskey."

When word came down that Grenadier and three other submarines would conduct operations in the Northern Atlantic after her homeport shift from New London, Conn., to Key West, Davis informed his crew of the added incentive for the deployment. "I put out at quarters, 'Hey guys, there's a case of Jack Daniels involved,'" said Davis, who was 36-years old at the time. "It was a challenge, but I knew the odds of us running into a Russian submarine were about one in a million." Grenadier was on station for several days when Davis received word from his messenger that a contact was nearby. "The messenger came in and told me that sonar had a Soviet submarine," said Davis. "The first thought that came to my mind was that the crew was so good that if they said it was a Soviet submarine, it was a Soviet submarine."

Davis, however, wasn't about to take it for granted. He asked his crew how they were so sure the contact was Russian. "They said they'd been listening to submarines for a long time, and they knew this guy didn't fit any other pattern we had," said Davis. "No American submarines, no British submarines - this was it." Then the contact disappeared only moments after Davis had been convinced by his sonar operators the contact was Soviet. The sonar crew estimated the course of the contact, believing the submarine was heading home to a port in the Soviet Union. Its range was about 20,000 yards and speed about five knots. Davis, a 1947 graduate of the US Naval Academy, instructed his crew to set up two plotting teams,

one in control and one in the wardroom, to plan to intercept the contact.

At the time, Grenadier's battery was strong, having charged all night, but later in the day, the air inside Grenadier became a little foul. Technology that would provide submarines the ability to clean the air inside the submarine had yet to be invented, so submarines would have to surface to vent the sub and take in clean air. Additionally, smoking cigarettes aboard the boat was common and not restricted to the engine room. "A strong battery was more important than anything else," said Davis, allowing his crew to plot a course to intercept the Soviet sub at a speed of approximately eight knots.

"The waiting went on into the early afternoon, when all of a sudden, sonar hollers, 'Contact! Close aboard! Port-bow!'" said Davis. "To this day, I couldn't tell you if that guy knew where we were, but we could hear him." The Soviet sub immediately "came roaring down at us," said Davis. It reminded him of a recent incident during which a Soviet submarine fired a torpedo deep under a US submarine. The torpedo was intentionally fired deep, but the action achieved the intended effect - the US boat was forced to take evasive action. At the same time, the Soviet sub was able to sneak off in the confusion and noise from the torpedo, effectively breaking the contact. Davis believed the actions by the Soviet sub commander this day might have the same intentions, including forcing the Grenadier to identify its presence by going to full speed to evade the oncoming Russian sub. He also felt the Soviet commander might try to clip Grenadier's screws, stern planes, or rudder, leaving the boat helpless to continue the pursuit but not in a life-or-death situation.

Grenadier didn't back down, however, maintaining position and, most importantly, stealth. Davis instructed two of his officers who were manning passive and active sonars to maneuver the ship using the sonars' info. But there was one specific instruction - always turn

into the contact to avoid presenting the stern to the other submarine. Davis didn't want to present his rudder or screw to the other ship because doing so would leave him vulnerable to a "bump" from the Soviet sub that could damage Grenadier's screw or rudder. Damage to either would force Grenadier to abandon the pursuit, letting the Soviet sub slip away.

"He came within 400 and 800 yards of us, which is awfully close" said Davis. "When I thought that it was about time to turn, I heard, 'Left full rudder! All ahead flank!' The officers in conn were on top of the problem. As he went down our port side, we just curved right in behind him. "He thought he heard something behind him, but he wasn't sure, so he turned around and did it again," said Davis. "Then we did the same thing and fell right in behind him again. Then he took a course for home." The Soviet sub was deep at a speed of five knots; Grenadier trailed 2,000 yards astern. Davis decided to surface. Not only was the air fouled, but it was getting hard to light a cigarette, demonstrating the increasing amount of carbon dioxide in the boat.

While surfaced, he sent a message to Commander Submarine Force Atlantic Fleet: "Have contact on Soviet submarine, can track indefinitely." Davis also requested support from a P-2V anti-submarine patrol aircraft from Patrol Squadron 5 (VP-5) at Naval Air Station Keflavik, Iceland. According to a report, Davis wrote later; he decided to then remain surfaced as long as possible, creating a more significant advantage for himself over the Soviet submarine. Topside watches were organized, and Executive Officer Lt. Cmdr. Ed Welsh took over as a plot coordinator. "We were ready to hold contact for as long as it took to exhaust the adversary," wrote Davis in his report.

Shortly after the P-2V was vectored in, sonar reported the Soviet sub coming up, probably to take a look. One of Davis' junior officers, Lt. Dave McClary, wanted to be a pilot when he first entered the Navy, but poor eyesight prevented

further pilot training. He took this opportunity to vector the P-2V over the Soviet sub and was manning the con when the sub's periscope broke the surface. He then expertly directed the P-2V right over the Russian, performing the task to perfection. Flares dropped from the P-2V landed in the water right beside Ivan's periscope. Davis still laughs when he thinks about it. "I swear, that periscope came up, and the flare went 'boomp' right beside it," said Davis. "I said to myself, 'I'd like to see the look on his face, whoever was looking up through that periscope.'"

Several more flares were dropped over the next few hours. Davis knew without a doubt the Russian sub was aware of the plane and most likely was now fully aware they were being tracked by a submarine as well. "I thought that was good because if he had any ideas about trying to sink us, we've got a witness in the air," said Davis. After several hours of tracking the Soviet sub from the surface, sonar lost contact. Davis immediately brought Grenadier to all stop. "I passed the word that if you're smoking, dump your ashes in your hand, don't let your ashes hit the deck," said Davis. "That's how quiet I wanted the boat to be."

Davis' sonar officer suggested they go active on sonar. Still, Davis felt the other sub was deep and hovering, and going active would only help him verify Grenadier's position in one last attempt to escape. "We were both dead in the water, so we were just going to let him sit," said Davis. At the same time, the P-2V was running out of fuel and was replaced by another P-2V out of Keflavik. "The second guy was dropping sonar buoys all over the place," said Davis. "I needed that like a hole in the head." By this time, it was almost midnight on 28 May. And Davis knew the time was near. "I thought, this guy was out of air; he's out of battery, he's running out of everything, and he's going to surface at the darkest part of the night," said Davis.

Davis had his sound-powered phone talker pass the word through the ship that the CO expected

the submarine to surface a little after midnight. The XO laughed, saying, "There you go again!" "I thought, what the hell, we have to do something to keep (the crew) laughing," said Davis. "But sure enough, at 15 minutes past the hour, sonar hollers, 'He's surfacing! He's surfacing!' So we vectored the airplane over the top of their deck." The P-2V shined a light on the Soviet submarine and took dozens of photographs. Some of the photos showed Russian crewmembers trying to cover the sail area with canvas to hide two missile tubes. "It turned out that we found the first real evidence of a missile-firing Soviet submarine, something our intelligence community was trying hard to get the dope on," said Davis. "Here, we had all the information they needed. We not only satisfied Jerauld Wright. but this was a real break for the intelligence community as well."

The Russian sub stayed on the surface for more than 24 hours, and Grenadier's crew recorded as much information as possible. Once Grenadier had gathered enough information, they were ordered back to their station to continue their participation in the exercise. Once the exercise was over, and Grenadier returned to Key West, an awards ceremony was held, during which Wright presented a case of Jack Daniels Old No. 7 black label Tennessee sour mash whiskey to the crew. The crew of Grenadier would have to accept that as their reward for a job well done because no unit award was presented to the boat for surfacing the Soviet Zulu, but Davis believes the crew was just as happy with the success and the Jack Daniels.

"That whiskey was gone at the next crew party," said Davis, who still has a Jack Daniels bottle from the original case. Empty, of course. Along with the case of whiskey, Wright presented a proclamation to Davis and the crew. The proclamation stated that the presence of unidentified submarines had been reported in the sea lanes off the coast of the US, and those submarines were uncooperative in declaring their identity and intent. But ".through actions

of USS Grenadier (SS-525) tangible evidence these surreptitious operations are being conducted has been produced." Davis gives credit for the success of this mission to his crew, many of whom were exceptionally well qualified. "They were truly a magnificent team," said Davis.

Although the significance of the incident can never be sufficiently credited to Grenadier's success, many changes in both navies followed soon after. The Navy commissioned America's first fleet ballistic missile submarine USS George Washington (SSBN 598) in December 1959, and the Russians soon scrapped their Zulu class of ballistic missile submarines. Davis is very proud of the accomplishment, and he fondly remembers 29 May '59" any time someone asks him about it. "We were in the right place at the right time with a great crew," said Davis. He also remembers how some senior officers tried to put the surfacing in a different light.

"The briefing for (the chief of naval operations) with all his staff was amusing in that the surface force admirals were trying to say that it wasn't a submarine that did it because Grenadier was on the surface when the Soviet surfaced," he said. "I just smiled and concluded my remarks emphasizing that it was submariners that did the job, not the submarine itself. In short, it was submariners who got the Jerauld Wright Award, which gave the sub force a great boost."

China's New Amphibious Warship

Source: USNI News | Mallory Shelbourne | August 5, 2020



Sea Trials Kick Off

The first in a new class of Chinese amphibious warships began sea trials, according to photos released on Chinese social media platforms. Pictures showing the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) Type 075 amphibious assault ship (LHD) heading out to sea emerged on the Chinese-language Internet 5 AUG. The Chinese Navy first put the amphib in the water last year and launched another in April, according to a Congressional Research Service [report](#). A 2020 [report](#) from the Office of Naval Intelligence says the Chinese Navy is currently constructing three amphibious assault ships. The CRS report, which detailed the capabilities of the Chinese Navy, said China could use the amphibious vessels for various actions ranging from noncombatant evacuation operations to protecting its stated claims in the South China Sea.



Comparison of similar sized big deck amphibious ships.

"Although larger amphibious ships such as the Type 071 and Type 075 would be of value for conducting amphibious landings in Taiwan-related conflict scenarios, some observers believe that China is building such ships as much for their value in conducting other operations, such as operations for asserting and defending China's claims in the South and East China Seas, humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HA/DR) operations, maritime security operations (such as antipiracy operations), and noncombatant evacuation operations (NEOs)," the report reads, referring to China's Type 071 amphibious transport dock.

The sea trials for China's new amphibious assault ship come as strains between Washington D.C. and Beijing have worsened in recent months amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the Trump administration's increasingly vocal criticism of China. "The PLAN began development of the Type 075 in 2011 as a helicopter carrier that would displace about 35,000 tons — smaller than the U.S. 45,000-ton Wasp and America-class big decks,"

WWII Superfortresses Role in Ending the Pacific War

Source: Army Times | Todd South | August 6, 2020

Day after day, the planes took off. Sometimes one minute apart, the shiny new "Superfortresses" humming through the sky over the vast Pacific to strike at the heart of the enemy and end World War II. Maj. Jack Koser took to the skies on those never-ending flights. So did 1st Lts. Ed Vincent and Warren Higgins. Fresh-faced they flew. Some, teenagers barely out of high school. Now one has passed the century mark and others are not far behind. Their planes had painted pictures and names like "Flak Alley Sally" and "Lucky Strike" and "Here's Lucky." They hit the Japanese homeland hard. Fires raged. Mines they dropped dotted the harbors and bays, stalling supplies and choking the country's navy.

Aug. 6, 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the day that the United States dropped the first atomic bomb, hitting Hiroshima, Japan, and three days later another bomb for Nagasaki. Those historic, cataclysmic events sped up the end of the war and set the stage for the nuclear arms race and subsequent Cold War. The single bomb dropped this day in 1945 killed an estimated 140,000 people from both the blast and aftereffects. But those monumental events have overshadowed harrowing, death-defying and incredible work done by soldiers, sailors and Marines who took blood-soaked islands in the Pacific in the long slog toward Tokyo. And

the air and ground crews flying off that hard-won soil to finally reach the heart of the enemy that dared attack the United States at Pearl Harbor.



WWII veterans recall the tough missions leading up to Hiroshima and the efforts to hide the Enola Gay, seen here returning from dropping the atomic bomb on that city 75 years ago

And there was another piece of military technological history that some argue had a larger hand in ending the war than it gets credit for — the B29 Superfortress. Though Tinian was where the famed "Enola Gay" launched its fateful mission to deliver the first A-bomb, it was also home to the 6th Bomb Group, which served as cover for the super-secret mission. The unit also hid the "Enola Gay" for a time, before it loaded its infamous payload "Little Boy" the first Atomic Bomb dropped in war — on Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945.

The 6th Bomb Group, part of the Army Air Corps' 313th Bomb Wing, 20th Air Force, made it to Tinian, one of the last Pacific islands in a chain leading to mainland Japan, months after Allied forces took the island in a battle that lasted just a few days but claimed more than 5,000 Japanese forces and more than 300 U.S. Marines. Koser, Vincent and Higgins served on different crews, but all had similar experiences. They'd signed up with the new Army Air Corps to fly. At first, they'd been trained on the B-17 "Flying Fortress," which was helping win the war in Europe. But that aircraft, as good as it

was, couldn't compare to the B-29. And the B-17 just couldn't make the distances needed in this combat theater.

The older bomber could carry a crew of 10, flying up to 287 mph for a maximum range of about 2,000 miles. That might get a crew to Japan. It wouldn't get them back. The new B-29, however, carried an 11-person crew and could go 357 mph for a range of 3,250 mph. The B-29 featured the first ever fully pressurized nose and cockpit in a bomber; an aft area for the crew was also pressurized, making it far more comfortable to fly. And it could carry a lot more bombs. Which is exactly what it did over Japan. Though the first A-bomb changed warfare forever, the bombing runs on Tokyo, some experts argue, may have done as much or more to devastate the Japanese military's will to fight. They claimed as many or more casualties and laid waste to as much territory in an even larger city.

Vincent, 97, was only 19 years old when he flew as a co-pilot on early missions out of Tinian to Japan. He remembers seeing flashes of light from Iwo Jima as Marines took the island to provide bombers a refueling and stopover on their missions to the mainland. Though the tide had turned, ground troops and aircrews had no illusions that the Japanese military would simply surrender. Despite months of sustained bombing and island after island falling, they continued to fight. Retired Marine Maj. John Haynes, 90, was only 15 years old when he landed on Okinawa. He missed the taking of the island but was likely one of the bodies to be flung ashore on mainland Japan in the seemingly inevitable invasion.

Unknown to the Tinian crews or the Marines slogging through the island campaign, a new weapon was on its way. A few weeks before Aug. 6, 1945, Koser was leading flights over Tinian as they prepped for more missions when he noticed more planes than usual in the 6th Bomb Group formation. Seemed funny, but he didn't take much notice. Higgins and Vincent

heard rumors about this new group and noticed that they'd painted the same unit design on the tail of their planes, even though they weren't part of the 6th. They asked, but the new guys were kept off at a distance and didn't really talk much with the other crews.

"When they first came, we wondered what in the world were those guys doing," Vincent said. "They weren't going on any missions. We were going on missions and getting shot at." But, as good soldiers do, these Air Corps members continued on the mission. "I don't think anybody talked about it, we were all scared," Vincent said. His plane alone, "Flak Alley Sally" tallied 141 bullet holes in it from the anti-aircraft fire his crew took over Japan. They flew one mission that was 19 hours 40 minutes long, likely the longest in the history of the war and covered 4,400 miles to reach and mine a harbor in Korea that still had Japanese forces.

Maybe the biggest news of the war came to the soldiers on Tinian almost as an afterthought. "We found out after they dropped it," Higgins, 96, said. "We were there, on the same airfield. They took off from Tinian, but until they bombed, we didn't know anything. We weren't even allowed to talk about atoms, didn't even know what they were." For Haynes and others like him, mopping up continued. He and other Marines were sent to China to accept the surrender of masses of Japanese troops after the surrender.

David Wilson, a co-historian of the 6th Group and son of one of its members, maintains a lifelong personal connection to it through his late father, Staff Sgt. Bernard Wilson. Wilson said that his father was most proud of three things during the war — that he was on the longest bombing mission, that he flew over the USS Missouri as the Japanese high command surrendered, ending the war, and that he was on a mission to bomb the main railroad access that would have helped stall the Japanese should there have been a land invasion by the United States. And it is that mission and the code words

that never came to abort a strike on the Marifu Railroad Yards at Iwakuni, Japan, that emerged when memory failed his aging father. "I could go to my dad and ask him 'Daddy what did you have for breakfast yesterday?'" Wilson said. "He couldn't remember." But if he asked him about a special code used on that last mission, the response was always there, even at the end of his life. "Daddy, you also told me about that code ..." Wilson would begin. "Break, Utah, Utah, Break," his father would respond.

Even though the bombings stopped soon after the atomic weapons were employed, other missions continued. Cpl. Wallace Gake, 94, served on a ground crew and arrived on the island right after the bomb. Many crews went home to leave the Army and start new lives. The rest of the unit was sent to the Philippines. But planes still had to fly, deliver supplies, transport people. And Gake was there for months after, keeping planes running with other maintenance crews. "A lot of times the ground crews get forgotten. We don't drop any bombs and we don't shoot enemy fighters," he said. But for him not much changed. A very noisy life, planes continued to buzz off the island day and night.

It was one of those post-combat missions that remain Koser's lasting memory, 75 years later. "One of the first things I remember is seeing the Great Wall of China," he recounted. Inside his plane, the bomb bays were chock full of food, medicine, even bicycles. All of that with one destination — POW camps that still held Allied prisoners who hadn't yet been reached by ground forces in China. He still remembers flying low, maybe 500 feet off the ground, opening the first bomb bay to drop parachute-rigged supplies. Then circling the camp to see cheering survivors before dropping the second load. "It was a wonderful time," Koser said.

Conscription Timelines in U.S.

History of Mandatory Military Enlistments

Source:

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/app/upl>

[oads/2014/03/Timeline-of-of-conscription.pdf](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/app/upl/oads/2014/03/Timeline-of-of-conscription.pdf)
| August 2020

Colonial Period 1600s, 1700s - Each colony forms a militia made up of all adult male citizens.

Revolutionary War (1775 - 1783)- A regular army is raised by offering enlisted men cash bonuses and a promise of free western land after the war is over. When this system does not attract enough soldiers, General George Washington calls on state militias. However these local armies are made up of poorly trained citizens who often have to return home to tend to their farms. Once he becomes president, Washington tries to register all men for service. Congress does not pass his legislation or others proposed by Presidents Adams, Jefferson, and Madison.

War of 1812 - Recruitment efforts include thirteen-month enlistment periods, a sixteen-dollar sign-up bonus and the promise of three months' pay and one hundred sixty acres of land after service. The Congress authorizes President James Monroe to call up one hundred thousand state militia. Some states refuse.

Mexican War (1846 - 1848) - The one-year enlistment of many troops expires. Military action must wait until replacement troops arrive.

Civil War (1861 - 1865) - The Confederate Army enlists volunteer troops for one-year periods while troops for the North enlist for periods of three or nine months. Eventually, each side turns to conscription as a means of keeping its armies in place after enlistment periods end.

- North – In March 1863, Congress gives President Lincoln the authority to require draft registration by all able-bodied men between the ages of 20 and 45, regardless of their marital status or profession. Substitute soldiers are

permitted to be hired and for \$300. Many northern businessmen resist service and the Governor of New York, Horatio Seymour, declares the conscription act unconstitutional.

- On July 13, 1863, an angry mob sets off the four-day New York City Draft Riots by seizing the 2nd Avenue Armory and interrupting the selection of registrants' names. Abolitionists' homes, conscription offices and city buildings are burned, shops are looted, and blacks, along with anyone refusing to join the protest, are tortured. About one thousand people die. New York troops are called back from Gettysburg to quell the riot and Gov. Seymour finally urges compliance with the draft.
- South - The Confederacy passes their conscription law in April 1862. Three years of military service is required from all white men between the ages of 18 and 35. Substitutes are hired, resulting in poor morale and insufficient numbers of troops. Later, the age limit is extended to include men between 17 and 50, and in 1865 the Confederate Army begins to conscript slaves.

1898 (Spanish-American War) - Congress declares that all males between 18 and 45 are subject to military duty. May 1917 - Congress passes the Selective Service Act, establishing local, district, state, and territorial civilian boards to register men between the ages of 21 and 30 for service in World War One. There is much opposition. During the first drawing, 50,000 men apply for exemptions and over 250,000 fail to register at all. In one round-up held in New York City in 1918 to catch those who failed to report, 16,000 men are arrested. After the war ends, efforts to set up standard military training and service are defeated in Congress.

1920 - The National Defense Act establishes a system of voluntary recruitment.

1940 - Congress enacts the Selective Training and Service Act. All males between the ages of 21 and 35 are ordered to register for the draft and the first national lottery is held. As World War II progresses, the draft age is lowered to 18 and men are called to service not by lottery number but by age, with the oldest going first.

1941 - Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Congress gives the president power to send draftees anywhere in the world, removing the distinctions between draftees, regulars, National Guardsmen and Reservists, and creating one army made up of all.

1947 - President Harry S. Truman recommends to Congress that the 1940 Selective Training and Service Act expire and that the level of required military forces be maintained by means of voluntary enlistments.

1948 - The level of military forces falls below necessary numbers just as the Cold War heats up. President Truman asks that the draft be reinstated. The new Selective Service Act provides for the drafting of men between 19 and 26 for twelve months of active service.

1950 - The Korean War draft calls up men between the ages of eighteen-and-a-half and 35 for terms of duty averaging two years. Men who served in World War II do not have to sign up.

1951 - The Universal Military Training and Service Act is passed, requiring males between 18 and 26 to register.

1952 - Congress enacts the Reserve Forces Act, compelling every man who is drafted or enlisted to an eight-year obligation to military service. After a term of active duty is completed, one is assigned to standby reserve and can be called back to active duty upon a declaration of war or national emergency.

1965 - Opposition to the war in Vietnam leads to protests against the draft. For the first time since the Civil War, there are anti-draft demonstrations, particularly on college campuses and at www.pbs.org/newshour/extra3military centers. In its *U.S. v. Seeger* decision, the Supreme Court broadens the definition of conscientious objection to include religious beliefs outside the Christian, Jewish or Muslim traditions. **1966** - In response to anti-war sentiment, President Lyndon Johnson appoints a special study commission to recommend changes in the Selective Service structure.

1967 to 70 - Thousands of young men either destroy their draft cards or leave the country to avoid the draft.

1969 - President Nixon orders the "19-year-old draft": if a young man is not drafted at age 19, he will be exempt from future military service except in the event of war or national emergency. Deferrals are allowed for hardship cases, certain occupations, conscientious objectors, clergymen, and high school and college students. One year later Nixon will argue in favor of ending student deferments.

1969 - President Nixon orders a "random selection" lottery system for selecting men to serve in the war in Vietnam, changing the previous system of drafting according to age.

1970 - In *U.S. v. Welsh*, the Supreme Court adds sincerely held ethical and moral beliefs to the definition of allowable grounds for conscientious draft objection.

1973 - The 1967 Selective Service Act, extended through an act of Congress in 1971, expires, ending the authority to induct draft registrants. **1980** - The Selective Service System becomes active again.

Present - The U.S. currently operates under an all-volunteer armed forces policy. All male citizens between the ages of 18 and 26 are

required to register for the draft and are liable for training and service until the age of 35.

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.

Flu Shots

Getting These 2 Shots Could Reduce Your Risk of Dementia

Source: Money Talks News | Chris Kissell | August 3, 2020

Getting a flu shot is always wise, but especially so this year. The vaccine helps protect against influenza, which can be dangerous and even deadly. Getting more people vaccinated against flu should mean fewer patients in hospitals, which is crucial during a time when the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage. Now, another reason has emerged to get the flu shot: Doing so may reduce your risk of being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Three separate studies presented at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in late July all point in that direction. According to these studies:

- Getting at least one flu vaccination drops the risk of Alzheimer's by 17%. Additional, frequent vaccinations drop the risk by another 13%.
- Being vaccinated for pneumonia when you are between ages 65 and 75 lowers Alzheimer's risk by up to 40%. However, the impact here depends on an individual's genetic makeup.

These vaccinations also can protect people who already have dementia, because those with dementia have a six-fold higher risk of dying after contracting an infection such as influenza or pneumonia. The Alzheimer's Association notes that earlier, smaller studies also had found links between vaccinations and reduced risk of cognitive decline. But the research presented at this year's conference involved larger studies.

One study — out of the McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas

Health Science Center at Houston — involved an analysis of a large dataset of American health records. It found that people who consistently got their annual flu shot had an almost 6% reduced risk of Alzheimer's disease when they were between the ages of 75 and 84. Being vaccinated at an earlier age — for example, getting one's first flu shot at age 60 rather than age 70 — lowered the risk of developing Alzheimer's even more, the researchers note. Another study — out of the Duke University Social Science Research Institute — found that people who had pneumonia vaccination between the ages of 65 and 75 reduced their risk of developing Alzheimer's by between 25% and 30%, after adjusting for a known genetic risk factor for Alzheimer's and other characteristics. This reduction was as high as 40% among the people who do not have the gene associated with Alzheimer's risk.

The Alzheimer's Association adds: "Total number of vaccinations against pneumonia and the flu between ages 65 and 75 was also associated with a lower risk of Alzheimer's; however, the effect was not evident for the flu shot alone." For more on preventing dementia, check out:

- "7 Lifestyle Changes That May Help Prevent Dementia"
- "Eating This Food Can Reduce Your Risk of Alzheimer's Disease"

From Jose Gonzales (Repeat announcement):

I invite all our members to a lunch just as soon as we can. The cost shall be \$6.00 per person. The menu shall be, "MRES"! What in the world would that be? Well, they are the dehydrated meals that the military eat in combat. These packages are tailored operational training

meals. Should you remember the C-rations you got what you pulled out of the box. Everyone wanted the B-1 because of the fruit, I enjoyed the Ham and lima bean over a good fire.

Here are a few titles of the menu, Spaghetti with beef and sauce, Chicken, egg noodles, and vegetables in sauce,, Beef Ravioli in meat sauce, Marinara sauce and meatballs made with beef and chicken, Vegetarian taco Pasta (vegetable crumbles with pasta in taco style sauce), Chili with beans, Elbow macaroni in tomato sauce and Pork sausage patty, maple favored with hash brown potatoes with bacon, peppers and onions, just to name a few.

In order to prep these you need about one tablespoon of water. Which is placed in another package then you add your meal package to it. The water will boil in seconds and heat-up the meal.

These meals are already cook: dehydrated! It's an experience to remember.

In Nam my platoon was issue about three cases, but with-in the hour I had to return them as they were for the long range patrol. I don't think 100% of the packages were return.

This could be a family experience, we just need to know how many are coming. I purchase the MRE'S at the commissary. It would be nice to have a salad but the troops did not. Please provide some input.

Jose

When the Covid-19 circumstances settle down this looks like a winner. (ed.)

VVA-535 Fundraiser 0.177 Caliber Air Rifle

The Officers and Directors anticipate the raffle drawing to be conducted while online on Zoom on September 3, 2020

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 originally 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.





Bart Ruud

Scholarship Recipient Jonny Patterson
August 13, 2020

Patricia Graves

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

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					

SEPTEMBER

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 VVA-535	4	5
6	7 Labor Day	8	9	10	11 Patriot Day	12
13 Grandparent's Day	14	15	16 American Legion Day 1919	17 Constitution Day	18 Air Force Birthday 1947 National POW Recognition Day	19 Rosh Hashanah
20	21	22 First Day of Fall	23	24	25	26
27	28 Yom Kippur	29	30			

OCTOBER

2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 VVA-535	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9 Yom Kippur	10
11	12 Columbus Day	13 Navy Birthday 1775	14	15	16 Stand Down?	17 Stand Down?
18	19	20	21	22 VVA CSC Convention	23 VVA CSC Convention	24 VVA CSC Convention
25 VVA CSC Convention	26	27 Navy Day	28	29	30	31 Halloween