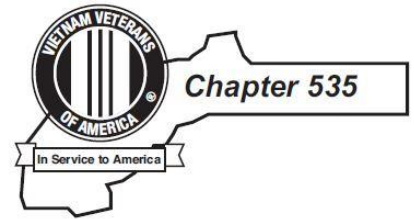




INCOMING

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA
CHAPTER 535



Website: www.vva535.org

Volume 32 Issue 9

September 2022

VIETNAM VETERANS OF AMERICA CHAPTER 535 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE September 2022

Vietnam 2023

Like many Vietnam Veterans, when I returned to the U.S. in May 1968, I put away my military years and did not participate in any veteran organizations or activities.

Years later, two friends and I, one a crew chief on medivacs, the other a Ranger with the 173rd Airborne Brigade, attended the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Capitol Park in Sacramento. Twenty years after returning home it all came rushing back in one crazy weekend in Sacramento.

This got me thinking maybe I should return to Vietnam and test my memory on the past. I signed up with a tour company and returned in 2001. This tour was for veterans of the 1st Cav. and the 4th Division. While in Kontum, a place I had been many times, we came upon a most beautiful wooden church. Behind the church was a very poor Catholic orphanage for Montagnard children. I had been around and worked with the Montagnard people during my deployment but had completely forgotten about

them. I had worried about the ARVN, but forgotten about the Montagnards. They fought on our side, we came home, and they suffered. They were mountain people that lived in the forests, but what we found was the forests had been logged and the Montagnards were living in terrible conditions in what were called villages. These villages were and are much like the Indian reservations in the U.S. around the turn of the century. We asked where the children came from and were told that if a mother died in childbirth, the child was buried with the mother. The family members would bring the babies to the orphanages, some that had to be dug up and saved. Of course, this was not the only source of need for the orphanages, but one that really got our attention. That started us thinking about what could we do to help. So, we came home and started a friends and family donation drive that became an IRS 501(c)3 organization in 2005, Friends of Vinh Son Orphanage, or FVSO. Bart Ruud is an essential part of our Board and serves as Senior VP and Project manager. The website is www.friendsofvso.org

We have supporters from all over the world, but mostly from here in the U.S. **FVSO is ever grateful for VVA 535's ongoing and generous support. Thank you.** Currently we have 7 orphanages, 6 in Kontum Province and one in Pleiku. We hadn't wanted to pick up another

orphanage, especially one that was outside our Kontum, Vietnam Vinh Son umbrella, but during the war both Joe Sanders and I had worked at the Tu Tam Orphanage in Pleiku, now known as Sao Mai. Sentimental connectivity changed the course of our mission, and that is another story.

Since 2001, I have taken tour groups to Vietnam. It started out with mostly veterans, but now has other travelers who are interested in Vietnam from a humanitarian or historical perspective. Bart Ruud, Ralph Remick, Joe Sanders, Mike Gregersen, Pete Hidalgo, Richard Squire and Ken Tokutomi (deceased), are VVA 535 members that have traveled with us. I've been asked how many of these tours have I done, so I pulled out my passports and counted. Next year will be my 18th and last tour. I try to keep these tours at or below 20 travelers and now have limited them to one country. In the past we have always gone to Vietnam, but have added stops in Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar. I find at my age; it is too easy to make mistakes in the planning and execution. Hence, the last tour.

Dave Chaix

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.

**Veterans
Crisis Line**

DIAL 988 then PRESS 1

(Put this number into your phone)

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.

Table of Contents

Pg. 1	President's Message
Pg. 2	Mission Statement
Pg. 2	Table of Contents
Pg. 2	Upcoming events
	Officers, Directors & Committee Chairs
Pg. 3	Matters of Interest
Pg. 4	Lend a Hand
Pg. 4	Military ID Cards
Pg. 5	USS Bonhomme Richard update
Pg. 6	SSA COLA 2023
Pg. 7	Air Travel Scams
Pg. 8	SSA Windfall update
Pg. 8	SPRK – U.S. Relations
Pg. 9	Electric Cars
Pg.10	Writing Your Story
Pg. 11	Member Biography – Jose Gonzales
Pg. 12	New Names for Army Bases
Pg. 13	VVA Application
Pg. 14	Calendars

Upcoming Events

NCCVC Meeting – September 1, 2022
VVA General Meeting – September 1, 2022
CSC: August 19 – 21, 2022 - Visalia
CSC: Oct 14-16, 2022 – Visalia
All Veterans Stand Down – Oct. 14, 15, 2022
October 16 – 22, 2022 VSO Conference, Gold
Country Inn, Grass Valley
December 1, 2022 – Christmas potluck dinner
December 17, 2022 Wreaths Across America

Chapter 535 Officers

President David Chaix
dmcb402@gmail.com
1-530-269-1431

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

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
Ric Sheridan 530-274-1413
Corbin Smith 916-833-7860

Committee Chairs

Finance ...Ralph Remick & Dave Johnson
Parade and Honor Guard Dick Corn
Membership AffairsRic Sheridan
Newsletter Interim Editor Bart Ruud
Victorian Christmas Cancelled for 2022
Nominations Ralph Remick
Veterans Assistance..... Dave Chaix
NCCVC Dave Chaix; Dick Corn
Speakers Bureau Ray James
Web Master Ralph Remick
Quartermaster Dick Corn
Facebook Master Mike Laborico
Nevada County Fair Open
CA State Council Rep..... Open

Nevada County Veterans Services Officer

David West II
Nevada County Veterans Service Officer
988 McCourtney Rd.
Grass Valley, CA 95949
David.West@co.nevada.ca.us
(530) 265-1446 (Office)
(530) 913-5046 (Cell phone)

“Walk-In” opportunities are available M – F.

Placer County Veteran Services 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. The
Auburn office, at 11562 B Avenue, Auburn, CA 95603, is now open every
Tuesday 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.. The Carnelian Bay
office, at 5252 N Lake Blvd, Carnelian Bay, CA 96140, is now open every
3rd Monday (excluding Holidays) 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m.-
3:00 p.m.

Derrick Oliveira has left the employ of Placer
County as of July 8, 2022, and moved on to

achieve a long-term academic goal. In the
interim, prior to the hiring of a new VSO, the
office staff continues assist Veterans daily.

Guest Speaker for September 1, 2022

Nevada County Veteran Service Officer, David
West II. David will address the recently enacted
PACT Act as it affects Vietnam veterans.

County VSO Resource Closet Needs

Sleeping bags, duffel bags, small lightweight
tents, socks, briefs, bras, tee shirts (white/olive
drab), sweatshirts, sweatpants, jeans, shoes,
boots, hygiene supplies, grocery store gift cards,
gas cards, blankets.

These kinds of items will become components of
life packs to assist those in need that are seen by
staff at VSO David West’s office. Thank you for
your assistance with this project.

Matters of Interest as outlined at the Meeting of August 4, 2022



Miss Caitlyn Sullivan receiving the 2022 Harold K.
Graves Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 from Ms.
Patricia Graves on July 7, 2022. Caitlyn is a 2022
graduate of Nevada Union High School and will
matriculate at U.C. Davis, Fall term, 2022.

VVA 535 stepped in as a \$500 sponsor of a
Welcome Home Vets fundraiser golf tournament.

Our Coast Guard flag, which had become soiled and tattered, has been replaced with a new flag.

Some 20 remaining cans of hot chocolate mix, leftovers from Victorian Christmas, will be available for purchase at the September 1st meeting at \$10 each.

Treasurer Ralph Remick suggested we plan ahead to sponsor a fundraiser concert at the Center for the Arts. Suggestions for a performance group are sought.

The California Vietnam Memorial in Capitol Park, Sacramento, is in need of more than \$100,000 in repair and maintenance costs that are the responsibility of VVA. Chapter 535 will consider a donation to the cause once more details are understood.

Jose Gonzales reiterated the critical need to find a new storage site for our enclosed utility trailer.

Lend a Hand

We are informed that our friend, JoAnne M., could use near-term assistance with weed eating to fire harden the lot upon which her home is located. A military veteran widow in need is a good cause. J.M. has some hand tools but thoughts are that power weed eaters, rakes and similar might be needed. We could use a Project Leader for better coordination. More information will soon be distributed. Thank you for your willingness to lend a hand.

Military ID Cards

New Deadline for Some Military Retirees, Dependents

MOAA Newsletter | JULY 18, 2022

Retirees and military family members who have identification cards **with no expiration date** can choose to upgrade to the new Next Generation Uniform Services Identification, or USID, cards whenever it's convenient -- as long as it's done within the next four years, according to the

Defense Department. There is no looming deadline for use of those old non-active-duty cards without expiration dates, but the department expects to completely phase out and replace them with the next-generation IDs, which are more durable and have enhanced security features, by 2026, Maj. Charlie Dietz, a spokesman, told Military.com.

In the meantime, cards with expiration dates are required to be replaced within 90 days of elapsing. The Defense Department began the effort to update all those IDs to the new format in July 2020, but the changeover hit delays caused by the pandemic. "DoD plans to phase out and cancel the existing card forms in 2026 when all existing cards with an actual expiration date will have expired," Dietz wrote in an email. "After then, only the USID card will be accepted for installation and benefits access." The USID format for military retirees and dependents represents the first change to those identification cards in nearly 30 years; the last update was in 1993. The new design closely resembles the Common Access Card, or CAC, format issued to active-duty troops and department civilians.

But there was uncertainty among those with cards that list the expiration as indefinite. The IDs are needed to access military facilities and to confirm eligibility for various military benefits, so missing a deadline or losing the identification could disrupt cardholders' lives. Expired cards can be confiscated at base gates. Those with cards with no expiration dates "may have the card replaced at their convenience," according to Dietz. The department recommends they go to the ID Card Office Online and use the office locator to find a site that issues the new cards and book an appointment. Retirees and their dependents, dependents of active-duty troops, reserve members and Medal of Honor recipients are among those who will receive the USID cards. A description of the new cards and a complete list of who is eligible can be found at

<https://www.cac.mil/Next-Generation-Uniformed-Services-ID-Card>.

At the onset of the pandemic in April 2020, the Defense Department extended the deadlines for replacing expiring cards in an attempt to keep the military community from gathering in issuance offices and spreading COVID-19. By February 2021, more than 200,000 of the new IDs had been issued. "Social distancing and other pandemic safety precautions at DoD ID card sites worldwide has delayed the progress of existing card replacement, but generally most of those cardholders who needed to replace an expired card have done so," Dietz said July 13.

USS Bonhomme Richard Update Vice Admiral + Two Dozen Others Punished For Fire

Navy Times | Geoff Ziezulewicz | July 15, 2022



The Navy announced 15 JUL it disciplined more than two dozen service members for their roles in the July 2020 fire that destroyed the amphibious assault ship Bonhomme Richard in San Diego.5 40 Chief among the actions is a letter of censure issued by Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro against now-retired Vice Adm. Richard Brown, who was serving as the commander of Naval Surface Forces when the

blaze was called away on July 12 as the amphib was undergoing maintenance on the waterfront.

Brown disputed any culpability for the bungled multi-day effort to extinguish the inferno in an interview with Defense News earlier this summer. He had already been informed the censure letter was coming. Among other points of contention, Brown told Defense News he was never interviewed for the investigation and was told late last year that he had not been found culpable for the fire or the response. Brown also said that his efforts to oversee the firefight after other admirals in the ship's operational chain of command shirked their duty were ignored in the investigation. And he took issue with the officer who was appointed to lead the investigation, who Brown said had a conflict of interest. "This was a political hit," Brown told Navy Times. "For whatever reason, to appease the Senate, to appease Congress, we're going to hang a three star."

The censure letter will not impact Brown's retirement grade determination, officials said. Brown handed over the reins of Naval Surface Forces and retired less than a month after the fire, a change that had been planned before the amphib burned. Adm. Samuel Paparo, the head of U.S. Pacific Fleet, meted out punitive letters of reprimand and pay forfeitures to Capt. Gregory Thoroman and Capt. Michael Ray, who served as Bonnie Dick's commanding officer and executive officer, respectively, at the time of the fire, the Navy. Former Command Master Chief Jose Hernandez also received a punitive letter of reprimand. Such letters are generally considered to be career killers.

In addition, Paparo issued letters of instruction to Rear Adm. Scott Brown, Pacific Fleet's director of fleet maintenance and Rear Adm. Eric Ver Hage, the commanding officer of the Navy Regional Maintenance Center. All told, Paparo made disciplinary decisions on 27 individuals found to have played a role in the failure to prevent and fight the fire. No other individuals disciplined by Paparo were

identified in the Navy's announcement. "The disposition decisions included six Nonjudicial Punishments (NJP) with guilty findings, two NJPs with Matter of Interest Filings (MIF) and a Letter of Instruction (LOI), two NJP dismissals with a warning, one additional MIF, five other LOIs, three Non-Punitive Letters of Caution (NPLOC), two letters to former Sailors documenting substandard performance, and six no-action determinations," the Navy said in a statement. The disciplinary actions announced 15 JUL are separate from the criminal charges the Navy has brought against Seaman Apprentice Ryan Mays, who is accused of starting the fire. His trial is expected to begin in September.

Del Toro's censure letter against Brown states that, as type commander and administrative control immediate superior in command for Bonhomme Richard, Brown was "responsible for various man, train and equip functions which directly impacted Bonhomme Richard's material condition, the conduct of maintenance availability, and the crew's readiness to combat a fire." 41 The letter also blames Brown for failing to oversee the ship's fire safety during its extensive maintenance availability, "where risk of fire is great." "(Brown) also failed to set a culture permitting Commanding Officers, faced with significant pressure to meet time and schedule milestones while in an availability, to raise concerns or properly weigh safety, including fire safety, against maintenance milestones," the letter stated. Brown denied creating such a climate while in command, and said he had an open communication policy with his ship COs for any issue.

He told Defense News this summer that he took control of the situation because Vice Adm. Scott Conn—then the commander of U.S. 3rd Fleet, which was in the amphib's operational chain of command—refused to do so. "The Navy covered up this failure in leadership by then assigning this same Vice Admiral as the Investigating Officer, resulting in a fatally defective investigation," Brown said in a statement.

Speaking to Navy, Brown called Conn's appointment as the investigating officer for the mishap "a conflict of interest." Brown asked why then-Pacific Fleet commander, Adm. John Aquilino, didn't appoint a three-star for the job whose chain of command wasn't so connected to the ship. Defense News reached out to Conn earlier this summer to clarify his position that the Bonhomme Richard, as a ship in maintenance, was not under his command.

Rear Adm. Charlie Brown, then-Navy chief of information, told Defense News that two policies — the OPNAVINST 3440.18 and the NAVSEA 8010 manual — "were not fully consistent, but they placed command and control responsibility on the administrative chain of command for a ship in this configuration. Third Fleet was the operational commander two echelons above the BHR." Conn told Defense News in a media roundtable in October, when the fire investigation was released, that Navy policy was for ships in maintenance to go through the administrative chain of command, through the type commander. He added that "one of our recommendations going forward is to review where should the operational chain be aligned as part of the oversight in a lengthy availability."

The Navy has undertaken a raft of reforms to address ship fires, particularly when ships are deep into a maintenance availability, as was the case with Bonhomme Richard. "Losing Bonhomme Richard to this fire was preventable," Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. William Lescher said in a statement Friday. "We are making significant changes in the way the Navy learns and leads so that this does not happen again."

SSA COLA 2023
TSCL Forecast Up to 10.5%
TSCL Weekly Update | July 18, 2022

Once again, TSCL is being quoted in a number of media outlines regarding its forecast of the 2023 Social Security COLA. Among them is Yahoo Finance, which said this: “Based on new inflation data through June, the cost-of-living adjustment for Social Security benefits, or COLA, could be an increase of 10.5% next year, according to estimates from the Senior Citizens League, boosting the average retiree benefit by \$175.10 every month.” However, the article pointed out that a larger COLA is not all good news for seniors. The COLA will not go into effect until January of next year. In addition, it is likely a Medicare Part B increase will take a large portion of the new COLA. And it could push certain seniors into a higher tax bracket resulting in increased taxes and/or a reduction in some benefits.

Quoting TSCL’s Social Security Policy Analyst Mary Johnson, the article pointed out that “A bigger Social Security benefit translates to higher income, which can mean higher taxes for those with incomes above \$25,000 for individuals and \$32,000 for married couples, according to Johnson. Tens of thousands of retirees who have not paid taxes on their benefits in the past may discover they must start doing so in 2023. “Because the income thresholds are not adjusted like ordinary tax brackets, these once-in-a-lifetime COLA increases could lead to permanently higher taxes for many retirees,” Johnson said.

“Higher income can also result in cuts in income-related benefits for low-income seniors, Johnson said. A May-June survey from the Senior Citizens League found that 39% of participants who receive low-income benefits reported their low-income assistance was reduced due to this year’s 5.9% COLA, while 15% reported they lost access to at least one assistance program. ““The most cruel irony is that a high COLA can lead to trims in income-related benefits such as SNAP and rental assistance for low-income beneficiaries,” Johnson said.”

Air Travel Scams Airfare Scams Are Cashing In On Cancelled Flights

Better Business Bureau | July 29, 2022

Airline travel is back in full swing, but scammers are taking advantage of increased flight cancellations with a new con. BBB Scam Tracker has received multiple reports of scammers creating fake airline ticket booking sites or customer service numbers to charge travelers for rescheduling fake flights. If you are buying airfare, use caution and double-check the URL or phone number before providing your credit card information.

How this scam works

- While doing an online search for cheap flights, you come across what seems like a great deal with a major airline. You book the flight—either through the website or by calling a customer support number.
- But shortly after making the payment, you receive a call from the company saying there's been a sudden price increase or an extra charge to finalize your booking. This is something a legitimate company would never do! **It turns out that you accidentally purchased tickets through a scam website or a phony customer service number. The price increase is a way to get more money out of you.**
- In another similar con, your original flight was real, but the cancellation notice is fake. You get an email or text message claiming that your upcoming flight has been canceled, and 66 you need to rebook. When you call the number provided, the “airline” offers to book you a new ticket – for a price. However, if you follow up with real airline support, you’ll discover that nothing was wrong with your original flight. The message was a scam, and you just gave your credit card details to a con artist.
- One victim told BBB Scam Tracker: “I thought that I bought airline tickets with United Airlines through a company that sells at discounted prices. They called me shortly after I bought my tickets and said that the flight had been canceled. They wanted permission to put me on

another flight with Southwest and said it would be 80 dollars extra... It turned out that United Airlines never canceled a flight. I tried to call this company and leave a message and I tried to email them to no avail. It turns out that the airlines were unaware of this ticket purchase.”

How to avoid airfare scams:

- Double check flight details before calling support. Scammers are blasting out fake airline cancellation emails and text messages that can easily be mistaken for the real deal. Confirm the information in the message – such as the flight and reservation numbers – is correct before calling customer support.
- Confirm the URL before you enter personal and payment information. It can be easy to click on a sponsored ad or impostor website without noticing. Before entering any sensitive information, double check that you are on the right website and that the link is secure. (Secure links start with “HTTPS//” and include a lock icon on the purchase page. Learn more at [BBB.org/BBBSecure](https://www.bbb.org/BBBSecure))
- See the full article on [BBB.org](https://www.bbb.org) for more tips.

For more information

For ways to protect yourself from travel scams, go to [BBB.org/Travel](https://www.bbb.org/Travel). Read more about customer service number scams. If you’ve spotted a scam (whether or not you’ve lost money), report it to BBB Scam Tracker. Your report can help others avoid falling victim to scams. Learn how to spot a scam at [BBB.org/SpotAScam](https://www.bbb.org/SpotAScam).

SSA Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security Fairness Act Sponsorship

TSCL Weekly Update | July 18, 2022

The Social Security Fairness Act has finally reached the magic number of over 290 co-sponsors. The Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 82), if passed into law, would eliminate the Windfall Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset. The Windfall

Elimination Provision and the Government Pension Offset are two provisions that unfairly reduce or even eliminate the Social Security benefits of millions of Americans who have devoted their careers to public service, as well as having worked other jobs that withheld payroll taxes from their wages for Social Security benefits.

Per a relatively new House rule, any bill with 290 cosponsors can be added to the House Consensus Calendar (The Consensus Calendar is the go-to place for common sense bipartisan bills to move out of the house closet and be enacted into law). Once on, it is teed up for a vote if it maintains those 290 cosponsors or more for 25 legislative days (that basically means days when the House is in session). Then, the bill is referred to the Senate, where it usually follows the same route through committees and finally to the floor. This chamber may approve the bill as received, reject it, ignore it or change it. The Senate version of H.R.82, S.1302, has 40 bi-partisan cosponsors. That’s pretty darn good! If the Senate accepts the bill from the house, or passes its own bill, it’s on to the President.

If the President approves of the legislation, it is signed and becomes law. If the President takes no action for ten legislative days, the bill automatically becomes law. If the President opposes the bill, they may veto the bill. In addition, if no action is taken for 10 days and Congress has already adjourned, there is a “pocket veto”.

DPRK-U.S. Relations North Korea Threatens Nuclear Strike on U.S.

National Review | Diana Glebova | July 28, 2022

Kim Jong-un has warned that North Korea is ready to use nuclear weapons against the U.S. in a potential conflict, claiming the U.S. is “in pursuit of military confrontation,” state media reported Thursday. “Our armed forces are now

fully prepared to cope with any sort of crisis, and our state's nuclear war deterrent is also fully ready to demonstrate its absolute power accurately and promptly true to its mission," Kim said in a Wednesday speech to war veterans celebrating the 69th anniversary of the end of the Korean War, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

Kim claimed the U.S. is spreading rumors about North Korean threats, calling such behavior "just that of a gangster." "The United States, while describing all the usual actions of our armed forces as 'provocations' and 'threats,' is openly waging large-scale joint war games, which gravely threaten the security of our state. Such a double-dealing behavior is just that of a gangster, and this is driving the DPRK-US relations to a limiting point, a point of fierce collision, which cannot be reversed any further," he said. The North Korean leader also claimed the new South Korean government led by President Yoon Suk-yeol is "driving the situation on the Korean peninsula into the brink of war."

President Joe Biden and Yoon discussed starting conversations about joint U.S. and South Korean military training on the Korean peninsula when the two leaders met in May. Biden also reaffirmed the U.S. is ready "to deploy strategic U.S. military assets in a timely and coordinated manner as necessary." "If the South Korean regime and military ruffians think about confronting us militarily and that they can neutralize or destroy some parts of our military forces preemptively by resorting to some special military means and methods, they are grossly mistaken!" Kim said.

"Such a dangerous attempt will be punished at once by a powerful force and Yoon Suk-yeol regime and its army will be annihilated," he added to the warning.

As tensions between North Korea and the U.S. rise, the communist state and Russia grow closer, with the Russian ambassador to

Pyongyang saying North Korean "builders" will come to rebuild occupied Donbas.

Electric Cars Support Slips for Phase Out of Gas-Powered Vehicles

Route Fifty | Molly Bolan | July 1, 2022

A growing number of Americans are against phasing out gas-powered vehicles and believe stricter environmental rules are not worth the economic cost they may have, according to a recent report. Pew Research Center recently surveyed 10,282 U.S. adults about policies to address climate change. Among the findings: 55% of Americans oppose the idea of phasing out the production of trucks and cars with internal combustion engines by 2035. That figure is up slightly from last year, when 51% of Americans opposed the concept. Pew Research conducted its survey in early May, with the results highlighted in a report published last week.

Even so, policymakers in some states are already taking steps to transition away from gas-powered vehicles. In 2020, California Gov. Gavin Newsom issued an executive order calling for all passenger cars and trucks sold in California to be zero-emission by 2035. In March, Washington set the same goal for 2030. At the federal level, the Biden administration last year proposed regulations for emissions standards so that half of cars and vehicles sold would be electric by 2030.

While the majority of Americans are not inclined to say goodbye to gas-powered vehicles any time soon, a significant share, 42%, said they would be very or somewhat likely to consider going electric when it comes time to purchase their next vehicle. Among those respondents, helping the environment and saving money on gas were the top reasons cited for their interest. The survey also found that willingness to consider buying an EV was higher

among certain groups, including: current hybrid or electric vehicle owners (68%), those between the ages of 18 and 29 (55%), and people who live in urban areas (53%).

People older than 50, as well as those living in rural areas, are among the most skeptical when it comes to considering a future electric vehicle purchase, the survey shows. Overall, 67% of Americans said they would support incentives to encourage the use of hybrid and electric vehicles. A slight majority, 53%, of Americans said they believe stricter environmental laws would be worth the cost of lost jobs or other hits to the economy, but a growing share said the opposite. Forty-five percent of survey participants said stricter laws would not be worth the economic toll, up from 33% in 2019.

The increase is bipartisan but more significant among Republicans. Seventy-five percent of GOP respondents said stricter environmental laws and regulations are too costly for the economy, up from 55% in 2019. Meanwhile, 21% of Democrats agreed, up from 14% in 2019. Ninety percent of Americans said they were in favor of planting a trillion trees to absorb carbon emissions 72 and 79% favored providing a tax credit to encourage businesses to develop carbon-capturing and -storing technologies. Both of these policies have broad bipartisan support, according to the report. Furthermore, 68% of Americans favor taxing corporations based on their emissions, and 72% of respondents said they support requiring power companies to use more energy from renewable sources.

Other Findings

A majority of Americans feel the federal government isn't doing enough to protect water and air quality, or to mitigate the effects of climate change. Black and Hispanic respondents are more likely than their white counterparts to report air pollution, concerns about drinking water, or a lack of green spaces in their communities. Environmental problems are also

more likely to be reported in low-income communities than in middle- and upper-income areas. Fifty-eight percent of low-income Americans said safe drinking water is at least a moderate concern in their local community, compared with 37% of middle-income and 25% of upper-income respondents.

The survey also found that 71% of Americans experienced at least one of five extreme forms of weather last year, such as floods or intense storms, long periods of unusually hot weather, droughts or water shortages, major wildfires, or rising sea levels that erode shorelines. Most respondents who said they had experienced one of those events said they believed climate change to be a factor.

To read the full report, refer to <https://www.pewresearch.org/science/2022/07/14/americans-divided-over-direction-of-bidensclimate-change-policies>.

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.

Forward your story to Bart Ruud at bruud45@gmail.com or hand deliver to Bart.

VVA 535 Member Biographies

Do you know Jose Gonzales?

Jose grew up in a small neighborhood with five other siblings in a small town, El Rio, California in the year of 1938. He attended the grammar school system without speaking English and not knowing his name. By birth it's Jose. As Bill is for William, Chep, is for Jose. Mom called him Joey, but he answered when called Joe. He became very active in fun and games which resulted in a new name of "Joker" by his friend and continues through today.

The adults that raised him excelled in mathematics and cooking and working hard. The high expectations stopped what he wanted to do, and he sought other subjects. The only enjoyment in high School was ROTC.

College came as night work since then he was in the Army and took courses from University of Maryland, Arizona State, Florida State and Columbia College which produced a sheep skin in Business Administration. At the age of fifteen he became a barber. In the interim he attended Bates Vocational school in Washington state and became a carpenter and electrician and then a licensed General Contractor. He became a person who does not leave a stone unturned.

His family of four followed the trips to Germany, Berlin, Panama and five states in the U.S. The Korean tour, just him.

Jose, military duty arrived at Platoon Sergeant E-7, OCS, Airborne, Weapons Armor, Biological School and a few NCO Academies. He trained in biologicals with the English and Canadian Army in Canada, resulting in an assignment in a stand-by-position in the western USA.

After his 1976 Army retirement, he hung loose for three years, then entered the Real Estate investment market; raising rabbits was OK. Working as a welder was so much dirtier than working on old cars. A hobby which he still has is a 1923, Model T touring, Ford. Running of course.

His biggest accomplishment was becoming a father, married 60 years and a Vietnam Veteran.

Now, our readership and Brotherhood knows Jose better than we might ever have known this man, this leader.

Who will be next to share a brief story of their roots? Ed.

New Names for Nine Army Bases
Sources: Defense One, NBC News

The federal commission tasked with renaming Army bases names for Confederate officers has revealed its recommendations, choosing nine from more than 34,000 suggestions submitted by the public. The Naming commission's final report is due October 1 and will include new names for two Navy ships and several streets and buildings on bases. Congress has mandated that the defense secretary implement changes by January 1, 2024.

Current Name	New Name
Fort Bragg	Fort Liberty (the 82 nd Airborne's song)
Fort Benning	Fort Moore (Lt. Gen. Hal Moore, Julia Moore)
Fort Gordon	Fort Eisenhower (President Dwight Eisenhower)
Fort A.P. Hill	Fort Walker (Civil War field physician Mary Walker)
Fort Hood	Fort Cavazos (Korean War hero Richard Cavazos)
Fort Lee	Fort Gregg-Adams (two Black WW II Army logisticians, Arthur Gregg and Charity Adams)
Fort Pickett	Fort Barfoot (Medal of Honor recipient Van Barfoot)
Fort Polk	Fort Johnson (Medal of Honor recipient William Henry Johnson)
Fort Rucker	Fort Novosel (Medal of Honor recipient Michael Novosel Sr.)

"What is the meaning of the Missing Man Table?"

The red ribbon symbolizes our continued uncertainty, hope for their return, and determination to account for them.

A slice of lemon reminds us of the bitter fate of those captured or missing in a foreign land.

A pinch of salt symbolizes the tears of our missing and their families who long for answers.

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

August

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Gulf of Tonkin incident 1964	3	4 VVA 535 Coast Guard Birthday	5	6
7	8 Nixon resigned 1974	9 Fair Set-Up	10 Nevada County Fair	11 Nevada County Fair	12 Nevada County Fair	13 Nevada County Fair
14 Nevada County Fair	15 Fair Take-Down	16	17	18	19 CSC- Visalia	20 CSC- Visalia
21 CSC- Visalia	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

September

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 VVA 535	2	3
4	5 Labor Day	6	7	8	9	10
11 Patriot Day	12	13	14	15	16 National POW/KIA Recognition Day	17 Constitution Day
18 Air Force Birthday	19	20	21	22 Autumn Begins	23	24
25 Rosh Hashanah (Begins at sundown)	26	27	28	29	30	

October

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Yom Kippur (Begins at sundown)	5	6 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	7	8
9	10 Columbus Day	11	12	13 Navy Birthday	14 Stand Down CSC- Visalia	15 Stand Down CSC - Visalia
16	17 VSO Conference	18 VSO Conference	19 VSO Conference	20 VSO Conference	21 VSO Conference	22
23 Operation Linebacker ends 1972	24	25	26 Republic of Vietnam Created 1955	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween					

November

2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Operation Rolling Thunder ends (1968)	3 VVA-535 Board & General Meeting	4	5
6 Daylight Savings ends	7	8	9	10 Marine Corps Birthday	11 Veterans Day	12
13	14 Battle of Ia Drang begins (1965)	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Thanksgiving	25	26
27	28	29	30			