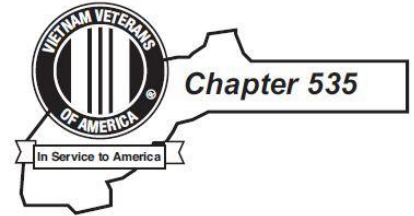




# INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA  
**CHAPTER 535**



Website: [www.vva535.org](http://www.vva535.org)

Volume 32 Issue 1

January 2022

## VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 535 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE January 2022

WOW! 2022 can you believe it! Many thanks to all who provided food and attended our Christmas dinner. Special thanks to Ric, Dave, and Jose, for providing the main course. A special thanks to Suzie James for giving the blessing over the food. She always does a great job. I hope all of you had a good Christmas with family and friends. I know with all the pandemic propaganda it makes it difficult to enjoy the season. A number of people who attended the dinner commented on the stories being shared by our members regarding their tour in Vietnam. Very positive feedback. Many of you probably served in country on Christmas day. We flew our heaviest missions the day Nixon declared a cease fire on Christmas. I have contacted the movie production people who produced the movie "The Christmas Card" and asked them for financial assistance regarding our signage on Hwy 49. I have not heard back as of yet. Dave Middleton came up with a great idea for the ceremony at the memorial bridge. He suggested we have the ceremony on March 29, 2022, Vietnam Veterans Day. Sounds good to me. I will run it by the organization at our January meeting. Cal-Trans has received our payment for the signs and installation at the

Vietnam Memorial Bridge. Just waiting for the crew to get everything installed. (The crew is currently on "snow duty" up on the summit.)

I was also busy plowing snow at my place, received about a foot and one half. It is my hope for 2022 that VVA will continue to grow in membership. Please stay safe, warm, and healthy! See you all January 6, 2022.

Keith

### **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 January 6, 2022**

Unknown at this juncture.

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## Upcoming Events

NCCVC Meeting – January 6, 2022  
VVA General Meeting - January 6, 2022  
~~Director's Meeting – January 6, 2022~~  
VVA 535 General Meeting - February 3, 2022

## Chapter 535 Officers

President Keith Grueneberg  
kgberg0178@sbcglobal.net  
916-425-1121

Vice-President Dave Chaix ... 530-269-1431

Treasurer  
Ralph Remick ..... 530-559-7716

Secretary  
Bart Ruud ..... 530-305-0493

## Directors

Dick Corn ..... 530-277-8856  
Enrique Vasquez ..... 530-575-4416  
Ray James ..... 530-478-1126  
Dave Johnson ..... 530-887-8297  
Dave Middleton ..... 530-205-9375  
Ric Sheridan ..... 530-274-1413  
Corbin Smith ..... 916-833-7860

Mel Williams ..... 1-707-391-7692

## Committee Chairs

Finance ..... Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson  
Parade and Honor Guard ..... Dick Corn  
Membership Affairs ..... Ric Sheridan  
Newsletter ..... Interim Editor Bart Ruud  
Victorian Christmas ..... Cancelled for 2020  
Nominations ..... Ralph Remick  
Veterans Assistance ..... Keith Grueneberg  
NCCVC ..... Open  
Speakers Bureau ..... Dan Davis  
Web Master ..... Ralph Remick  
Quartermaster ..... Dick Corn  
Facebook Master ..... Mike Laborico  
Nevada County Fair ..... Open  
CA State Council Rep ..... Open

## 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](mailto: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  
Mon. – Fri., 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

## **Matters of Interest as outlined at Meeting of December 2, 2021**

No minutes; nothing to report as our Christmas  
Potluck occurred on this date.

## **Social Security Legislation H.R.2100 | Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust**

The Senior Citizens League (TSCL) | Shannon Benton, Executive  
Director | December 2 & 13, 2021

Social Security legislation containing a number  
of provisions that would strengthen and  
boost benefits has been  
introduced by House Ways and Means Social

Security Subcommittee Chairman John Larson, (CT-01). The Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust, has support from almost 200 Members of the House. Among the many provisions the bill would:

- Provide an immediate benefit increase for all beneficiaries of \$30 a month.
- Provide a more accurate cost of living adjustment by basing the annual inflation adjustment of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) which measures inflation experienced by senior households. The CPI-E tends to grow about 0.2 percentage point faster per year than the current index used to calculate the COLA.
- Improves benefits for widows and widowers in two income households. Ensures that widow(er)s receive 75 percent of the combined Social Security benefits the couple was receiving prior to one spouse's death. Currently the surviving spouse receives either 100% of the deceased spouse benefit or, his or her own retirement benefit, whichever is highest. That can reduce income by as much as half.
- Adjusts the income thresholds which subject Social Security benefits to taxation, from \$25,000 for individuals and \$32,000 for married filing jointly, to \$35,000 and \$50,000 respectively.
- Boosts benefits for the oldest beneficiaries. Effective for all beneficiaries who have been receiving benefits for more than 15 years.
- Repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) so that affected state and local government retirees are no longer subject to these reductions to their Social Security benefits.
- Increases access to benefits for children who live with grandparents or other relatives who are Social Security beneficiaries.

- Applies the Social Security payroll tax to earnings above \$400,000.

Congressman Larson recently wrote: "Social Security is expected to pay a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) at the end of this year that is significantly higher than in recent years, largely because of the pandemic. While it's welcome, it is not a benefit increase. It reflects inflation and keeps purchasing power steady for Social Security beneficiaries. It will be absorbed by Medicare premiums and the increase in costs for food, housing and prescription drugs. That's why we're working with the President to pass "Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust".

During the week of 6 DEC the Social Security Subcommittee of the House Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on the bill which was authored and introduced by the chair of the subcommittee.

During the hearing Larson said, "There is a fierce urgency now to vote on Social Security. Seniors, people with disabilities, widows, and other beneficiaries cannot wait. Americans can't wait, it's time to move Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust forward." Larson also stated during the hearing that there would soon be action to move the bill forward, but he didn't specify a date.

## **Cold War Spys**

### **Six Who Betrayed Their Countries**

Source: [www/history.com](http://www/history.com) | Jesse Greenspan | October 8, 2016

#### **1. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg**

Married in 1939, New York City residents Julius and Ethel Rosenberg were devoted communists who allegedly headed a spy ring that passed military secrets to the Soviets. The scheme got underway sometime after 1940, when Julius became a civilian engineer with the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He was dismissed in 1945 once the

military learned of his communist sympathies, but not before recruiting Ethel's brother, an Army machinist working on the Manhattan Project, to turn over handwritten notes and sketches pertaining to the atomic bomb. Meanwhile, other Rosenberg recruits purportedly delivered thousands of pages of documents detailing new radar and aircraft technologies. At trial following their 1950 arrest, Ethel's brother testified against them, and a judge sentenced them to death, declaring their crime "worse than murder." President Dwight D. Eisenhower then sealed their fate by denying a petition for executive clemency. The two were sent to the electric chair at New York State's Sing Sing prison on June 19, 1953, marking the first time American civilians had ever been executed for espionage. Although worldwide protests erupted over the Rosenbergs' treatment, with many people feeling they had fallen victim to McCarthy-era red baiting, the post-Soviet release of decrypted KGB messages proved that Julius had in fact been a spy. The evidence against Ethel is less ironclad, and her guilt remains in dispute.

## **2. Klaus Fuchs**

Following Adolf Hitler's rise to power in 1933, Klaus Fuchs fled his native Germany for the United Kingdom, where he received a doctorate in physics and eventually became a citizen. During World War II he was invited to join Britain's clandestine atomic bomb development program, despite his known communist leanings, and from there was sent to the United States to take part in the Manhattan Project. Upon returning to the U.K., Fuchs secured a prestigious post at a nuclear energy research center. In 1950, however, he was apprehended after U.S. agents discovered that for years he had been handing nuclear secrets to the Soviets, who by now had their own atomic bomb. Fuchs confessed, telling the authorities that he "had complete confidence in Russian policy" and that "the Western Allies deliberately allowed Russia and Germany to fight each other to the

death." Though Fuchs claimed not to know his American contact's true name, the FBI quickly traced a trail back to the Rosenberg spy ring, resulting in the arrest of the Rosenbergs and several co-conspirators. Compared to the Rosenbergs, Fuchs got off easy. After nine years in British prison, he immigrated to East Germany, where he continued working as a nuclear physicist until his retirement in 1979. A winner of the Karl Marx Medal, East Germany's highest civilian honor, Fuchs died in 1988 at age 76.

## **3. Ray Mawby**

Ray Mawby, a one-time electrician, served from 1955 to 1983 in the House of Commons, where he championed so-called traditional British values (he campaigned, for example, against the legalization of homosexuality). For Conservative Party members like him, hatred of communism was practically a prerequisite. Yet in 2012, a dozen years after his death, a BBC reporter unearthed a file showing that Mawby had been a mole for Czechoslovakia, then part of the Soviet bloc. Hundreds of pages of documents revealed that Mawby, who was given the codename Laval, began secretly handing over intelligence not long after Czech agents first approached him at a November 1960 cocktail party. Lacking access to classified information, Mawby supplied them instead with political gossip, such as the existence of a confidential investigation into a Conservative Party colleague. More insidiously, he also apparently provided floor plans of the prime minister's parliamentary office, as well as details about the prime minister's security team. For each helpful tidbit, Mawby received £100, which, his handlers implied, went toward his drinking and gambling habits. In later years, they upped the total to £400 per year. Though Mawby at one point met several times a month with his handlers, their collaboration appears to have ended in 1971. Remarkably, some Labour Party politicians are also known to have been in cahoots with the Czechs.

#### 4. The Cambridge Five

Incredulous that a Conservative member of Parliament could be a communist spy, the British authorities were likewise thrown off by the elite educations and upper-class backgrounds of the so-called Cambridge Five, who were recruited into the Soviet sphere around the time they attended the University of Cambridge in the 1930s. Within a decade or so of graduation, Donald Maclean, Guy Burgess, Kim Philby, Anthony Blunt and John Cairncross had all worked their way up to important intelligence posts, which they used to pass an array of secrets to the Soviets. For example, thanks to these double agents, who were reportedly motivated by ideology, not money, the Soviet Union learned about an Allied plan to send anti-communist insurgents into Albania, as well as Allied military strategy during the Korean War. Upon discovering that the authorities were closing in, Philby, who ironically headed the anti-Soviet section of MI6 (the British equivalent of the CIA), tipped off Maclean and Burgess, prompting them to defect to Moscow in 1951. Philby joined them there in 1963, whereas Cairncross ended up in Italy and France. Blunt, meanwhile, confessed in exchange for immunity from prosecution and was allowed to stay in Britain. None of the five ever faced espionage charges.

#### 5. Aldrich Ames

The son of a CIA analyst, Wisconsin-born Aldrich Ames wasted no time in joining the agency himself, starting there in high school as a part-time clerical worker and later becoming a full-fledged spy. Posted to such places as Turkey and Mexico, Ames spent much of his three-decade-long career attempting to coax Soviet officials into the CIA's service. Despite an obvious drinking problem and poor performance reviews, he advanced to become head of the counterintelligence branch of the CIA's Soviet division. In 1985, however, while going through a financially disastrous

divorce, Ames walked into the Soviet embassy in Washington, D.C., and offered to trade secrets for money. Paid some \$2.7 million over the next nine years, he in return left classified documents at prearranged drop sites for the KGB to pick up later. He moreover disclosed the identities of virtually every secret agent working for the Americans within the Soviet Union, at least 10 of whom were subsequently executed. "[They] died because this warped, murdering traitor wanted a bigger house and a Jaguar," the CIA's director said later. Though U.S. officials had suspected the existence of a mole for quite some time, Ames avoided arrest until 1994, when the FBI finally closed in after uncovering incriminating evidence in his trash and on his computer. He is currently serving a life sentence at a federal prison in Pennsylvania.

#### 6. Adolf Tolkachev

The previous five examples notwithstanding, not every traitorous Cold War spy supported the communist cause. In early 1977, for instance, Soviet electronics engineer Adolf Tolkachev began dropping notes into the cars of U.S. diplomats, asking to meet with an American official. The CIA originally ignored him, worried that it would fall into a KGB trap. But Tolkachev, who worked at a military aviation institute in Moscow, persisted and eventually gained the CIA's trust.

From 1979 to 1985, he regularly stuffed classified documents into his coat in order to photograph them at home with a CIA-supplied camera. His CIA handlers would then intermittently pick up this film, along with handwritten messages, after taking great care to avoid KGB surveillance. From Tolkachev, the CIA learned that U.S. cruise missiles and bomber planes could fly under Soviet radar. It also gained great knowledge of new Soviet weapon systems, thus saving the U.S. military an estimated \$2 billion in research and manufacturing costs. For this spy work, the CIA paid Tolkachev more than \$1 million — the majority of which was held in escrow pending his planned defection and

supplied Led Zeppelin, The Beatles and other Western rock albums for his son. Yet he appears to have been motivated more by revenge than money, telling his CIA handlers about the murder of his wife's mother and the imprisonment of her father during Joseph Stalin's purges of the 1930s. (Tolkachev was furthermore upset by the government's treatment of contemporary dissidents he admired.) The collaboration came to an abrupt end in 1985, when it's believed that former CIA agent Edward Lee Howard, and possibly Aldrich Ames as well, told the Soviets about Tolkachev's activities. He was executed the following year.

### **Drones | Bomb Carrying Kamikaze Drones Bring Power and Peril to the U.S. Military**

NBC News | Ken Dilanian | December 6, 2021

NBC News traveled to a military testing center for exclusive access to the first public demonstration of the Switchblade 300, a small, low-cost "kamikaze" drone made by AeroVironment, which sources said the U.S. military has used quietly for years in targeted killing operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and Syria.

The killer drone whooshed out of its launch tube, spreading its carbon wings and shooting into the sky. Flying too fast for the naked eye to track, the battery-powered robot circled the Utah desert, hunting for the target it had been programmed to strike. Moments later, it sailed through the driver's side window of an empty pickup truck and exploded in a fireball.

"Good hit," exclaimed an operator from AeroVironment, the company that produces the drone and sells it to the U.S. military. The demonstration told a story of promise and peril.

Americans have become accustomed to images of Hellfire missiles raining down from Predator and Reaper drones to hit terrorist targets in Pakistan or Yemen. But that was yesterday's drone war. A revolution in unmanned aerial vehicles is unfolding, and the U.S. has lost its monopoly on the technology. Some experts

believe the spread of the semi-autonomous weapons will change ground warfare as profoundly as the machine gun did. They can leapfrog traditional defenses to strike infantry troops anywhere on the battlefield, and they cost just \$6,000 apiece, compared to \$150,000 for the Hellfire missile typically fired by Predator or Reaper drones.

That capability could help save the lives of U.S. troops, but it could also put them and Americans at home in great danger from terrorists or nation-

states that haven't previously had access to such lethal and affordable technology.

"I think this is going to be the new IED," or improvised explosive device, said Shaan Shaikh, a missile expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "It's something that we can see that is going to be a problem, and we have some defenses, but not enough."

Dubbed kamikaze, suicide or killer drones, these unmanned aircraft don't fire missiles —

They are the missiles. But unlike typical missiles, they can circle above a target, wait for the ideal moment and strike with incredible precision. The U.S. military couldn't have fought the way it did in Iraq or Afghanistan if the enemy had had killer drones. The next battlefield opponent I likely to have them. And terrorists will eventually get them, too a possibility that has homeland security officials scrambling to find a solution, given that there is no surefire defense against them.

"There are over 100 countries and nonstate groups that have drones today, and the technology is widely proliferating," said Paul Scharre, a former Army Ranger who is a scholar at the Center for a New American Security and the author of "Army of None," a book about autonomous weapons. "It levels the playing field between the U.S. and terrorist groups or rebel groups in a way that's certainly not good for the United States."

Today's small lethal drones are difficult to detect on radar, and they can even be

programmed to hit targets without human intervention, based on facial recognition or some other computer wizardry. And while the Pentagon and the Department of Homeland Security are spending billions of dollars to come up with “counter drone” technology, experts say there is, as yet, no foolproof version of it.

### **Taken into battle in a backpack**

Weighing just 5½ pounds, including its small warhead, the Switchblade can be taken into battle in a backpack and fly up to 7 miles to hit a target. The 300 model is designed to kill individuals, while a larger version, the 600, can destroy armored vehicles. AeroVironment isn’t yet allowed to show the bigger one to the public. They are called “Switchblade” because their bladelike wings spring out on launch.

“It allows our warfighter to have a battlefield superiority, which our enemies can't see, can't hear, can't tell it's coming, and really precisely achieve a specific mission effect,” said Wahid Nawabi, AeroVironment’s Afghan-born CEO.

Nawabi said he has been told that the Taliban and others who have been on the receiving end refer to it as an angry bird or a buzzing bee. Public procurement data show that the Switchblade 300 costs a small fraction of a Hellfire missile’s price tag, let alone the total cost of keeping Reaper drones in the air, flown by pilots in Nevada. The Switchblade has a feature that allows the operator to adjust the blast radius, so it can kill the driver of a vehicle but not a passenger, for example. The weapon can be “waved off” up to two seconds before impact, AeroVironment says, in the event of a mistake or a risk to civilians.

That wave-off capability is notable in light of the catastrophe in September when the military killed 10 civilians, seven of them children, in a drone strike in Afghanistan that officials now say was a tragic mistake. A Pentagon review found that the strike team was unaware of the presence of children when it decided to fire.

Officials said that a child was observed through a video feed of the target area after the launch but that by then the Hellfire missile couldn’t be recalled. The Switchblade has cameras that show a target seconds before impact. But for a better view of the battlefield, it’s often used in conjunction with a small surveillance drone.

For the NBC News demonstration, AeroVironment used the Puma, which is launched by handlike a large model airplane and provides high-resolution color imagery of the ground. The images beamed back from the Puma’s cameras made it clear that an operator could

see the expression on the face of a target in the seconds before the Switchblade struck. Portable drones provide air support to small ground force units even when overhead assets fighter jets, helicopters, large drones aren’t available, Scharre said. “The ability to have something that’s small and tube-launched that’s in your backpack, that the squad leader has access to, that they don't have to get on the radio and call in close air support ... that is a real game changer from a military capability standpoint,” he said.

### **It’s a game changer not just for the U.S.**

The Switchblade may be the most advanced of the genre, but Russia, China, Israel, Iran and Turkey all have some version of a killer drone. Iranian-backed militias have used small drones in 10 attacks this year on U.S. bases in Iraq, the military says. No U.S. personnel have been hurt or killed, but it is only the beginning. The tiny country of Azerbaijan used small Turkish-made drones to devastating effect against the Armenian military last year, bringing a decisive end to a stalemate over a disputed enclave that had gone on for years. Video released by Azerbaijan showed the drones pummeling artillery, tank and troop emplacements surrounded by trenches that offered no protection whatsoever from the fiery death raining down from above. Russia and Ukraine have used armed drones in fighting

over a disputed region, and Iranian-backed Houthi rebels used them to blow up Saudi oil facilities in 2019.

Drones, Scharre and other experts say, may usher in the largest transformation of ground war tactics since the advent of the machine gun at the turn of the 20th century, which quickly put an end to sending large formations of troops marching into gunfire. Drones “are making the battlefield a much more dangerous place for ground troops,” Scharre said. “Now, hiding behind a wall, hiding in a trench line, is not enough to protect you from the enemy.”

U.S. troops in Iraq are experiencing that danger firsthand. Iranian-backed militias have used small drones in nine attacks on U.S. facilities in Iraq this year, a U.S. military spokesman said. No one has been hurt or killed, but it’s only a matter of time. A suicide drone attack on an oil tanker linked to an Israeli billionaire killed two crew members off Oman in the Arabian Sea on July 29.

“We have found that every time we come up with some way to defend ourselves against[drones], the technology rapidly advances to the point where it defeats our defensive capabilities,” said Michael Patrick “Mick” Mulroy, a retired Marine and former CIA officer who was deputy assistant secretary of defense for the Middle East from 2017 to 2019. Mulroy, an ABC News analyst, said that drone defenses include electronic jamming and various methods to shoot them down but that there are technologies and tactics to bypass every possible defense. The military, for example, can sometimes shoot high-powered weapons at incoming drones on a battlefield. Inside populated areas, however, small, explosives-laden unmanned aerial vehicles pose a more vexing problem.

In a war zone, “you could do more things with electronic warfare ... with using high-powered microwaves that might be very disruptive in a domestic context,” Scharre said.

“You could shoot bullets on the sky in a war zone, and you might be less concerned about where they’re going land out in the desert than in a major American city.” Meanwhile, all the barriers put up in cities to keep truck bombs away from buildings are useless against drones. So far, no terrorist group is known to have used a suicide drone. But experts believe it’s only a matter of time. The Islamic State terrorist group put explosives on hobbyist drones and used them to harass and occasionally injure coalition forces in Iraq and Syria. The specter of a swarm of explosives-packed drones buzzing toward a crowded U.S. sports arena keeps homeland security officials up at night.

But the government has been slow to react. It was only in 2018 that Congress granted the Department of Homeland Security and other law enforcement agencies the authority to take down drones deemed to be threats inside the U.S. Since then, DHS has been contracting with outside companies and testing technologies to defeat the drone threat. A spokesman declined to comment when asked for an update from DHS’ Science and Technology Directorate on the state of domestic counter-drone programs.

In an article on DHS’ website in July, the agency discusses some of its counter-drone efforts and notes that tests have been conducted. But the article doesn’t say whether the tests showed that any of the technology works consistently. In 2018, the head of DHS’ intelligence division at the time told Congress that drones posed a major threat. “Commercially available drones can be employed by terrorists and criminals to deliver explosives or harmful substances, conduct surveillance both domestically and internationally against U.S. citizens, interests and assets,” said the official, David Glawe. “This threat is significant, and it’s imminent, and it’s upon us.”



## **Amazing Air Force One Facts That Only A Few Presidents Have Been Willing To Confess**

By JOEL KLEIN / August 7, 2017

### **How Fast And How High?**

Air Force One can fly over 700 miles per hour. That's really fast! It can also fly higher than most commercial planes, at a height of 45,000 feet. That's 10,000 feet higher than the normal cruising altitude of any other passenger airliner. Despite its crazy speed, Air Force One flies very smoothly.

### **Air Force One Never Has To Touch Ground**

This is probably one of the coolest facts about Air Force One. Air Force One can refuel in the sky. It never has to touch ground. If it wanted to, it could fly forever. It can keep the president in the sky as long as it has to. Another cool fact: Air Force One has a 3,000-gallon fuel tank.

### **Air Force One Has Two Restaurants On Board**

There are essentially two restaurants aboard Air Force One – well, they're two massive kitchens that always have food available. The president and his guests can have anything they desire. Air Force one is staffed with top rated chefs, and each kitchen holds up to 100 people. That's pretty big!

### **Phones Are Everywhere**

Air Force One has over 85 phones. But why? Well, it's the most secure place the president can talk, even over the White House. The Airborne Executive Phone has a light on the back that lights up red when secure. There are dozens of less secure lines aboard for the press and staff that travel with the president.

### **There Are Super Spy Cameras In The Wheel Wells**

In 1959, President Eisenhower instructed Allen Dulles, the Director of Central Intelligence at the time, to install cameras in the wheel wells of Air Force One. These cameras were so powerful that even in 1959 they could read license plates from the sky. No matter the reason for the installation, you can't deny how unbelievable

that is! It continues to be believed by aviation experts that updated sky-to-ground camera tech continues to be in use in various locations on the underbelly of the aircraft, including the wheel wells.

### **Who Are The Frequent Travelers Of Air Force One?**

Air Force One is a place for family. It's a place to exhale from all the hustle and bustle of the presidential life. The Secret Service travel with the family, as well as staffers and the journalists who live in a cabin at the very back of the plane.

### **Air Force One Is Large Enough To Be A House**

Air Force One is large enough to be a house. It has three stories of 4,000 square feet. The president has his own large office, lavatory, and conference room. There are private quarters for special guests, and all the furniture is exquisite like it belongs in some exotic mansion.

### **How Many People Does Air Force One Hold?**

Air Force One can hold hundreds of people, but only safely seat 70. There are living quarters to accommodate more bodies, such as all of the senior advisors, Secret Service officers, reporters and special guests. Yes, there are usually people without seats. The central seating area of the plane is reserved for the president and his family.

### **How Much Does Air Force One Cost To Fly?**

The Air Force One costs \$206,000 an hour to operate. That's staggering compared to the \$20,000 an hour it costs for a commercial airline. President Trump's traveling costs were \$10 million his first month in office. Presidential travel involves hundreds of people and dozens of aircraft. The costs add up.

### **Air Force One Is Where Homeland Security Was Birthed**

President George W. Bush signed the Department of Homeland Security into existence from onboard a flight on the Air Force One. It was thousands of feet above Germany that this decision was made immediately following the attacks of September 11th. This

decision has changed the inner-workings of our country forever.

### **Air Force One Is Nuclear Resistant**

Air Force One is pretty much a nuclear-resistant Oval Office. The plane can withstand a nuclear blast even if on the ground. It has been put through testing to the equivalent of a nuclear attack. That's comforting for sure. Let's hope it's never tried in real time.

### **What Happens When The President Is Coming To Town?**

When the president comes to town, the airport that hosts Air Force One is made aware. Then, the air space is cleared an hour before the president's arrival. When Air Force One lands, it's self-contained. No need for outside services. From there, the president is transferred to Cadillac One aka "The Beast."

### **Sick On Air Force One? No Problem**

If a passenger aboard the Air Force One gets sick, it's no problem. There's a miniature hospital built into Air Force One, with a doctor staffed at all times. Air sickness is not an excuse to avoid travel on this well-equipped plane! And how cool would it be to be known as the "Air Force One doctor?"

### **Jackie Kennedy Styled Air Force One**

Most of the styles seen on Air Force One can be attributed to Jackie Kennedy. She carpeted it and picked out the china, crystal and silverware. The USAF Museum in Dayton, Ohio still has all of her original furnishings, and Air Force One will always have some of Mrs. Kennedy's flair.

### **Air Force One Is An Airborne Command Center**

The gear aboard Air Force One is top-notch with superb satellite communications networks and extremely classified defensive measures that not only protect the plane during an attack, but can carry out attacks as well. Most of us will never know the commands that have been made aboard Air Force One.

### **Why They Call Him "The Jellybean President"**

President Reagan had a quirk about him— he loved jellybeans! A jar of jellybeans awaited him every time he boarded Air Force One. When Reagan was a child, a nice man gave him jellybeans during his tour to the White House. "I didn't know then, but the jellybeans were much more than a sweet treat, they represented the uniqueness and greatness of America," said Reagan.

### **Air Force One Is Actually Air Force Three**

There are two Air Force Ones, but only one is the real deal. They fly together so no one knows which one the president is actually on. "The Gulfstream," known as the C-20C, is a jet that supposedly trails the other two planes, but the government and the Air Force deny it exists. Interesting...

### **What Did President Bush Senior Outlaw On Air Force One?**

President George H. W. Bush banned broccoli from the White House, but also on board the Air Force One. He didn't want broccoli near anything his chefs were cooking up for him. That's pretty particular, but when you're the president of the United States, what're they going to say? Nothing.

### **What Did President Ford Smuggle Onto Air Force One?**

President Ford probably wins the gold for most outrageous request aboard the Air Force One. He always managed to get someone to smuggle Coors beer onto his flights. At that time, it was still illegal to buy in most states, but that doesn't matter when you're the president!

### **Pres. Trump's Private 757 Vs. Air Force One**

The "Trump Force One" is a 757 bought from Microsoft's Paul Allen. It's lined in gold plating and covered in the Trump family crest. "It's bigger than Air Force One," President Trump bragged to the press. With Rolls-Royce engines and seating for 43, it was featured on the Discovery Channel as the "world's most luxurious jetliner." Well...

### **Has Its Own “Doomsday Plane”**

When it comes to the protection of the sitting POTUS, nothing is left to chance. For this very reason, Air Force One has its own protection of a sort, in the form of a “Doomsday Plane”, call signal E-4B. Basically, this plan has Air Force One’s back. The plane is designed to stay in the air for days and is able to outrun the explosion of a nuclear weapon. The only function of this aircraft is the protection of Air Force One, and the POTUS, should its unique form of service is required. The 747 follows the POTUS aircraft everywhere it goes, with the sole purpose of a specialized type of security.

### **A Massive Flying Fortress**

Not only does Air Force one function as a means of travel to and from crucial destinations, but it also serves as a flying fortress to protect and secure the POTUS and any fellow passengers. Each and every window on the aircraft is armored and resistant to gunfire. There are flares that can be released from the craft, if needed, that will aid in confusing any enemy missiles. Finally, as a means to keep down on possible sabotage, both exits from Air Force one has its own retractable staircase, preventing the necessity to depend on airport staircases.

### **TV’s Abound**

Believe it or not, Air Force One has twenty TVs on board. Each tv is strategically placed throughout the aircraft so that at any given time passengers will be able to view one. Although it has never been officially said why so many, there are two reasons that this may be. One would be that with Air Force One being such a massive structure, it would only hold that it would require more TVs than most aircraft. Second, with press and staff constantly flying with the POTUS, one would assume they would need to keep up to date on broadcasts and reports. It would only make their jobs that much less stressful. Plus we are sure that the multitude of TV’s is sure to provide a variety of viewing choices during long and tedious flights.

### **Showing Its Age**

According to a Live Science report, both planes that are currently called signed as Air Force One are actually very highly customized Boeing 747-200B jets. The currently two planes were purchases under Ronald Reagan’s administration. However, they didn’t actually go into service until much later, in 1990, under the then-president George H.W. Bush’s administration. Since the jets were commissioned, Boeing has shut down all production on its 747-200 style of the jet. As a result, it has made finding replacement parts for the plane a very arduous task. In some cases, spare parts have had to be culled from jetliners that are parked in the desert.

### **In With The New**

With the increasing problems with finding adequate parts to serve and maintain Air Force One properly, it was decided a new set of planes were needed. With that in mind, during Barack Obama’s term of office, an order was placed for two replacements for the Air Force One fleet. The new versions were to built based on the new Boeing 747-8 series. A newer, better version than the previous styles. It has been estimated that both planes are looking to run at least \$3 billion dollars, and are not expected to even come into service until well into 2024.

### **Top Of The Line Fridges**

Americans were shocked to learn this little tidbit of information recently. It was reported that Air Force One was in need of new refrigerators. Oh, but not just any refrigerators—but ones that cost a whopping twelve million dollars—each. With the needed replacements, Boeing was awarded the contract to do the actual engineering of the fridges. The reason stated for the need for such costly equipment is simply that Air Force One has to have the ability to feed passengers, and crew, for weeks on end without having to resupply. This means each fridge has to be able to store up to three thousand meals at any given time.

### **Must Be Maintained To Perfection**

Because of Air Force One's particular function, it must be kept in as close to perfect condition at all times. This is to reduce the potential for any type of devastating accident. The team of contractors that are assigned to maintain the plane has a very strict set of protocols to maintain. Other than keeping the aircraft in pristine condition, both inside and out, the contractors are charged with checking every inch of the plane, even down to the fuel that goes into its tanks. When not in use, the planes are under heavily armed, round the clock guard, in a hangar at Andrews Air Force Base just outside of DC.

### **Hard On The Pocket Book**

Because of its sheer size, Air Force One is pretty costly to run. It has been reported that for the 2016 fiscal year alone, the cost to operate Air Force One in the air was a staggering \$180,000 an hour. Because of this massive cost, lawmakers have been calling the presidents to task on what is seen as the unnecessary, even referred to as frivolous and partisan, outings of the aircraft. However, it should be noted that these squabbles over what is deemed unnecessary uses of the aircraft are in no way new. And to be honest, will continue to happen with each new president.

### **Press In Tow**

It is pretty much common knowledge that when the POTUS travels he has somewhat of a large entourage. Those included are senior aides, national security, domestic, and economic advisors. It is also well known that the POTUS travels with press members on board as well. Those on board, totaling thirteen in all, are handpicked by the POTUS administration as the "eyes and ears" of the people. They are there, on their news organization's expense, to cover all the details surrounding the POTUS trips. They represent all wings of the media, including wire services, newspapers, news site, broadcast television, and radio

### **The Beast**

The presidential limo nicknamed the 'Beast', goes everywhere the president goes—without exception. The reason for this is that the Secret Service will be better able to maintain the safety of the POTUS during vehicular transport. When the POTUS arrives, the limo is there waiting for him when he lands at his destination, to carry him to wherever he needs. However, the limo, a Cadillac, does not actually travel with the president. In actuality, it is sent ahead of the president, transported aboard a military cargo plane. Since it is ahead of the president the limo can be waiting and ready on the tarmac when the president arrives.

### **A Long History**

Contrary to popular belief, Air Force One has been around for many decades. The patriarch of the Air Force One lineage was spearheaded by Franklin D. Roosevelt during his administration. He formed the then Presidential Pilot Office, which then in 1944 became the Presidential Airlift Group. For the following fifteen years, the aircraft that served the president were propeller driven in nature. It wasn't until JFK's administration that a sitting president flew in a jet built expressly for that very purpose. His aircraft was a modified Boeing 707 jet. Over the years, a variety of jet aircraft has been put into service for the president.

### **New Planes Are The Norm**

The consistent ordering of new planes to serve as Air Force One is not a new concept. From the first version, every so many administrations would put in an order for the newer, faster, shinier model. The entire Air Force, not just Air Force One, has an ongoing order at one time or another for updated aircraft. The problems that usually arise are based within the technical requirements the new aircraft need to provide. Since taking over the acquisition of new aircraft, and the specific requirements each newer version is required to have, the Pentagon is constantly being dogged by one set back or another. After years of budget battles, the Air Force finally announced it would hire Boeing,

the only remaining manufacturer of large aircraft, to deliver future orders of planes needed.

### **Rules To Follow**

Although it is in the POTUS privy of power to order new aircraft to serve as Air Force One, there are specific rules that must be followed. The purchase must be made within the second term of the sitting president. The reason for this is so that the aircraft will not be delivered within that president's term of office, thusly preventing the ordering president to actually use the plane. The president, in reality, is purchasing the plane for the use of future presidents, not for his own use. Along with Reagan and Eisenhower, Obama set aside money in his second term to purchase a new Air Force One.

### **Clinton's Haircut**

The president Bill Clinton received severe criticism when he decided to get a haircut aboard Air Force One. Not so much he cut his hair, but more because the aircraft was sitting on the runway at the time. The thing was that the aircraft's engines were still running, but it was stationary. In doing this, it caused a problem with outgoing and incoming aircraft. The event occurred at LAX, one of the countries busiest airports, and the air traffic controllers were scrambling to make sure that no additional aircraft took off or landed during this time. What resulted was a lot of LAX passengers waiting, and getting very frustrated at the same time.

### **Assigned Seating**

Much like a classroom, the seating on Air Force One is not only limited, but it is also very much assigned. The assigned seating rule is nothing new, as each administration has had its own rules on who can and cannot set where. The reasoning for this is not really known, but it is something that every sitting president, that has had Air Force One, has participated in. The seating on Air Force One, which makes up over half of what is available, is reserved for mostly

the press pool passengers as well as the Secret Service. There is a seat for everyone, and everyone has a specific seat.

### **Presidential Jazz**

One would think that since they have pretty much made sure to have everything else on board Air Force One, a DJ would pretty much be a given. However, it would seem that is not so. Most Americans knew of president Clinton's almost obsessive love of jazz music. Who hasn't at one time or another caught a newscast that showed him playing his saxophone, belting out some form or other of jazz. It is because of his love of jazz that it wasn't that unheard of for Clinton to take to playing some of the smooth tones during his longer flights onboard the aircraft. Because of bad hearing, the music was said to more often than not be beyond loud.

### **Cuts The Line**

When it comes to who has priority and who doesn't, there isn't much discussion when Air Force One is involved. Air Force One gets priority over anything and anyone else flying — end of story. Her pilots do not have to worry about how busy the airspace is, because it isn't. All airspace is cleared ahead of Air Force One in every flight she makes. There is also the fact that all air traffic, no matter whom it may be, is halted and grounded until Air Force One has either taken off or landed. For this very reason, and in order to not disrupt commercial airlines schedules, Air Force One typically lands at military air bases.

### **A Place In History**

Air Force One served as a momentous place in history in August 1974, when presidential leadership was turned over. Following his resignation, then sitting President Richard Nixon boarded Air Force One at Andrews AFB as he headed back home to El Toro, CA. While onboard the aircraft, at approximately 12 pm EST, the role of president was officially transferred from Nixon to Gerald Ford. This was one of the most remembered events in presidential history, and it took place onboard

Air Force One. The aircraft was halfway through its transcontinental trip when the callsign was then changed from Air Force One to SAM—Special Air Mission 28000—the official military callsign for the remainder of the flight.

### **Highly Recognized**

Because of its very appearance, Air Force One in no way can be mistaken for any other plane. With its gleaming, hand polished blue, white and silver color it is truly a sight to behold. The aircraft is as much a symbol for America as the President that it transports. Its supreme stature screams that it's not only the airplane of the POTUS, by also a flying symbol of America's superb military and economic might. Wherever it lands, it does so leaving those watching with a sense of awe. Upon touchdown, it does nothing less than proclaim the arrival of one of the most powerful individuals in the world.

### **Was Replaced One Time**

It is the responsibility of any sitting POTUS to use Air Force One as it is intended—as the only transportation for the president. However, during the Nixon administration, that basic rule was broken. In an effort, by Nixon, to demonstrate and send a political-economic message to the people, the POTUS did the unthinkable and traveled via United Airlines. Even though he was trying to prove and illustrate a point, his fellow representatives in the administration did not see this as a prudent move. Since he was not traveling in Air Force One, the United Airlines aircraft was given the designation of Executive One. This was and continues to be the callsign when the sitting POTUS chooses to board a civilian aircraft.

## **Pearl Harbor Silver Lining What You Didn't Know About the Attack**

Frontiers of Freedom | December 7, 2021



On 7 Dec 1941, at 7:55 am Hawaii time, a Japanese dive bomber bearing the red symbol of the Rising Sun of Japan on its wings appeared out of the clouds above the island of Oahu. A swarm of 360 Japanese warplanes followed, descending on our naval base at Pearl Harbor in a ferocious assault. The surprise attack struck a critical blow against our Pacific fleet and drew us into WWII. Much of the Pacific fleet was rendered useless: Five of eight battleships, three destroyers, and seven other ships were sunk or severely damaged, and over 200 aircraft were destroyed. A total of 2,400 Americans were killed and 1,200 were wounded, many while valiantly attempting to repulse the attack. Fortunately for the US, all three Pacific fleet aircraft carriers were out at sea on training maneuvers.

The next day, President Roosevelt appeared before a joint session of Congress and declared, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941--a date which will live in infamy--the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." After a brief and forceful speech, he asked Congress to approve a declaration of war between the US and Japan. They did. That day Admiral Chester Nimitz was in Washington DC. He was called by President Franklin Roosevelt and told that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Nimitz flew to Hawaii. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat-- you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war. On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained.

### **Mistake number ONE**

The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk--we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

### **Mistake number TWO**

When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our drydocks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired. As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

### **Mistake number THREE**

Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply. That's why I say the Japanese made

three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America. There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST.

## **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, Mike Laborico and Dave Johnson. (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.

[bruud45@gmail.com](mailto:bruud45@gmail.com) or hand deliver to Bart.

Forward your story to Bart Ruud at



**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 November 1, 1955 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 2021

# December

# 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 VVA 535 Christmas Dinner	3	4
5 Victorian Christmas	6	7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day	8 War Declared on Japan (1941)  Victorian Christmas	9	10 Human Rights Day	11 Germany and Italy Declared War on U.S. (1941)
12 Victorian Christmas	13	14	15 Iraq War Ended (2011)  Bill of Rights Day  Victorian Christmas	16 Victorian Christmas	17	18 Wreaths Across America
19 Victorian Christmas	20 Panama Campaign began (1989)	21 Winter begins	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day
26 Kwanzaa	27	28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve  Official end of WW II (1946) Kosovo Campaign Ended (2013)	

# January

# 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4	5	6 VVA 535	7	8 ?
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Persian Gulf War began (1991)	18	19	20	21 Battle of Khe San began (1968)	22
23	24	25	26	27 Paris Peace Accords signed (1973)	28	29
30 Tet Offensive began (1968)	31					

# February

# 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Groundhog Day	3 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19
20	21 Presidents' Day	22	23 Flag raised on Iwo Jima 1945	24	25	26
27	28 Persian Gulf War ceasefire 1991					

# March

# 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Ash Wednesday	3 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13 Daylight Saving Time begins	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day	18	19 Operation Iraqi Freedom began, 2003
20 Spring begins	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 Vietnam Veterans Day	30	31		